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Interviewee: Grace Averill Hollaway
Interviewer: Mary Melcher
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Note: Interview conducted in Townsend, Montana.

Mary Melcher: Grace, could you tell me how your family came to Townsend?

Grace Hollaway: My father came here when the railroad went through because everyone knew there was going to be a new town -- he was an architect and a builder in 1883.

MM: How did they know there was going to be a new town? What was the—

GH: Because the railroad was in the process from being run from St. Paul [Minnesota] clear to Seattle [Washington] in that area in that era and as it approached Montana the Northern Pacific plotted different towns and Townsend was one of them.

MM: And were there a lot of ranches around here—in this area?

GH: At that early date there were a lot of ranches, there were other small towns, but Townsend was going to be on the railroad so the other small town came right into Townsend to help build it up. They moved their stores and the doctors came in, and Townsend would take over and then become the county seat.

MM: Was your father helping to build some of the buildings at that time?

GH: My father was an architect and builder, and he came here with that in mind and with other carpenters he drove the first nails to make Townsend the town.

MM: Was he married to your mother at that time?

GH: He was married and brought her in their second year of marriage and their first son was born here. The second child to be born in the town—his name was Fred.

MM: And where did you say they came from?

GH: They came from Michigan and settled here.

MM: Was your mother happy with the move here, do you know?

GH: My mother was the sort of a person that along that she was with her family she would

have gone anywhere and done anything that was right. She was not what you'd call a Westerner. She was cultured refined woman. Both my father and mother were teachers before they came out here.

MM: Had they met in the school when they were teaching or—

GH: Just in their town. I don't know how they met.

MM: So your mother, did she have a hard time adjusting to this life here?

GH: No, I think not. She joined right in to build a town right with my father.

MM: So was Fred their second son?

GH: Fred was the first child. The second child born in the town. Fred Hale Averill.

MM: And he was your mom and dad's first child?

GH: First child.

MM: How many more did they have?

GH: We had five children—four boys and one...four girls and one son.

MM: So where do you fall in the line of children?

GH: I was the next to the last. I was the fourth, and there were two years between each child until we got to me and then there were four years. My youngest sister was Rosemary Averill, and she had a great deal to do with my career in later years.

MM: What year were you born?

GH: I was born in June 29, 1892.

MM: Did you do chores around the house when you were a young girl?

GH: Oh, indeed. We all did. In the early days we had a kerosene lamps that on a Saturday had to be filled and polished. We didn't have any electricity. We used the broom to sweep and later—my mother always had the first of everything, not that we were wealthy but she was progressive—she had the first vacuum cleaner, she had the first refrigerator and everything as it came along, but we had...we didn't know we were working but we worked. We didn't expect pay, we all dug in as a family and had fun.

MM: Did your brother do different chores than they girls?

GH: Oh, yes, naturally. He was always getting horses and things, and as he grew up he did many things. He was a musician, for one thing.

MM: Did you live on a ranch or in town?

GH: No, when my father came he brought a block in a sort of the end of the town so he could have a cow and horses and things like that.

MM: So you milked the cow?

GH: We milked the cow and I...one of my jobs was to go after the cow in the evening and round it up and bring it home. It would go out into the prairie maybe a quarter of a mile or so away. Then when the cow was in the process of being milked I would take the bran and put milk and water in it and stir it up with my hand so the cow could have that goody for...to eat. I was told that it would make my hands very beautiful and white and that's the reason I did it. (laughs)

MM: [laughs] You were concerned about that as a young girl?

GH: Well, I just thought it was kind of nice to have something to make you look beautiful. But there was a lot of things pulled on young people in those days to get them to do things.
[laughs]

MM: Well, describe an early day in your childhood. Can you remember what it was like to be here as a child? What it was like to be here in that early time as a child?

GH: Oh, to me, it was, as I look back on it, it was the only thing. It was just freedom personified. This isn't on is it?

MM: Freedom personified?

GH: Yes, freedom personified because we had great expanses of prairie to run in and in the summer we had...it was a ditch or a slough, they called it, that we could go bathing in, and then, of course, we had the great Missouri River which nobody swam in that because it was too dangerous but we could go fishing and we didn't have the access to the mountains because it was too far with horses and buggies in those days, it was all business really.

MM: What was all business? You mean travel was all business?

GH: Yes. There wasn't enough of the equipment to travel by horse and buggy as there later became. The trip into the mountains in my life came later which is a great part of my life.

MM: So what was considered a long distance when you were a child? Was ten miles quite a ways to travel?

GH: As I recall, it would take one hour to go eight miles with a horse and buggy. So, you know, about from there what it would be.

MM: Did you every visit people that lived out around town out in the country?

GH: Oh, yes. I was privileged to go out and spend two weeks on a ranch about 20 miles away and that was part of my life that was great. Few people got to do that.

MM: Every summer [Melcherer?] you'd go out?

GH: I just remember the one summer [Melcherer?], but I did, oh, I often went to ranches.

MM: So you worked when you were young but you also had a lot of fun sounds like?

GH: The working was nothing regular except later when we had the newspaper, when we started the newspaper.

MM: Okay. Well, you said that your father owned the newspaper here in Townsend?

GH: My father came, as I said, as a carpenter and ten...about ten years after he was here he bought the first newspaper called the *Townsend Star*. It was the second newspaper. The first was the *Tranchant* was soon absorbed by the *Star*. Through the years there were many other newspapers started up mostly for political reasons, but eventually they were all absorbed by the *Star*. The *Townsend Star* was in the Averill family for 60 years.

As a child, I remembered that the newspaper was nothing but love and candy and flowers because at six years old I would stop in at the office and my father would give me a little hug and kiss and give me a nickel. I could spend it at the corner store on the way home with my friend for a nickel's worth of candy. So the newspaper was just nothing but fun for me. From six years till, oh, eight or ten, I became very involved doing odd jobs at the newspaper. I knew what the very rudiments of printing were, and I knew all of the types and their need for use in a newspaper. I learned to stick type very fluently. I sat behind the presses to keep the papers straight so that they could be handled and I learned how to...in the sticking of a type you had to learn to handle a wet sponge. Any printer that knows that would know what I'm talking about. The type was set with little metal holders and each piece of type was put in individually by hand, each line was held together by a little lead. When it got to be the end of the stick, it was a square. You would lift it up carefully into a galley and when the galley...when the galley was about, oh, I'd say 18 inches or so—it was of metal—you would put it on a proof press. Take your ink roller, roll it over the type, put a piece of paper in top of that and roll another roller over that so you could have a proof.

That wasn't unlike the first press that the *Townsend Star* had which was called a Washington Press. That was an iron piece of machinery that was just room for the size of one sheet of a newspaper. After the type was set and placed into that form, it would be put on top of this Washington Press under a large, heavy door that would fold up to let you put it on the bottom of the press, put the door down over it securely and with pressure. Then when you lifted it back, you'd have the impression of a whole newspaper sheet. That's the way the first *Townsend Star* was published, it was a Washington Press. In a few years they had one that was a different type.

MM: Did your father have experience in journalism?

GH: No, my father was just an educated man

MM: And did he hire people that did?

GH: Oh, yes. He hired always the members of the family and some tramp printers would come along and—

MM: Did he gather the stories? Did he go out and get the news?

GH: Oh, yes. My father would go gather the stories and write it and then have printers and that's what happened to me later on, too. That's about enough of the process of printing because anyone can learn about it if you want to read. In 1921 my father died of a heart very suddenly. My mother had helped him in the newspaper office keeping the books, but she was not used to doing any writing or printing. We children had all been brought up in the newspaper, more or less, to do all the work but—

MM: Did you ever do writing, say, when you were in high school?

GH: When I was in high school I was adept at writing essays and things. I kind of liked it but I wasn't any different than anybody else. I was about 28 years old then, and my mother had to have help. So I was at home, married and one child. My sister—my youngest sister Rosemary—was in Chicago at the Conservatory of Music, and they came home. Then she gave up her career, and the two of us joined our mother to run the newspaper.

MM: Did your mother ever think of selling the newspaper at that point?

GH: My father was, before her, had many chances to sell the newspaper. It was more or less politics. They'd like to buy it so they could use it that way. I know that the prices were really odd. He could have sold it for maybe 5,000 dollars or something like that.

MM: But when you mother all of a sudden had to take on that big responsibility, I wonder if

she thought about selling it or did she want a career?

GH: No, she didn't think a thing about selling it because it wouldn't have brought enough to keep the family for three months. The way it was it was bread and butter, and that's the reason that she kept on with the newspaper. It was only just enough there for one family at that time. I think the price per inch, oh, was maybe 20 cents at that time, and the newspaper itself sold for a couple of dollars a year. Then later when we sold the newspaper, it was 40 cents an inch and the newspaper was worth about three dollars.

MM: So, all the children were grown up at that time that your father died, right? Because you were—

GH: Oh, yes. We were the youngest. They had gone their way.

MM: So your mother was...had to support herself?

GH: She did. She had to support herself.

MM: How did she feel about taking on a career at that age when before she had been—

GH: She was used to saying to her husband, "We'll carry on no matter what happened. We'll carry on," and I remember her saying that over his casket. His name was Truman. "Tru, we'll carry on," and she did carry on. She was very dearly beloved by newspaper people in Montana, and when she'd go the annual meetings she was very highly received. Her name was Mrs. T. N. Averill, she took always the initials of her husband—The Queen of Newspaper Women of Montana. Her picture hangs in the journalism department of the University of Montana unless they've changed it. It did the last time I saw it.

MM: Okay. I want to go back a little bit to when you were getting through with high school and getting married, did you think at that time of being—

GH: All I knew was to sit down and write a story the best I could by hand, and it wasn't gone until I was hunt and pecking the typewriter. Also every sentence I wrote, I tried to be knowledgeable about it, but it was difficult without better education so we took a correspondence course from the Columbia University which gave us books and literature to the correct titles and procedure.

MM: This is when you began working for the newspaper?

GH: Oh, yes.

MM: Had you thought before that time of having a career as a journalist?

GH: Never, never. I was just a happy young married couple that loved to get out of life everything there was in a humble way. Weekends and things were always spent in the mountains and—

MM: So you had gotten married right after high school?

GH: I was married right after high school.

MM: That was what you wanted to do, was to be a housewife?

GH: I wanted to make a home for my husband. That's what I told my mother and my father when I wanted to get married and they allowed it. (laughs)

MM: Then at 28 years old you had one child?

GH: One child.

MM: How old was your child? A boy or a girl?

GH: He was about 9 years old when my father died.

MM: And you only had one child?

GH: Only one. After my mother died—our mother died in '49, I believe—Rosemary and I ran the newspaper for about ten or twelve years, and then we sold it and it had been in our Averill family for 60 years.

MM: Great. Okay. Let's go back to when you first...when you were 28, and you were going to take over the newspaper or with your mother and sister work on the newspaper. Your husband moved here with you?

GH: My husband was here, but he was in other business. The only thing he helped us with was to come in on press day and lift the heavy forms onto the press.

MM: Did he respect you in your work as a journalist?

GH: Far as I know we respected each other in everything we turned. We thought we were just a happy and young couple, and we didn't go into so deeply as they do now, I guess.

MM: He didn't mind that you weren't at home?

GH: Oh, no. Not at all. It was a pioneer town from the beginning, and having been born here at that early date I grew up with the town. I remember it nothing but a prairie. I remember the

first boardwalks that were built. I remember the work they had to build streets. It's built in a low swale, and it took a lot of doings from every administration of the city to try to build the roads and the streets. There was a lot of ditches out of river that was going through different sections of this part to irrigate farms and one ditch went right through...crossed right through Main Street right in front of the *Townsend Star*. There was a bridge you had to cross, and there was about four livery stables. One was across from the *Townsend Star*, and you could almost get enough stories from that livery stable to run an issue if you wanted to put in all the cowboys and bucking broncos and things that you could see from your window. Then, too, when the town opened—I think there was seven or eight saloons...A woman never went into a saloon until World War One when the double standard was broken. Those saloons were meant for men where they could gather and talk over business and as well as having a drink to keep them going, I guess.

MM: Did you ever need to go into a saloon to get a story?

GH: I never did with all the years that I gathered advertising materials from the merchants. I would not. I never thought it was wicked or anything, but I just didn't do it. Didn't have to.

MM: When you came back and your mother and sister were working on the paper, how long did it take before you felt like you were used to it and could put it out easily? Did that take a while?

GH: I never even thought about it. I just went for each task as it came. We would go to the things that happened at night so we knew what was going on as reporter. If there was a death we knew everybody, we would...I would go right into their home maybe at the backdoor and ask to see the head of the family so I could get the obituary just as near correct as possible and with as much love and affection. I know the people of this community [Melcherunity?] realize that it was just like a big family and we were one of them. That's the way we were in the community [Melcherunity?].

MM: You were part of a big family, and you knew everyone?

GH: Yes, and my mother was dearly loved for her charity and broad mindedness. As far as the newspaper, we were independent but if we...if my dad couldn't stand it any longer he would sneak a little bit of too much of the Democrats in it. (laughs) Supposed to be independent!

MM: Was there anything that you really liked reporting about—any particular area?

GH: No, because we had to do it all.

MM: You didn't like on better than the other one?

GH: Well, I didn't like to write obituaries, but weddings were loads of fun but they never

elaborated on them quite like they do now even. It was just a matter of getting the news.

MM: What sort of stories would be in an issue? Say, would you cover elections quite a bit?

GH: We covered everything, and there is a copy of every *Townsend Star* that was ever published is on file in our county court house and in our museum. If you'd go back and look at those newspapers you could see that we have very wonderful historical articles that would help any historian.

MM: Great.

GH: In fact, that's where we got the history from the *Townsend Star*—the history to write the history of Broadwater County later in 1964. We started to write the history of Broadwater County, and the material all came from the *Townsend Star* and the *Helena Herald* because Helena was naturally a step up from Townsend, and we had to depend on a higher...The words don't to me like they should today but more sophisticated means that we often could gather something with copying or so on. Now the *Helena Herald* covered the news of wide scope of news, and if you could see the first *Herald* you'd understand what I mean. Later, it's been used to get out a book called *The Quarries of Last Chance Gulch*. There's two volumes to that, and that was...the material for that all came from early *Heralds*.

MM: Okay. When you began working on the newspaper, was your mother the editor and you—

GH: Mother was the editor, and I was the associate editor and Rosemary was...the three of us were publishers. After my mother's death, I was the editor, and Rosemary was the associate editor.

MM: Did Rosemary enjoy the work?

GH: Sure, of course she did just like the rest of us. I don't know whether it was our bringing up or whether it was just...I think most loyal, lovable families just took the task as it came and did them without quarreling.

MM: And you enjoyed the—

GH: The reason that the boy, the oldest...The boy had nothing to do with the *Townsend Star*. Only at times during his life he was associated with it, as co-published once with my father and then he branched out for himself. He ran his own newspaper and spent the end of his life working for the *Helena Independent*. But a country newspaper was not good enough for two families so he had to go and support his own family. This is awful choppy. There's some lovely words you could use but I can't...they don't come.

MM: Your mother grew to be respected by other journalist in the state. Did she go to

conferences or—

GH: Yes, she did. She did, definitely. She had the knack.

MM: Was she happy to have gotten into a career at that point in her life?

GH: She'd had, more or less, a career of her own. In the beginning of their marriage and the first number of years, fraternal organizations were very popular. It was one way that pioneers and old timers had of socializing and they were popular. It was Degree of Honor, and she got the job of being the national secretary at one time so it took her every once or twice...once a year or maybe two or three years between, she'd get trips all over the United States.

MM: What was the organization called?

GH: Degree of Honor. My father belonged to—well, they belonged to other lodges, too—but he was a Woodman of the World. He got to publish the state newspaper for the Woodmen of the World in that little print shop that helped out like the dickens and also provided a lot more work for the kids.

MM: Was there a woman's club here in Townsend?

GH: The woman's club was created in this town in 1900 and grew into...It was called the Colonial Club and became a Townsend Woman's Club.

MM: Were you a member of that?

GH: I was a member of it and my mother, too, but we were not charter members. My mother got me into all these things so she wouldn't have to go alone. (laughs)

MM: What's the difference between being a member and a charter member?

GH: Well, the charter means to start it off. I was a charter member of the Townsend Garden Club and I was also a...when the Townsend Woman's Club closed, I became a member of the Valley—the Canton Valley Woman's Club. In that capacity I took a—

[End of Side A]

[Side B]

GH: —we had our book, *Broadwater Bygones*, published, of which I was the coordinator and had the most to do with its publication. I had help with the writing on different chapters, but I was really the leader.

MM: You did that along with working on the newspaper?

GH: We had sold the newspaper by then. We sold our newspaper in '59, and we started writing history in '64 so I was not writing the history while I ran the paper but I used the newspaper to get the history. (laughs) Wasn't in my noodle.

MM: Okay. I'm unclear about whether you lived here after you were married, when you were married as a—

GH: We were all born here, and every one of us were married here, except my sister—my sister Mrs. Snyder, Hale Averill Snyder. She taught school in Hawaiian Islands in Honolulu for eight or ten years. She had a career of her own, but she came home to spend the last end of her life too after her husband died.

MM: Well, immediately after you married did you live in Townsend?

GH: Lived right here in Townsend and built her own little home.

MM: So you've lived here your whole life?

GH: My whole life, absolutely. I've had some wonderful trips. During the newspaper I had a two months trip to Europe with the National Editorial Association. I think that was in...I can't quite remember. The '30s I think. We did ten countries, and in each country we received...we were received by dignitaries of that country and just had a...For that reason had an unusual fine trip of Europe. When I was visiting in New York and it was when President...Oh, dear can I say his name? The one that was in the war, the leader of...you know, he was elected because he—

MM: Eisenhower?

GH: Eisenhower. It was when President Eisenhower was going to make his first public appearance before the nation. Right after his inauguration, if you remember history, he became ill, and he was in Georgia for a week or ten days before he appeared. He had some kind of ptomaine poisoning, and he was to appear in New York City before the editors of the country. Little old me from Townsend, Montana, happened to be visiting in Scarsdale, heard over the radio that this was going to take place. I immediately went to the phone and called Senator Mike Mansfield, whom I was personally acquainted with and who was a teacher for my son at the University of Montana, and asked Mike if he could get us a ticket—me and my

nephew. He could get me a ticket, but he couldn't get my nephew one, so I boarded a plane for Scarsdale for Washington, D.C. all by myself at seven o'clock in the morning and was met at the station by Mike's secretary Tim something or other from Butte and escorted to the big hotel there and left then on my own. So, with my ticket in my hand I pressed through the crowd, past all of the...What do they call the police guards against the president?

MM: Secret Servicemen?

GH: The Secret Servicemen and up some flight of stairs to meet another group of Secret Servicemen. They passed me on and finally I came to some great—I was a little bit late getting in from New York so I was the last one there—great big doors which opened. There I was looking into a great auditorium full of people. But the funny part was when I flew into Washington, D.C., I looked down on the airport, and I saw all these private planes from all over the United States with the great big names of the daily newspapers—like the *St. Louis Times* and the *Los Angeles Examiner* or whatever they were. I thought, "What in the world is this little old *Townsend Star* doing up here!" (laughs) Anyway I got in and got up to a...escorted right up to the front, seated at the table with some editors from Georgia, the South. It wasn't long until the military band started to play and in came Mike Eisenhower. After it was all over, I didn't get to meet him. I went to thank the editor of the *Washington Post* for making it possible for little me to be there. His name was Mr. Friendly. I got back to Scarsdale, and there was a party going on that I was to attend and I was the big shot, I'll tell you! (laughs)

MM: That must have been a good...a fun time.

GH: It was something that happened that I have...I don't know, it just happened. Oh, when you run a newspaper it is very interesting. There's some ups and downs but as for a career I can think of nothing more enlightening. You get to meet such wonderful people and meet high standards and high office and some of the most meek, meekest of people in trouble, people in need.

MM: You meet all types?

GH: All kinds, and it makes you strong, I think. I think it strengthens your character. I feel it, that I was blessed, really, particularly blessed to have a mother like I did and a father. My mother was...I was with her when she died and so was my sister.

MM: Are you happy that you got into the newspaper business and didn't continue staying at home as a housewife and mother?

GH: Oh, certainly. It was broadening in every way, and it didn't interfere with my social life. I gave parties. I don't know how we did it, but we did. We had a summer cabin we'd go up to and our own homes and our newspaper. We were busy, but we didn't think we were doing anything special.

MM: Did you hire anybody to help with the housework or did you manage that?

GH: We did the housework ourselves, but we did have help in the newspaper. After my mother died...well, before mother died, we had some very good printers. Things were looking up then. The prices were going up and Social Security started to come. I think that the...what we took out of our salary the very first was one half of one percent, as I recall, and then it kept climbing up. (laughs)

MM: You took one half of one percent out—

GH: Out of our salary.

MM: To pay for?

GH: The Social Security. I can't remember what year. It could all be looked up though.

MM: That's interesting. So when you say we did the housework, do you mean you and your husband did the work together?

GH: Well actually, after my father died, my mother didn't feel that she could run the house without help so she asked my husband and me to come and live with her and our boy. We did that for 25 years, and then we had our own home which is right here right now. So we were all just one great big family.

MM: Great.

GH: My sister was there, too, and married there at the time. We had schoolteachers that there wasn't places for them to live, and my mother opened her extra bedrooms for them. They ate with us, and that helped pay the grocery bill and the fuel bill.

MM: Did you keep up with all the clubs you were in—the Garden Club and the Women's Club?

GH: Sure, and when the hospital was built over here we gave charity balls. I was the president to the federation and appointed the first charity ball chairmen.

MM: The federation or for charity?

GH: For the hospital, hospital charity. In 1940 I was the chairman of that ball myself and went and swept a long skirt along the floor and dolled all up with my husband. (laughs) Oh, we had great old parties. As for liquor, I never knew what a taste of liquor was till I'd been married for about nine years. From then on I would take a social drink with anybody. We never overestimated our ability...or just once or twice. We weren't prudes about anything. We

believed in living and let live. We believed that every man had his right to the way he saw it and woman. As far as women's lib is concerned, why, it just came natural to do what you had to do. I really feel that men should take the lead and be the head of the household and always will.

MM: You do feel that way?

GH: Oh, definitely. I think a man was born to be the head of the household. He's stronger. We ran a newspaper—two women ran it or three women—but we couldn't lift the heavy forms. We weren't built that way.

MM: But you had the mental abilities to run it.

GH: We had the mental abilities.

MM: Which was really important.

GH: It's very important. A woman should be paid equal with a man. I really believe, in this United States of America today that there's still a great deal of the man feeling gallantly—I think that's a good word—treating a woman with the respect she should be treated. In most cases I think the man take the lead, but he respects the woman above himself.

MM: Because you think women are morally more righteous or—

GH: No, they're mothers. They bear the young, and they take care of the young. The husband tries his best to support the family. If a woman wants to feel that she can be just a little more independent and earn a little extra money there's no reason why she shouldn't.

MM: But you think, generally, women shouldn't go all out for careers unless their widowed or...Do you think women should have careers if they're married?

GH: I think their career when they get married, first of all, is going to be a mother if she wants to be a mother and does be a mother. After that it doesn't make any difference as long as her babies at home are not neglected.

MM: So women should have the freedom to—

GH: And I think a man can help bring the women...the children up, too. And I think they do.

MM: Were you involved in suffrage at all, when you were a young woman, in the suffrage campaign?

GH: When the suffrage movement came along, we just laughed about it, really. We thought

women were intelligent, but I can't remember at my age taking any active part in it at all.

MM: Did your mother? She was a member of the Women's Club?

GH: The only thing she belonged to, besides the lodges and clubs was the WCTU—Women's Christian Temperance Union—and that's because she was in the Methodist church.

MM: Did she work on that? Did she work with the WCTU?

GH: Oh, just locally.

MM: Locally. As a newspaper woman was that frowned upon that she had been part of the WCTU?

GH: No, not at all. They didn't think much of it at all. But the Methodist church was very rigid in its rules in those days, and we were strong members of the Methodist church. My father was 16 years at the head of the Sunday school. Had a beautiful bass voice and could sing. But when his children were old enough to take music and play in orchestras and some of the orchestras played for dances, we weren't allowed to do that in the church so the Methodist church couldn't be our church anymore.

MM: You couldn't play for dances if you were—

GH: No, it was wicked to do this that and the other thing, but they've changed like every other church has changed. They're all broader in their scope than they used to be.

MM: So did you change churches?

GH: I did. I was an Episcopalian from the time I was ten years old, and now I still am. I believe that every church was just as good as other as long as they believe in Jesus Christ and try to live by the Bible, Ten Commandments, and God.

MM: When you were a child was the church a large part of your upbringing?

GH: Oh, definitely, very much so. We had a very good background that way.

MM: Did you say prayers at meals and go to church on Sundays?

GH: Yes, we did. I went with my father to a prayer meeting, and they'd get down and kneel and put their heads on the chair. So they did believe in kneeling, too, a little bit. Oh, I've had a pretty broad association with churches. In my old later years, recently, I did a *course*, which was a very much highlight in my life. It was very uplifting and a beautiful experience.

MM: Is that like a retreat?

GH: It's like a retreat. A *coursera* is a Spanish meaning, meaning short course.

MM: In the Episcopal religion?

GH: It was done through the Catholic church—Roman Catholic church. But everybody that wanted to do it—take the course, do the *courser*—could enroll. See that little cross I was given. That's my little *coursera* cross.

MM: That's pretty.

GH: I hope this thing is shut off—

MM: You just told me that you and your family thought suffrage was funny or you didn't quite know what to think of it. Did you start voting after women did get the vote?

GH: I'll tell you, I was about 20 years old when that was started, and what I heard talked was that women were just as intelligent...as intelligent as men. That's about as far as you'd get with that.

MM: That was one of the arguments you heard for suffrage?

GH: That's just about all the talk with women's suffrage. Men were leaders but women were just as intelligent as a man.

MM: Did you agree with that?

GH: Why sure!

MM: And for that reason did you think women should vote?

GH: Oh, definitely.

MM: You were happy to start voting?

GH: I was definitely for that, and also women's suffrage. I was the first jury woman in Broadwater County—one of them. There was two women, and she and I were the first two jury women. But that didn't make any difference. That's just because I lived at the right time.

MM: Did anyone frown upon that and think that you couldn't fulfill your responsibilities?

GH: Well, whether they frowned or not it went on just like its doing today. (laughs)

MM: But you weren't aware of it if they did, were you?

GH: No, I wasn't aware of it.

MM: What about, was there any prejudice against you and your mother and sister running the newspaper as women?

GH: I can't answer that. We were treated so well, and we were very careful that we would make the prices to correspond with away from here so that we could get the work passed our way. We had the county printing always for all those years. We were reliable enough to hold on to that. But you have to be fair, we tried to match other prices so we could hold our own.

MM: And you were independent politically so that—

GH: We were independent, and that's the only way to do if there's only one newspaper. It isn't fair not to do that.

MM: Did you have any hard times during the Depression with the newspaper?

GH: Just enough so that the money didn't come in and the salaries had to go down. I think during the Depression we were getting about...paying, oh, I don't remember, very small amount of 100 dollars or something a month. But it didn't take long to climb up again.

MM: That was your salary? One hundred and something a month?

GH: Something like that. At the last I think we were paying the highest salary paid in Townsend, Montana, to our printer, and I believe it was 350 dollars a month. That was quite a few years ago.

MM: Were you involved in any charity organizations during the Depression?

GH: Oh, definitely. My sister was head of the Red Cross, and when the war was on, she and her girlfriends—she was younger—got out and sold those bonds. What did they call them?

MM: Liberty Bonds?

GH: War bonds. Oh, yes, we were always...When the President Roosevelt had dances, my mother was the head of the Roosevelt Ball in Townsend, and I don't know what they were doing. My mother was on the board of the...What did they call it when they were...when they got people to live at home? I don't know. I can't remember it. Now if I were writing this I could stop and look all this stuff up. You can't have everything in your memory.

MM: No, you can't have everything in your memory. Well, how would you describe this community?

GH: That's one of the best questions anybody could ask me, and I was asked that same question yesterday in quite a group of people, why Townsend was such a fine community because the people were...It's the people. It sprung from good honest pioneer people and their offspring as they have come along. People are loving here. They're understanding—maybe they are in every community but this is particularly a...people come here and look at all over and mix with the people and they like it and they stay. We have good schools, good churches, good...very good recreation supply for our young people.

MM: How has it grown in population? How large is it now anyway?

GH: If anybody could tell me what the last census, I'd be very happy. I've never heard it. They never advertised the last census. I don't think they did a good job taking it, but I would say this community was probably 2,200. For many years it was maybe 700 or 800. It's growing. There is quite a bit of development coming in around here, and right now there's a very considerable amount because they're expanding into our foothills again and into our mountains and our gulches where in the beginning it meant mining. Mining was the big thing outside of farming, and of course agriculture was just a guess to whether we were going to have a crop or not until they could get all the modern methods. It's a great agricultural county—small county—but we do have on both ranges. The Big Belt is on one side, and this other range over here it's called something...Oh dear, that's gone from my mind, too. Right now they're having quite a lot of new development. They're going to have a lime...a great big lime business, and they're opening up around Toston some kind of a...to handle hard rock mining. Oh, I don't know. I'm not running a newspaper now so I'm not really well informed.

MM: Could you tell me about the first trip you made into the mountains? You said that was a nice time in your life?

GH: You ask the most interesting questions. When we were in our teens and because of the man that I married who was only a very young man then, his folks had a mining...oh, small mining operation going out in the Big Belts here about, oh, I'd say about 20 miles away right up in the North Fork of Deep Creek. This young man—his name was Floyd Hollaway—made it possible that in August when the full moon, the first full moon in August, we could go up there and spend a week or two weeks. Our family—my older sister and myself—got to go. There weren't too many but that's...that was my first getting acquainted with the mountains. That was a wonderful opportunity to stay a whole week and hike and pick huckleberries and shoot grouse and fish and—

MM: Did you shoot? Did you shoot guns and rifles?

GH: Sure I could, but I never made any great. I had a little rifle myself. My husband was a great

outdoor sportsmen and he really had a fine...marksmanship, marksmanship. He planted the first fish in the lakes at the top of these Big Belts over here in 1910, and because we used to go up to the top of those mountains and around those lakes one of them was named for me. Grace Lake, that's by the National Forest.

MM: How did you travel when you...on your first trip up?

GH: Oh, we had a (unintelligible) wagon and a couple of horses, and then later we'd hire a...In fact, we spent our honeymoon in the mountains, and we had a surrey with a fringe on top take us up. Then they brought the surrey back, and then after we were there a week they came and got us. Oh, I love the whole thing because it was my life.

MM: Did you camp up there?

GH: There was a lovely little cabin we could stay...Nothing with any great convenience, you know, no water or anything like that, but it was a little log cabin that was very nice. Oh sure, that was comfortable.

MM: I have one more question. How do you think that women's lives have changed with the technological advances? Have you felt a lot of difference as each one came along? How did that affect things?

GH: I think women, in general, well, whether they realize it or not, they're much more secure than they ever were in those days. I think a woman can do most anything now with this technology we have, and all our modern conveniences has made it wonderful to understand everything. I think we can broaden out and do many more things than we could when you had to do so many things.

MM: And your mother got them as they came along?

GH: Oh, you bet. She had the first of everything.

MM: And they saved her time and—

GH: I was honored with a public birthday party the 29th of June, and we had it in a public place. It was just beautiful, and it was because of the different organizations that I have done so much community work. It was appreciated. One of the presents I got was a pound of homemade farm butter, and it was delicious.

MM: Oh, I bet. That's nice.

GH: Isn't that funny. So there are still people milking cows and making butter.

MM: Great. But I doubt that anybody beats there rugs anymore. (laughs)

GH: Oh, no. Of course when the rural around this community were greatly enhanced when the...oh, that electric thing that came—Montana Power and the rural—

MM: Rural cooperatives?

GH: Rural co-ops, rural electrification—when the farmers could get the electric is when it just broadened out into a real full-fledged progress all over the country. They could have just the same as the town people.

MM: Had there been kind of a division before that?

GH: Well, no except that they could certainly have things that the townspeople always had that they couldn't have like electric dishwashers and washing machines and vacuum cleaners and—

[End of Interview]