

**Oral History Number: 181-001, 002, 003**  
**Interviewee: Sarah Caroline Ross Johnston**  
**Interviewer: Gladys Peterson**  
**Date of Interview: January 6, 1988**

Gladys Peterson: This is an interview with Mrs. Caroline Johnston. The date is January 6, 1988, and I'm Gladys Peterson. Caroline has lived in Eastern Montana and has had a very interesting life, and so I'm going to ask her some questions about what she's been doing for the past 91 years. Caroline, I was told by a friend of mine, Eleanor Weidman (?) and her husband Bob, that you lived in Eastern Montana. Were you born there?

Caroline Johnston: No, I was born in Illinois, near Kankakee, Illinois, and I was born on my great-grandfather's homestead just west of Kankakee, Illinois. I was born in the same house my mother was born in.

GP: Oh, they were real pioneers, then, weren't they?

CJ: My grandmother was born in a sod shanty on that same homestead. Then, later in life, why, he built a house. You wouldn't call it much of a house, now. The three rooms.

GP: Who built the house?

CJ: My great-grandfather, and then my grandfather lived in the house at the time I was born. My mother was not able to be on her feet for so many months before I was born, and she had to go to stay with her mother. So I was born in the same house and on the same homestead that my grandmother was born on. When I was six weeks old, my mother took me back to Indiana where my father was living on his father's farm.

GP: What part of Indiana was that?

CJ: That's near Wolcott, Indiana—W-O-L-C-O-T-T. It's about 25 miles north of Lafayette, Indiana.

GP: Oh, sort of central, then, isn't it?

CJ: Well, it's on the same highway from Chicago to Indianapolis. When the cars, they started the 500 miles races there, they'd sit out on our lawn. We had big maple trees and nice green grass and all. We'd sit out on the lawn and watch those cars go by, as high as 400 in the day. One right behind the other.

GP: Going down to the races.

CJ: Going down to the races, the 500 mile races there in Indianapolis, Indiana. Then these people would always want a drink of water. They'd go over, and we just had a pump, you

know—it'd pump up and down. Well, they'd pump out a glass of water and drink it. They thought that the best water in the world. It was so cold. It was cold, just really cold, right out of the well. They'd fill up everything with the water as they'd go by. Then when they'd come back, they'd stop at our place again and fill up with water again. So as the years went by, why, we had a lot of friends that way from Chicago that would stop and chat a while and then go on.

GP: Did you go to school there in Indiana? Your elementary school?

CJ: I went through the elementary grades and our little Middle Lake (?) schoolhouse.

GP: A country school?

CJ: A little country schoolhouse. Then when I was in high school, I went to Wolcott to the high school there. I graduated there. And—

GP: Could I interrupt you for a minute?

CJ: Yes.

GP: Was that unusual? Now, you would have been graduating, say...you're born in 1896?

CJ: That's right.

GP: 1906...about 1912, when you graduated from high school?

CJ: Well, you see, I had a lot sickness. I missed two years of school, so I was 15 when I started to school, high school. So I was 19 when I graduated.

GP: Well, that's not unusual.

CJ: Well, no—

GP: The unusual thing is a lot of the young people didn't graduate from high school, then, did they?

CJ: Yes, I think they did. I think more of them than do of late years. Everybody, at least, felt like they had to have a high school education whether they went on to college or not. That was the main idea was to get through high school. I don't think there was but one that dropped out.

GP: So it was about 1915, then, when you graduated from high school?

CJ: 1916. I was born in September, you see, so I was still 19 when... [pauses] yeah, I was still 19.

GP: What kinds of sicknesses did you have?

CJ: Had I been born about now, my parents would have taken me to a hospital and they'd have operated, and they'd have found out right away what was wrong. I lived until I was 22 years old before they operated. Then they operated because I needed an appendectomy. So when they operated the appendectomy, they discovered a hole in the bowels that squeezed the bowels, the small intestines down. They said that you couldn't squeeze a pea through it. Everything had to pass through that place.

GP: Is that what made you sick as a child?

CJ: Yes.

GP: So you missed a lot of school because of that, then?

CJ: Yes, I did because there would be times when I'd have to go to bed for a few days. The doctors, they did all they could, and they did everything. When I was just a little tot, I had been to Sunday school with my mother enough to know about Jesus. I don't know, I must have been about three years old. I had this spell, and the doctors wanted to know my folks, would they mind if he'd call in the consultation of doctors? They said yes, that was all right. So he brought in two more doctors besides himself, and they sat there and they talked and they whispered back and forth. All at once, I looked at them, and I knew that they'd given up. They told my folks that there wasn't anything they could think of. I just closed my eyes and began to talk to Jesus, I remember so well. "Dear Jesus, don't let me die, save my [unintelligible]."

GP: And you were just a little child.

CJ: I was just a little child. Anyway, while I was praying, I went to sleep, and I don't ever remember waking. Of course I did, but I don't know how long it was when I woke up. But I was over it. That had opened up enough to let the food pass through the stomach. When I was ten years old, I had another spell, just about the same thing. The doctors there gave up again, said there wasn't a thing they could do for me. One doctor said, they'd give me enough medication to kill a horse. Yet I was just a [unintelligible]. So again I began to pray. I didn't tell my folks—I didn't tell anybody—but it wasn't long after that I got better. I tell you, I believe in the Lord. I believe. Like I said, I learned pretty young to depend on the Lord. When I was 11 years old, we had a preacher who came through, and he was there for about two weeks. What'd they call it?

GP: Revival?

CJ: A revival, that's right. He had a revival meeting, and I went forward then and was baptized up same time my brother was. I think there was six or seven of us that time, but there was some of the girls that joined the same time but they had been baptized as babies. My folks didn't believe in that. Anyway, I was baptized when I was 11, joined the church, and that's

about the time that my folks bought our old secondhand organ. I sat down and just for the fun of it, I just [unintelligible] until I had played "America" by ear. Mother gave me some music lessons, then. I hadn't taken over four or five lessons, though, when they wanted to know if I'd play for Sunday school. I'd take a piece that I'd never seen before and sit there and pump that organ and play it.

GP: With both hands?

CJ: Both hands, so I wasn't so bad. What I mean was, I didn't give up.

GP: That's wonderful. It's obvious you haven't given up.

CJ: Well, all the other girls had pianos. When they sat down with the organ to play, they couldn't pump it. They didn't know how. With me, that's all I did know how was my old organ at home that I pumped and played. So I played for their Sunday school and lots of times for church and things. Then on until I left home. But then there those others came in that was better musicians than I am. They played most of the time.

GP: I'd like to ask you, Caroline, what did you study in high school, do you remember?

CJ: It's quite different than what they're studying now. We had English and history and mathematics and language. I took German. There was history and mathematics. Mathematics was algebra and the history was ancient history and the English was...well, the latest and the best poets and all that sort of thing. We learned quite a lot about that. I remember, Ralph Waldo Emerson was one of my favorites, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

GP: Did you memorize poetry?

CJ: Some of it, not too much. One thing I did memorize was that verse in the "Psalm of Life" by William Wadsworth Longfellow. It goes something like this:

"Tell me not in mournful numbers that life is but a dream and the... something and the world is not like what it seems. Dust thou art, to dust returnest, was not spoken of the soul.

I forget how it goes.

GP: Well, that's pretty good though.

CJ: "Dust thou art, to dust returnest." That's what the Bible tells us. Then this "tell me not mournful numbers, life is but an empty dream. And the world that was dead that slumbers and life is not what it seems." You can't find that anymore. They've taken it out of all the books, even in the library—

GP: Would you like to see a copy of that?

CJ: Oh, I sure would.

GP: If I could find it for you. I'll see.

CJ: The "Psalm about Life." P-S-A-L-M. "The Psalm of Life."

GP: I've heard that. I might be able to locate it for you.

CJ: William Wadsworth Longfellow.

GP: Okay, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, yes.

CJ: Oh, it's Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. I didn't get that.

GP: That's okay, but that's good that you can remember that.

CJ: That was so many years ago.

GP: Sure. You're doing fine. What I would like to know is what did you plan on doing when you graduated from high school?

CJ: Well, I didn't have much idea what I wanted to do excepting I wanted to be a missionary, but I know my folks had no money to help me.

GP: Could I ask you one question before we go ahead? Did you have any brothers or sisters?

CJ: I had one brother two years older and a sister nine years younger. Now, my sister's still alive. I just got a card today with a Merry Christmas on it that she had re-subscribed to the large print of the—

GP: *Reader's Digest*?

CJ: No, the *Guidepost*. I like that so well. *Reader's Digest*, I like that, too.

GP: Getting back, then, to what you wanted to do, missionary work. Did that materialize for you?

CJ: Not for many, many, many years.

GP: Did you go to work then when you graduated from high school?

CJ: Yes, I started to go to college. My folks sent me to Valparaiso University, but before that they had sent me to Winona College in Indiana and this was called the West Ministry University, but they don't have that any more. That's a thing of the past.

GP: What were you studying there, anything special?

CJ: That was what they called... [pauses] If I had a memory like I wish I had.

GP: Oh, you're doing fine.

CJ: Well, before you taught any school, you were supposed to go to a school.

GP: Like a teacher's college?

CJ: It's a teacher's college, but there's another name for it.

GP: Normal school.

CJ: You got it, normal. Normal school, so I took three months there, and I got straight A's. I had good grades, but I went to take the exams and every exam I failed. Now, when I took the exams from the eighth grade to go into high school, my average was 94 plus 6, point 6. So when I went into class, why, some of the...they had 90 something in their average, and I said, "Mine was 94 point 6."

And one girl says, "Oh, mine was 97 something."

I says, "Well, that was nice I'm sure."

GP: Why do you think you failed? Was it because they were subjects you hadn't studied?

CJ: No, it wasn't that. I was smart enough, but it was just that every one of those times I went to take the exams, it was when I was feeling miserable. Like I said, I just had those sick spells. I guess the Lord didn't want me to teach right then. Anyway, when I went to Valparaiso, I was going to study business. The first week I went there is when I was coming down with that flu.

GP: Oh yes, that would have been World War I that they had that flu.

CJ: Yes, and I came down with the flu, and my mother had to come up from Wolcott to Valparaiso where I was going to school to help take care of me. Then two or three other girls was sick at the same time, so she took care of all of us.

GP: Did any of your classmates die of the flu? There were so many deaths at that time.

CJ: Yes, there was...well, now he wasn't my classmate, but he was about my age and he was in the service. His name was Dick Humphries (?). He had written home and said, "I don't feel so good." He said "There're so many to take care of." And he was working himself day and night, taking care of other people, and then laid down and died.

GP: He was in the service. Was he from Wolcott?

CJ: How's that?

GP: Was he from Wolcott?

CJ: Yes, he was from Wolcott.

GP: Do you remember other people in Wolcott that died, too?

CJ: No, but while I was at Valparaiso University, they were just dying on all sides. One woman I met her on the street, and she always was dressed so pretty and had the prettiest hat on. I never will forget, and the next morning they said, "She died last night!"

I said, "Well, I saw her on the street last night!" Then by morning she was dead. No, there's so many others that died at the same time. It's a sad thing.

GP: So, did World War I affect you in any way?

CJ: Well, yes in a way. I headed out the [unintelligible] to teach school out here in Montana, at Ingomar. Anyway, I didn't say anything to my folks or anybody, I just took the money I had and paid my car fare out here. Well, I got out here, and I taught school for about five months.

GP: Could I ask you a question?

CJ: Yes.

GP: Now, how did you find out about that job?

CJ: That was a Normal School University there at Valparaiso, Indiana. This was in their...came out on the billboard that they needed teachers out here. So I went and applied and got the job. While I was out here, I met the man I married later. I came back out here, we lived out here by Ingomar for 17 years before we moved over here.

GP: Let's talk, then, about your life in Ingomar. Was your husband a farmer?

CJ: No, he was a sheep man. He had bands of sheep.

GP: Had he been out here for a long time?

CJ: He came out with his folks when they homesteaded, and he went on a homestead out here. Near Ingomar.

GP: Yes, I was just wondering was that after the turn of the century when they came out?

CJ: Oh, that was just about the time of the First World War. Just after the First World War was over because the First World War was over on the 11th of November, and I was on the street when they was [unintelligible]. They said, "The war's over! The war's over!"

I said, "Well, isn't that great?" I had my brother in the service. Well, then he went home and helped his father on the farm then. Like I said, I came out here to Montana to teach school.

GP: Was that 1918, then?

CJ: 1918. 1919, really. It was January of 1919 I came out here and started teaching.

GP: You were teaching at Ingomar. Was that in the town, or was it a country school?

CJ: No, a little country school.

GP: I see. Then your husband was working on his father's place near there?

CJ: Yes, and he was taking care of the sheep wagon, taking care of the sheep. After we was married, then we kept on taking in more and more sheep until we had about a band of sheep, and that's about 1,000 heads.

GP: Did you live on the same farm then? Did you move to the farm where your husband's family was?

CJ: I was there part of the time in the wintertime, but in the summertime, he was out with the sheep. He had a camp wagon, and I stayed in there in the camp wagon.

GP: Oh, that must have been interesting.

CJ: Oh, that was interesting.

GP: What do you remember about those days, being in the camp wagon?

CJ: The only water we had to drink. They're talking about drinking water that's shipped in the back there in Pittsburgh. Very much the same as we had. Our water came in on a...the railroad had a water car that was just like a box car, not quite so tall, but the same old width and all.

They'd bring it in full of water, and within about two or three weeks, they'd bring in another. Take it back and load it up and bring it back again. But the only way we had of hauling, carrying that water out was in our five-gallon cans. We had a...let's see [unintelligible]. It was just like a barrel, about half a barrel, just about and so big around. So that was the water we had to drink and also the water cook with.

GP: Where did the railroad station...where did your train stop where you could get that water?

CJ: It was Ingomar. It was went to Ingomar from Chicago, from Miles City, Ingomar, and then on to Forsyth. No, the Forsyth [unintelligible]. They went to Miles City, Forsyth, then to Ingomar, then on to Melstone and Roundup and that way. That was the Milwaukee Railroad.

GP: Oh, the Milwaukee, well that's interesting.

CJ: That was going through here, too, just within a few years time.

GP: So, if I could back up for just a second, did you come up on the Milwaukee Railroad when you came west, then?

CJ: I came on the railroad.

GP: Through Chicago?

CJ: From Chicago. I came from Valparaiso to Chicago and on that. I boarded the car and rode straight on here to Ingomar, and they let me right off at Ingomar.

GP: It must have been quite an adventure. How many summers did you do that with those sheep? I suppose by this time you weren't teaching, either, then.

CJ: No, I couldn't teach anymore because I didn't come back until in September and we was married in September. I hoped I would get to school, but they had another teacher by the time I got back. Anyway, the next year I had my first son. He was born in July 11. Then the next was a daughter born June the 10th. He was born in '20, July 11, and she was born in '22, June the 10th. She lives right over here now. She's Matt Gordon's (?) wife. Jim Gordon, they call him. She works in the Soroptomist Club.

GP: Oh, yes. Wasn't she with the Welcome Wagon, too, for a while?

CJ: Oh, for many years, oh yes. She's not too well right now.

GP: Oh, isn't she? Now, is it correct? Did Eleanor tell me that you had quite a big family?

CJ: Oh, I have 11 children.

GP: Eleven children. Did they all live to adulthood?

CJ: They're all alive to this day.

GP: That's quite a record, isn't it?

CJ: That's right because I know lots of people who have more children than I did, but they don't have as many living.

GP: Well, then, you must have raised some healthy children.

CJ: Like I said, I had that operation before I was married because the doctor wouldn't let me get married. I might get pregnant, she said, and I might have to lose my baby and everything over that.

GP: Did you have your operation in Montana?

CJ: No, in Indiana.

GP: You went back there?

CJ: I was back in Indiana for the summer, and...

GP: Were you married back there?

CJ: No, I came back out here and married out here.

GP: Were all your children born in Ingomar, then? Or on the farm or what?

CJ: My first six children was all born in Ingomar area. Well, I'd go to Melstone where the doctor was. He took care of people that was going to have babies there. He took care of me with my...not the first child. I was just on the farm when I had my first child. We got one doctor, and he just couldn't do a thing. Then my father-in-law sent us to...he says, "Aren't you going to do something to help her out?" I was sick from Friday night until Sunday morning and still no baby.

He says, "Well, if you want to get another doctor, you can."

My father-in-law said, "That's good enough." He came right...went right into Ingomar, telephoned for this doctor from Melstone, and the order came in just as a train came in. The train was getting ready to leave, and the doctor run and jumped on the back of the train and got in the train in time enough to come over. My father-in-law met him and took him out to the place.

GP: How much of the trip was that?

CJ: Oh, I guess Melstone must've been about 30 miles on west of Ingomar. Anyway, he got there right away. I think the train came through or something like 11:00. Before 12:00, he had that baby. Well, he had to take it, but that's all right.

GP: Your children were probably born mainly in the '20s, is that correct? '20s and the '30s?

CJ: '20s and '30s and '40s. My youngest was born around about '44, and that was in the '40s. Then my oldest twins was born in...I was 41.

GP: Is that right? Now, was it unusual for women to have those big families in those days?

CJ: Oh, no, it wasn't. I always did like a big family. But I always laughed and I said, "I always planned on having five children. I was really quite excited about my fifth child. When he came, the sixth one was with him." [laughs] They was identical twins. And I laughed, I said, "I guess, I couldn't stop then." [laughs] I kept going on. My oldest son was seven years old after they was born. Now wait a minute...yes, because they were born in the 16th of May, and he was seven in July.

GP: When you were living, then, back there in Eastern Montana, did you live in an area where there were a lot of homesteaders?

CJ: The homesteaders had all been there, and they were moving out when I came over to teach school. The whole countryside was speckled with their little houses where they lived. But they couldn't make a living there, it was too dry. Summers was dry. They couldn't grow any crops.

GP: How did it happen that your husband's family was able to stay there?

CJ: When he moved out there, he had one horse, and the neighbor of his—they were close friends back in in Iowa—and he had took one horse, so it was really—

[Break in audio]

CJ: —back in Iowa, and they both came out. He took one homestead and my father-in-law took another homestead about a mile or so apart. He built a pretty nice size house for his, where he lived. But my father-in-law just built a little two-room house. They just had the two boys: my husband and his younger brother about four years younger than he was. They slept above the kitchen and the parents in the bedroom. That's all the room they had. Then she had some money coming from her folks. Her folks were wealthy.

GP: Where'd they come from?

CJ: They were in Iowa, but his grandfather Hathaway (?), they had 13 children. He was a good businessman, and they had quite a lot of money [unintelligible]. So my mother-in-law got some help from him, and they built a house then, later on. It was a nice house.

GP: Are you talking about her family, then, or your father?

CJ: Her family.

GP: Her family.

CJ: My mother-in-law's family. Now, my folks lived on a farm in Indiana at the same time, and my grandmother was still living, and they had a house where they lived. It was a very nice house. By the time I was ten years old, they'd added on a bedroom and about four or five years later, added on a kitchen. Had a pretty good-sized house by that time, and my mother was quite a hand to have friends in. She was a good cook, and she'd always cook, put on the best dinners you ever ate.

GP: Just talking about your own family for a minute. We're kind of backing up, but it seems like they must have been fairly comfortable financially if they were able to send you to college, too, because they weren't public schools, they were private schools, too.

CJ: Well, that's the thing of it. When I went to college at Valparaiso, I knew it was just putting my folks down to the last penny to do that because my grandmother was still living, and she owned the place and my folks just rented it. All they had was half of it. So they didn't have much finances until after she passed away, and then they had the 80 acres that they had. They made a good living off of that after that.

GP: I see. Getting back, then, to your early days there in Montana. You say your mother-in-law built onto the house. Then did you continue to live in that same house, or did you get your own house?

CJ: Out here in Montana?

GP: Yes.

CJ: No, she built the house from the basement up you might say. They didn't have a basement under the house, but from the foundation. It was a nice house. Everybody admired it, it was such a pretty little house. She had enough money to build it completely from what her folks have given her. Then he had a barn in the meantime that he built, and they had a garage on the place. They had a lot of nice things there. They were doing quite well. When we was running their sheep, all we got was half of it, and that really wasn't right because...

GP: Must have been a lot of sheep.

CJ: They had so many sheep, but they didn't get enough to support them and us, too. Here, we had these children coming all the time.

GP: But were you living with them, then?

CJ: No, we was not living with them. They had their little homestead house that we lived in for two or three years. We'd live in there in the wintertime, and then in the summertime—once the 1st of March come—we'd make out for the hills with our sheep. We didn't come in until November.

GP: Now, was this after you had children, too?

CJ: Oh, yes.

GP: How did you cook out there?

CJ: We just had a little stove about so big square. I'd say about 18 inches square, and it was about the size this table is. It had a little oven under in there, and it was built just like a regular range stove, only little. Just a little bitty thing. We burned sagebrush, and that sagebrush made the hottest fire. I could bake my bread in that oven and pies and cakes and everything.

GP: How many children actually did that with you before stopped doing that?

CJ: Four. There was Bill and June, and then there was Alvin and Albert. After the twins was born, I had to give up. I couldn't go back out there with those twins.

GP: I imagine you must have been running out of space in that thing.

CJ: I was, too.

GP: That certainly must have been quite an adventure. Wasn't it pretty hot out there in the summer?

CJ: Yes, it was hot, but hot weather never did bother me like the winter weather. The cold weather's what I... We had some terribly cold winters there. One time it was 52 below zero, I remember. I know that several times it was in the 30s.

GP: How did you get your supplies when you were out there with the sheep?

CJ: We had a little town of Ingomar and there's a grocery store there, and he had a pretty good supply of things for us.

GP: How far away from Ingomar were you?

CJ: Seven miles.

GP: When you were running the sheep?

CJ: Well, that's seven miles out to his ranch, but in the summertime, we'd many times go out at least 10, 12 miles.

GP: It wasn't too bad, then.

CJ: Not too bad. I used to go take the team and go to town and buy the groceries and come home. I came home one time, and I was so sick I could not even drive a team to get home. But the horses knew where to go, and they took us home. They stopped right in front of the camp wagon. I said, "Well, isn't that nice?" My husband had to lift me off the wagon, take me in the camp wagon. He put me on the bed, and I was so sick I couldn't raise my head off the pillow. After that, I says, "That's the last time. I'm not going to that town anymore. I cannot do it."

He says, "Well, what'll I do?"

I said, "I'll take care of the sheep. You go to town. I'll be the sheep herder." So I was sheep herder many times. I had a saddle horse I called my own and a saddle. He'd keep my horse tied up to the wheel while he was gone.

GP: Was this before children or after children?

CJ: We had children, yes. But, they'd stay in the camp wagon while I'd go out there. Of course, I'd just walk out. I'd just ride around. We had a good sheep dog, too. She would just go round them up and get them in one place about. Then I'd go back to the camp, sit down until he came back, and then he'd get to go out and take care of them.

GP: Caroline, there's something that I forgot to ask you about. I want to move ahead a little bit, but before we do, I didn't ask you about your teaching—your actual teaching—how many pupils you had and anything about that. I don't want to forget that.

CJ: I think there was seven. That's all, and all the grades. There was only one or two in the same class. All of them had a grade to themselves, so that was something to teach them all, each one their own classwork and to try to get them all their lessons in every day. It was quite a chore. But my children knew how to multiply and subtract and divide when I got through with them.

GP: Were they mostly from the same family or two or three families?

CJ: No, there was...one, two, about three families there.

GP: Now, where did you live when you taught?

CJ: I was living with one of the people, they were called the Harrises (?). They had three children in school. Then there was Brooks. I never lived with the Brooks, but there's a Brooks girl. And there was three from another family that came in. That was all.

GP: Did you have to build the fire and all that?

CH: Oh, yes.

GP: What about lunches?

CJ: They brought their own lunch. Whatever they had to eat that they brought from home.

GP: Was it difficult to teach?

CJ: They were the nicest children you ever saw.

GP: You said you taught four or five months?

CJ: From January until May. January, February, March, April, May, about five months.

GP: Was that the term at the time?

CJ: No. There had been a teacher before that. After she took the class and worked with them, why, she became pregnant and she had to quit. So that's why. I didn't know why I was being hired when I went out there. I got out there and discovered that. Anyway, [unintelligible] she just walked out and left it, so I had to pick up the pieces and then teach [unintelligible].

GP: Did you feel that you were prepared to do that from having gone to Valparaiso?

CJ: Oh, yes.

GP: You'd had enough university by then?

CJ: I'd studied reading and psychology and...landscape gardening. What was that other one?

GP: Any arithmetic or anything like that?

CJ: No, physical education.

GP: I see. Did you have to take a test, a state test?

CJ: No. They were just tickled to get anybody that would say, "I, yes, and no." They were thrilled to have me.

GP: I suppose you taught music, then?

CJ: Music and whatever their classes were. In anything, I was good on reading and good on [unintelligible]. There were other subjects, too. But, they had seemed to me they needed more...but they didn't have much idea what arithmetic was. I taught them. One of the fathers said after, says, "Well, one thing about Sarrie," he said...Sarah was his daughter's name. Sarah had a real idea what the numbers meant. They had meant nothing to her before. When I got through, she knew how to add and subtract and divide and all the rest of the things.

GP: Did you have to prepare any eighth grade students to take the state test?

CJ: No, I didn't because there wasn't any of them that were ready for it yet.

GP: I've talked to other country school teachers who said that that used to worry them so much.

CJ: Well, it would have me because those children weren't ready for it yet. Even the best I could do in that five months was straighten them out and get them going straight ahead. Like I said with the reading, the main thing was their enunciation and pronunciation and spelling and that sort of thing.

GP: Was there a high school in Ingomar?

CJ: Oh, yes.

GP: So they went on then. Unless you have something else to say about that period in your life, I'd like to ask you about why you left that area? Why did you leave, and your husband leave that area?

CJ: We had some bad years. Two or three summers, one right after the other. One year we had to round up all of our horses and send them into Miles City for to be used for dog food because they were starving to death out there.

GP; It was too dry?

CJ: Too dry and no water holes left. Then another year was our sheep. One year we took them clear back...that's when Janet was a baby. She was born in '31. Anyway, my husband took the sheep back to North Dakota at a reservation there and fed them until...Oh, let's see, he came

back in...she was born in March...I guess we came back in the last of July or the 1st of August. By that time, he was ready to...they'd had a rain or two at home, and he was able to bring the sheep back home again. Well, that takes lots of money for all that, going over there and all. Anyway, we finally dressed out a couple of sheep, but you can't know...that hot weather, you couldn't keep the meat. I did can some of it, but of course, that was when Elva was a baby. She was born in March, too, that made me eight children to take care of. I just don't know why but I just couldn't seem to get the time or the strength to can anymore. I canned quite a little bit of the lamb, of the mutton, but we finally lost some of it. I couldn't handle it Then he sold the rest of the sheep to...people came in and bought them for \$1.75 a piece or something like that. They were sheep that was worth 20 or 30 dollars apiece.

GP: Was this about 1931 you say?

CJ: That was about '34.

GP: Oh, yes, that's when they had that terrible drought, wasn't it?

CJ: That's right.

GP: Throughout the whole Midwest, they had the drought, didn't they?

CJ: That's right. The horses that they hadn't taken earlier the first time, they took them then, so we only had about 75 head of horses. By the time, they...some of them died and I think we got about three or four dollars apiece for them is all.

GP: Did your husband's family stay there in that area?

CJ: By that time they had mowed out over here to Florence, Florence Carlton (?).

GP: Did they lose their property or just move because they saw what was coming?

CJ: They had to lose their sheep, too. They had to sell them. He brought a few head back, but not very many. We came out here then, the summer of '37. That's the summer that the youngest twins was babies. They was born in January, and we came out in June.

GP: Now, this is the time of The Depression, too, in addition to the drought that was over there. You were going through The Depression.

CJ: That's right. My husband was working for three dollars a day, I think.

GP: Who was he working for? Was that in Ingomar he was working?

CJ: No, that was over here at Florence Carlton. They were the Carltons. They had a pretty good little farm over there and he was up in years and he needed help, and so he hired my husband to help him. I remember one time he'd worked the week, and he came home with 20 dollars. We went to the grocery store—we were about out of groceries—together we bought just what we had to have: flour, sugar, salt, and we didn't even buy coffee.

GP: Were you living with your in-laws at that time?

CJ: No, we was living in a little house up on...it was called One Horse Canyon. We were living up on that the little house there. It was an old deserted log house where we first moved into. We lived there until we built a house—a log house for ourselves.

GP: Was that on your parent's property?

CJ: On his folk's property.

GP: On their property. Did you lose your land in Eastern Montana?

CJ: We never owned any land in Eastern Montana. His folks did.

GP: They lost their land?

CJ: No, they didn't. They held onto it until...there was a man wanted to buy the place, and we went back to Ingomar and we sold a half section. I think we got about 1,200 dollars is all out of it. I know I had slippers on, and I put all that money under my feet. I'd carry it home, I didn't want anybody to know I was carrying any money. So I carried that money home in my shoe.

GP: Of course, the money belonged to your in-laws, too, I suppose.

CJ: It was all theirs. It wasn't ours.

GP: What about the brother? Did he get any of that?

CJ: Oh, his brother?

GP: Yes. Was he still in that area?

CJ: Well, he was working with his parents.

GP: Oh, I see, so he was out here, too, then.

CJ: Yes, he was out here, too. He had found some work to do. He drove trucks and things like that. Was a good truck driver. We stayed with our sheep and then we went to the beet fields. You know where the Cross (?) live at Corvallis?

GP: No, I don't, but I know Corvallis. I know where it is.

CJ: Well, they had a pretty good-sized ranch there. He had a lot of cattle, too. He had these big beet fields, and he'd hired us as a family to pull the beets and stem the beets and haul the beets and take care of them.

GP: So you did that and were some of your children involved in that, then?

CJ: Well, the children was helping their father. All I was doing this trying to keep the house a going. Cooking and canning.

GP: By this time you had about eight children, you say?

CJ: No, we had ten children then.

GP: This was the late '30s.

CJ: '37.

GP: '37. Ten children. Well, I can see why you were busy. I don't know how you did it to tell you the truth.

CJ: I never canned less than 1,000 quarts of whatever I canned each year. That included beef and fish and...you call it lamb. It was mutton to us. Chickens, I canned lots of chickens. Then there was vegetables and pickles, like dill pickles and all that. I canned those. Always more than 1,000 quarts a year.

GP: Did anybody help you with that at all?

CJ: Oh, yes. I remember one time I was the working over the table, shelling some peas, and I felt some arms going around me and looked around. There was one of the oldest twins. He says, "Mother, I think you've done your share." He just pushed me off to one side and he took in and helped. They helped me a lot.

GP: The children did. Did your mother-in-law? Was she able to help you?

CJ: No, she was in town. She was in Missoula at the time.

GP: Oh, I see, they had moved to Missoula, then.

CJ: They had moved to Missoula.

GP: Well, that's quite a story. I'd be interested to know how you did that canning. You used mason jars with rubber rings and all that?

CJ: Yes, rubber rings, that's the first ones and then then they did have them with a glass top with the rubber round. We had some of those. About any kind that I could get a hold of, I could squeeze the top down or pull it down and make it airtight. I used to can in a boiler. I'd can lots of beef and lots of chickens in boilers. I'd put some boards in the bottom of the boiler and put half-gallon cans in there. I canned most everything in half-gallon cans. It took that much to feed my family. Then I canned lots of...long towards the last of the summer, when the beans was starting to develop in the pods. They wasn't quite ripe yet, but we shelled them and I'd can them in half-gallon jars for...what would you call that? Chili. My family just loved chili. A half a gallon jar of those with some hamburger, and I always baked my own bread. Whenever I baked bread, I usually have a big pan of cinnamon rolls and all that sort of thing. They was well fed. I tell you, when they went into the service, not a one of my boys—all seven of them had been in the service—but the oldest boy joined first. He told us after he joined, he joined. Well, then the others are all had to...He was old enough to be his own boss, what he was doing. All the others had to be take our consent. We had to sign for them.

GP: I think he had to be 21, didn't you?

CJ: No.

GP: Or is it 18?

CJ: Eighteen, yes. My oldest boy just turned 18. Well, anyway...18, yes. He might have been 19. He was out working in the shipyards in Portland, Oregon, at the time [unintelligible]. He had been running one of these cranes—crane operator. So when he joined the service right away, he went off to the service, then Alvin went out and he was helping his father some there. He was about four years younger than Bill. He was still 17, and he had to have our consent. Albert, the same, he had to have our consent. So all three boys was in the Second World War. Then, later on, the twins joined right out of high school. All of them, they didn't ever finish their high school. Well, Bill had finished his high school, but the others boys hadn't. When the twins was in school, they were always A students, all the way through. So when they joined that way and then they went into the service, when they came back, the superintendent of the school invited them to come to see him. They went in and they immediately handed them their diplomas. So they didn't need any more schooling. They didn't have to graduate. We saved their diplomas all those years [unintelligible]. Then when the younger twins came along, they joined, too. But, of course there was no war at that time. That was about the time of the Vietnam War. They was born in '37. When was at the Vietnam War? I forget.

GP: Or, maybe Korean War?

CJ: The Korean War. Now, the Korean War was just over.

GP: That would have been around 1950, the Korean War.

CJ: Yeah, when my youngest twins joined. The Vietnam War just hadn't taken up yet, started yet, I don't think when those younger twins was in. That's right. It was between the wars, because then my grandson that was the same age as my youngest child, they was both born in '31...'41. They were both born in '41. When I was down in New Orleans, why, when their ship was in port, he'd come over and see me. So he came over to see me two or three times. He took me out to the French market, so we could have coffee together and talk. I was quite interesting.

GP: I'd like to ask you some more questions about—

CJ: Oh, go ahead.

GP: The Depression around here. I know it was really tough on you, trying to raise all those children and take care of them, and on your husband. What else do you remember about The Depression in Missoula or the Bitterroot Valley?

CJ: We lived on what other people wouldn't have thought was living. We always had lots of flour and lots of beans and lots of lots of macaroni. We bought back 10-pound boxes. We bought our flour in 100-pound sacks. We always bought the whole [unintelligible].

GP: How did you clothe all those kids?

CJ: My mother was a good seamstress, and she was always making something and sending it out to them. Half of June's clothes, she made them for her and sent them out to her. How she could do it, I don't know, but every time I'd put them on June, they would just fit her. Then June went to stay with her grandmother a couple winters.

GP: Back in Indiana.

CJ: Back in Indiana.

GP: But she was the only one who went back there.

CJ: Yes, she was the only one that went back.

GP: What about your husband? Did he continue working then, for Carlton, or when did he change jobs?

CJ: With Cross, you mean?

GP: Well, did you say he worked in the Bitterroot for Carlton?

CJ: Oh, yes. He only worked just the one summer there, and then he went into the beet fields right after that. They was old enough, the boys, to pitch in. Like I said, they could lean over and...at the same time, right here in Missoula, you know this man that has this beauty shop over here?

GP: Mr. Ray (?)?

CJ: Ray. His parents had one field, and we had the other field. We would always run races to see who would get to the end of the rows and back again. Of course, that was just our way, but they worked side-by-side you might say. They knew my boys, Bill and Alvin and all them.

GP: How long did you keep that up? That was during The Depression. Sounds like it was the end of The Depression.

CJ: Until we bought a little farm. We saved and saved, and we only had one cow. We'd milk her—

[Break in audio]

CJ: —we still had this just one cow. They was bringing me the heifer calves, and we was feeding them. We'd feed them half milk and half some calf food, in it just stirred up. Those calves grew up to be cows in about two years. Then we had all those cows to milk. We had about nine head of cows to milk just from me taking those calves and raising them.

GP: How many did you say?

CJ: Well, [laughs] there was seven calves.

GP: How many cows, did you say?

CJ: We only had one cow, and then she had a heifer. Then she had her calf, and then we had two cows. Then we kept on with the heifers. We had nine head of cows. Like I said, we never let anything go to waste.

GP: Then, is that what your husband did from then on? He farmed out there in the Bitterroot?

CJ: Until there's war, and then he went off to... [pauses] Vancouver. The Vancouver Shipyards in Portland, Oregon.

GP: Yes, near Portland there. Vancouver, Washington there.

CJ: That's right. He and the boys would go every year. They'd work in the beet fields over the summertime, and soon as the beets were done, they'd head out for the shipyards and work until next spring.

GP: You stayed here?

CJ: I stayed alone with the children. I had seven children in school. I'll tell you, this one man came by that was selling goat meat. Well, I'd never eaten goat meat, but I said, "Let's try it." So he'd come by then every two or three weeks and sell me some more goat meat. That's how I fed my family.

GP: Is that right? Where was he from?

CJ: Let's see, we was living at... [pauses] I have to stop and think about that.

GP: Oh, that's all right.

CJ: Now, just wait a minute.

GP: I was just kind of curious.

CJ: I know. Wait a minute. We were Cross place that was there by Corvallis. We were living on the Cross place, that was during the war. We was doing that, like I said, and then he brought some honey over for us, and we bought the honey and we bought the goat meat. That's how I kept the children, seven of them into school. I baked all the bread and everything. The girls would come home at night, that was Janet and Elva. They were just youngsters in their grades. They'd come in, "Mother what are we having for dinner tonight?" I'd tell them, [they'd say] "Can I bake the cake?" So they always baked the cakes every night. They could make the best cakes you ever ate—chocolate cakes with...only it was made with honey. Just honey and flour and, well, we had to have eggs. What I mean is, the recipe was on the outside of the soda box. Arm and Hammer Gold baking soda box. The recipe was on the outside of that, so that's what they'd bake the cakes with.

GP: Well, I don't want to wear you out, but this is all so interesting.

CJ: Well, if there's anything else I can think about, ask me and I'll tell you.

GP: All right. Did you say that all of your children live around here, too?

CJ: No, they live all over the United States. You see, this Alvin I'm telling you about, he went and joined the Navy, and he was out on that Guadalcanal (?), that aircraft carrier. They was the ones that captured that U-boat and drug it all around the world before they let them bring it into port. He was only 18 when that happened. He was down in that there stinking place, those boys. All they had was sauerkraut, and it was so rotten it was terrible. He brought them up out of their U-boat into the ship. They got them into the ship, they fed them chicken and ice cream and everything. They thought they'd never eaten anything so good in all their lives. They were only 14 years old, those boys.

GP: As I said, I don't want to keep you at this too long, but it would be kind of interesting to know what your children are doing and why they're all over the country.

CJ: All right. My oldest son stayed in the service after the war was over for the full term. He'd been in for 20 years, and then he stayed in a little longer because they couldn't find anybody to take his place. He was a...what do they call that? A Class 7—

GP: Some kind of a sergeant, was he?

CJ: A sergeant, yes.

GP: Master sergeant?

CJ: No, not master sergeant, it was just 7 Class...It was something below the sergeants.

GP: Well, don't worry about it. We don't need it.

CJ: Anyway, he was in the machine records unit when he was in the service, and in that you have to learn the codes. Everything comes to their office in codes. Well, nobody could read them but him. He's the only one that could read those codes. He was the ideal kind of a person to do that because he was the kind of person that never talked. He never talked to...he never told his own wife what was going on in the war world. But he was England at the time we went over the...you know. He knew all that, but he never told a soul. Then later on, they kept him on until his son, youngest son, had been through the service, and he came back from the service and he was studying under his dad until he could take his father's place and let his father off. Since then, my son's just been enjoying his pension now, and doing fine. This son is still at it. He's still doing the work his father left him for so many years.

GP: That was in what, the army, the Navy?

CJ: It's in the army.

GP: Army, okay. We've got ten kids to go now. [laughs]

CJ: All right. June...She was over in Indiana with my mother, and she married a man over there and came home. A man that she had known before, but anyway, they was married and come home. He was a kind of a person that couldn't hold a job if it was given to him. They finally moved into Missoula here, and lived in a little bitty house that no one else would live in. Well, anyway, June fixed it all up. She [unintelligible] pretty it up no matter what. They finally had to get a divorce. She got divorced from him. He was too mean to her.

GP: Then she remarried?

CJ: By that time, she had two little boys. So she went out working as a waitress at different restaurants here in town. So she kept going pretty good. I had them part of the time [unintelligible]. But she had them most of the time. Then, later on, she married a man that came home from the service then. They were married several years, and he dropped dead of a heart attack right here in...what is that? Where they make beer over there.

GP: Brewery.

CJ: Brewery. He was sitting there—they'd all stopped working for a little while and so went out and sat on the porch. A couple of the men got up and went inside, and he just sat there. This woman was talking to him. She looked up at him, she goes, "You look sort of funny." She went over to touch him, and he just fell over. He [unintelligible].

GP: So she remarried again, then?

CJ: Then years later, she married Matt McGorden (?). They've been married now about 25 years.

GP: You have other children, then, living around here?

CJ: Let's see, that takes it down to Alvin and he was in the Navy. He came home, and he got to working for McDermotts (?). They have oil wells and that sort of thing. He worked for them for many years until he had to quit because he got emphysema so bad in his chest and they discovered it was...what was that that's in wallpaper?

GP: Oh, asbestos.

CJ: Asbestos. Asbestos in his lungs, and he's still struggling with it. Then Albert came home from the service. This woman he married had been married before, but she had lost her husband. So they was married then. She was the valedictorian of the high school class over here at Big Sky...not Big Sky.

GP: Hellgate.

GP: Hellgate when she graduated that year. She was only 16 when she graduated. Anyway, they've been out here in Yakima ever since. He worked in the creamery there for many years, and he had been worked in the creamery here before he got over there and went right into a job there. He's still working it for them whenever they need him. He's had a heart attack about last year, and it was an angina pectoris. As soon as the doctor just discovered what was wrong with him, he says to him, says, "Have you any relatives with this?"

He says, "No." Then they was telling Janet about it, Janet told me. That's my daughter that lives over in California now.

I said to Janet, I says, "But my mother died with that. That's what took her." She lived to be 76 years old, but the last four years she wasn't able to do anything with this angina pectoris. They don't ever do any work. But I said, "You just tell him now to stop any kind of work and just behave himself." You couldn't stop him with an ax. He still works and he still milks the cow and he still—

GP: How old is he?

CJ: —has a garden and everything. Let's see, he was born in '26, and so he would be 61 now. That takes care of him. Now, there's the twins. Well, one of them joined the Catholic Church and became a priest. He's over here in New Mexico now. He was a priest over here in Minnesota, and what they did, he had three churches. No priest could take care of three churches: the weddings, the funerals and a mass and all that. Until he got to the place where he was shaking so bad he had to quit. So they took him down there to New Mexico to rest, and after he got down there, they discovered he has Parkinson's disease. So I guess he just can't go back to the priesthood.

While he was studying for the priesthood, he did take a special course in counseling. He thought he might become a counselor. Well, I said, the last letter I wrote, I said, "If you can do it, but don't overdo yourself, whatever you do." Anyway, his twin brother then, came out of the service and he went to school. Took his the money from, of course, they took their money from their G.I. He graduated from Wheaton College, Illinois and he married one of the classmates over there. She was a schoolteacher. But they soon discovered that they couldn't live off of what she was making, so he thought he could teach school, too. He found a place and taught about six weeks, I guess, and then he quit.

GP: Didn't like it?

CJ: He loved it, but the two of them couldn't make enough, so there was a job in the paper for somebody good in calculus. Well, he just graduated from Wheaton College was an A in calculus. He went over there and got that job, and he worked there for them. Then why he quit there and went over to the General Electric, I don't know, but he did. He went over there and he didn't like the work at General Electric, and then he heard about this job down here in

Huntsville. He signed up for that and went down to them, and so they gave him some equations to test out his knowledge and all. They finally gave him the one on the Redstone rocket. He thought that was funny because that was the Redstone rocket—that's the one that would go up and come down, it'd never stay up. He took it though. They gave it to him, and he went to...and the first time through, he found a mistake. He took it to his foreman, and he said, "There's a mistake here."

"That's an impossibility. The greatest engineers in the United States had gone over that and they never found any fault."

Well, Lawrence (?) says, "Come over here." So he took him to it, and he went to this place. And he says, "See that?" The guy had to give up. Lawrence was right. There was a mistake there. The Redstone rocket went up after that, and they went to the moon and they're still a-going to the moon. Just because he was the second child, and these other people, when he was born, they said, "Oh, that's the one you didn't need."

"Oh, yes I needed that one too," I said. I always wanted a pair of twins and this was fine. That's him now. He's still working now on the space shuttle and the space lab and the space capsule and the space station. Space station. He's been working on that for many years.

GP: Where is he now?

CJ: He's in Huntsville, Alabama.

GP: Still in Huntsville?

CJ: Still working. He's the one that they've always sent over to be a troubleshooter. He went on to Germany I don't know how many times. They built some of the machines' engines that went in that and he had to go there and straighten them out. They couldn't make those—

GP: Well, you must be very proud of him. Shall we move on to the next one now? The next child?

CJ: All right. The next ones are the twins, younger twins.

GP: More twins.

CJ: More twins, but they're not identical. They're just fraternal brothers. One of them is working down there now in Huntsville, working for a furniture store where they...they put the...

GP: They assemble things?

CJ: They assemble the...yes.

GP: They make furniture down there.

CJ: Well, they make furniture and he does the...I want to say padding. [laughs] All the outside part, maybe [unintelligible].

GP: Oh, the finishing maybe?

CJ: Yes. All right, then his twin is back over here in Polson now, and he's working with his son-in-law. His son-in-law is building fences for the government wherever they need fences.

GP: How are we doing on- is that the last of them now?

CJ: That's the last of the boys. So then June married Matt Gordon over here. He's the one that has built so many of the buildings up at the university. Elva married a man that was a counselor there in Seattle. All the people that were coming in and going out—servicemen—they'd have to go through his desk and he has to counsel them.

GP: Does he work for the VA [Veterans Affairs]?

CJ: He works for the VA. All right. Then there's Janet. Her husband had sheep and cattle, and finally he bought a ranch out here in Moses Lake area. He finally had to lose it because it come hard times, you know, these last few years have been terrible. He had to lose everything. So he's living in Fresno now. He has a business of his own, a cleaning business—houses. When they, say for instance, move out and get a new place, why, he cleans the old place up really good.

GP: Like a cleaning service?

CJ: It's a cleaning service. He gets good wages for that. Well then, like I say, his wife was my daughter that graduated in 1950 at the high school, and then they was married that same spring in June. They met, though, through—I should tell that—the 4-H club. Now, she had won honors in 4-H club through her freezing foods for the winter time, and he had won back over in Carbon County as advisors to other 4-H leaders. He was a leader. So they met in Washington D.C...I mean in Chicago, then, at the stockyards where they had those—

GP: Oh, yes, international stock yards.

CJ: International yards. That's where they met. Two years after that, then they was married. She was married in June, and they were visiting with us later on that summer. That was during the fair. No...that was the year before. She was worried about not getting pregnant. I said, "Oh, don't worry, just go on, and you'll get pregnant one of these days." She hadn't even gotten home and [unintelligible], "Oh, Mother [unintelligible], I'm all right." So then that baby was

born in...they were married the 1st of June, and the 20th of June, she was born a year later. That fall at the fair time, why, they was at our place, and I was taking care of the baby while she and Richard went to the fair. She came back, she says, "Mother, I'm just...I can't stand it. I just feel like I'm taking the flu or something."

"Oh," I said. "Maybe, I hope not." The next morning, we got them ready 4:00 leave to come back to their home there. They was living over in Carbon County at the time on his father's ranch. Anyway, as they left, I says, "Now just be careful now, whatever you do."

She says, "I'll just..." We laid the baby on her lap, and she said, "I just don't want the baby to touch me." So he had the baby on his lap while he was driving. They got home, and that was a long ways from Corvallis clear over there to Carbon County—that's over by... [pauses] well anyway, Luther, Montana. Luther was on part of their homestead. They was dressing out chickens to put them in the freezer. They just froze them then, and if they wanted a chicken, they'd thaw one out. She was dressing chickens, and all at once...Richard was watching her, she seemed sort of funny, wasn't working just right with her hands. He put his arms around her. Just as he did, she fell right in his arms and she didn't even know. He picked her up and took her to the house. So that was when she came down with polio.

That was on Tuesday, and it was Thursday before the doctor told, "Well, you better take her into the hospital. We can't do any more for her here." So they took her to the hospital that they had a new...what do they call those?

GP: Not an iron lung.

CJ: No. Well, the iron lungs was later, but what they carry them in now.

GP: Oh, I don't know. Cart or something like that.

CJ: You know when they come to get you in the...Well, they put them in the back end of that thing, and it was a new one. They just had this resuscitator. They just bought it. The man that drove it, I'll bet you [unintelligible]. They have the airplanes that it does the same [unintelligible].

GP: Helicopters.

CJ: What?

GP: The helicopters.

CJ: Helicopters. But then it was a truck. The nurse went along. She kept, stayed in the back end, she kept the resuscitator going over to Janet. Richard...The driver says, "All you've got to do is push that button now, keep the noise coming." So he pushed the horn the whole way, and they

stopped everything. The buses stopped, traffic stopped and everything, and they got into Billings and to the hospital. They got her in the hospital and she was just doing her best to keep breathing, but she was pumping her lungs with her stomach. Pushing right up to there to make her lungs go. Finally, she became unconscious. They were bringing an iron lung across from Miles City, but that was supposed to be for another woman. That woman dies on the way in. So when that iron lung got there, they put Janet in it, and she was in it when she came to. Just pumping that—

GP: How long ago was that?

CJ: They got her in there...I think it was about 8:00 when she lost consciousness, and we got there about 11:00 and she was just beginning to talk when we got there. She could talk straight right then.

GP: What year was that?

CJ: That was in '51, I think.

GP: Because you don't hear much about those things anymore since they have the polio drugs now.

CJ: Well, that's what I mean. That year it seemed like it was killing off the mothers—mothers with children. That woman died, and I don't know...several other mothers died. But she just had this baby in June, and this was in September when she went into the iron lung.

GP: How is she now?

CJ: Well, she was in that iron lung for seven weeks before she could breathe without it. Then she had to be sitting up, she couldn't lie down. We had sit her up in bed for so long. She couldn't breathe lying down. She was in the hospital for about ten months. When Elva was over there, she said, "I'll go and take care of her." So she went over to Billings to take care of Janet, and they rented a little apartment there so Elva could take care of her. Then, finally, his mother took her, and she hadn't had the baby right from the time she took polio. So she had Caroline (?) ever since she was four months old. Then she took care of Janet for the next three or four years. Then Janet heard about a place over here in Missoula—the Community Hospital where they had therapy treatments for her.

So Richard brought her over; he had a job of working on the roads over the Miles City, so he brought Janet over for us to take care of. That's when I took my car—I had a Mercury at the time—and I took her back and forth. Well, they wanted me just to bring her in every other day. I said, "I'll do that."

I got her out of that car, she says, “Mother, I just can’t stand it. I’m just fall some of these times.”

I said, “Well, honey, I’ll take care of you.” So somebody came and helped me and they got her into the hospital.

After they worked with her that day, they said, “You don’t have to go home. We’ll just take care of you right here.” So they took care of her there until the next spring; that was in the fall.

Anyway, I had stopped by a second-hand car lot and I said, “Do you have anything different than this?” I said, “My daughter’s got polio, and it bothers her getting in and out of this car. I want something I can maybe get her out of.” I hunted around, we found an old—not much older car than my car—but it was an old...what do they call Nashes now? Whatever it was. I bought it and I had to make payments on it. Well, with everything to do, I lost out on them. They finally had to come get them. I couldn’t keep the payments up. About that time the twins wanted a...Oh, I found a Cadillac. I knew the people who had owned it before. I said, “Maybe I could buy that Cadillac.” I said to the boys, “I can’t make the payments on it.”

They said, “How much is it?” I told them. “Mom, you buy the car, and we’ll make the payments.”

I said, “All right.” I went and I got the car, drove it out there. So they took it over. [laughs]

GP: Caroline, I’m not wearing you out with this, am I? Are you getting too—

[Break in audio]

GP: How's your daughter now?

CJ: Well, all these years she has been a cripple. He has always had to carry her from the car, from the house, into the car, put her in the car. She couldn’t walk that far. But she could step up and down steps.

GP: Does she use a wheelchair at home?

CJ: She has one now that’s got a motor on it. He found a house for her that’s perfectly level to going out the back door, and she can go all around—the sidewalks and around—and then go back in through the door. That’s the only way she can get out in the sunshine and the air. All these years, then he’d have chairs made for her so that she could sit down in them. By pressing a button, it’d let her down, and then by pressing the button again, it’d raise her up so she could get up and walk around the house and go back and sit down and put herself down. That’s the way they’ve lived for all these years. He’s been so good to her [unintelligible]

GP: Was she able to raise her daughter, then?

CJ: Oh, yes. By that time, Caroline was about three years old or four. She learned to bake cookies all that sort of thing. He mother'd teach her how: tell her what to do, put in the bowl and how to put it into the mixer and how to turn the mixer on. My daughter couldn't, but she could do that. She could put it in the oven and she could bake it, even at three or four years old.

GP: Oh, that's wonderful. Now is that all of your children? Have we talked about all of them now?

CJ: [laughs] All but my baby daughter.

GP: Okay, well maybe we can do her quickly because I want to ask you a couple other questions before this tape runs out, about your baby daughter.

CJ: She was going with a boyfriend in Stevensville, and he was valedictorian of his school class, too. When he had graduated from high school, he immediately joined the service. After he joined the service, he says, "Well, I can't go without my Donna. Can't she go with me?" By that time, school was taking up and she was going to high school.

Her dad says, "Well, it's up to your folks. Are your folks give their consent?" So his folks had to get his consent, and then we had to give our consent for Donna. Then Donna stayed at home until...No, she went with him during the basic, and then he had to go to...When he got through basic training, he had to go to Yale University to take some of the special teaching and languages. He was going to learn Chinese. All right. He was supposed to be there for a year learning Chinese. In three months' time, he could talk it and all of that. They had a need for him to go clear to Okinawa. He flew clear across to Okinawa. He stopped to see Janet on the way, and then over to Okinawa. He was there for—

GP: This is Donna. Is this Donna? Or Janet?

CJ: No, Donna. She's my baby. Donna then came back and lived with her dad until he came out of the service then. As soon as he came out of the service, he came over to Montana State University here and studied...he'd come right out of high school. He studied Russian and German and Spanish and something else. Oh, mathematics. Why he didn't go into linguistics, I don't know because he was a born linguist. When he graduated from the university over here in math because he wanted a math major, he had all these other languages piled up behind, and he'd never been able to use them.

GP: What did he do then?

CJ: He went to the teaching school out there in Puyallup, Washington, as a sixth grade teacher. Also, he studied counseling, too, when he was over here. He was a counselor there for the high

school and the sixth grade teacher. He was a sixth grade teacher until his boy was killed. Now, they'd had two children while he was going to school here. They'd been married eight years before they had a child. Then they had this little Donna, they call her Dawn (?). She's married now and has one child, going to have another. Anyway, then they had this boy that was about two years younger than she was. Dawn was still at home—she was going to college, though. Robby (?) was in high school. His mother had this car, she'd owned it for quite a while. She said, "I'll give that to you, Robby, and that's going to be your car now." Says, "Roger and I"—that's her husband—"we have this truck and we have this other car. We don't need it." I mean, they built their own home and all. He was always a moneymaker, seemed like.

GP: What happened to him?

CJ: He was on the way to school, and the light was turning red, so he had to stop. He heard this fire signal coming. The policeman was chasing this boy that had stolen a car. Evidently, when he got to the corner where the light was, he couldn't stop, I suppose. He must have been going 100 miles an hour because they were racing across town, trying to catch him. He hit the back of Robby's car and it jumped the road and landed on the little hill on the other side. The police had caught up with him at that time. They held him. As they were taking care of him, one of the police said, "Well, we better go see what's the matter with that boy. He hasn't moved." Well, then he just bled right there. They put him in the hospital. They did everything to keep him alive.

GP: Anyhow, he lost his life. That was your grandson, then.

CJ: That's right.

GP: That's a shame.

CJ: His father just...He was a teacher; he just quit teaching right then. He just lost his mind, too. Everything he lived for was that boy, and he was so proud of his son. They kept him alive for about three weeks. The doctor said, "Well, there's nothing there to keep alive. His brain is completely addled. Just completely jelly."

GP: Did your daughter go to work, then?

CJ: She had been working for quite a while in the drugstore. She was taking lessons at the time to be a druggist. Although, she didn't go to college, she finally got her degree to be a druggist. She's a druggist there.

GP: Oh, I see, so she's a pharmacist? She probably had to pick up college credits to become a pharmacist. Yeah, yeah.

I'd like to ask you now, have you been a widow a long time, Caroline?

CJ: Well, yes, my husband and I was divorced back in, oh, '58 I guess it was. '56 or '58. It was so long ago. He married a neighbor woman after that.

GP: Well, that must have been quite a trauma in your life after having 11 children.

CJ: It is. I can't begin to tell you. I can't go into that, and I'm not going to put it on the tape. But it was just one of those things that he could not believe that Jesus Christ was the son of God. Now, he had Bibles and he'd read the Bible through completely, but still he just could not get that through his head, to be a Christian. Well, I'm pretty strong on my Christianity.

GP: It interfered with your marriage, anyhow.

CJ: What?

GP: It interfered with your marriage, anyhow.

CJ: Yes. That and his mother. She was one of these kind of women that nobody was perfect but her own children, and she'd fought me all those years. She never could see any good in me. She'd take my children and try to get them away from me every time she could. She tried to get the oldest twins, and finally I got home one day and the twins were gone. I said, "Where's the twins?"

"Oh," their dad said, "Grandpa was here a little while, but he took them back to Missoula with him.

I said, "You get on that truck right now and go and get them." He brought them home.

GP: Did you go to work after you were divorced or before?

CJ: I had been working before. I had to work in order to keep...You keep all that much going, and you've got to have all the dollars you can make. I worked at the St. Pats hospital over here as a waitress...I mean, as a nurse aid, and before that I had worked at the Community Hospital as a cook. Then, when I was back in Indiana, then—that's after we'd divorced—I had been working here at St. Pat's hospital before that, though, as a cook, as a baker in the bakery.

GP: Were any of your children still home when you were divorced?

CJ: Donna and the boys—the twins. But he never let me take those boys to go to church and Sunday school. They was always some reason why they had to not go.

GP: Did the other children go, though, when they were growing up?

CJ: The oldest twins, he started working on them. Alvin never got to go to church. When the twins was getting ready to go to church, and their dad says, "Get in there, get your work clothes on. We're going to field." That was when they were working over here in the beet fields.

I stopped him in the doorway. I said, "Now you listen here, boys. See Alvin out there? He wanted to go to church, too." I said, "I let him get by with it. Well, I'm not letting it get by with you. You're ready to go, go right down that road and go to church." And they always did. That's why they're in church today wherever they are and he was a priest and all that. Otherwise, maybe he wouldn't have been. Then with the youngest twins. He always wanted to go hunting. Oh yes, they had to go hunting on that day. Might be some deers over there. Then Donna and I, we tried to go. Seemed like there was always something wrong with the car or something, could never go.

GP: Did I get the impression that you did missionary work part of your life? Did I misunderstand Bob Weidman? Did you ever—

CJ: That's right.

GP: You never did.

CJ: Yes, I did missionary work when I was in Iran. I went to Iran, I was 76 years old.

GP: Oh, I see, so that was part of your later life.

CJ: Later life. I went over there, but before that I'd been trying to go with the Campus Crusade for Christ. They was going to let me go, and then they finally, they said, "No, we can't let you go to Iran."

I says, "Well, why?" They just turned around and walked away. So I said to some of the others, "What would you do if you was me?"

They said, "If I was you and wanted to go and had a way, I'd go. You want to go, you feel that way." Ever since I was a little child and reading about those Persians and nomads of the desert, I always had a feeling like I wanted to do something for them. Now, I didn't know what I was going into when I went over there because they had a big...Tehran was the city for that time. But while I was there, it doubled in size.

GP: How long were you there?

CJ: Just one year. While I was there I met the Shah, and I met his wife. They were so good to me.

GP: Now, who paid your way?

CJ: They was having a meeting over here near Los Angeles, they called it the Arrowhead Springs. That's where their central place was, Arrowhead Springs. I went over there to this meeting. After I got there, they told me that's when I couldn't go. I was planning all this time on going. While I was there, [unintelligible], they always put me in a nice room all by myself, nobody with me. I rather resented that. I'd like to have had somebody with me, some young woman or something. Well, I guess young women like to be together; they don't care much old folks. I was in this room by myself and on the dresser there was this ad here for the American Express and the TWA. (Trans World Airlines). I signed both of them, sent them, they were having [unintelligible], never did hear anything from them. Well, that was November. I went back to New Orleans, and I'd been working for Arnold's Restaurant (?) for many years as a check writer and an assistant cashier.

GP: In New Orleans?

CJ: In New Orleans at the Arnold's Restaurant.

GP: How did you happen to get to New Orleans? Why New Orleans?

CJ: My son and his wife was having trouble and I thought I could get down there and save some of that trouble. But while I was getting myself down there, she was giving the children away. When I got there, she had given them all away. There they was, and I went to see them many times and I knew they wasn't being fed right. They were thin, and they just...Finally, after being there about three years or so—that's Gary, this one that's in the Navy now. He was one of them, he was the boy and his two sisters. It was Gary and Susan and Patsy. Patsy's the one I went over to Hawaii to her wedding in November.

Anyway...

GP: Did you hear from TWA or American Express, then?

CJ: So, then in January, first day, it came the TWA. I says, "Well, all right, that's a ticket to go, a ticket all ready to go." I says, "Well, I wonder about that." Then the next day, here come one from the American Express.

GP: Now, had you asked them if they would provide a ticket for you to go over there or what?

CJ: No, I did not. That comes later. I got to wondering about...went to the telephone directory, and I found out there was no American Express there in New Orleans but there was a TWA. I went over to the TWA man, and I showed him my tickets and I said, "I just got to wondering, will these be enough for me to go to Iran on?"

“Why of course, you would! They’re all right, sure, I’ll give you a ticket.” So that was in January, and about a week later here came my tickets all ready to go. I had to leave on February the 14th. I left New Orleans, February 14th, and flew to New York and then that night I got on the plane to go to fly across the Atlantic. We never stopped until they got into Rome, Italy. We stopped in Rome, Italy, just long enough to do some work that had some business—

GP: Refueling, oh no, I see what you mean.

CJ: Anyway, they wouldn’t let us get off of the plane there. We just stayed in the plane. Then we left the plane about an hour later—must have been just about 12:00 or 1:00—and we flew over to Athens, Greece. We got there about the 4:00 in the afternoon. We didn’t leave there until 6:00. I had a chance to get out and walk around Athens, and I would have loved to have gone there.

GP: But I don’t understand why you got tickets. Who paid for those tickets to go over there?

CJ: Well, my son was paying on them back here—the one that was working. I still owe some on them, and I’ve been trying to get a way to find money enough so I could pay them off. I’ve tried every way, but so far I never could get enough to clear it.

GP: Now, what did you do then when you were in Iran?

CJ: When I was in Iran, let’s see...I got into Iran by P.M., by Pan Am, flew me from Beirut to Tehran. We got off at Tehran and they said, “You owe us \$6.75.”

“Oh,” I said, “Wait a minute. I’ve got to get my checkbook out. I didn’t know I was going to need any more money.”

I started get my checkbook out, and there was a lady there, she says, “Don’t worry,” She says, “I’m taking care of that.” She passed the money to them, and as I turned to thank her—I never saw her again—I always said that was an angel. Surely, because I’d seen her before I got in there but after she paid that, she just vanished.

GP: It was \$6.75?

CJ: \$6.75.

GP: Now, did you actually do missionary work over there then?

CJ: All right, I went to the Hilton Hotel because that’s the one that I had been to when I was in Dallas, Texas. They were so good to us there, and the Hilton’s always been wonderful to me. Anyway, I went to the Hilton Hotel, and then I had to try to find a place to stay. Let’s see now...

GP: Were you traveling alone?

CJ: Alone, just the Lord and I. Just God alone and I. Nobody was with me, but us. Anyway, I went to find a place to stay. Oh, yes and I found that. I went to move in, and I moved in there on Monday. I got into Tehran on Tuesday... Wednesday. I should have gone that next day and hunted a place, but I was so deathly tired, and forgot all about that Friday is Sunday. So on Friday, everything's closed. Banks closed, stores closed, everything closed—all the businesses. So I had to wait until Saturday, then I started looking for a place. I went back to the place on Saturday morning, and I rented this place from them because I said I had money coming from the States, and I did. I had my Social Security checks, enough to pay for it. As I got in there just that night, here the people brought a big silver tray just loaded with hot tea and food and everything—chicken and everything. The next morning, here they came with another tray with the tea and everything to eat. I said, "Well, I can't do this. I've got to go and get some food." The woman passed me some money. Those people are generous there [unintelligible]. She gave me some money so I could go to the grocery store and get some food. In the meantime, when I was at the Hilton Hotel, they gave me a little booklet that I was a member of the American Women's in Tehran. The full names in it and such—people live where they lived. So, I had a phone in my room, and I called this woman. Her name was Howard, and her name was Jean Howard (?). I called her, and I said, "I'm just arrived from the States, and I just sort of wondered about you people."

"Oh," She says, "I'm so glad you called," she says. "Now," she says, "Friday morning is the same as Sunday morning." I think it was Tuesday I called her.

I says, "Well, but this is out of the way."

She says, "Don't worry," She says, "We know this town. We'll be right there." So on Friday morning, sure enough, there they was, waiting outside. In the meantime, I had dressed to go. I went to church with them. He gave a sermon on Judas Iscariot.

He said, and I never had heard anybody sort of say anything good about Judas Iscariot in my life and I was just surprised, I was listening with all ears. He said, "But you stop to think," he says, "God had Judas Iscariot planted ahead of time. Why? Because they had to have somebody that recognized Jesus and that could turn him over to the authorities." He said, "After all, Judas Iscariot was tempted to do that by God Almighty in order to get Jesus for the police could pick him up."

I was listening to that sermon. Afterwards, I thanked him. I said, "That was a lovely service. I've never heard a sermon like that before." I said, "Listen, could I talk to you sometime?"

He says [unintelligible], he says, "Wait a minute, let me see. I'll tell you. You come in tomorrow morning to my office over here, and I'll talk to you in my office tomorrow morning at 10:00."

I said, "All right, I'll be there." I went over to get a taxi to take me, and when the man came to take me...You see, I had to order my taxis through the Hilton. They had sent this man over and he took me over there, and I says where I'm going.

He says, "I don't know how to get there."

I says, "You go the way that you're supposed to go." A little bit of [unintelligible], I got him over there.

Well, then I got out, he says, "You just wait a minute. I haven't paid you yet. I'll only be gone just a few minutes, but you just wait until I get back and you would take me back to town." So I went in there to talk to this minister, and I said something about, "Is there something I could do? I came over thinking I might get something for the Campus Crusade for Christ, but I see that somebody already had been here. She didn't stay. She left."

"Oh," he says, "That's right." So she did. He says Caroline, everyone calls her Caroline. I don't care where I go. I had this little pin on with the all 11 stones in it, a circle. He said, "Where did that come from?"

I said, "That's my own children." So they was all thrilled to death I had 11 children.

He says, "Caroline, I don't think I have a thing. You better head down... [unintelligible]." Says, "You know where the Presbyterian church office is?"

I said, "I think so."

Well, he said, "If you can get over there to that woman and talk to her." Says, "She wants somebody to write something to send out to the Lutheran Hour in Addis Ababa so it'd be broadcast over the Middle East." He said, "You could just write something about the Bible. You could just write anything," he said, "just so it's religious."

Well, I said, "If it's religious, it has to come out of the Bible." I thought that's the only way I could get it is something out of the Bible. So then I went over there, and I told her the same. "I don't care what you write," she says, "Yes, that sounds like a good...just out of the Bible, that's fine." She gave me a number to write to, and I've still got that envelope at home in my room back here. It's got her address on it—just numbers. Everything was by numbers there. I was Caroline Johnston, but my number was 13 so forth and so forth.

I says, "Well, I don't know. I'll just have to go home and pray about it. I'll think about it." Well that night, I went home.

As I went home, this man says to me, he says, "I understand that you don't have the money to pay us yet."

I said, "I know." That was on Sunday morning. That was the night before that I'd gone home. The next morning, I said "I know." I said, "I'll have to go back to the Hilton." I said, "I can go back there and stay while I find another place." I said, "Surely, that money will come any day." But, in the meantime I had called my son Lawrence. I said, "Could you send me a little money? I'm broke, and I don't know what to do." So he sent me a check for 500 dollars. When I went into the Hilton that afternoon to stay, I said again to the man at the desk, "Please just give me a cheap little room. I can't afford these big, expensive rooms."

He says, "I'll take care of you." He took me in, and that room—it was a beautiful room. Two beds in it and everything. It was beautiful. Well, I sat down at the desk right in front of the window. I looked up at the mountains up there all covered in snow.

I says, "This is home to me. This is just beautiful." Then I opened my Bible and began to read a parable. I says, "You know, that sounds good enough for anybody to hear." So I sat down, I wrote it all, sent it into this address. I've been doing it ever since—years and years of it. Just day after day, I'd send them in every day. Some of it's gospel messages-

GP: So where is it published, then?

CJ: I'll tell you. She was born and raised a Muslim. She was educated in the United States.

GP: Yes, but I mean what publication gets that—

CJ: And she took my writing. I just wrote them because I didn't have a typewriter then. She'd just take my writings, and she would translate it into her language. Then she would use her voice to record it on the tapes and send them out to Ethiopia to be broadcast over the Middle East in her voice.

GP: I see. Somebody's still doing that?

CJ: As far as I know.

GP: You're sending them, anyhow.

CJ: No. I quit. I quit when Ayatollah Khomeini took over. He made this threat over the television. He said, "If I ever catch anybody reading a Bible or have anything to do with Christianity," he says, "I'll cut off their hands." I thought about her with her three little girls, and I thought I couldn't stand to think of her hands being chopped off. I stopped right then so they wouldn't catch her.

GP: Who paid your bill at the Hilton? Did that ever get paid, or didn't they charge you for that?

CJ: Oh, well, that also was put on that card. No, I never got it paid. I still owe it, but I got back and I tried to get them to tell me and the [pauses] American Express wouldn't tell me. They wouldn't tell me how much I owed, but I knew because they had an awful—

[Break in audio]

GP: —that your writing was your missionary work. But now you just also said that you were doing some teaching at college there?

CJ: Yes. There was a teacher there that came in to teach school in the fall, and she was there about a month ahead of time. She stayed right at the Operation Mobilization. It's called the O.M. team at the place where I was staying at the time. This man would call our phone number, and I'd answer. When I answered him, I'd tell him, "Now just a few minutes. I'll find her, and I'll bring her to the phone." One day, the phone rang and I answered and I said, "I'm sorry, she's not here right now."

"You're the one I wanted. That's the voice I want. That's the one I want." He says, "Are you an American?"

I said, "Yes."

"Born and raised in America?"

I said, "Yes."

He says, "Well, would you come over here right away?" He says, "I want to talk to you."

I said, "All right." So I took the directions how to go, and I took a bus. I got on the next bus and went out there. As I went in to talk to him, I said, "Well, I don't know what I could teach about because I'm not supposed to teach. I don't have the credentials."

"That's all right, we'll take care of that," he says. He put me up and took me up to an upstairs room, and he had a boy there that was operating this recorder and was recording my voice. They gave me something to read, and I'd read it into the microphone. The next day he says, "Sigh," he says, "Sigh, sigh." He says, "That was so good. Oh, that's so good." But he says, "I can't pay you. I just discovered they won't let me pay you." But he said, "You can take a little gift after a while."

I says, "Well, I'll just help you when I can, and if you can pay me a little, it will help me some." That's all I did. He just paid me 2,000 or 3,000 rials at a time, just what he'd have. It wasn't like wages.

GP: Now, what kind of a school was it?

CJ: It was a college for different languages, translating other languages. When they'd go to school there, they studied these other languages. But he was wanting to teach American to so many pupils because there was doctors and lawyers and, you might say, merchants and everything there to learn. The table was just a round table, and it was just full of people learning. They'd sit there and listen to me talk.

GP: You were teaching the Bible at the time?

CJ: Anything. Just so it was something that I had the different words that could teach. I read the articles on Lincoln and on Washington and told the history. They all loved that work. So about two or three weeks after that, I happened to go into the Hilton Hotel.

Oh, yes, that's another thing with the Hilton. They discovered that I didn't have much money. They called me, they said, "We want to talk to you at the desk." I went to the desk, I didn't know what they was going to say. They said, "Listen, here's a ticket that you can"—it was a charge ticket—"Now, you can charge on this ticket all you want to," says, "Come over any time you want to eat you can or anything." I thanked them. You see, if I hadn't been in Dallas and Texas with those Hilton people, I wouldn't have known them, and they wouldn't have known me enough to help me when I needed it because I run out of food and I didn't have a bite left to eat in the house. This daughter of mine, June Gordon lives here in Missoula. From the time she knew where my address was, every month she'd send me 20 dollar—a check for 20 dollars. Then, I'd cash those checks, and in their money, I'd have money to spend. Twenty dollars meant 1,375. Now, that sounds like lots of money, but it don't go far because it took 60 rials to make a dollar.

Anyway, that morning, it was about the 4th or 5th of the month. Now, her checks usually didn't come in until the 10th or 12th, sometimes the 14th. Anyway, I got down on my knees and prayed and I prayed to the Lord, "Find a way. I don't know what to do." I just left it up to the Lord. Anyway, I got up and I sat down in my chair, and I was sitting there thinking and not worried. Seemed like I didn't worry about it somehow. I don't know why I didn't. There's a tap on the door and I went to the door, and here's the mailman. He handed me a letter. He said, "I thought you might need this." Now, why did he think I needed that letter before 1:00 in the afternoon when he regularly brought it up? It was 11:00. I opened it up, and sure enough, it was a letter from June—20 dollar check. I had to just wait until...That's in the summertime, and in the summertime there's—really year round, it's a hot area, hot climate—all the banks and everything close at about 11:00, and they don't open until after 4:00. They stay open to about 7:00, and that's it. I went over there, I was walking downhill all the way to the bank, praise the Lord.

When I got to the bank, I sat down by the steps, and I was the only person pretty soon two or three other people came over, all of them were Arabs just around everywhere. When the door opened at about 4:00 or so—it was after that, it was close to 5:00 that day that the opened.

Anyway, I just sat there a little bit waiting for while the rest of them got started in after I let them all get in ahead of me. Anyway, as I got up and started over towards the door, they all just backed off to one side and just let me go through. [laughs] I went on in, and I went to the guy to sign it. He says, "Go right on over there." He never signed it, my check. I went over to the cashier and had him sign it and give me money, and he counted out every bit of it just as nice as could be. I went out and got on the next bus—I had to walk a little ways to get on the bus. It was only two rials to ride just a little ways. I took two rials and rode up to where the...well, the grocery store—the department store's they had them—[unintelligible] just little ways more [unintelligible]. I went up there and went in to buy some groceries. I bought a little piece of lettuce, about so long and they usually charge quite a little bit for it, but I took it anyway and I got a few potatoes. Oh, yes, they had some meat fillet in there. Now, I hadn't seen anything like that before, the whole time I was there, that the whole row—oh, it must have been half a store long—just high with boxes, cartons of hamburger. They was heaped up high—every one of them. It was only 100 rials for each. So I took one of those 100 rials, and I got to thinking about it afterwards. Those people aren't supposed to eat ground meat, and I expect they had to sell those to the Americans to get rid of it because they'll eat pork and they'll eat lamb, but they won't eat beef that's been ground.

GP: So you were there a year then, Caroline.

CJ: Yes.

GP: Did you come back to Missoula after that?

CJ: Well, yes, I had to come back to Missoula because when I flew out of Tehran, we flew over...What was that there, straights there? Well, it used to be Constantinople [Istanbul], but it's another name now. We flew over there and stopped, and then they flew on over to Germany, to Frankfurt, and we stopped there for quite a little while. Then they flew on over to London. I got over to London at the Heathrow Airport, why, I went into the...It was time to eat dinner, then. Anyway, they had opened the kitchen so we could all of us order what we wanted. All I wanted was cottage cheese, and they said, "Well, that isn't much to eat."

I said, "Well, I know, but I'm not hungry." After riding all that distance, I just wasn't hungry. Anyway, they brought me a nice big dish of cottage cheese, and that's what I had that night. Then I went into the beauty shop, and I got my hair shampooed and set. The next morning, we were supposed to leave on an early plane, and they told us that we'd have to stay until the 4:00, late in the afternoon. Something had happened, they couldn't get [unintelligible]. We got on the plane at just ten minutes after 4:00, we got on the plane. As we left there, we flew up over...those islands up there where they had that meeting last year.

GP: I don't know. Oh, I know what you mean. No, not Finland. Iceland.

CJ: Iceland. We flew over Iceland and then across over Greenland. Then we flew over the Hudson Bay and on, and we came down in Seattle just exactly ten minutes after 4:00 the same day. The sun was shining all the way, and it was the same day, just that's exactly ten minutes after four we landed in Seattle. I said, "That's the only time I kept up with the time." [laughs]

GP: You came back to Missoula, and have you been here ever since?

CJ: No, I came to Missoula and stayed all night that night with June, and then the next morning I flew over to Bozeman. My daughter, that's Janet, the one...and Richard met me there. I went home and stayed with them a couple days, and then they got me a little apartment—one of these small apartment houses. I moved into that and I lived in that for over a year. I was right there in Manhattan [Montana]. She was all ready to move me into a nice, new apartment she built just for me—carpets and everything, just what she thought that I would like. I went over to see it, and, oh, it was beautiful. I had four rooms all by myself. The kitchen, the bedroom, bathroom and the living room. Just as I was ready to move in the next morning, I was packing everything to go when here come the telephone, and June says, "Mother," she says, "You've got to come over here right away. Richard's on the way to come in to pick you up now and bring you over here to the Missoula Manor."

I says, "But June, I'm all ready to move into this new apartment. I don't know how I can get ready that fast," because I had too much to bring over to one room. Here, I had four rooms to put it in. Well, they just brought it all over here, and most of it's down there in my locker now.

GP: So, how long have you been here, then? Quite a while.

CJ: It'll be 12 years the first day of February.

GP: Twelve years. Well, you've certainly had a—

CJ: In the same room.

GP: Is that right? You've certainly had a rich and full life, haven't you Caroline? You haven't missed out on much, have you?

CJ: No, and I don't plan to. I plan to be here when I'm 100, if you don't know that.

GP: You certainly look like you're to make it.

CJ: Well I'm 91 now, and like I say, I have the best health I've ever had even all my life.

GP: Do you take any medicines at all?

CJ: No medication, only...Oh, I do take vitamins is all.

GP: Well, that's wonderful, and it must be because you're so satisfied with your life. If you could change anything, is there anything you'd do differently now that you look back on your life?

CJ: I don't know. [pauses] I was always so sorry about the divorce, but there's times I look back afterwards and I think, "Well, that's the only thing I could do." Oh yes, when I was living as man and wife, I had my inheritance from my mother and my inheritance after my father died, so the first time I only had 3,000 dollars. The next time I had 8,000 dollars coming. Each time, I put it right into the home, whatever could I do to make the home better. We bought three other pieces of ground with that last 8,000 dollars to make enough ground for the sheep and everything and the cattle and all. As I left him, I asked a penny back and I never got a penny back—not one cent did they ever give me. When they sold part of it, they could have given me a little, but they didn't—not a penny of it. I wouldn't have known it if it hadn't been for Alvin telling me. He said, "Mother," he said, "I just got 1,000 dollars from Dad."

I said, "What from?"

"Oh," he said, "They sold some of the land off of the place." When they sold some more land to some other people, so he told me that time. He says, "Dad sold some off." They was still living on it, there was just the house and the buildings. That's about all there was to it. When these people came in, they wanted to buy a home out in the country away from town. They went out there, and they bought that place. That was enough to keep him in the Wayside. He was there about three or four years before he died, so that money helped to pay for his keep. He never admitted that any of it came from me. At the same time, that was all right. God knows. I was able to make my own way.

GP: That's just must be a real satisfaction to you to know that you've been able to do...you had a large family and wanted—

CJ: Never once, never once did I ever take the children away from their father. I told them that I always encouraged us to stay close to him and be with him a lot, all they could. He never could say that I stole his children away.

GP: I know that that probably wasn't the way you wanted it to end, but you had other satisfactions—many satisfactions—in your life, too.

CJ: That's right. If I hadn't have been over there, there's a lot of Muslims that never would have turned Christian because those...I said to my translator just before I had to come back to the States, I says, "Is it really necessary for me to keep these messages coming?"

"I don't know what I'd do without them," she says. "I wouldn't have nothing to write to those folks." [unintelligible].

I said, "You can always edit any time you run short. Just go back to the first of your messages." She had a row of tapes this long, and so you know—

GP: Start over again.

CJ: I said, "Start over and send them out and keep going. If anything ever happens, just keep doing that," because I said, "It's the same story over again, but it'll be new to some of them and some of them will be glad to hear it again." She said she would do that. So then, like I said, when I came back home, I kept going though.

When I went over here to the post office to mail one out, they said, "You've got to put a name on here where is this coming from?"

I said, "No, I don't." I said, "When I went to Manhattan," I says, "I did the same with them." I told them that, "Now, you just cannot do it because this girl is translating my material and broadcasting it over the Middle East and that's what their getting is these messages." I said to them, "If they'd ever catch her at it, it might mean her life."

GP: Sure. Well, Caroline, you're certainly an amazing person, and I want to thank you for this long interview.

CJ: Well, thank you, dear. I'm glad for everything.

[End of Interview]