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Oral History Number: 049-058a, b
Interviewee: Anne Needham
Interviewer: Mary Melcher
Date of Interview: July 9, 1981
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Note: Interview conducted at Needham's home in Anaconda, Montana.

Mary Melcher: Anne, you came to Montana when you were about six?

Anne Needham: Six years old.

MM: And you came by train?

AN: By train from Iowa.

MM: Your father had just gotten a job as a—

AN: As a supervisor of the manual training system, which was to be organized in the Missoula [Montana] Schools. It was a new venture for the school system.

MM: And you came out with your brother and your mother and your father was already here?

AN: Yes. He came ahead of us.

MM: How do you remember the train trip?

AN: Oh, it was fun. The children enjoyed themselves. My mother brought paper dolls for us to cut out and scissors, of course. The limited crayons that we had in those days—no ten packs or anything. (laughs) We could go up and down the aisles. There was a big stove at the end of the coach, a huge thing with an oven, and the women cooked and baked biscuits and used it to get their meals on. It took three days—

MM: To get here?

AN: To get from Iowa to Missoula, Montana—Fort Dodge, Iowa to Missoula, Montana. As children we enjoyed it. I think it was a more difficult trip for my mother. (laughs)

MM: I'm sure.

AN: Of course, she went with seeing to meals because we couldn't afford, of course, to go to the diner. This was called an "immigrant train," I think, now I'm not sure of that. I think it also

carried the baggage cars with people's furniture and home supplies in it as well as the coaches the people rode in.

MM: Was your mother happy to come to Montana?

AN: Very happy to come to Montana. She'd been housekeeper for her widowed father—widowered, I guess—and her two brothers and her sister-in-law, whose husband was her bother and had also died. She had a big household to take care of and was—my father was gone away to school before she…before they went to Montana and people were a little scornful of the fact that he wasn't at home—maybe in some sort of clerical job or some other type of work instead of being away at college after he was married. You didn't do that in those days.

MM: He was supposed to be home supporting his wife is that the way they thought of it?

AN: Yes. Therefore her father must be supporting her and her husband wasn't, was the implication. It was thrown up to her many times, she said.

MM: But she wanted him to be able to go to college?

AN: She wanted him to have the college education. Norwegian people, of which she was one, are very conscious of education, and to have him get his full education was very important to her. He came from a very poor family too, and they had to work their way into anything that they obtained in the way of education.

MM: Did she want to get an education? Your mother?

AN: She wanted to, yes. Both my father and my mother had attended what was called Highland Park College out of a little town named Humboldt in Iowa. It was more prep school than college, I think, but it was a boarding school. They lived there, and her brothers went there too. She went for a year, but the family wanted her at home. This, of course, was before she was married, and they wanted her at home to help her mother so that was as far as she was able to go was that one year at that prep school.

MM: It was considered her job to be at home and take care of the house?

AN: Yes, and help with the household and the farm. That was the daughter's job until she got married. So, she was getting away from that, somewhat, but, of course, by the time that they went to Montana, I was six years old and my brother was three years old, so she'd been married seven or eight years then.

MM: What year were you born?

AN: Nineteen two.

MM: And your brother was younger?

AN: He was three years younger. That's all the family there was. The two children of us. But that train ride, we enjoyed it. It was a coal burning engine and my little brother laid awake at night and watched the sparks come from the stack in the engine. They'd fly by, and you could see them and he was very intrigued with that. (laughs)

MM: And so when you got to Missoula did you get into school right away? Did you enroll in a school?

AN: Yes. I went first to what was known as a…Let's see. Missoula was then as a "boom town," and I went first to the Roosevelt School for a month. Then we had to move. The house that my folks had rented belonged to a couple on their honeymoon and they were coming home. So then we moved to another house across the street from the Willard School, which had been an old University building to start with. So I went there for a month and then we moved again and the end of that month out to the Prescott cottages at the foot of the hill by the University. And then I finished the school year back at the Roosevelt School.

MM: Was that hard being a new girl in school and moving around?

AN: I can't remember. I think that I didn't care much for the Willard School, but I don't remember too much about it and my father being in the school system made a little difference. Sometimes that was an advantage and sometimes it wasn't. But, I had a marvelous first grade teacher in the Roosevelt School—"Rosevelt," "Roosevelt." We alternately called it them way. (laughs). Named for Teddy Roosevelt. My first grade teacher, who was an exceptionally fine teacher, and so I assume I established myself and was happy there in The Roosevelt School.

MM: Do you remember how they disciplined students who didn't want to study.

AN: Well, I'm sure that Miss Willard, that first grade teacher, was very careful in her discipline. She had an orderly schoolroom and we did things in an orderly way and it seems to me I remember once in a while someone having to sit in the back seat. That was discipline. You were banished to a back seat.

MM: Did you ever wear a dunce cap?

AN: No, never. She never did things like that. I think that she was an inspirational teacher who made you want to learn so that with the little children there weren't…I don't remember any problems, particularly in her room. I don't remember much about discipline problems. I remember that my father said that the boys over on what was called the North and West Side were more difficult boys to discipline. They were "railroad people," and those boys were bigger and older because, of course, they were then in his manual training classes, which the little ones

weren't. I think they started in sixth or seventh grade to be in the manual training classes.

MM: Do you remember any physical disciplining? Did the kids ever get spanked or—

AN: Not where I was and not in my memory. I heard stories about this kind of thing. In fact, one of my father's co-teachers who was a principal in another school where the boys were bigger and older was accused of having either shaken a boy violently or done something to him. In the course of the affair, he had pulled some hair, and the parents brought the case to court and part of the evidence was the hair. I think it was three hairs that they said that they retrieved, that the man had supposedly pulled from the boy's head. (laughs) Well, the wind blew the evidence away. It seemed that he was a fairly obstreperous youngster, and the case finally was dismissed and the principal wasn't disciplined or anything.

MM: Oh no—

[Break in audio]

MM: Did you feel like you learned a lot in grade school?

AN: I think so. There was no kindergarten in those days except, I think, a few private kindergartens. But back in Iowa I had gone to what was called "C-class," which was kindergarten. But there was nothing like that in Montana at that time. I think that we were well taught. Of course, what are now called the basics were the things we were taught—reading, writing, and arithmetic. I enjoyed reading. I read everything I could get my hands on, in fact, and my parents provided me with all that they could in the way of reading material. Later when I was ten, eleven years old, I haunted the library in Missoula from then on for reading material. Miss Willard in the first grade gave us a good foundation in reading using then phonics, which later came into disrepute, and which has since been I think—

MM: Brought back.

AN: Re-recruited or whatever. There still is a controversy about how much phonics, I know. But my mother said I was reading the newspaper by the time I was through first grade.

MM: Wow!

AN: I was in a surprising hurry with what I could read and did read in the newspaper. (laughs)

MM: Was that one of the activities in your family life? Would you and your Mom and Dad sit around and read?

AN: Yes. They both read a great deal so that it was just something that was just automatically cultivated without anything being said, there was so much to find in books and so much to learn

and such interesting things to know from their point of view and from mine then too and my brother learned equally well. He was good in first grade.

MM: He liked to read too?

AN: Yes, he liked to read.

MM: Did you ever have any trouble finding enough books here in Montana here in Montana?

AN: Finding enough books?

MM: Yes, the kind of books that you liked to read or magazines?

AN: In that period, no. Later on in college I did. We didn't have all the supply we would have liked in college. But the public library satisfied me and my parents always had all kinds of periodicals that they subscribed for. In fact, my father was also writing for farm magazines. He had started writing back in Iowa for what was the *Successful Farming* in Des Moines. The Wallace family, Henry Wallace's family—well, Henry Wallace Sr.—started the magazine, *The Successful Farming*, I think. My father worked there before he was through college and then he wrote articles for other farming magazines, including some in Montana as they developed in later yearsHe brought with him from Iowa, a fairly large, at that time, collection of books, it wouldn't be considered a large collection now, but…He let me read almost everything except for some reason he would not let me read *[Cobotus]* until I was to be older. I think I was to be 15 or 16 before I should read that. I don't know why. He didn't tell me why, but he just thought it was beyond my ken, I guess. I read Shakespeare, and I remember I didn't care much for *Macbeth* when I was ten.

MM: You read everything?

AN: I read everything.

MM: When you were in school did you have any different subjects than the boys? Did the girls have different subjects?

AN: The girls had sewing and cooking after the sixth grade and the boys had manual training.

MM: What if you didn't fit into that? What if you were a girl who didn't like to sew and cook?

AN: You sewed and cooked whether you liked that or not.

MM: Did you know anybody who ever complained about that?

AN: Probably I did. I wanted to take manual training, but they didn't let me. They wouldn't let

me do that. Even my father wouldn't let me do that. I could have the scraps of lumber and whack away at that, but I wasn't to touch his tools because I might make them dull or break them or something and—

MM: He didn't want you to learn those skills?

AN: Well, he just didn't think it was necessary. I was to learn how to sew and cook.

MM: But you weren't interested in sewing or cooking very much?

AN: Pardon?

MM: But you weren't very interested in sewing and cooking?

AN: Well, not terribly, no. My mother was an excellent cook, and I learned more from my mother than I did. Except for one year in high school I had a very fine cooking teacher, and I learned a great deal from her. In fact, my mother learned from her, too. I'd bring the recipes and instructions home, and Mother felt that she could learn from them, too. So that one woman made the whole subject worthwhile, but the sewing…My father pushed me through the sixth and seventh grade so that I did three years in two years, which was, I've considered since, was very unfortunate. By the time I was in the eighth grade, then I was the smallest and youngest one in the eighth grade which was no good. From then on till the time I was a freshman in college I was always the youngest.

MM: Did you get picked on? Did kids tease you?

AN: No, No. But I was a loner. I was too young for the others. So the sewing—girls clothes, teenaged girls clothes in the eighth grade, were women's clothes. We made underclothing, and we made corset covers. Well, at twelve I wasn't wearing a corset, and I didn't want a corset cover. (laughs)

MM: I guess not.

AN: I was a little unhappy with all that.

MM: Yes.

AN: But the other girls were bigger and older, so that after my brother died I didn't grow very much for a couple of years too, which added to the problem. I was small along with being young. The teacher didn't know what to do with me. She didn't know what to have me make. At first, of course, we did little simple things, like little aprons, and we hemmed dish towels, and learned the embroidery stitches, and of course those were good enough for anybody, any little girl learned those things and that part of it was all right. But eighth grade was a little bit of a

struggle.

MM: Do you know any boys that didn't want to take manual training?

AN: If there were my father said nothing about it. I'm sure he insisted they take it. As long as they were in his classes they had to be…They had to be enrolled in these classes the way we did in sewing classes and cooking classes. He never said anything in particular about the boys not wanting to, but many years later he met a young man on the street who was then grown. The young man stopped him and said—my father came home taking ten-foot steps because the lad said, "Mr. Cromwell, I am a teacher of manual training, and it was because of you that I went into this field," which of course was a nice feeling.

MM: Yes, sure. Did you do any chores at home when you were young?

AN: I did lots of things. I cleaned the chicken house and fed the chickens and gathered the eggs, which involved going up into the hay mow and finding out the places the hens might hide their nests in the spring.

MM: In the loft?

AN: Yes. I don't know how they got up there. I think that there was a pile of hay at the end of the—hay or straw—at the end of the building that they would run up on and get in there. Occasionally you'd find a whole nest full of eggs, and of course, some of them would be very, very, very old. (laughs) She'd sit of them to hatch them, and sometimes she'd have some chickens and sometimes she wouldn't because she'd hidden her nest up there in the hay loft or someplace. Cleaning the chicken house was one of the less desirable occupations. I didn't like that. (laughs) Then we put the chicken droppings—chicken manure to be exact—on the garden for fertilizer and racked it is for fertilizer.

MM: Good.

AN: Which made a very good garden. I helped with the garden, and we had to irrigate it from the hose and make little trenches for water to run down. It was about less than a third of an acre but it looked awfully big to me. (laughs)

MM: Did your brother have different chores?

AN: Well, he was only seven when he died, and he was pretty small. Yes, we both carried in wood. We carried in big hunks for the stove in the living room and smaller. They were the same length, that 16-inch length but smaller around pieces for the kitchen stove. Kindling—picked up little pieces in a bucket to start the fires with. We had to do that regularly every day.

MM: He didn't have a lot of chores that were different from yours though.

AN: He was just too small.

MM: Right. And he died in an accident?

AN: Yes. You want that whole story again?

MM: No. There was an accident, and then you were left as the only daughter?

AN: Yes. I was left as the only one left then.

MM: How did they discipline you? Did your mother take care of that or did your father?

AN: When I was littler I had an occasional spanking. With my mother, the disciplining…Well, she wouldn't have known how to express it, really from the standpoint, the positive standpoint that you make people want to do the right thing. My father would sometimes adopt an army sergeant point of view and bawl me out and shout at me occasionally. He did say that when he had people in school all day he didn't want to be bothered with working with children when he came home and so that was my mother's job.

MM: So she gave you more attention than your dad did?

AN: Much more attention. Happened to be a family situation. I was a little bit afraid of my father. Because he thought it was unmanly to show any demonstrations of affection or almost never any approval. My mother gave me approval for the things she thought I was doing all right, which was the general attitude about raising children.

MM: Which was the general attitude?

AN: That the father was the stern person for the most part and the mother was allowed to be more demonstrative and loving. This wasn't true of all families, I'm sure, but that was…it was a fairly general attitude.

MM: Did you spend a lot of time with your mother, after school and on the weekends?

AN: Yes, I spent great deal of time with my mother. In the first place, our living situation was quite isolated. We were two blocks from the closest neighbor and children didn't play away from home the way they do now. You went over to play with your friend, you could go for an hour and you came back at the end of the hour. You didn't stay all afternoon the way children do now. And the other children in the neighborhood were like that too. Their mother's had to know where they were and they weren't given long, extended play periods away from home. At least in our area.

MM: Did you mom and dad go to dances and take you along?

AN: No, in fact they had very little in the way of entertainment. Mother and I went to church, which was clear across town and in good weather we walked—that was two miles. Sometimes we drove a horse and buggy when the weather wasn't so good. But dad didn't want to go to church so he didn't go. Here again, he said he'd been with people all week and he didn't want to be with people. But if they went to anything it would be a political meeting, which was a little unusual. My parents were not usual in that and people thought they were a little odd.

MM: When was it that they were members of the socialist party?

AN: Well, I had to be about ten or twelve at that time. The Missoula city organization was, as I heard the story, very corrupt and Missoula people were unhappy with it and so there was a group of people, including a number of teachers both from the city school system and the University [of Montana], who organized the Socialist Party and eventually elected a Socialist mayor and a Socialist sheriff, I think it was. That was about the end of it. Then they went back to the old political parties. But they did break up what they considered the corrupt city system they had had. My folks were intensely interested in that. That came from Iowa, however. My grandfather was—in Iowa—was interested in politics and eventually was a county treasurer and the later in the Iowa State Legislature. So that mother had lived with that, with politics, when she was a young woman too.

MM: Your mother worked on the [women's] suffrage campaign?

[End of Tape 1, Side A]

[Tape 1, Side B]

AN: A few, yes. It was one of those that Jeannette Rankin came to. Jeannette Rankin was then campaigning for Woman Suffrage. Let's see, I had to have been 11. That would be 1913.

MM: The year before women got the vote in Montana.

AN: Was it '14 when women got the…I'd forgotten the date. Yes. So that there was active campaigning then that year and some of the meetings, or one of the meetings at least, I couldn't say, some of them were at our house, and at least one of them Jeannette Rankin was a speaker for.

MM: Did your father support your mother in that?

AN: Oh yes. My father was way ahead of his time in what he thought women could do. Women should get educations and women should be active in public affair too.

MM: But he still wanted you to learn to sew and cook?

AN: Well, that was going to be useful. He didn't put any pressure on that. As I say, he didn't let me take manual training, but that probably had a whole lot to do with the school system. The school system reached out and said that any…a teacher was supposed to be interested only in his job. My folks living way out on the edge of town with all of the chickens. They raised pure breed chickens—Rhode Island Reds, they were called—and my father exhibited them and later was a judge at different state fairs. There were also…Oh, what did they call those meetings? Where they exhibited all their varieties of chickens and he became an expert at judging the different kinds of fowl? But the superintendent of schools told him that he wasn't supposed to raise chickens and have an activity like that outside of his school work. He was to pay attention to the school and school only.

MM: He did think that women should vote and he didn't mind your mother holding meetings?

AN: Oh no, no. He was convinced that I should have a college education and that a woman should be educated if possible in whatever field she was interested in. So, he was, as I say, way ahead of his time in that.

MM: Did he ever talk to other men about his views? Do you know if other people thought he was strange?

AN: He was a loner, too. Mother made friends, made many friends, but Dad didn't have friends, many friends, and no, he wouldn't have admitted to anybody that he had problems or trouble. Probably the way he grew up had something to do with it because he came from a large family and his mother died when he was three and by the time he was ten he was farmed out to work.

And for hid board and room to the neighbors. He did things like leading the horse when a farmer was plowing the garden and of course taking care of the cows and taking care of the barns and all the hard work that they could possibly load on a little boy and one year he bought a pair of shoes and they were too small on him and he had no money to buy another one, so he wore those miserable shoes all year and permanently hurt his feet.

MM: That's terrible.

AN: So that his growing up was very difficult. He had a very bad time. And he roomed with my mother's brother in college, and he had very deep periods of depression my uncle said. There'd be times that he'd through himself across the bed and wouldn't talk for hours. His thinking was, that you don't bring your troubles to other people you just work them out for yourself.

MM: Well, do you think that he talked with you mother about this troubles?

AN: Not very much. She had to know from the way he reacted to things what was on his mind.

MM: Did they make decisions together in how to run the home and if they were going to buy a piece of property or—

AN: I think that when they were younger they went through a period of not knowing…of his being the boss and of her thinking he'd made mistakes, which he did. They never were of one mind of the subject of money. (laughs)

MM: Did each of them decide at different time what to do or did your father decide?

AN: My father did most of the deciding without consulting anybody, and his business judgements wasn't the greatest. He was a dreamer. It took years for Mother to ferret out all the things that had happened to him as a child and a young person that made him feel the way he did about things. If you had enough clothes to keep you warm that was fine. That was it. Style or appropriateness, except for convenience meant nothing to him. Getting into a collar and a tie was a major undertaking and that was it. If you were fully clothed and warm and comfortable, what more should you ask?

MM: Did you have the clothes that you wanted when you went to high school?

AN: No.

MM: What was you high school like?

AN: Mother made most of my clothes and she was an excellent seamstress, but she didn't have much to work with. And then there were no young people my age around us, and the girls who were mostly my friends finally in high school didn't live anywhere near me and were mostly girls

in the church circle.

MM: So were you lonely during high school?

AN: I was lonely, yes.

MM: Did you like school?

AN: Well, I liked school because it was something to do and I liked most of my teachers. I had one very fine English teacher who was very astute in analyzing what your possibilities were and pointing out to you what you could do and stimulating you to do what you could do and she was your friend.

MM: What did she encourage you to do?

AN: I remember she told me once that she didn't think I was brilliant. She said, "You will never be a top, brilliant person, but you will do very well if you just stay with what you're doing and if you just concentrate and work with what you're doing," which was good advice.

MM: Right.

AN: And, but to repeat, she was my friend, also.

MM: Did she advise a lot of the girls?

AN: Yes. She advised not only the girls, but she advised the boys, too. Everybody. Miss Alice Wright. A very fine teacher. A remarkable woman.

MM: Did she encourage people to go on to college?

AN: Oh, yes. And she was able to get the most out of them. She even had friends among some of the boys who were more of less considered obstreperous that they were willing to listen to Miss Wright when other people couldn't get them to listen.

MM: Was there any separation between some of the kids and say the railroad kids? What if you had a boyfriend that was one of these railroad boys? Would you be able to hang around with him?

AN: Well, there was "town and gown"—the University and the townspeople in Missoula, from the time I can remember. I hear complaints of that right now. (laughs)

MM: People that have more money?

AN: Well, the University people were supposedly choosey of the people that they associated with, and they were accused of that from as far back as I can remember. The "railroad" people supposedly had more money, but some of them were supposed to be a rough element. I knew some, and those girls were certainly not a rough element. Those girls went to college, and they were very fine people. But I suppose the fellows with the less well paid menial jobs, like putting the ties under the railroad tracks, were not educated people and were not…While they were better paid than some of the other labor was, they weren't all that well-to-do, and they had little houses close together.

MM: Were they looked down upon that you remember?

AN: Well, the University section people, or the people with education did look down on then somewhat and I remember just one Negro family when I was growing up in Missoula. They were looked down on. They, there again, took the most menial jobs. Then when I was in college, however, there was another Negro family whom I hadn't known before, and that young man was a very fine journalist. He took journalism. He also was an excellent football player—a great big husky fellow.

MM: He was accepted in college?

AN: He was accepted in college. But he never dated or attempted to be in the social activities except the very generalized things.

MM: Did you have any Chinese in school?

AN: Not that I remember. There were a few Chinese in Missoula—not nearly like Butte—and there were a very few Japanese. They had vegetable gardens at the edge of town. Things grew beautifully in Missoula, and they would come by with a horse-drawn wagon with all their vegetables in the summertime and you'd buy from those wagons. But I don't remember any Chinese or Japanese children in school at all. The Fort [Fort Missoula] was manned at that time, Fort Missoula, and those children were brought in to school up until the time I was in eighth grade they were transported from the Fort to school. Roosevelt School was the one they were brought to, and they were, of course, Army people.

MM: And your aunt and uncle came from South Dakota sometime when you were a child?

AN: They came the winter after my brother was killed when I was ten and with their, then nine children, eighth of them with the whooping cough.

MM: And they had had trouble on their homestead in South Dakota?

AN: They'd just simply dried out.

MM: Dried out.

AN: Just simply, no crops.

MM: If you were ten that would have been in 1912.

AN: Yes. Yes.

MM: So that the drought had begun in South Dakota then?

AN: I suppose so, yes. My dad was teaching but he also had acquires this hear of Holstein cattle and some horses, and he had rented some land in South Missoula. Then of course, he'd bought this place out in the Nine Mile so he thought that my uncle could come out and take it over and run it, which was what they did with it.

MM: Did that work out?

AN: Yes and no. My father sold the farm to my Uncle George and they kind of came to a parting of the ways because they didn't see eye to eye about running the farm.

MM: And they all came out with the whooping cough. Did they get over that?

AN: They all got over it. The youngest ones were a pair of twins, nine months old. The poor little buttons. The only ones that didn't have the whooping cough was oldest girl, and she ran madly from one child to another. Took care of them. Of course, the oldest ones had to take care of the younger ones, and it was sort of a mad house when they came because they really whooped. I'd had it, the whooping cough, previously in 1910 when forest fire where hot and that didn't help the whooping cough at all. You didn't get no sleep. (laughs)

MM: There were a lot of forest fires in 1910?

AN: In 1910? Oh my, yes. This is backing up in time now because in 1910 my mother and my brother and I visited over here on Georgetown Lake [Montana]. One of my father's co-teachers was a forester for the summer on Georgetown Lake. There was one residence on the lake at that time. We came by train from Missoula to Phillipsburg. Then Mrs. Logan, the wife of the forester, came by horse and buggy from Georgetown Lake down to Phillipsburg and met us and brought us up to their house up there, a great big log house about the where the pump station is now. It was the only residence on the lake. The heat and the forest fires got worse and worse. We just stayed a couple of weeks and had a ball. We played in the lake and my mother and Mrs. Logan took the buggy and we…The Logan's had one girl a little younger than I. We three children—we went around the lake across what was then the red bridge and the sego lilies, well, they were almost waist high for us children—thousands of them around the lake. Then they got stuck with the buggy in some trees so they unharnessed the horse and backed the

buggy around, but Mother took a stroll along the shore just to see what is was all like. She loved the whole thing, and she came up on a big gray wolf. He sat and looked at her, and she picked up a stick and she was…She must have weighed 100 pounds with a rock in her pocket, and she was about five foot tall. The wolf just looked at her and trotted off.

MM: I've heard that they were pretty tame out there or a little afraid of people.

AN: Yes. He didn't care for her at all. He wasn't interested. They came back and pulled the buggy out from among the trees where'd become caught, harnessed the horse again and went back home. (laughs) But the forest fires then grew worse and worse and worse and back in Missoula in August we were coughing our heads off by that time, my brother and I, and the sun was completely blanked out by three o'clock in the afternoon. You couldn't see your hand in front of your face and I mean literally. Of course the ashes and sparks—my father watered the roof of the house every night, and the sparks just flew. Then there was a little breeze and some of that smoke just cleared away, but when it got so completely black the chickens just sort of wandered around and sort of said "shoosh, shoosh." They didn't understand it. Their sense of timing told them that it was not night, but they all went in and went to roost. Then about three hours later, why, then this little breeze blew the clouds away and it was lighter again. Then they all got up and came out of chicken house. (laughs) Even the animals knew there was something wrong.

MM: How close were the fires?

AN: Well, they weren't that close to Missoula. Dad was downtown one day and came back laughing and said that some fellow had said, "Oh, the fires are coming up from Idaho at 500 miles an hour."

Somebody looked at him and said, "Well, you big fool, if it was coming at 500 miles an hour it already gone through and it's in Chicago about this time." People became so hysterical. But, well, all that Idaho country was burned over. Wallace and clear to…How close? Well, I think maybe 50 miles from Missoula, now I wouldn't want to be quoted on that, was a close as the fires came to us.

MM: How long was it smoky in that way?

AN: It was over a period of about two weeks that the smoke came and went and the fire danger was there. In fact, maybe it was three weeks because it was after we left Georgetown, which was the last of July, and the sparks from the train, like the ones my brother watched, set some of the fires. Then there were people—they called them IWWs—and they accused them of deliberately setting fires to create work and to create trouble.

MM: Did your parents believe that?

AN: Pardon?

MM: Did your parents believe that the "Wobblies" started the fires?

AN: Oh, yes, they believed it.

MM: People believed it, or was it just an idea?

AN: I think on occasion fires had been set because they were desperate for work, it was a depression sort of situation and they wanted to show that the Government wasn't doing what it should do and, of course, the Forest Service was not organized the way it should have been. They didn't even realize the need for organization. It was that set of fires that demonstrated what they needed in the way of Forest Service organization. It began to build up after that. There were fires in '21 [1921], '20 or '21, but that was the very worst. And now 70 years later around Wallace, Idaho, which had all burned down, was just completely devastated, its recouped in the timber growth, except a great deal of it is Western Larch, which is a not nearly as valuable as the Yellow Pine and the other growth that existed there before. And there isn't nearly as much of that.

MM: Okay. Let's go back to your high school days.

AN: (laughs) Okay.

MM: We're wandering. When did you start dating? Did you date when you were in high school?

AN: I never did date in high school. Well, I dated my last year more or less, it was a...My father was the Superintendent of Schools in this little town Winnett that year—the year I was 16. That's the only year that I wasn't in school in Missoula.

MM: Winnett, North Dakota?

AN: Winnett? It is 50 miles East of Lewiston, Montana.

MM: Oh, Montana.

AN: That was the first high school they'd had, and there were 60 of us, I think. Four in the graduating class, of which I was one. One of the graduating class was a boy that had been mustered up from the Second World War or the First World War. He was in the service, and he only had about three months in high school but he was graduated because of his war service. The others were girls.

MM: How old were you when you graduated?

AN: Sixteen, almost 17.

MM: How old were most of the students when they graduated from high school?

AN: Well, the lad that was in the service, of course, had to have been 18 or better. I think he was about 19, and the other two girls, I think, were both 18.

MM: How did you feel about moving away from Missoula then?

AN: I was excited about the prospect of moving away from Missoula. In fact, we moved from Missoula first to Billings, where there was a school called Billings Polytechnic, and Dad was hired to be in charge of the Manual Arts department there. Well, it developed that E.T. and L.T. Eaton, who also had started years ago a college in Deer Lodge and then moved to Billings, weren't the world's best business managers and the pay checks weren't forthcoming. (laughs) So Dad stayed for the summer school and then scouted around and found this district superintendency in Winnett and organized then the first high school that they had there. So that was a whole new lifestyle for me. These were all ranch people. Dad set up a dormitory in a big old…It wasn't old. It was new, unused—built but never used—hotel building. There were boys on the third floor and girls on the second floor, and we had our apartment on the first floor. He hired a cook and a matron, and that was part of the high school organization. I had never done any dating until then. But there were more boys than there were girls then. (laughs)

MM: So you met some that you liked?

AN: Oh, yes. I enjoyed everybody because it wasn't nearly the isolated situation I had lived in in Missoula on the edge of town and a long ways from my friends.

MM: In Missoula you hadn't socialized much after school?

AN: No. I came home and in fact I saw one basketball game when I was in high school.

MM: Did you go out to Nine Mile [Montana] over the summer?

AN: I visited it two or three times after Dad sold it to Uncle George, but that was all. I didn't stay very long.

MM: So you didn't see your cousins very often?

AN: Not after they moved out there. Well, my oldest cousin I did because she came back to Missoula to go to high school then.

MM: Did she board somewhere?

AN: She worked for her board and room, and at one time, not living very far from us. And she

and I, then, became very close friends before we left Missoula.

MM: Okay. And so you graduated from the class in Winnett?

AN: After going all through school in Missoula.

MM: And you had a graduating class of about four?

AN: Four.

MM: And then had you decided at that time to go to the University of Montana?

AN: I don't even remember when I decided that I was going to take journalism at the University. That had been in my mind, I could say always, because there had never been any question about it in my mind.

MM: Do you think that maybe your father writing gave you the idea?

AN: It had a lot to do with it, yes. My father had had a couple of small town newspapers in Iowa, and my mother had worked with him. She enjoyed the newspaper office, too. So that when I was a year and a half old back in Iowa I was…they had a little newspaper. I said I cut my teeth on printer's pie, literally, because printer's pie is the reject mix-up material, you know, that goes into a little box on the floor. I crawled around got in the stuff. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) So journalism was in the blood?

AN: Yes, I think so. My mother would have liked to have…or me to be a nurse. She wanted to be but couldn't so she passed it along to me but I didn't accept it.

[End of Tape 1, Side B]

[Tape 2, Side A]

MM: So you decided journalism was what you wanted to study?

AN: Yes.

MM: So you started college when you were about 17?

AN: I was 17 in July and started college in September.

MM: What was your first year like?

AN: Awful. I was the youngest one in college. I had went supposedly from Winnett—a place at the end of the railroad way out in nowhere in the middle of Montana and nobody had ever heard on Winnett—and so many of the students were much older than I and they were…The next year the fellows that were in the Service started coming back to school, too. But even then everyone was older than I—even the people that I had been with in the Missoula high school. I was lonely, and I didn't understand the "rushing" set up and I wasn't "rushed." Nobody ever heard of Winnett High School so my name wasn't in. My friends in Missoula—my church friends—were being "rushed" for sororities, and I didn't even know what they were talking about. They were far too busy to deal with me.

MM: What about the subjects? Did you like your classes?

AN: I liked journalism, yes. I liked the journalism classes and that's where I found some friends and some understanding. Dean Stone knew my father and however, Dean Stone was friendly with everyone, he wouldn't pick you out or anything like that and he was a stimulating teacher and he did the teaching that first year for the freshman classes, a great deal of it.

MM: Did you study just journalism classes or did you take—

AN: No. We had to take a science and a history and of course we had to take freshman English. At any rate for my science I chose chemistry, which I found very interesting, but I was terrified of the man—the head of the Chemistry department, Dr. Jesse—who had a violent temper. But I was lucky in that my laboratory teacher was Harold Urey. If you know who Harold…the inventor of "heavy water" (?). His work led eventually to fission…fusion, whatever. He was very aloof, but you had to be correct in your work which in chemistry you had to be.

MM: Exact.

AN: While I was afraid of Dr. Jesse…Why, in class he used to write on some old blackboards that they had, and he wanted a new chemistry building badly. These old blackboards—he'd look back at the class and write with chalk not seeing what he was writing, and it wouldn't come off

on the board. (laughs) So then he'd turn around to try to see what formula he'd put up there, and it wouldn't be there. Then he'd let go with the erasers and chalk, and we'd duck. (laughs)

MM: He threw them at you?

AN: He threw them at the class just generally, yes.

MM: Because he was mad?

AN: Oh, furious!

MM: Did he think that somebody had snuck up there and erased it?

AN: Pardon?

MM: Did he think a student had been up there and erased it?

AN: No, no. He just knew that the blackboard was inefficient and faulty and that he desperately needed a new chemistry building so he took out his frustrations. (laughs) He was also very gruff, just very gruff, a great big man and he—

MM: What did he think about having young women in the class?

AN: Well, they didn't think much of women in chemistry class either. So that one of the student assistants at the end of the year said to me, "What did you get in chemistry?"

I said, "Oh gee, I only got a C+ or a C."

He said, "You did?"

I said, "Yes."

He said, "Well, I would consider you'd better major in chemistry if you can get a C out of this course as a girl!" (laughs)

MM: Was that one of the courses where the football players got by easy?

AN: No, no. That wasn't one of the places. Sociology and English and those…that kind of classes where they got by. I wouldn't say for the other science classes like geology or—

MM: Biology?

AN: Biology because I was taking chemistry, and somebody said I was a fool to take chemistry. I

said I wanted to, and I was always glad I did.

MM: Do you think that he graded the girls harder?

AN: No, no. I don't believe that. But he just thought that they weren't going to go anywhere in the field of chemistry anyhow and that scientific field weren't for them.

MM: Had you had the background necessary for a college course in chemistry?

AN: I hadn't. I was told later poor little Winnett High School didn't have any chemistry course at all, and we had a very negligible course in physics. I had bad background, but I just liked chemistry.

MM: Did the young women gripe about the football players getting off easy? Do you remember talking about that with any other students?

AN: Oh, did we gripe! (laughs) Yes, we griped.

MM: Did you ever consider taking it to the Dean?

AN: Oh no, you didn't do that. (laughs) An occasional fellow who wasn't on the football team though of that more than to girls did.

MM: Why was that? Were the girls afraid to speak out?

AN: Well, they didn't think it would do any good, and of course, there was always an admiration for the physical prowess of the football team—the great big handsome football players. It was more a matter of who could date them rather than anything else. I was too young and immature. I wasn't dating anybody, but that was largely the attitude of the other girls.

MM: But they still resented the fact that they had to work harder for grades?

AN: Oh, certainly they did!

MM: Did you work hard in college?

AN: I worked hard in college. I studied hard. I finally discovered that sociology was one of my favorite subjects—English and sociology and journalism. I didn't go on in chemistry. There was no reason I could see for going on in chemistry. United States History was infinitely boring to me and—

MM: What was your living situation like? Where did you live?

AN: Well, in the beginning I lived with some neighbors near where we had lived before when we were living in Missoula, but that didn't work out. We had to walk almost a mile and a half to school. One of the girls, who was older than I but who had stayed out of school, was enrolled as a freshman, and she and I walked to school. But you were eliminated from the evening activities. It was too far and the nearest transportation was a streetcar, which was four blocks away. So by November I could see that I was losing out. I think that this was this first independent thing I ever really did without my Mother's consent—I moved to a boarding house. I don't know yet how I found out about that boarding house, but the dormitories were full. So this woman had nine, eight or nine girls, and we also ate there. It was just two blocks from the campus, so there was company. There were friends, young women who were freshman too, and sophomores, and that was an entirely different living situation which was very good for me.

MM: Did she enforce certain rules?

AN: She was under the rules of the dormitories. That you came in at certain hours of night, different on the weekends than it was during the week. You were penalized for being late and reports were made.

MM: Would she stay up and wait for you to come home?

AN: No, she didn't do that. But then we didn't get home very late either. (laughs)

MM: So she filled out reports when you were late?

AN: We had a proctor. We had to elect a proctor, so called. The way the dormitories, the different floors in the dormitories had to, and the sororities had to too. There were little cards that you reported—I think every week, as I remembered—the transgressions of the girls in the dormitory.

MM: The proctor would do that? The proctor would know if you came home late?

AN: She was supposed to.

MM: Who would usually be elected for that kind of job?

AN: Well, we just passed it around. One month it would be somebody, one person, the next month it would be another one. We always hated it.

MM: Did you really do it? Did you try to check up on—

AN: I think that in the dormitories they were pretty rigid about it. There was an occasion, I know, at this boarding house that somebody who was supposed to get in at ten thirty and didn't get in till 11. Nobody said anything about. That was why I had to tell the landlady in the

boarding house when I was going when I was going to a show.

MM: Because you were going to be late?

AN: I had to account for what I was doing so that it would be an acceptable activity. So going to a show, which meant going to the movies—

MM: Oh, you mean when you went to—

AN: I went to the prizefight.

MM: When you went to the prizefight, I see.

AN: Of course, I not only lived there my freshman year, I lived there my sophomore year too.

MM: Did some of the same women live there then too?

AN: Yes.

MM: So you got to know each other pretty well?

AN: Yes. We liked each other very much and in fact I made lifelong friends there. One of my very good friends is still living in Great Falls and another in Minneapolis, and they have been…we keep in touch.

MM: All through the four years did you have rules like that? That you could only stay out till a certain time?

AN: Oh, yes.

MM: Did the young men have the same kind of rules?

AN: No, the young men did not have the same kind of rules. (laughs)

MM: They got to come and go as they pleased?

AN: Pretty much. Now I won't speak for the men's dormitories. I don't know. But they may have been time limits, I couldn't say about that. But they had much more freedom than the girls did.

MM: Did you discuss that with your friends—with your women friends?

AN: No. It was just a fact of life and we just put up with it.

MM: And sometimes you tried to let each other come in later?

AN: We were a little late in the end because after all. Let's see. The second time I lived there was…Let me try to sort this out. At any rate, I had two years of schooling, and then I dropped out and taught. So I was self-supporting and taking care of myself when I was teaching, and I couldn't see any earthly reason for being hovered over like that so I was a little resentful about it that time.

MM: You had studied journalism for two years and then you dropped out for one year and taught.

AN: Yes.

MM: Had you done the prizefight reporting before you dropped out?

AN: Yes. Well, I dropped out twice. I filled my freshman year. I went from September to June in my freshman year. Then that summer my father moved from Winnett to Jordan [Montana] where he was again superintendent of a school district. I got a job teaching…not teaching, working for a weekly newspaper in Jordan. So, I needed the money, and it was also the chance to use that experience at the newspaper for credits. At that time, you could use it towards your graduation. I worked for six months then up until Christmas, and then went back to school at Christmas time. It was right after that, during the winter quarter, that I did the prizefight story.

MM: You went to a prize…boxing match with a male friend of yours?

AN: Yes. I said I was interested in what it was like and he said, "Would you go?" and I said, yes, I'd go. He said, "I'll by tickets if you'll promise to go."

So I said, "Yes, I'll go." We went to the prizefight in the…I'm not sure whether it was called the Liberty Theater by that time or not. In the beginning when we first lived in Missoula, it was the Harnois Theater on East Main Street, and then later it was the Liberty Theater. I guess it was by that time. It was a theater where all the plays—stage plays—came to Missoula. This particular thing, it was a prizefight on the stage. When we sat down there was a man on my left and he said, "Now don't scream."

I said, "I won't scream." (laughs) I looked around, and there were probably fewer than a dozen women in the whole audience. The theater was filled with men. There was what they called a "preliminary match," which was a very sad affair that the fighters were inept and untrained and it wasn't…They just sort of pummeled each other around. Then the main bout was, according to people who knew about prizefighting, a good one. Afterward, my friend who was taking journalism, said, "Why don't you write it?" So the next morning he came over, and I had one small page written and he said, "I'll take it down to *The Missoulian*. I know the editor and keep on writing." So he took it to *The Missoulian*, and the editor accepted it and he came back and

obtained the rest of it and turned it in. It had to have been about a third to half of a newspaper column long with the headline when it came out Sunday. "By a co-ed." I didn't dare to put my name on it.

MM: Why didn't you put your name?

AN: Well, in the first place, I'd told my landlady I was going to a show, but I didn't say what kind of a show and she never would have let me go to a prizefight. In the second place, I didn't want the Dean of Women to know.

MM: It was unheard of for women to go to fights?

AN: For a "respectable" woman to go to a prize fight. (laughs) So *The Missoulian* paid me five dollars which was very welcome. It was a big sum in those days.

MM: You had told them your name? You told *The Missoulian* your name?

AN: Yes, *The Missoulian* knew who I was. Then, the Dean of Women called *The Missoulian*, and they just knew me as a co-ed. They didn't have any idea who I was. Dean Stone [the Dean of the Journalism Department] called *The Missoulian* and immediately receives an answer as to who I was. He thought it was hilarious. The Dean of Women called him, and he didn't know who I was. (laughs) So she never did find out which of her erring co-eds had gone to a prizefight.

MM: What do you think she would have done if she had found out?

AN: I would have been campused indefinitely, I guess.

MM: But Dean Stone patted you on the back?

AN: The Dean patted me on the shoulder and said, "I didn't think you had it in you, Anne." (laughs)

MM: His idea was that women should report all the news? Did Dean Stone think—

AN: As far as he was concerned, there was no reason why I shouldn't report what I saw. In fact, he asked me, "What did you think about the difference between prizefighting and football?"

I said, "Well, Dean Stone, it looked to me as if football is just as mean as prizefighting is. They beat each other up and were just as hard on each other." He agreed with me that football was a very rough game, which it was in those days. Of course, prizefighting now—boxing—has become a respectable sport everywhere. I don't particularly care for it. My experience didn't instill in me a desire to constantly see prizefights or anything. (laughs)

MM: You just wanted to find out what it was like?

AN: Find out what it was like, yes.

MM: You were curious?

AN: Yes. The young man I went with was a perfectly respectable young man, and he knew what we were getting into—that it wasn't all that hazardous or corrupting whatever.

MM: Right. And the other women there, who were they?

AN: Well, out of the depth of my 18 year old experience I put them down mostly as "ladies of the night." They looked like it.

MM: Do you think men would have brought them there or they came by themselves?

AN: A little of both, maybe. Because many of the men who came were. Well, they weren't men like my father.

MM: What did your parents think about you writing this story?

AN: They though it was fine. As I said about my father, he thought that women were much too sheltered and should branch out in the world and get to know things and do things.

MM: Did you ever do anything like that again?

AN: You mean, break the school rules again?

MM: Or try to report on subjects that women weren't supposed to report on?

AN: No, no. Not during school. Not any other time that I know of. Much later in my life, the interest in mental health leads you into great many fields. In fact these poor fellows who went through those unregulated prizefighting sessions were often injured so that their minds weren't good anymore. They weren't even responsible for themselves. They definitely had brain injuries because the fighting wasn't, in the first place, all that well-regulated. I don't know that it is now because there are…Not too many months ago somebody in the ring was fatally injured. I'm not an avid reader of the sports page, but I watch it a little.

MM: Okay. You were telling me before that you knew some of the young women who were clerks in stores that hadn't been able to go to college?

AN: More from my mother talking about that than anything else. That these girls were paid such inadequate wages and were supposed to dress nice. The one particular girl that she talked

about was a girl who was a daughter of a farmer who lived far out of town. She walked to town and she was supposed to wear a white shirtwaist and a nice black skirt and have her hair look nice and be polite to the customers and…Only from what I've read do I know anything about the hiring system of big department stores, which has been definitely cleaned up at the…with the labor union activities now. Girls don't go through those problems anymore. Actually, I don't think they actually could have lived if the girl hadn't lived at home. She couldn't possibly have supported herself on what she made as a clerk. Mother told about the silk stockings that were sold to the wealthy people, and these women with the big Tiffany diamond rings would come in and they'd run a hand—the clerk would beg them not to—run a hand into the silk stocking and inevitably make a run in it. Then she'd say, "Well, the stocking was no good," but the girl was responsible for it. She had to pay for it. So she was between the devil and the deep blue sea. What could she do? She couldn't hit the woman. (laughs)

MM: Were any of these clerks your friends?

AN: Mother may have known them, but I didn't know them.

MM: So what were the opportunities for young women?

AN: Clerking, housework, laundry work. There was a great big laundry in Missoula, which did a big business. Now there's no such a business except for institutions and hotels and that kind of thing. But this did a big business of home laundries. They came and collected it and the women worked in those laundries ironing and working with the washing. Let's see—

MM: Restaurant work?

AN: Waitresses, restaurant work, cooks and waitresses. Secretaries in various business capacities—some better and some mediocre—

MM: And then teaching.

AN: —and teaching. Teaching was a notch above some of these other jobs. Secretaries were fairly important women because they had to be depended on so much. (laughs)

MM: Okay. So we've got you through two years of college, and then you went and taught one year?

AN: Then I taught a country school at Ravalli, Montana, which is 40 miles north of Missoula and six miles south of Saint Ignatius. I didn't have any Indian children that year in my school. That little schoolhouse still stands. It has a great huge tower on it with a bell in it, I'm surprised it hasn't been pushed over but it's there. I had all eight grades, which meant a complicated system of recitations. You had recitations going all the time. Then you had to keep the other children busy, and you also were supposed to sweep the floor and keep the coal stove—coal and wood

stove—going. The water was in a bucket that you brought from one of the neighbors or from where you lived. I lived right across the street from the schoolhouse that year.

MM: In a little cabin?

AN: No, I lived with a family. That is, it was just a couple, man and wife. I boarded and roomed with them.

MM: How did that work out?

AN: That worked out very well as far as I was concerned. They were very kind, and they took me to St. Ignatius to the dances and to the shows. It was a very pleasant experience.

MM: What made you decide to go teach that year?

AN: I had taken some education courses in the summer previously and my roommate who lived at Ronan lived next door to the superintendent of what was then known as District 28. It was a great huge school district of, at that time, Missoula County, and he was desperately in need of teachers for his country schools. So my roommate said, "Well, Anne has taken some education courses. She's only a sophomore, and that's two years to go." Well, that was more than ample because you could take a summer course, at that time, and get a job teaching—

[End of Tape 2, Side A]

[Tape 2, Side B]

AN: —had taught when she was 16. She had finished the eighth grade, and she taught country school.

MM: They just had such a shortage of teachers?

AN: For those jobs because if you didn't have your own transportation, which most of us didn't, you were stuck at those country schools. Out around Jordan, where I had just been living with my folks—its way out in eastern Montana with bad roads—I'm sure that those girls didn't get out more than once a month if they got out that often.

MM: They were probably lonely and isolated.

AN: Yes, yes.

MM: But you weren't so much so?

AN: No, not there in Ravalli. Ravalli was right on the railroad. There were trains running four times a day—two east and two west—and they stopped at Ravalli so that you could get to Missoula. It took time, but you could get there. The people I was living with had a car so they transported me when we went up to St. Ignatius to the dances and the movies. To repeat, that was a very fortunate experience. It wasn't quite so good the second year that I taught up at Leon, Post Creek [Montana] because I didn't have my car and transportation was somewhat of a problem then.

MM: Did you go to dances that year?

AN: Oh, yes. That was one of the big entertainments—the Saturday night dances.

MM: What sort of dances did you do?

AN: Let's see. We waltzed, and we two-stepped, and we three-stepped, and we fox-trotted, and…That first year, I don't think that some of the better known of the roaring '20s dances had been developed so that was most of what we did were those so-called ballroom dances.

MM: Did you feel a lot freer there, living there, and not having a house mother over you?

AN: Yes and no. I was living with this couple and my schedule was pretty much what their schedule was. Of course, meals when they had their meals and then the events we attended and what with having some school preparation to do—

MM: You were kept pretty busy.

AN: Sometimes I went walking. I went coasting with the school children, which they thought was hilarious—

MM: On sleds or toboggans?

AN: Yes. Little old "flexible flyers"—that kind of sleds. There's a hill going between Ravalli and St. Ignatius that is…that still exists there. They've changed the road, but we used to coast on that. Let's see. I had a friend in Ronan, and I used to go up there on the Stage, which was really a car—a big touring car. I would go visit my friend who had recommended me—had told the superintendent about me—so I could go up to see her. I had one of my friends from school once. She was still in school, and she came up to stay with me one weekend. That was a very pleasant year.

MM: Then you went back to college?

AN: Then I went back the next fall for a full year, yes, as a junior.

MM: And stayed in the same boarding house?

AN: My folks had moved back to Missoula, and I was living with them. But even then, the Dean of Women…My friend from Ronan had moved down, and she was going to school. The Dean of Women insisted that we report proctor slips too, the two of us, and my mother was furious. She said, "If I can't take care of two girls, I don't believe it!" (laughs) So, it was kind of a running battle about that.

MM: Do you remember who the Dean of Women was?

AN: Oh, I remember her very well. She was Harriet Rankin Sedman, and she was Jeannette Rankin's sister.

MM: Oh, so she took her job seriously, I guess?

AN: Oh, yes. Very seriously.

MM: So you got through your junior and senior years without problems and graduated?

AN: Well, by that time I had acquired the credits from working on the newspaper, which went towards graduation. One quarter I had taken a very heavy load and had extra credits so that after the end of my junior year I only really had one quarter to go. So I had a job in Polson in the summertime with the man I had worked for in Jordan. He was starting a little newspaper up there, but he went broke. I' d figured that I would work all summer long and fall for him, and then go back and finish the one quarter that I had to finish. But, to repeat, he couldn't make it.

He went broke. I was taking a correspondence course in psychology so I went back home to Missoula and went up to the University and the head of the Psychology—I think he was a Dr. Smith—was a very kind man. He said, "If you will come to my office all day long every day this week, I will get you through that course in beginning psychology." And we did it. But psychology, six to eight hours a day, every day, is a little heavy dose. (laughs) I was sick and tired of psychology by the end of the week. But then I had that requirement because I wanted to take educational psychology in the fall. Having fished around and having decided that there was nothing available for me directly in journalism—I would have to teach. I'd been offered a job at 22 dollars a week, but that just wasn't just living wages.

MM: Twenty-two dollars a week to work on a newspaper?

AN: On a newspaper in Lewiston, Idaho. But you couldn't live away from home and live on that by that time. Prices were going up as they have been ever since so—

MM: Was it hard for a young woman to get hired in a…by a newspaper?

AN: They wanted you to do the social column mostly—that is, a daily newspaper. A weekly newspaper, you probably could work on, but here again it would be that 22 dollars a week bit. You would do everything from writing an editorial column, probably, down to checking over the ads—the classified ads. So it seemed to me that I had to teach in order to make enough money to live on, so I wanted the educational psychology course and the other psychology course was a pre-requisite. I did it that week and had one more quarter of school, in which I took the educational psychology and other things and still had six credits to go before I could graduate. Then this same man who had hired me for that other country school—hired me for the Leon school—his teacher up there had taken her teacher's examinations, which you could do without having college credits for them. She had flunked. He couldn't hire her any longer, and I had enough college credits so that he could hire me. I did that last six credits by correspondence and taught country school.

MM: How much did you make there teaching?

AN: Oh, geE! What did I make? That had to be about 135 dollars a month, or something like that by that time. It was better.

MM: Was it a nine-month school? Was it open for nine months?

AN: Yes, it was open for nine months. She'd had from the September to the first of January, and then came up the first of January and finished out.

MM: That summer were you unemployed?

AN: Let's see. Yes, I stayed home that summer and I didn't have any job at all, but I had gone

down to Hamilton at the behest of one of my friends—one of the girls from the time we were six years old in the Christian Church—and she was teaching in Hamilton. She was graduated a year ahead of me because I had stayed out a year, and she said, "They need teachers out in Hamilton, why don't you apply?" So I applied out in Hamilton and was hired there.

MM: Did you enjoy teaching?

AN: No.

MM: You wanted to work on a newspaper?

AN: I would have preferred newspaper work, or actually, I was never fit to be a cub reporter. I watched Barbara Walters and think I could never be that abrasive. I never could dig into people like that. That isn't my personality at all. What I would have been good at would have been the journal for an industry, or something with, say, with home economics or magazine writing or something like that. It finally developed that I was just not the cub reporter. I am just not that aggressive.

MM: But you couldn't find any type of journalism job that would suit you more?

AN: Not, not in Montana, no.

MM: Okay. So you were teaching, and that's how you made your living until you were married, is that true?

AN: Yes.

MM: How many years did you teach?

AN: Well, I was married that winter.

MM: When had you met your husband?

AN: I had met my husband through my friend in Ronan the year I was a freshman. I went up there to visit her. Another girl and I went up…No, the year that I was a soph…No, the year that I was a freshman because she had been there the last few months that I was a freshman in that boarding house. The two of us went up to visit her, and my husband lived in Ronan. My Ronan friend, of course, dug up dates for everybody. (laughs) He was one of the dates.

MM: And you fell in love and had a courtship of how long?

AN: Well, something like three years. Closer to four, maybe.

MM: Did all of your friends…were they getting married around this time?

AN: The friend I went to Ronan with was married, I guess. Maybe, was married before I was.

MM: Do you remember any women that wanted to stay single and work?

AN: Any women what?

MM: Who didn't want to marry? Who wanted to stay single and work?

AN: There were girls in the journalism department—very brilliant girls—who really didn't care that much about dating. There were a couple who were older than I was, and I admired them very much and they did very well in journalism. One was named Anne Wilson. She was a very brilliant girl, and while she was popular she was as interested in her career as she was in marriage. I think eventually she was married. Yes, there were girls who were career-oriented but not very many.

MM: Do you think women were afraid of what would happen if they didn't marry? Were they afraid of not being able to support themselves or what the social stigma around old maids?

AN: I think the social pressures of not being married. There has to be something wrong with you if you can't get a man.

MM: There was a lot of that?

AN: Yes.

MM: It wasn't economic, it was more social? Which was it do you think?

AN: By the time we were in college, it wasn't economic. They knew that they had something in back of them by which they could earn a living—at least teaching. Tt was social pressure then even.
MM: Did you feel that before you married?

AN: The social pressure? I wasn't aware that that had anything to do with my getting married, no.

MM: What did your parents think about your getting married? Did they think that was a good idea?

AN: Oh yes. They thought it was perfectly acceptable just as long as it was a decent man.

MM: Okay. So then you quit working after you got married?

AN: Yes. I didn't work after I was married. However, my husband was in Utah with the Bureau of Mines, and I went…My mother and I went down there at Christmas time, and we were married. Then I came back and finished the school year. I think that was largely to flaunt in the face of the school board of the Hamilton school the fact that I could get away with it because when I came to apply for the job I was told that I was not to get married while I was teaching. I was engaged, and the order was "We don't hire married teachers."

MM: And you didn't like that?

AN: It irritated me for some reason or other. (laughs)

MM: Right.

AN: So, as I say, it was partly to flaunt it in the face of the board because…However, I didn't tell anybody. My husband stayed in Utah, and I didn't tell anybody when I came back except the girls I was rooming with. There were three of us rooming together by that time, and then there was a blow up in the school system. There were five of the girls in the building where I was, which was…had from the first through the eighth grade, who didn't like the new principal who was also a woman. There accumulated grievances in late January. They went to the school board with an ultimatum that if the principal didn't leave they would. They weren't quite wise in delivering that ultimatum. It came to a trial with the school board. It was kind of a mess, in fact, I, as the youngest teacher in the group was appointed principal—which was a little of an uneasy seat for me—of that grade school.

MM: Did they think that you were really responsible and a leader?

AN: Well, I'm not sure what they thought when they asked me…when they appointed me principal, but maybe because I was the newest one there and they thought I would be less involved or something. I don't really know what they were thinking when they did that. I went to the superintendent, and part of the…Then as the complaints came out, the janitor had reported that one of these girls who had delivered the ultimatum was writing letters and the letters were in the drawer of her desk. I said, "What on earth right did the janitor have to report of the teacher?" It was a very messy situation. They had a local trial of sorts with the school board, and they decided to keep the principal and fire the five girls which was only right and fair. The thing that the girls disliked, I think, largely was being told by the principal what they were going to do. That was her job, and they didn't care for her supervision. Apparently they hadn't had any or something, and so they fired the five. Then they had to reach out into the community to find new teachers to take those five places that late in the year. Of course they had to hire girls who had once been teachers and were now married, which upset the whole program gloriously! (laughs)

MM: Great.

AN: I thought that was really retribution. (laughs)

MM: So they never did find out that you were married? Or did they find out at the end of the school year?

AN: At the end of the school year I told them.

MM: Did you tell then when you had been married?

AN: Yes.

MM: What did they say?

AN: By that time, they'd had their lesson anyway so there wasn't much they could say, and I didn't intend to teach the next year anyway so…But it was a very difficult year because all the unpleasantness of people accusing each other and trials and…It just was a very difficult year to try to be teaching in.

MM: Right. So you were married. Well, you had been married and then you started…you took over the chores of a housewife. You started keeping house and cooking?

AN: No, not really because my husband was going around these four northwestern states in the Bureau of Mines car so I went with him to Wallace, Idaho in…for the fall. Then we came to Butte, and we lived in an apartment in Butte for six months. I believe that, yes. Then he had to go to Utah or Washington or where ever. We had a delayed honeymoon in the summer after that school year. We went to Alaska for our honeymoon and then went to Wallace, Idaho. Then lived in Butte for six months, and then he had to go again. I stayed with my folks while he was gone part of the time and part of the time with his folks. That was the second year of our marriage, and our daughter was born just a month before we'd been married for two years. Then he had to be gone again in the Bureau of Mines car, and I stayed again with my folks until he got a job in Great Falls. Great Falls Smelter—he was the first aid safety man.

MM: Were those hard years with him traveling around?

AN: Yes. They were difficult years. I was lonely, and he was lonely. With a family, I knew it was no way to be, and he said he just knew that when we had family it was no way to be if we could. However, the Great falls job was offered to him. He didn't realize it was in existence. In fact, they had changed the system. They had changed to a first aid and safety system instead of having a doctor on the plant. Then they had what they called a smelter clinic downtown so that the first aid and safety people could send patients immediately to the doctors downtown or if necessary one would come out to the plant form the smelter clinic downtown. So it was a totally different arrangement. If that hadn't come up, I don't know just what turn we would

have made, but that's difficult. While we weren't in any hazardous situation, for the most part, except when there was a great big mining explosion. I knew my husband was underground digging out dead people, why…My sympathies were with the people in the Iran captive situation. That separation is one that's so long is hard.

MM: Especially when you have children.

AN: Yes. So those people must have suffered greatly. I didn't really suffer, but they must have suffered.

MM: The not knowing.

AN: Yes. The suspense of knowing what might be happening and I didn't have to bear that. Separation isn't good for a marriage. (laughs)

MM: Well, how many children did you have?

AN: Two. The next year we had a boy.

MM: Was there any birth control available at that time?

AN: Very little. It was either abstinence or… (laughs) This goes on tape? Douches, for one thing, and the apparatus for the men to use.

MM: So there things were there.

AN: That was available, yes.

MM: And did women talk about that together?

AN: To a certain extent. But the amount of misinformation was amazing, just amazing. And the failure of all this business was amazing too. (laughs)

MM: Wasn't very reliable?

AN: No.

MM: You must have been lucky, then. Did you want more than two children?

AN: No. I think we would have had more than two children, but I developed a uterine tumor that terminated all ability to have any more children.

MM: Did you have to go to the hospital?

AN: I was given x-ray treatments, which was something that was entirely new at the time. I wondered I didn't die of cancer but…because x-ray is supposed to do all of these awful things to you. I think I had 14 x-ray treatments which killed the tumor, but also killed the productive life. But I've never had any reaction for the x-rays.

MM: That's great.

AN: By now, I don't think I will. (laughs)

MM: No. You look real healthy. So in Great Falls, is that where you had your second child?

AN: Yes.

MM: In a hospital?

AN: Yes. I was in a private hospital in Missoula when my…when Beverly was born, and I was in Deacon's hospital in Great Falls when Larry was born.

MM: Was a private hospital like a maternity house?

AN: Yes, a maternity hospital.

MM: Did you ever hear of osteopaths?

AN: Yes, we had osteopathic doctors in Missoula.

MM: They were a certain type of doctor?

AN: Yes. The medical men—the medical doctors—didn't really respect them very much. They felt that they just manipulating muscles and tendons and bones and all but that it was more like an exercise that real treatment.

MM: Did you ever go to an osteopath?

AN: I've never been to an osteopath but I've been to—just for arthritis treatments in my back—I've been to a Swedish masseuse and this kind of thing. But one of my friends went to an osteopath as a regular doctor and, in fact, he…She had several moles on her face, and nobody would do anything for her about it and—

[End of Interview]