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The following index lists the major topics in the audio recording and the approximate point when they occur in the recording according to an analog cassette recorder's tape counter. This tape counter index (TCI) has not been edited for accuracy by Archives and Special Collections.

Florence Bakke Riel interviewed by Gladys Peterson
August 8, 1985

Side one

- 000 Florence was born in Missoula in 1914. Her father came from Minnesota in 1902. He worked at the Howard Eaton ranch by Yellowstone Park before coming to Missoula. He wanted a ranch. He worked for Barbara Marshall's grocery store for 8 years, for the Missoula Mercantile-doing mostly clerking-and he also worked for Deschamps Implement. Her parents married in Minnesota. There were 6 in the family.
- 033 Florence was born on First Street. She went to school at the Hawthorne School until third grade. She finished at the Willard School. She lived on 644 1st Street. For four years, she went to the Missoula County High School. The school burned down. She wanted to take bookkeeping in school. She worked to go to the University. She did baby-sitting (\$.25 per hour), housework, and helped at a boarding house. She graduated from high school in 1931. She went on to the University in 1932, and graduated from the University winter quarter of 1937.
- 064 There were tough times for her family in Missoula in the 1920's, but all of her friends were in the same situation. They had a car, but used it sparingly. Her mother had a beauty shop in their home, which helped Florence through school. University tuition was \$25.
- 086 Florence got married while she was at the University. She worked at the telephone company before getting married. She graduated with a Spanish major. She broadened her education and took French. She later used her language skills in France in 1966 and in Mexico in 1972.
- 107 Florence married Vincent Bakke. His parents emigrated from Norway. They were married in Butte, and settled in Missoula. Florence's father-in-law was a carpenter. He did much of the work on the University Congregational Church. There were 4 children in the family. Only two grew up, though-two other girls died at 16. The older boy worked for North American Aircraft. Her husband went to the University, but quit and worked at a service station for Duke Ross, who owned the service station across the street from the service station her husband eventually bought at 107 East Main across the street from Firestone. The telephone company now owns that property. In 1936, her husband bought into a partnership with Jim Pervis who leased from Continental Oil Company. In 1938, he bought out Siberling Tire which was owned by Carl Anderson, who committed suicide. Dave, his brother, owned the Palace Hotel.

- 139 They had a business at 336 Stevens. They bought into J. Otis Mudd, who was a real estate man. They moved their business to 240 West Pine. They recaptured a section in the tire business and built the business up. Her husband died in 1961 in Rochester from heart surgery. Florence continued in business with her oldest son, Bob, and her two other sons.
- 159 1929 Crash. She recalls the crash, but they maintained the same level of living. They were not involved politically. Her eldest brother left at 19--her father made him sell encyclopedias in eastern Montana. Her oldest sister was slightly retarded. She did nothing but housework. Florence had a brother who died in 1904, but she never knew him. The next younger sister, who was older than Florence, married in 1928. They lived in Missoula and had a tough time. Her sister's husband worked for the WPA. They had 5 children and barely existed. Mother helped their family by washing clothes on the side.
- 223 Florence and Vince lived with Vince's folks for a year and a half because rent was high and Vince made \$250 per month. Vince's father helped them to build a house on Van Buren on the 700 block in 1937. They felt that they were doing well financially. They had a brisk business, and most customers paid. Heinrich Floral did business here. Gas was \$.26 per gallon. A physical was needed for a marriage license. Her husband had had rheumatic fever as a child. People bought minimum amounts of gas--just enough to get by. Some tourists stopped, but not many.
- 343 On Sundays, they took some time off with the in-laws and kids. They went on fishing and hunting trips in the fall with Indian guides on the south fork. They brought back a deer and an elk. They canned meat, mincemeat, and did a lot of other canning during the depression. They had an ice locker along the river that they rented.
- 411 They had 5 children. Bob was born in 1938, and Kevin was born in October, 1939, and graduated from the University of Montana in Math and Physics. Mother helped her son in German because of her instruction from Professor Scheuch. Her husband, oldest son, and third son took business administration. A daughter was born in 1946 and Gary was born in 1950. They eventually had to get a bigger house. They bought one at 1110 Jackson for \$16,000 in 1950. Their youngest son was born in 1955. Florence helped with the repairs during the war years.

End side one

Side two

- 000 They got out of the service station in 1953, and they bought the tire shop in the same year. Their oldest son helped

out. Their son Bob helped out after Vince died. They found a house to expand their business into. The house was owned by the Piquettes, but was for sale by their daughter, Virginia (who was married to Hogan Kraable). The house was Judge Woody's old home. Florence bought the house and tore it down. Virginia Bulen Anderson wanted it restored and moved. The house was too expensive to move, so Virginia took windows and some of the pillars and incorporated these materials into a house on Hastings in the 800 block. Her father was a lawyer, Leon Bulen.

- 065 Florence was president of the company. The company was incorporated in 1966. Bob was the secretary, Ken was the vice-president. Gary now is the secretary, and Florence is treasurer. She is still active in the business. They bought another building. It is the old Pacific Hide and Fur building on West Broadway.
- 093 Florence has had some close brushes with death. She had a nose infection in 1940 that Dr. Sale thought she wouldn't survive. In 1972, she was in an accident on Labor Day on Higgins Avenue in the company van. The van was totaled. Her back and knee were hurt. She now has artificial knees. She still works. She works at the University library, also. She retired in 1979. In November of 1980, she remarried an old friend that had gone to school with her husband.
- 150 The depression taught her to work hard. In 1932, she started at the telephone company. She also worked for Dr. Smith, a dentist who lived on Gerald. She was a waitress at Mountaineer meetings. She also did typing at the University for Dr. Warford and the University pastor. She worked for Dr. Thomas, who was head of the Spanish department. She was in a student work program making \$.40 per hour and working 8 to 10 hours per day some days. Professor Scheuch's daughter married an Evans. He was part of the Evans-Kelly ranch that was up at Swan Lake. Florence got a job there as a nurse maid during the summer's taking care of their son. All jobs were okay at the time. She always walked everywhere.
- 259 They got together with other Bakke relatives. Florence didn't have any relatives around. Walt and Albert Bakke were business people in town. During the war years, there was not much time for a vacation, and it was hard to find help. Florence helped run the business by herself many times.

End side two