

Maureen and Mike

Mansfield Library

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Archives and Special Collections

Mansfield Library, University of Montana

Missoula MT 59812-9936

Email: library.archives@umontana.edu

Telephone: (406) 243-2053

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

Oral History Number: 396-037
Interviewee: Jack Galt and Louise Galt
Interviewer: Bob Brown
Date of Interview: December 3, 2005
Project: Bob Brown Oral History Collection

Bob Brown: Okay, we're running. This is Bob Brown and I'm interviewing Jack and Louise Galt in Martinsdale. Jack served as a State Senator for many years as president of the State Senate, and also as Republican National Committeeman. Louise has been active in Republican Party politics for a number of years in Montana, and both of them have a long perspective on Montana history and the political history of Montana. Jack, maybe we could begin with you. What caused you to become interested in politics?

Jack Galt: I think my first interest, outside of a long history of my father [Errol Galt] being in politics, but when I got interested was when they started talking about the new constitution.

BB: The 1972 Montana Constitution?

JG: Right. I ran for that convention. I was defeated, but I ran on the basis of the Constitution never...We never had to have a new constitution. There was plenty of ways to amend the present one. But I was defeated.

BB: Then you were elected to the House of Representatives in the election right after that, though.

JG: That's right, yes.

BB: Now, you mentioned that your dad was involved in politics. How was he involved in politics?

JG: He served in the United States Senate.

BB: In the state Senate?

JG: In the state Senate, excuse me, yes. In the state Senate, in the '30s.

BB: Do you remember ever visiting with him about any of that experience?

JG: Oh yes, very much so. He was proud of the fact that he was there. He wasn't there very long because he changed his residence from Judith Basin to Cascade County, and then had to get out of the Senate. But interesting thing, he served along with Louise's father.

BB: In the state Senate?

JG: No, I think he was in the House of Representatives.

BB: But they served at the same time? Isn't that interesting. I didn't know that. Well both of you might be able to shed some light on this. When we started this project, we were especially interested in knowing about the influence of the Anaconda Company in the politics of the state. In your visits with your dad, do you remember him ever mentioning anything about that?

JG: Well, to be frank: yes, my father was very close to the Anaconda Company. One of his best friends was Herbert Hoover...not Herbert Hoover, but [William] Harold Hoover, who was the lawyer out of Great Falls that was president of Anaconda Copper [Mining Company]. One of dad's closest friends. In fact, dad was the executor of his estate. So yes, he was close to the Anaconda people.

BB: Your dad was a Republican?

JG: Yes, he was.

BB: Now Louise, maybe you could comment at this point. I don't remember. (unintelligible) was your dad [Bert Replogle]?

Louise Galt: Yes, he was a Democrat.

BB: He was a Democrat. Okay, well do you remember anything about his thoughts and impressions about the legislature and the Anaconda Company?

LG: I remember one time he brought home a copper collar (unintelligible) everybody in the legislature. (laughs) It was actually made of copper. I don't know what happened to it. But he thought that was great.

BB: The Anaconda Company did it themselves as kind of a joke?

LG: I think they did it themselves as a joke. So he didn't like the big companies, but he didn't really hate them either. He recognized there was a place for them as long as they were being fair. I remember mainly when they tried to impeach the governor.

BB: Governor Frank Cooney?

LG: Yes. He cast the one vote against impeachment. I think they only lost by one or two votes. He was kind of torn on that one, but he thought the company influence was there on that one was too strong. I remember him talking about that.

BB: He felt the Anaconda Company was involved in trying to impeach Cooney?

LG: Yes, he thought they were for the impeachment and were pushing it. That's one reason he was against it, I guess.

BB: Do you remember your dad ever talking about that, Jack?

JG: No, I don't. I don't remember a bit about that.

BB: So you became interested in politics as a young man because your dad was involved?

JG: So I was aware of politics.

BB: Aware of politics, anyway. Then when this idea about re-writing the state constitution came, that got you interested in actually running for office. You're a Republican because—

JG: Because I was educated by my father, I guess. (laughs)

BB: (laughs) I see. So your dad's influence was definitely part of that reason.

JG: I would think so, yes, I'd have to say that.

BB: Louise, you've been an officer in the Republican Party in Montana, I think, haven't you?

LG: Yes.

BB: Off and on for quite a number of years. I know you were active as a young Republican back in the early 1950s. But your dad was a Democrat legislator?

LG: Right.

BB: Explain.

LG: Well, in those days you called them the Jeffersonian Democrats. He didn't care for Roosevelt. He didn't like the New Deal. He thought it was ruining the country. He hated the WPA [Works Progress Administration] and thought people were...His thought was that the Republicans believed that the people should support the government and the Democrats believed that the government should support the people. I was kind of growing up to that type of thinking.

BB: That seemed closer to the Republican philosophy as you became of age?

LG: Right.

BB: So you were elected at the relatively early age as county attorney in Fergus County?

LG: Yes. Right out of law school.

BB: Right out of law school. So you were what, 24 years old or something?

LG: Let's see...23.

BB: Twenty-three years old and you were elected county attorney. Of course, young women were unusual as attorneys then, too, so that was pretty remarkable. You were elected as a Republican?

LG: Yes.

BB: Was your father still alive?

LG: Oh yes, oh yes. He campaigned with me. In those days you'd have rallies in the definite precincts.

BB: Was he disappointed that you were a Republican?

LG: No, he wasn't. He was a free thinker and thought we should think on our own.

BB: Do you think he continued to be a Democrat, or do you think he might have changed as well?

LG: Well, it's hard to tell. I don't know how he voted, but he didn't call himself a Democrat much after that. He still (unintelligible) Roosevelt because he'd been in for so long. But he liked some Democrats, and some he didn't. He didn't like the trade that Cooney and Erickson made when [Senator] T.J. Walsh died, and that they were Democrats. He thought that was wrong. I remember him talking about...I think the papers said that...how was it? Cooney had his appointment of Erickson to the Senate in one hand as Erickson handed him (unintelligible) nation with the other. [Gov. John Erickson resigned so that Cooney could appoint him to fill Sen. Walsh's seat after Walsh died.]

BB: Well, I know that created a big stir in state politics, and of course Erickson was defeated in the Democratic primary when he attempted to stay in the U.S. Senate after that whole incident had concluded. Now you mention T.J. Walsh. You were married until his death to Wellington D. Rankin, who I'm sure had some associations with Walsh. Do you remember discussing anything about Walsh with Mr. Rankin?

LG: Oh yes. When he first got out of law school and came back to Montana, he practiced with, under Walsh. It was Walsh and [Cornelius B.] Nolan. (unintelligible) called it Nolan and Walsh. It

was never called Nolan and Walsh. It was always Walsh and Nolan. Walsh was the predominant lawyer there. He was probably the first and foremost workman's comp lawyer in Montana.

BB: Walsh was?

LG: Yes, Walsh was and kind of a newcomer in the field and (unintelligible) that way. He was a student. Nolan was the talker. Good stentorian voice and everything. Walsh was the student and really the better lawyer of the two of them. I remember one story. After Wellington left, I guess the firm dissolved because Walsh wanted to go into the U.S. Senate. He didn't make it this one time and then it dissolved in the meantime. But they could see it coming and so they quit. Nolan (unintelligible) practiced alone, but when Tom Cruse [millionaire mining magnate] died—daughter died [Mary Margaret "Mamie" Cruse died in November 1913]—there was a big fight. Some of these historians say that she was divorced, but she wasn't, from her second husband. There was a fight over her estate.

BB: I see, okay.

LG: Her husband—I think the name was Cutter, [Harry Cotter] Cotter—filed to be administrator, and some young lawyer, his lawyer, asked Wellington to help on it. Then Nolan represented Cruse, and he filed on it. He claimed not that there wasn't next of kin—that they weren't married but they were divorced, but that they weren't legally married. At that time, Montana had a law that you couldn't get married after a divorce, if you were the innocent party, for a year. If you were the guilty party, for two years. That was 1800...late 1800s.

Well anyway, when they had the hearing on it, Wellington laughed, so he got up and said, "Your Honor, Mr. Cotter—or, Ms. What's-her-name, Mamie Cruse (?)—married Mr. Cotter because Cornelius Nolan told her to."

He reared back in his chair in that stentorian voice he had—beautiful voice—"What's that? I did not!" He repeated it. He went on to say, after that was passed by the legislature, (unintelligible) Nolan was the attorney general, and he sent an opinion out to all the lawyers in Montana to tell all the people in Montana it was unconstitutional. That's never been overturned. So, in effect, he was telling Mamie Cruse it was all right to go ahead and marry what you've got. (laughs)

BB: That would have been, what, in about 1920, I'm thinking?

LG: I think so. I think a little later than that. I looked it up because I wanted to read the case and I didn't write it down. I think it was later than that.

BB: Now Sam Ford was attorney general some time in that period, or maybe a little before 1920, and he was an associate of Wellington D. Rankin.

LG: I hadn't heard that. (unintelligible) was.

BB: Yes, but I don't mean a law associate, but I mean politically—

LG: Oh sure, you bet, you bet.

BB: They had a relationship, I think. Generally a positive one for most of the years.

LG: You bet. The three of them; Ford, Wellington and Wheeler. (laughs) The "Unholy Triumvirate," they called them. Of course Wheeler was a Democrat.

BB: Sam Ford, of course, went on to be governor in the early 1940s. You were a college student I think then, and then you served in World War Two and so on. Did you ever meet Governor Ford?

JG: Yes, I had the privilege of meeting him in the old Governor's Mansion. I think we took his daughter from Bozeman—she was in school at Bozeman—and drove her to—

BB: Oh, Isabelle?

JG: I forget.

BB: He had a daughter by that name, anyway. I don't know if—

JG: Anyway, that's what—

BB: What are your impressions of him? If I asked you to describe in a sentence or two Governor Sam Ford, what would you say?

JG: I'd have to say that I never knew him that well. What I hear and know of him was good, but I really don't have any strong opinions.

BB: Louise, did you ever meet him?

LG: Oh yes, I knew him well. They had me give a radio address from the campaign, which was unusual. They had to go to Great Falls to do it. Very friendly with you. Very strong man. He fought the company on a lot of things too, so he wasn't too popular with them.

BB: He was independent of the Anaconda Company?

LG: Independent of them. Very independent-minded. Saw a lot of him.

BB: How would you describe him if you just wanted to kind of give someone who had never met him a thumbnail sketch of what he was like?

LG: I don't know what he'd be like at home but, strong-minded. Never hesitated to take a stand on anything, whether it was popular or not. Always thought you had to do the right thing, regardless.

BB: He was strong for Prohibition. I remember that early in his political career.

LG: Yes, he was.

BB: I think he remained sort of an unreconstructed prohibitionist. Our friend Jerome Anderson, in my interview with him, said he wasn't above taking a drink from time to time. (laughs)

LG: (laughs) I know when one of his daughters was getting married and decided not to be married in the Governor's Mansion. He said, "If you do, it's the governor's daughter being married. If you're not married there, it's my daughter being married." He was very modest, not showy at all, and didn't flaunt any of this. A good person. He and Wellington fought sometimes. Each one would want to run for the same office, but they were very close friends. When he was dying—he was dying at [the] time—Wellington went up I think two or three times a week to visit with him in bed. He couldn't get out of bed and stuff. Talk about the old times.

BB: Now, we talked about how Wellington Rankin was independent of the Anaconda Company. Are there any stories or anything that come to your mind about any row he might have had with them, or any relationship he might have had with them?

LG: He had some bad cases against them, (unintelligible) and things like that. I don't know exactly what they were. They were years before I knew him. But that's where he got in bad with them, because he was very successful in bringing lawsuits for the injured workmen against them.

BB: Oh, I see. So he did some worker's comp work too.

LG: Oh yes, oh yes. Learned it under—

BB: Walsh?

LG: Walsh, yes.

BB: Really? Well that is most interesting.

LG: Workman's comp was his great specialty, and it was kind of a new thing in Montana. He put it to good use, and of course it (unintelligible) with the company.

BB: Before we leave the subject of Walsh...I might have asked you this, I can't remember if I asked you this directly or not. Do you remember Wellington Rankin ever discussing Walsh with you? I mean, aside from the interesting case about Cornelius Nolan, in effect, telling Tommy Kruse's daughter that it was okay to marry that guy. Do you remember any other stories or any descriptions or anything that Wellington Rankin made?

LG: His wife was kind of the office manager, kept the time book.

BB: Walsh's wife was?

LG: Yes. Every day she'd put a list of things on his desk. Things coming up, you know, to keep him in tune with stuff. She'd send out all the bills and everything. You said in those days people would come by and want money for different projects like they do today. She'd knock at the door (unintelligible) and she'd say, "So-and-so's here. I'm sure they want a contribution for such-and-such."

He wouldn't look up from his book. "Write them a check! Write them a check! Give them (unintelligible). Don't let them in. Give them a check and get rid of them!"

Then he said they'd go to Nolan. He'd say, "Come in! Come in!" and he'd spend 30, 40 minutes shooting the breeze with them, and give them a little tiny check or no check at all. (laughs)

BB: Really?

LG: Yes, that was the difference between the two men, Wellington told me.

BB: That is interesting too, isn't it? Because I've only seen photographs of Walsh, but Walsh looks like he would be a no-nonsense kind of a guy.

LG: He was.

BB: That's kind of how his photograph makes him appear. A very partisan Democrat, from what I've read. Not just a nominal Democrat, but a partisan Democrat.

LG: They made him the chairman of one of the Democrat's conventions.

BB: Chairman of one of the Democratic National Conventions?

LG: But he didn't have a real good voice. The voice was Nolan's. (laughs) But Nolan thought the world of Walsh.

BB: Respected him greatly, obviously.

LG: You bet.

BB: Now the governor, during the 1920s, when a lot of this was going on, was John E. Erickson, who we talked about before. Of course, his resignation led to Frank Cooney becoming governor, and the impeachment proceeding that both your fathers were involved in when they were members of the legislature. Any recollections at all about Erickson? Recollections that maybe Wellington Rankin would have shared with you?

LG: No. Not that time.

BB: Not that memorable of a person?

LG: I remember my father talking about it because he was there at the time they wanted to impeach him.

BB: Did you ever meet Frank Cooney, either one of you?

LG: No.

BB: Did you ever meet Roy Ayers?

JG: Oh yes.

BB: What do you remember about him, Jack? He was governor, I think, from about 1936 to 1940.

LG: He was a drunk. (laughs)

JG: I met him and I don't know why. I imagine it was through my father.

LG: There was a newspaper up north called *The Pink Reporter*. Dad was Clerk of Court when Ayers was judge. They didn't get along at all.

BB: Your dad Bert Replogle was Clerk of Court in (unintelligible) County.

LG: Yes. Twentieth [Tenth] Circuit Court, yes. He had a homestead and he couldn't work it because he was just too crippled from the war.

JG: I'm going to add a little more when she gets through.

LG: Anyway, there was some elderly woman (unintelligible) something. He ran over her with a car and wouldn't do a darn thing for her.

BB: Who ran over her with a car?

LG: Ayers.

BB: The governor?

LG: Hit her with a car. He wasn't governor at the time.

BB: Oh, I see.

LG: This went on for some time, then dad brought a suit against him. He was at the bank one day and here came the governor. He never came up to anybody except a highway patrolman was driving him and stuff. He walked up to dad and said, "You peg-legged old son of a bitch. You sued me, didn't you?" Dad turned around and just knocked him down. (laughs)

JG: That's what I was going to say.

LG: This newspaper had it all over the state and everything.

BB: This was before, again, before Ray Ayers was governor.

LG: Oh, he was governor at the time.

BB: He was governor at the time, and your dad decked the governor?

LG: He decked him, yes. (laughs)

JG: In the bank.

BB: At the bank.

LG: People at the bank thought it was great. I remember Tom Baker was a teller there, and he told me about it one time. Really cold-clocked him.

BB: Well, I imagine that made quite an impression.

LG: The highway patrolman had to pick him up, and the others held Daddy back.

BB: Your dad would have put him down a second time?

LG: Well, if he could. (laughs) He had an artificial leg.

JG: Her father, Bert Replogle, was the most wounded fellow out of Montana in the First World War. He had his leg shot off. He'd been gassed. He was—

LG: Lost two fingers and a thumb.

JG: He was the most wounded fellow out of Montana in the First World War.

LG: He was nominated by [Joseph] Dixon to represent Montana veterans at the Entombment of the Unknown Soldier.

BB: Governor Joe Dixon nominated him to be present at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier when it was dedicated?

LG: There were two or three of them. He represented the veterans. Chief Plenty Coups represented all the Indian tribes. But that was a presidential-appointed, not a governor's one. That's where he got to know Chief Plenty Coups.

BB: Do you remember Rankin ever saying anything about Dixon?

LG: Yes. He had some campaign stuff of Dixon, this old picture of his three or four daughters. What do you call these black, kind of glassy pictures? Instead of negatives they were...I forget what they were. He had some of those and it said on the bottom, "Dixon's answer to the charge he kept his sons out of war." (laughs)

BB: All he had was daughters, huh? That's pretty good. You still have those someplace?

LG: I think we gave them to the [Montana] Historical Society. I gave them what few things I had when we moved the one office. Engraver...that isn't it either. [daguerreotype.] But he never did talk much about the fight he had with him. I'm sure they fought on a lot of things.

BB: Well he was attorney general when Dixon was governor. In the Jules Karlin book, you know, they started out as allies, and then Dixon ended up appointing him to the Supreme Court. So they weren't mortal enemies, but I think they were also two strong-willed men who had their disagreements, probably was the long and short of it.

LG: That's right. But he admired Dixon's stand against companies and stuff, and all of that. Yes, Charlie Cooper, Gary Cooper's father, didn't run...No, he quit. Some relative of his died and he wanted to handle his estate. Cooper never had a dime or anything. He left and went to California and Dixon appointed Wellington in his place.

BB: Did your father know Charles Cooper?

LG: I don't think so.

BB: I wonder why Wellington wanted to be on the Supreme Court? He was attorney general at the time, wasn't he? Didn't he have to resign as attorney general?

LG: Yes, his term was about up, I think. But I'm not sure how that worked. We'd have to look it up here and see how much of his term was left. But he didn't like the court. He said it was a graveyard. Wasn't active enough.

BB: Yes, I've read that someplace. Or maybe you've told me in another conversation, that he was bored with being on the Supreme Court. Let's make sure our recorder's working here. I heard it make...No, it's still working there. It made a funny sound there, or at least I thought it did. So the "Triumvirate" was former attorney general and Governor Sam Ford, it was Wellington D. Rankin, who I think might have been the Republican National Committeeman of the Republican Party at the time—

LG: Either that or later, even later. He was never head of the Republican Party. That fellow Steele (?) said that. What's his name?

BB: Well, he was a Republican National Committeeman.

LG: Committeeman, yes. He was never Chairman of the Republican Party.

BB: Okay. Then Burton K. Wheeler, who of course was a U.S. Senator. How did Wheeler get involved in that kind of a situation? Do you know?

LG: You mean friends with them?

BB: Yes.

LG: Well, they were all young lawyers coming out to Montana about the same time early in the century, and they liked each other and had (unintelligible) each other's work together. They were all strong-willed and they all fought the company, all three of them. I remember when Wheeler was charged and indicted with...What was it, fraud or something with the company? Wellington met him in the street one day and he said, "Well what are you doing here?"

He said, "You know, I'm indicted. I have to go up to court here."

He said, "To a hearing?"

"Yes," he said.

"Well," he says, "I'm a lawyer."

"Nobody with you?"

"No."

"I'll go with you."

He went up there and sat through the whole thing with him. Here he was, all alone, facing a bogus charge and he was acquitted.

BB: Who was this that was charged?

LG: Wheeler.

BB: Wasn't Wheeler a lawyer?

LG: Yes. He was in the Senate at this time. But the company had some kind of a charge against him.

BB: Against Wheeler.

LG: Against Wheeler, yes.

JG: You said that wrong. You made a mistake. You said that Wheeler wasn't a lawyer at one time in it.

LG: Didn't have a lawyer with him.

BB: I see, okay. Even though he was a lawyer—

LG: Yes.

BB: Okay, I got you.

JG: So Mr. Rankin went with him.

BB: Of course, during this same period of time, Wellington Rankin's sister, Jeannette, cast the sole vote in the U.S. Senate against World War Two. Did you ever meet her?

LG: Oh my goodness, she lived with us every summer. Not every summer. A couple summers she was in India.

BB: I was actually serving in the state legislature before her death, and when I was in the Navy I was back in Washington, D.C., and I think she spent some time back there. I don't know for

sure. But I regret that I never met her, you know. I had lengthy conversations with Senator B. K. Wheeler—I think 1971 or 1972—but I missed meeting her. How would you describe her, if you were trying to describe her to me or someone who had never met her?

LG: Very strong-minded. Of course, wants to do all the talking. Most women do. His kids met her. She lived at our house for a time when Jack and I were married. Just the two or three times she came by. Interested in the future, didn't want to talk about the past much. Worried about the country. Worried about young people.

BB: Philosophical issue-oriented?

LG: Yes.

BB: If you didn't know, would you think that she and Wellington were brother and sister? Were they alike, were they similar?

LG: They were alike in that they were both very strong-willed. They were not alike in their thinking. I remember she'd been to India and then went on down through Africa and she visited the diamond mines. She was telling us one night after dinner about the poor colored people. Their husbands go in there, and they're mining with a week or two weeks without coming up. Of course, the money runs out and the people had nothing to eat.

So the British issued what's called a "mealie." And what's that? That's kind of a green mixture of this and that. Wellington looked up kind of bored, and he said, "Well, they make bread don't they?"

"Oh, no. They don't know how to make bread."

"Well," he said, "don't know how to make bread. Don't know how to make bread! The most uncivilized people of all times could make bread. They ought to be locked up!"

She stood up stiff as a rod, marched to the door, went to her room. Next morning just fine, everything was as if nothing had been said. (laughs) But that's the difference in the two of them.

BB: Yes. He was more traditional in his outlook and she was more—

LG: She hated the British, because probably because of their imperialism.

BB: You know, it seems like she would have been a pretty unusual Republican. That she would have been not a very typical Republican. Is that fair?

LG: Kind of an independent Republican. She'd go her own way. The imperialism is I think why she turned on the British.

BB: Now Jack, you obviously met her too. If you were just describing her, how would you?

JG: Very kind. Very intelligent lady, even in her old age. Very kind lady, yes. Never had a real serious conversation with her, but she was a very nice lady.

BB: The (unintelligible) vote was, of course, a big thing. I think Wellington Rankin ran for the U.S. Senate in 1942.

LG: I don't know.

BB: I think you gave me a campaign poster—somebody did—that was 1942 U.S. Senate, and his slogan was something about—

LG: Preparedness?

BB: Preparedness or "Defeat the Axis Powers," or something like that. But it wasn't a pacifist kind of a thing. It made me wonder whether her vote against World War II must not have created some major difficulties for him?

LG: I'm sure it did.

BB: It must have, because my guess is that if he had been in Congress he probably wouldn't have voted that way.

LG: He's more of a hawk, she's more of a dove. She was pacifist all of her life.

BB: She was replaced in the U.S. Senate by Mansfield...I mean, in the U.S. House by Mansfield. She served the term from 1940 to 1942 and then Mansfield went into the House of Representatives—Senator Mike Mansfield, who was then a representative at that time. I met Mansfield on more than one occasion and had an opportunity to visit with him. I supposed both of you probably did too. Any impressions of him, Jack?

JG: Very likeable, intelligent, strong man.

LG: He was my professor in university.

BB: You had him as a professor at the University in Missoula?

LG: Yes. That's why I'm wondering about the date. Couldn't have been my freshman year because I started in '41.

BB: I think he was elected to the U.S. House in 1942.

LG: Let's see...1942.

BB: I think Jeanette replaced Jacob Thorkelson, I think, in 1940.

LG: Mansfield first district and Joe O'Connell [James F. O'Connor] in the second district. Mansfield beat [Howard] Hazelbaker and O'Connell [O'Connor] beat Fred "Fritz" Haynes.

BB: 1942, right?

LG: Right.

BB: Was he a good teacher?

LG: Yes, a good speaker. It was all lecturing. A good lecturer. Easy to take notes from.

BB: Clear, simple sentences, I would guess.

LG: Right. Then at the end you would take a test and that was it. He would open it for discussion if anybody wanted.

JG: Louise, we have to mention Senator Mansfield when he was ambassador to Japan, and we stopped in there shortly after...Go ahead.

LG: Yes! We took this trip. That's the one with the Morrisons?

JG: Yes. Judge [Frank] Morrison.

LG: Yes, (unintelligible) and stuff. On the way back we stopped in Japan and met with Mansfield. It was after they'd shot down the Korean plane. Same time.

BB: Oh, yes. Congressman Larry McDonald [of Georgia], I think, was on the plane. Who was it that shot it down? The Chinese or the North Koreans or?

LG: The Chinese.

JG: I forget. Anyway—

BB: It was a passenger plane and very controversial, and people wondered why they felt they needed to do that. It strayed off course over their airspace of something.

LG: Yes, got into their airspace.

BB: So you were in Japan not long after that incident had occurred.

LG: Not long. We debated about going. The Morrisons called somebody back in D.C. and they said go ahead and go. Then Sharon on the trip was—

BB: Sharon Morrison?

LG: Sharon, yes.

BB: Frank Morrison's wife.

LG: Right. She was blaming the pilot of the plane and everything. (unintelligible) said right there on the plane do not (unintelligible) other territory. She just excused them and all. So when we got to Mansfield, he gave a speech and he told how terrible this was. I said, "Let's go up and talk to him. Tell him what you think, get your opinion."

"Oh, we shouldn't bother with him," she said. (laughs) I wanted to do that, you know. Of course, he was all the other way.

BB: She was very protective of the red Chinese.

LG: You bet, you bet. Just excusing him.

JG: I just wanted to get that in.

BB: So you met Mansfield there when you were in Japan as well. Now the governor of Montana in the 1950s was J. Hugo Aronson, and he's one of my first important political memories was of him. I had an opportunity to meet him a time or two. Any thoughts or impressions about him from either one of you?

JG: I remember shortly after getting out of the Army, going to a Stockgrowers meeting in Butte—it was either Butte or Helena—and my dad and Hugo Aronson were sitting in a booth, and my dad called me over and introduced me to the next Governor of the state of Montana. (laughs) Not that I knew what it was going to be (unintelligible). He was evidently talked into running.

BB: Your dad was a part of a group of guys that apparently were working on him to run at that time.

JG: Yes.

BB: Louise, did you ever meet him or form any impressions of him?

LG: Oh yes. Well, we went to different meetings where he went with us. One was the national committeeman when he was governor. Everybody liked him. He was a big, honest Swede and played it to the hilt.

BB: Very easy-going.

LG: Very easy-going. I remember he always had a good line that would bring people down. Somebody asked him one time, they said, "Governor, how many people are working at the capitol?"

"About half of them." (laughs) Things like that. He had a good sense of humor.

BB: He was definitely a common, self-made man. I suppose that showed. I remember he had large hands and an easy-going manner, that sort of thing.

LG: He said by the first month, or maybe a year or so, when he first came to this country, he just lived on ham and eggs because that's all he could say. (laughs)

BB: When you'd go into a restaurant they'd ask, and he could say "Ham and eggs." He got pretty sick of ham and eggs. (laughs) He could have learned to say, "I want what he's having," or something like that, even if he couldn't read the menu. Do you have any recollections of him as governor? Anything about him as governor that would stand out in your mind?

LG: I can't remember. Can you, Jack?

JG: I was buying some lunch and steak for the people I was working for at the time, and I remember when I finally came down to the board meeting, and by that time the governor said, "Well, we'll sell Mr. Galt any land he wants."

Forrest Anderson said, "No, let's don't do that." He was a good governor and a kind man.

BB: That was a meeting of the State Land Board?

JG: Yes.

BB: So the attorney general at the time, Forrest Anderson, was a member of the Land Board.

JG: Yes.

BB: When you came before him and you wanted to buy some state land?

JG: Mr. Rankin was the one that sent me up to...Tired of this. Sent me up to Forrest Anderson to talk to him, and Forrest Anderson just raked me over the coals. So finally I got up and said—this was just prior to the meeting—I said, “Well, hell, I’m not going into that meeting if you feel like that.”

He said, Forrest Anderson: “You come on into that meeting.” He was the one that—

I misquoted myself. Forrest Anderson was the one that made the motion that I could buy anything that I wanted, and it was the governor that said, “No, we’ll put restrictions on that.” I had that turned around. It was sort of—

BB: Why would Anderson have treated you the way he did in that meeting and then changed like that? Do you have any idea?

JG: Oh, just part of his disposition.

BB: Kind of a contrary gus in some respects, I suppose.

JG: Lets you know who the hell was boss. (laughs)

BB: But still he treated you fairly, you felt, with the (unintelligible)?

JG: Yes, absolutely, but he wanted to impress me on who the hell was boss.

BB: Any other impressions of Forrest Anderson? He later went on to become governor, and when you and I served in the House of Representatives, he was governor.

JG: That’s right. I’ve had several meetings with him and they were always pleasant. Never agreed with his politics.

BB: Would you describe him as frank, direct, a strong leader?

JG: No, I would describe him as devious and political. (laughs)

BB: Louise, do you have any thoughts or impressions on Forrest Anderson?

LG: I liked him very much. He’s the one that appointed me to the Board of Regents. (laughs)

JG: That’s what I mean. He’s devious. (laughs)

LG: But you could always rely on him.

BB: He was both attorney general and governor, and you were a practicing attorney when he was attorney general.

LG: Yes.

BB: Wellington Rankin was alive while he was attorney general too, I think.

JG: Oh yes.

LG: But he had died by the time I—

JG: Wellington and him were great friends. I don't know whether great friends. I was sitting in the office when Mr. Rankin called the Attorney General, Forrest Anderson, and Mr. Anderson said—Wellington, Mr. Rankin—said he wanted me to go speak to him. He told the Attorney General that he wanted me to go—that he wanted him to speak to me.

BB: I see. He made the appointment for you.

JG: That's right, that's right.

LG: They used to talk lengthy conversations on the phone about different politics and public situations, sounding each other out and giving stuff back and forth and just talking politics. They both loved it.

BB: Sure. They both loved politics.

LG: I remember one day Wellington walked into the library just as the phone rang—it was right by the secretary's desk. The others were over here. (unintelligible) to get to you and it was Forrest Anderson. He sat there less than 20 minutes talking and all the work stopped. Everyone was sitting there like this, you know? Finally he said, "Well, Forrest, we'll have to have a visit sometime." Mr. Acher, who never says a word, went "Huh!" (laughs)

BB: What was that if it wasn't a visit?

LG: Yes.

BB: Mr. Acher was Arthur Acher, who was Wellington's partner in the law firm there?

JG: Partner: is that the word?

LG: Associate.

BB: They were the same law firm, I guess.

LG: Yes.

BB: I've asked you if your parents, either one of them, shared any impressions about the Anaconda Company with you. We talked a little bit about that and I'd give you an opportunity to say more about that now if you want to, or, anything you can remember from your own experience with the Anaconda Company?

LG: You mentioned Hoover. I can't think of the other—

BB: Harold Hoover was an officer for the Anaconda Company, a lawyer in Great Falls?

JG: Yes, and ended up being president of the Anaconda Company.

LG: I've got a cute story about them too. (unintelligible) was Hoover and some other lawyer. Some fellow lost a bunch of horses and they sued the company, thinking it was from the smelter—fumes from the smelter—that did that to the horses. Hoover represented the company, of course, and Wellington was representing this poor rancher. He said in those days you didn't know too much about viruses and bugs and stuff. So our side had one vet. They had three. The first two testified that this bug, virus, I guess, had never been isolated. All three of them testified that.

So anyway, the third one came in and he got there late and hadn't heard the other testimony, and he got up there and went on and on, and Wellington got the idea that he didn't know what he was talking about. So he asked him to step out and come over here to the blackboard to draw us a picture of this one. Hoover jumped up and started objecting, blowing the gut in front of him, and was waving this fellow on, and the fellow had his back turned and didn't get the commotion. By the time the judge got him quiet, he had drawn a picture of this bug and stood back to display this thing. Wellington was able to argue that once again history has been made in the little town of Fort Benton. (laughs) It was written out for the world tomorrow that this influenza bug has been isolated.

But he said Hoover was kind of cute. He says, "Wellington, I have a right to carry a gun and when you get a dumb son of a bitch like that in the stand, just use your gun and say 'I call the next witness!'" He had a good sense of humor too. But they got along real well. Now, he fought the Anaconda Company, but got along well with the lawyers.

BB: Now, he didn't always get along well with Will Campbell, who was the editor of the *Helena Independent Record*, which is a paper owned by the Anaconda Company. Do you remember anything about that relationship?

LG: Just what he told me about the speech he made at the theater, when the Anaconda Company tells Montana women how to name their children they've gone too far. He was very critical of Wellington, Wheeler, Judge—

BB: Tell the story again about the Montana women naming their children.

LG: Well, Campbell had gone after him in the paper.

BB: Campbell had gone after Wellington Rankin?

LG: Yes. I don't know what all he said. I never did hear that. Then Wellington was due to speak at this theater, the Marlow Theater, I guess.

BB: The old Marlow Theater in Helena?

LG: I think it was the old Marlow. In the course of his speech, he mentioned this. He ridiculed him for using the name Wellington, you know, an English name and this and that. A boy from Oxford and this and that. So when he spoke, he told them Campbell said this and this and this. He said, "My father was hit by something, a cannonball or something, in the early days of Missoula and almost died. But this doctor, whose name was Wellington something, brought him around." That was shortly before Wellington was born. So she named him Wellington, and he told them that. When he got through telling how he got the name, he said, "Ladies and gentlemen, when the Anaconda Copper Mining Company starts telling the women of Montana how they can name their children, they've gone too far!" (laughs)

BB: He said that because it was commonly known that the *Helena Independent* was owned by the Anaconda Company?

LG: Yes, you bet. He wanted to make it known too.

BB: So when Will Campbell, the editor, is attacking him, he was establishing that connection.

LG: Now who was the judge, the federal judge?

BB: Bourquin?

LG: [George] Bourquin, yes. He attacked him all the time too.

BB: Campbell attacked Bourquin all the time?

LG: Yes, and Ford too, over the First World War stuff. They weren't quite hard enough on the Germans. Bourquin didn't give a damn. He had to go by the constitution, you know? Just because a person was a German doesn't mean he was a—

BB: Montana passed an [sedition] act in our legislature in a special session in 1918, I think, that was pretty tough and, in fact, Congress adopted a similar act, as I understand it. So Will Campbell obviously would have been in favor of that.

LG: He was on some committee, and I think Ford was too.

BB: Liberty League, I think, was it?

LG: Yes, something like that. But Ford got rid of it (unintelligible) after that.

BB: When Ford was attorney general he got rid of it, is that probably right?

LG: I don't think he was attorney general yet. I'm not sure of that. I had that in the book somewhere.

BB: When I first got to the legislature, the Anaconda Company had moved from their old watering hole. They had a watering hole in I think the sixth floor or something of the Placer Hotel building. They were still an important presence in the legislature but I never really thought they were a dominating one, but maybe I didn't realize the influence they had. Jack, when you got the legislature, did you have any impression of them, their lobbyists?

JG: Well, I certainly knew their lobbyists.

BB: Lloyd Crippen?

JG: Yes.

BB: How would you describe him and his influence?

JG: I think he was a well-respected lobbyist. I never knew him to really crowd anyone. Low-key and perhaps very effective.

BB: Congenial?

JG: Very. Very much so.

BB: Did you ever know Al Wilkinson?

JG: Yes, yes.

BB: I never met him. I don't think he was still in the picture when we got there, was he?

JG: No, I don't think so. I met him back in the 19—

BB: Forties or fifties maybe?

JG: Yes.

BB: How would you have met him? Do you remember anything about that?

JG: Through my dad, I'm sure it was. He was a very sociable, very typical lobbyist. He spent his career—part of it—back in Washington, D.C.

BB: Did you ever meet him?

LG: Oh yes, several times.

JG: His daughter was Lloyd's—

BB: Lois Crippen was Wilkinson's daughter, I think. Yes, that's right.

LG: Yes, daughter and son (?). I met him several times. Then I remember when Wellington died I came back in a plane. It stopped in Butte for a few minutes and he came up and got on the plane and put his arms around me for a while. He was a close friend.

BB: How would you describe him, because I guess when we talk about the influence of the Anaconda Company in Montana in some of my other interviews, the name Wilkinson has come up as someone who...If the Anaconda Company was ever a really powerful and important presence in Montana, it might have been during the period when Al Wilkinson was maybe kind of the leading figure in their political operation. I guess I'm just curious to know your impressions of that, whether you think that's true, and if so—

LG: I think he was their top lobbyist and they counted on him for a lot of things.

JG: But he was hired by other people, you know, he was always a hired gun. He never set the policy. The policy was set by—

LG: Later on it was set in New York, and the top people were no longer Montanans. That made a difference too. They relied on him. He was affable and likeable.

BB: Louise, if I asked you to identify the five most influential people in Montana in the 1950s, would he be on your list?

LG: I wouldn't have known that in the 1950s.

BB: It wasn't obvious?

LG: Not to me, in 1950—

BB: Just trying to think because, you know, the Anaconda Company was still a huge economic influence in the 1950s. They were maybe beginning to decline somewhat in the '60s, and then in the '70s they were certainly not as powerful as they had been before then, so the reason I ask you about that is, in the '50s Wilkinson was still very much a presence in the Anaconda Company, and they were still very much a big presence in Montana. So I just wondered how noticeable that was to you, if you as county attorney in Fergus County probably wouldn't have been in a position to have known much about that.

LG: Ford, I knew.

JG: I was just a cowboy. I never do nothing. (laughs)

BB: So if I asked you to identify the five most influential people in Montana, Wilkinson would probably not have been on your list in the 1950s?

JG: No. But then, remember my ignorance.

BB: Well, and you weren't as involved in politics. Okay, so then when you arrived in the legislature in the early 1970s, the lead lobbyist for the Anaconda Company then was—was it Crippen?

JG: Crippen, yes.

BB: There was Denny Shea. There was a guy named Glen Carney. Largey MacDonald, I think, was there lobbying for them for a little while. Since Crippen was the lead lobbyist, maybe the best way to phrase the question is that way. Would you have placed him on the list of the most influential people in Montana when we were legislators?

JG: I would think he had a...I think he was a very effective and capable lobbyist, but I'd never put him into a place where he had much power in the state.

BB: You wouldn't consider him a controlling influence?

JG: No, I would not.

BB: How would you describe his influence?

JG: A very capable agent of his interest, a very capable lobbyist, but not any critical powerhouse.

BB: In your recollection, were there other lobbyists that you think might have been comparable in influence to him?

JG: I'm sure there are, but I can't tell you their names right now. I just can't think. Crippen was a very good friend and I always respected him, and I never thought he was any big hammer like Wilkinson probably was prior.

BB: I know it's an apples and oranges kind of thing, but there were some other important lobbyists during that period of time—Jim Murry from the AFL-CIO.

JG: At that time in the '70s, I think he probably had more influence in the legislature than Lloyd Crippen did.

LG: You're talking about leaders as lobbyists in the legislature?

BB: Now we're talking about lobbyists, yes. Any other lobbyists come to your mind? John Lahr representing the Montana Power Company? Everett Shuey representing the Montana Power Company?

JG: I didn't think they were very good lobbyists. (unintelligible) low key, not (unintelligible) but very effective.

BB: Any farm organization lobbyist that you can remember from that period?

JG: Probably. Who's our friend from Montana Stockgrowers?

LG: Mons Teigen?

JG: Mons Teigen, yes.

BB: Mons Teigen had some influence then?

JG: Oh, yes, and his organization had some influence then.

BB: He represented the Montana Stockgrowers Association?

JG: That's right.

BB: Let's see, the Farm Bureau? The Farmers Union?

JG: Both of them certainly had a presence.

BB: I don't want to put words in your mouth, Jack, but I think what you're telling me is that you didn't regard the Anaconda Company or probably any particular group or organization—business entity or otherwise—as having a really controlling influence over the legislature when we were there. There were several that had some influence.

JG: You quoted it very well. I couldn't have said it better myself.

BB: Okay, but you responded too when I mentioned Jim Murry, who represented the AFL-CIO, as thinking that he might, at least during some periods of time during the 1970s, might have had pretty great influence. Maybe greater influence than some of these other guys we're talking about.

JG: Right.

LG: What about your education lobbyists? They were (unintelligible) influence.

BB: Dee Cooper. He represented the Montana Education Association.

JG: I don't even remember him. I remember the name, but I can't place him right now, so he was not as effective to me as, say, Jim Murry, who I remember very, very well.

BB: Did Jim ever lobby you?

JG: Oh yes. Yes, he'd come up and—

BB: Because you wouldn't be someone that would be a very easy mark for him, I would think. You represented a district that would have had very few union members and your philosophy wouldn't have necessarily been very close to his.

JG: Not very, but I respected him and I think he respected me in a way that—

BB: You remember having a cordial relationship with him?

JG: Yes.

BB: Louise, you weren't a legislator, of course, at the time. Do you have any impression about any of these lobbyists that we're talking about? Or any of this kind of business at all?

LG: No.

BB: Having not been a legislator, this might be an interesting question to begin with you. I'd just be interested in your thoughts and impressions of any legislators in any time in your life; any

Montana legislators. Were there any that for whatever reason kind of stand out in your mind in any decade?

JG: Outside of me. (laughs)

LG: Who's that one from Winnett? Tried to get (unintelligible) as a page.

JG: Oh, in the past history you did...and Louise forgot to mention that back in the early days she was also the National Chairman of the Young Republicans.

BB: Louise was National Chairman for the whole country of the Young Republicans?

JG: That's right, yes.

LG: Co-chairman. There were two of us.

BB: When was that?

JG: In the '50s.

LG: Fifty-one, '48 to '51, something like that.

BB: So you weren't when Eisenhower was president?

JG: When she was county attorney, she was also—

BB: I see.

LG: I think '48 [1949] and '50, but I'm not sure.

BB: Did you ever meet Senator Robert Taft?

LG: No.

BB: You had meetings in Washington, D.C, I suppose?

LG: Yes, they put me on the executive board of the national committee. There were about 15, 20 of us, and I'd go back to the meetings.

BB: Wow, that's pretty exciting. Who was the Republican National Chairman then?

LG: There were two. The second one was from Pennsylvania—Scott.

BB: Hugh Scott.

LG: Hugh Scott, yes. I forget who the other one was.

BB: He later was the U.S. Senate Minority Leader, Senator Hugh Scott from Pennsylvania, in the 1960s.

LG: (unintelligible) the first one?

JG: I bet you (unintelligible) didn't tell you that?

BB: I'm glad you did, because I don't remember that I ever knew that fact.

LG: They had the convention and I don't know why my name came up, but then national asked me to run. Frank Whetstone sent...or Dan Veston (?) was committeeman. He sent his kid, Dan. D'Ewart sent a man from his office.

BB: Congressman Wes D'Ewart.

LG: Yes. Governor Ford sent his daughter, Shirley—married to Ted James. And Bill Scott from Great Falls.

BB: Ted James later became Lieutenant Governor.

LG: Yes. A fellow named Dunkemeyer (?) from Great Falls, and then Billings was Fred Moulton (?), who just recently died, and the other fellow became a judge. I can't think of his name. We had quite a good group. Then Paul Jewell of Missoula. I was surprised to see him there. I don't know how he got there. But we got down there—

BB: Down where?

LG: Salt Lake. The big deal was a fellow from California named Lach Waters; Laughlin Waters. He was going to be the new chairman so we wouldn't have a chairman (unintelligible) from the same part of the country. That was Lowell Bugaboo (?). They had no woman, really, of any (unintelligible) be considered too much, so we had the time of our lives. They had champagne parties and everything, some of these big states, for their candidates. We had nothing. These few people that went around room to room, delegation to delegation. Boy, by the time the voting came we had them all calling us to run with us. It was young Phillip Wilkie, one of the last one to call.

BB: Wendell Wilkie's son?

LG: Yes, and we met him.

BB: And he wanted you to run—

LG: With him, yes.

BB: I see. As a county attorney you had an important credential. It was unusual for a woman in that kind of a situation.

LG: Yes. I never thought it was terribly unusual until we got down there, but they couldn't believe it, you know.

BB: So you ended up running with who?

LG: A fellow named Tope from Ohio. He never did much of anything, but they couldn't agree on the others (unintelligible) part of the state. I wouldn't have run with anybody. We finally decided we'd just run on our own, not tie it with anybody. They had several ballots and California was furious. They'd spent all this money on all these parties.

BB: You weren't a good fit with the guy from California because you were too—

LG: Both from the west.

BB: Both from the west, yes.

LG: But it was fun.

BB: Yes, I'll bet that was interesting. Jack, let me ask you about legislators that you served with. Are there any that particularly stand out in your mind?

JG: A bald-headed fellow from up west, Bob Brown. (laughs)

BB: Well, thank you, and I appreciate that. Was Jim Lucas Speaker?

JG: He wasn't Speaker when I was there.

BB: He was when I was there. He was still in the House, anyway, when you were there?

JG: Yes, yes, and he was Minority Leader. He was a very impressive legislator. Jean Turnage and Jim Lucas were the two that impressed me the most.

BB: How were they alike, or how were they different? They both impressed you.

JG: They both impressed me, yes. Knowledgeable. Smart. Good on their feet.

BB: Good on their feet. Both of them good on their feet, yes. Good debaters?

JG: You bet. They knew what the hell they were talking about.

BB: (laughs) That can be pretty important too.

LG: Was George O'Connor there then?

BB: No, George O'Connor was there, I think, in the '50s, and he went on to become, what? The president of the Montana Power Company? I think he did.

LG: He was with the Montana Power Company but I don't think he was president. [He was president and CEO from 1973-'75.]

BB: Louise, did you ever meet George O'Connor?

LG: Oh yes. Knew his wife well.

BB: I didn't really. I heard his trademark was a red necktie and that he had been a legislator from Stillwater County perhaps. Fromberg, I believe, was his hometown.

LG: Some little town.

BB: Some little town over there. He ended up the Speaker of the House at one time, and he was known for his mastery of the rules. Apparently he was a wonderful expert at legislative rules. Then he continued to be a lobbyist for the Montana Power Company after he left the legislature. Because he knew the rules so well, he continued to be an important influence, maybe for that and other reasons, afterwards. But I never met him and I never knew him at all. I just heard his trademark was a red necktie.

LG: Right.

BB: You remember that about him?

LG: Yes.

BB: Do you remember anything about meeting him ever?

LG: Oh yes. Met him several times. Knew his wife well. Rose was a reporter for the Helena paper. (unintelligible) Gross.

BB: Okay. Newell Gough's daughter?

LG: No, spelled differently. [Rose Gross O'Connor.] It was Barbara (unintelligible) wife's cousin. I don't remember.

Brown: I see. So Jack, you were especially impressed by Jim Lucas and Jean Turnage. Was there a Democrat that stands out in your mind? A Democrat legislator that might have made any kind of a particular impression on you?

JG: Who was that fellow? I remember you were in the House with me that night that Jim Lucas and that—

BB: John Hall.

JG: John Hall, yes.

BB: Well, tell about that.

JG: Just he was a very articulate—

BB: What were they debating?

JG: Something about coal, weren't they?

BB: Yes. What I remember was, I think Representative Dorothy Bradley, who was the only woman in the House at the time, had introduced a bill to place a moratorium on the mining of coal until we could get further into it and understand it, something like that. So a lot of the guys were in favor of economic development and saw this as an opportunity, and spokesperson for that group was Jim Lucas. John Hall was the spokesperson for the group that said...I remember one of the lines he used in the debate was "Act in haste, repent at leisure," was one of the lines that Hall used. How do you remember it? Was it a night debate?

JG: That's right, a night debate. (unintelligible) impressed me, two articulate people with strong convictions expressing their side.

BB: You're not the only guy that remembers that, in many cases, as the most memorable...I've heard it likened to the Webster and Hayne debate in the U.S. Senate. None of us, of course, were ever around to know anything about that, but there were two powerfully effective orators—well-prepared and brilliant and articulate. You could hear a pin drop in that place, I remember, while they spoke. So that was an impressive experience, I know it was. Do you remember also another night session when there was an attempt to censure some Republican legislators who were members of what we called the Legislative Campaign Committee and the Democrats felt that we'd broken the law and so there was a sort of a censure-ship hearing that was held in the House chamber at night? Do you remember that?

JG: I don't remember it. I remember the problem.

Louise, is that what you were looking for earlier on the floor there, that medicine bottle?

LG: Yes.

JG: Excuse me.

BB: What I remember about that is that a representative from Billings, a lawyer representative by the name of Tom Towe, was involved in bringing that action, and of course you and I served with Tom Towe both in the House and Senate. Any thoughts or impressions of Tom Towe?

JG: (laughs) He was a very capable fellow who never knew what the hell he was talking about half the time, but he expressed himself very well. He did a lot of talking but I don't think he was ever very persuasive.

BB: We always knew that if it was any very complex kind of legislation on the floor, Tom Towe almost always had an amendment, didn't he?

JG: Always.

BB: He gave lots of talks about a lot of things. Maybe because he had so many opinions about so many things, he watered down his influence, I think.

JG: I would think so. That's my impression anyway. You always expected him to get up and talk but pretty soon it got to: "Go ahead, let him talk."

BB: Louise, did you have any impressions of Tom Towe? I saw you react when I mentioned his name.

LG: The only impression I have was a lawsuit I had with him. His father had a feedlot in Roundup and we feed cattle. Those years we did every year in the winter. This winter he put ours in his feedlot. Well, we had a contract that they couldn't go over such and such a weight or we'd have to take them out. Anyway, (unintelligible) take them out and Jack and Mr. Acher went down and weighed them and everything, and settled up. In doing so, they cut back about 30 head—was it?—that were too fat to go to grass, and should go to market, but the Billings market wasn't open for at least a week. So anyway, off they went. Then when the week came to get the cattle, Tom Towe told them not to let them take them. There was a mistake on the bill, the settlement, and we owed him 3,000 dollars. So Jack called me, "What do I do? The trucks are here to get the cattle and this is what they tell us." So I called him.

BB: You called Towe?

LG: Yes, in Billings. He said, "Just send me your check for 3,000 dollars."

I said, "You know Tom, if there's a mistake, we make it good, but we've got to sit down and go over this. We can't hold these trucks here with these cattle," and so on and so forth.

He said, "You just sent me your check and I'll just hold it until we meet and go over this thing."

I said, "No, that 3,000 dollars is as good in my desk as it is in yours, and I wouldn't do it."

He went on, just adamant, you know, they're going to hold these cattle. Finally I said, "All right, you're holding about 30,000 dollars worth of cattle for what you claim was a 3,000 dollar bill. You just do that at your own risk," and hung up on him. Then he called and told them to leave but ten. We didn't bother about the 10, so later we brought suit and we (unintelligible) to get the cattle back. I think Acher went down there on the suit. Put up a bond that we'd get the cattle and take them to market. So he came up and put a contrary bond to hold them. Well anyway, it went on for...What? Two years? A little over? The last time we had a hearing—

BB: Those cows must have been the oldest cows in Montana by that time.

LG: I think they were steers, great big things. When we had the last hearing—I think it was a summary judgment—the judge ruled in our favor. The lawyer in Tom's firm, I said to him "Why does he want to hold these cattle?"

He says, "We don't know. They're the only cattle in the whole damn feed lot. His father has no one to buy feed for him but a man to feed them. We spent more money on these cattle than the 3,000 dollars. We don't understand it. He says 'It's my ace in the hole. It's my ace in the hole.'"

Well, finally we won the whole suit and that was the end of it, but he was a very impractical person, I would say, and hard-headed and hard to deal with.

BB: I think Jack's impression—and mine too—might have been, as a legislator, there might have been some evidence of not being always a practical person there either. Could be true too. Incredibly hard-working guy.

JG: You bet. That is—

BB: I think an intelligent in guy, in some respects anyway. Now we've just got a few minutes left before our tape's going to expire, and I want to talk to you a little bit about the Reagan movement, Jack, because I know you were very much involved in getting Ronald Reagan to—you were involved in his presidential campaigns. What got you interested in Reagan?

JG: Just a good conservative politician that spoke the message to me.

BB: You preferred Reagan over Ford?

JG: Yes.

BB: Explain.

JG: More definite, more assured, more positive kind of a politician. Not that I have anything against Ford.

BB: Were you involved in any kind of a movement, any kind of an organization to promote Reagan?

JG: Certainly I was.

BB: Well, tell about that.

JG: I don't know what you want me to tell. There was an organization, yes, there was a thing here in Montana. I hate to talk about myself, but in my first venture towards being national committeeman, I defeated the longtime National Committeeman Bill Mackay in a bitter, bitter thing, and that was a Reagan movement to do that.

BB: Oh, I see. Had Mackay been a Ford supporter?

JG: He was a wishy-washy fellow.

LG: He sent out a letter, "Vote for Ford's people," and that infuriated the Reagan people.

BB: I got you. So then when he came up for election, the Reagan people got behind you.

JG: Yes.

BB: I see, okay. I was probably at the convention, but I don't—

JG: That was a bitter one. Poor Bill Mackay. I like Bill very much, but I met him after that vote and he was crying. I apologized to him and he said, "Jack, that's the first election I've ever lost in my life," and he checked out and he was leaving the hotel.

BB: But he'd been Republican National Committeeman for several years too, so—

JG: Yes, there was very few National Committeemen before that...Whetstone and Mr. Rankin and Fred Robinson was about...There was only three or four before that.

LG: Fellow from Kalispell.

BB: Jim Murphy.

LG: Jim Murphy, yes.

JG: Yes, just for one term.

BB: Now, so were you Republican National Committeeman at the time that Reagan was president?

JG: All the time, yes.

BB: Did you ever meet Reagan?

JG: Oh yes, several times. Right up there is a picture of him and me. That was long before he was president. I forget where the hell I met him, down in Bozeman or somewhere.

BB: Well, do you have any thoughts about any experiences with him? Did you ever have a conversation with him? Would you have been able to form an impression of him? How would you describe him?

JG: I would describe him as probably one of the better presidents that we've had, a very strong-willed, persuasive fellow that expressed himself and got things done.

BB: Did he ever say anything to you that you remember?

JG: No, not personally. I can't say that he did.

BB: Louise, did you ever meet him?

LG: Yes, I was the Chairman of his campaign for Montana and we had a State Chairman, Florence Hagen, that was for Ford. They'd interview her and she'd say, "We're going to have nine for Ford and five for Reagan," or something like that. What we did—

BB: That was at the Republican State Convention when there had been a straw vote taken in the primary election and Reagan won the state. He won the popular vote.

LG: He won every county in the state.

BB: What I think the Ford people were trying to do was they were trying to say, "Well, in fairness, if we've got 20 delegates to the State Convention, and Reagan won the election 70

percent to 30 percent, or whatever it was, that Reagan ought to have 14 delegates, or seven delegates, or 11 delegates, and Ford ought to have six or seven or whatever to represent the way the state went.” That was their position, I think, wasn’t it?

LG: I think so. We felt winner take all. We’d worked awfully hard; Jack’s group that he formulated. We went into every county and got our people lined up to vote for state committeemen and women that were Reagan people, and that’s how we did it, from the ground up. So when they came to the State Convention, we knew pretty well...pretty well locked up. Wasn’t George O’Connor there? Wasn’t he one of the speakers for them?

JG: I can’t remember.

LG: I think he was. They congratulated us, “My god, you were organized.” Well, we were. Just very, very well organized.

BB: Now Reagan, of course, was a charismatic figure. He was handsome, he was a galvanizing public speaker, that sort of thing, and he seemed to capture the hearts of the people to a greater extent than Ford, even though Ford was an incumbent president. I don’t want to minimize what you did here, but was it relatively easy to get people to enthusiastically support Reagan in all the counties?

LG: It was kind of a groundswell, but the general feeling was that Ford probably couldn’t make it. He’d pardoned Nixon. There was some feeling there. Better start clean and here’s an up and coming charismatic figure that would go over well, which he did.

BB: Did you ever meet President Ford the elder, the first President Ford? You were still national committeeman, weren’t you, when he was—

JG: I can’t remember, but yes, I have met him. What do you mean the elder Ford? There’s only one President Ford.

BB: The one now is the son of the one that—

JG: Bush is his name.

BB: Oh, why did I say that? (laughs) I meant President Bush, you’re right. I meant President Bush. So you did meet the first President Bush, too, I think, didn’t you?

JG: Yes.

BB: Any impressions of him?

JG: Very nice fellow.

BB: How was he alike or different from President Reagan?

JG: Not as forceful, not as sure of himself. Reagan's asset was a great assuredness. He knew what the hell he was doing and he gave you the impression he knew how to get this thing done. The hell with you, and there it is.

LG: He'd never have said "Read my lips," and then gone the other way.

BB: No. We've just got a few minutes left, and I want to ask you about a couple more governors. I want to ask you a little bit about Governor Tom Judge, a little bit about Governor Ted Schwinden, a little bit about Governor Stan Stephens, and a little bit about Governor Mark Racicot; just your impressions. Jack, you and I served in the legislature with all those gentlemen and we've had something to do with each one. So for historians that might be listening to this recording in the future who would never have an opportunity to meet any of those people, just tell us now briefly your impressions of governor Tom Judge and maybe an experience you might have had with him.

JG: Not too impressed with Governor Judge. Liked him, a likeable fellow and everything, but he never impressed me as a good governor. Schwinden did impress me. He impressed me very much. He as a good governor, knew what the hell he was doing, knew how to get it done, and got along very well with things.

BB: So the difference between Schwinden and Judge was that Schwinden was more of a take-charge guy?

JG: You bet, and an honest fellow. I mean, gave the impression, and was. Not a dealer...I don't know how to express it.

BB: Did you ever have any personal dealings with Schwinden when he was governor on a piece of legislation?

JG: Yes. I can't remember, but yes; he called me into the office several times. The coal tax thing, I guess I carried that.

BB: You carried the bill to lower the coal tax?

JG: Yes, in the Senate.

BB: Of course, he was supporting you on that, wasn't he?

JG: Yes, well, of course there was a caveat, you know, there had to be a production thing on it.

BB: The production had to increase in order to qualify for the lower tax.

JG: Yes. But there was other things. I remember when he made Gordon McOmber—

BB: Gordon McOmber was president of the Senate and he made him lieutenant governor.

JG: Yes, and after that he made him head of the Department of Agriculture. I don't know how in the hell it came up. I remember Schwinden said, "Jack, did I do all right with the old fellow?" I said, "Yes, you did a hell of a good job."

BB: Because you got along pretty well, as we all did, with McOmber.

JG: Yes.

BB: Then Stan Stephens.

JG: Stan's a very good personal friend of mine. He never had the most sparkling career as a governor, not because he never tried—he certainly did.

BB: How would you describe him as a public speaker? Did he impress you that way?

JG: I guess I don't have an opinion.

BB: Well he definitely did me. I thought he was really a good public speaker. Any other impressions of Stan?

JG: Just a hell of a nice, honest fellow. I think—I hate to say it—he was just there at the wrong time to be a very impressive governor, I guess. Things never worked out just as they should have, like they did with Racicot, strangely enough, later on.

BB: Racicot followed Stephens as governor.

JG: Yes. Things came along nicer then, I think, maybe because Stephens set some of it up for him. But he got the benefits of—

BB: Stan stomped the grapes, and Marc drank the wine. (laughs)

JG: Very good impression. That's right.

BB: Now, you weren't in the legislature during Racicot's administration.

JG: No, no.

BB: Louise, I think you've got a story to tell, don't you, about Marc Racicot? Weren't you involved with Marc Racicot's decision to run for governor?

LG: I don't think so—

BB: I thought I remembered...or maybe it was to run for attorney general. I thought I remembered some kind of a story about he was a young deputy attorney general, and he was wondering what to do because the attorney general was running for governor, Mike Greeley, and he wasn't sure what to do with himself. I thought the story was that you and he had a conversation and you were involved in Republican Party politics at the time and said, "Why don't you run for attorney general as a Republican?"

LG: No.

BB: That didn't happen?

LG: Didn't happen.

BB: Okay. All right.

LG: Must have been somebody else you're thinking of.

BB: Okay, I thought that was you.

LG: I wouldn't have said it if the occasion had risen.

BB: I thought it was you who had some influence in causing him to run for attorney general the first time. Well, we're just about out of time. Would either one of you like to conclude with anything? Is there anything you'd like to say looking back over your lives involved in Montana history and politics and so forth?

JG: Just thank you for coming out, Bob.

BB: Any last words Louise?

LG: No, but tomorrow we'll probably think of a lot of things we should have said. We always do.

BB: Well I sure appreciate you, thank you very much.

LG: Well, we appreciate you, Bob.

[End of Interview]