

Maureen and Mike

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**Oral History Number: 239-001, 002**

**Interviewee: Cecile M. Carleton**

**Interviewer: Gladys Peterson**

**Date of Interview: March 13, 1990**

Gladys Peterson: This is a recording with Mrs. Cecile Carleton. The date is March 13, 1990, and the orientation of this tape recording will be Mrs. Carleton's experiences being the wife of a teacher and a man who spent his career, his lifelong career, in education. So Cecile, it's a pleasure after all these months that we've talked about doing this to finally be getting down to doing it, and I'm looking forward to hearing about your experiences as Linus's wife, going way back to the beginning of his teaching career in some little places in Montana. But we need to get some background first. I'm also interested in the role that you played, the experiences that you had in the role as wife of an educator, because I think that his career affected your life in untold ways. So I'm going to start by asking you some questions about your own life, whether or not you're a native Montanan, for starters. How's that?

Cecile Carleton: That's a good way, because I am one of those people who was born and raised in the city of Butte, and my husband used to make lots of fun of me. He'd say, "She's one of those terrible people from Butte." And Butte had its own reputation. I was a daughter of a railroader. My early life was a little bit sordid. My father was a hard drinking, gambling Irishman who was a railroader, and we spent a good share of our lives moving from town to town, because that's the history of a railroader's life. They used the word "bumping," which means a person with more seniority can take the job that you hold, so that you go down and bump somebody else. So I went to first grade in Whitehall, Montana, part of the second grade in Livingston, back to Whitehall for part of it, and in that time my father was fired again from the NP [Northern Pacific Railroad], and I think this time for good. My grandfather was a roundhouse foreman in Butte, and the place where I was born was in the roundhouse foreman's house.

GP: Cecile, could we slow down here a little bit? It sounds like you have rather deep roots in Montana too. Your grandfather and grandmother, were they the first-generation Montanans?

CC: No. Strangely enough, neither of my grandparents—I mean, any of the four...My mother's parents were...her mother was a Pennsylvania Dutch whose parents had migrated on the Oregon Trail out to Oregon, and there she met her husband, my grandfather. My grandparents on my father's side were born and raised in Illinois and Iowa, and so none of them was native Montanan.

GP: Let's get some family names now. What was your mother's maiden name?

CC: My mother's maiden name was Minnie (?) Huston.

GP: H-O-U-S-T-O-N?

CC: No. H-U-S-T-O-N. Her father's name was Ed, her mother's name was Lizzie, or Elizabeth. And her mother's name was Ashenfelder (?). That's the Pennsylvania Dutch. On my father's name, my grandmother's name was Artemis Eloy (?), and my grandfather's name was William Mallaghan (?).

GP: Mallahan? Not Callaghan, Mallaghan.

CC: Mallaghan. Whenever I'm in Chicago or places like that, I pick up the telephone book and see if I can find a Mallaghan. It's a very rare name. There are lots of Callaghans, but not very many Mallaghans.

GP: His family came from Illinois, you say?

CC: Right. My father was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I think the railroad what brought them out to the West, because, again, my grandfather was working for the railroad, and as the NP sent out its employees—and I can't talk without my hands.

GP: That's all right.

CC: [laughs] So then they landed in Livingston first. Both sets of grandparents. My mother's folks were also railroaders. My grandfather was a conductor in Oregon, and he too was a hard drinker and at one time got caught between cars and the train ran over his right arm, so he had an artificial hand that I remember coming across in the closet one day. [laughs] He went around with the stump most of the time. Do you want to know other names?

GP: Sure.

CC: Or how many there were in the family?

GP: Sure.

CC: My mother had a sister and two brothers, and her older brother and her sister married Catholics. We were very anti-Catholic—the Mallaghans seem to have come from the part of Ireland—

GP: Oh, Northern Ireland, perhaps.

CC: Right. So I'm a third-generation Irish. By the time it got down to me, I was third-generation, that close to Irish.

My father had a brother and a sister, and then his niece was raised as his sister, because his sister was involved in a rather scandalous thing where she deserted her two month-old child

and ran away with a man and her husband followed them and murdered them and then committed suicide, so my grandparents raised the little girl as their own daughter.

GP: So he got his revenge.

CC: He did. And that is a Livingston incident.

GP: I see. So you spent your childhood in that general area, though, Whitehall—

CC: Between Butte, Livingston, and Whitehall. Those three places. But there was an incident in Oregon. After my father was...he would be fired when he would go on one of his regular toots—and that is a Butte word—

GP: Sure. I know the term.

CC: —for a binge, and he would disappear. He seemed to disappear almost every time my mother got pregnant. He didn't seem to be able to handle that, so he would disappear, and he would be gone for indeterminate times and would be released by the NP. Then my grandfather would intercede for him, and he'd be reinstated. But when I was seven years old, he was finally fired. So that meant hunting a job. And he went out to Oregon—we spent two years in a tarpaper shack in a construction site when they built the Celilo Canal on the Columbia River, close to The Dalles.

GP: How many children were there, Cecile?

CC: In my family, I have two sisters and a brother. And I'm the oldest. I have a surviving sister, who was born when I was a sophomore in college.

GP: Oh my.

[Break in audio]

CC: When we moved to Oregon, I needed to go to a [unintelligible] school, and went to a little town of [unintelligible] on the Columbia. There was no third grade. I was ready for the third grade, and so I skipped the third grade and went into the fourth, which put me ahead of my peer group. Came back to Montana when my mother's father was dying of TB [tuberculosis], and I stayed with my grandmother after my grandfather died, and went back to the Whitehall schools through the fifth grade. Then moved to Butte and finished the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade in Butte and then went all four years of high school.

GP: Was your father working in Butte at that time?

CC: He worked for the Pittsburg Mine, and during that time, when I was 14 years old, he was fired from that for the same reason. And was approached by a man to see if he would be interested in being the engineer on a narrow-gauge railway that ran from Divide, Montana, up to the Elkhorn Mine, close to Polaris and Dillon. They were developing that, and it was a project of ex-Lieutenant Governor Allen. So the town we lived in was Allentown, and the mining town [unintelligible] was Coolidge. It was a beautiful site. It's in the Wise River, where the Wise River joins the Big Hole River. So I lived in that country.

GP: I'd like to hear more about living up there, but I'm wondering if we can put this into some kind of a time perspective. Approximately when would this have been?

CC: This is 1919 because my father and I finally had a falling out at this time. We had never gotten along very well because I didn't appreciate the way he treated my mother. So he told me if I didn't like the way things were run, I could get out. Neither did he believe in high school for girls. It was a waste of time. It was a little foolish for me to even finish the eighth grade. So I moved in with my grandparents in Butte and went through high school, and then had the audacity to even think of college.

GP: Now, these were your mother's parents?

CC: My father's.

GP: Your father. Because your grandfather—was he dead already, your mother's father?

CC: Yes.

GP: He was dead. So you went to live with your paternal grandparents.

CC: That's right.

GP: And how old were you?

CC: I was 14 [unintelligible] and I spent two summers at home again, but once I was 16 I never went home much again. Just occasionally. I was valedictorian in my graduating class in Butte High, which gave me an opportunity to examine where I wanted to go to college, which was an absolutely foolish idea because I didn't have a cent in the world. It took me some of the summer to realize that I couldn't afford to go to the university, or any other branch of the school. I have a very dear friend here in Missoula who was a great influence on my life—Zoe Barthomas (?). I don't know if you know her or not.

GP: What's her first name?

CC: Zoe Barthomas.

GP: Zoe Barthomas. No, I haven't met her.

CC: We were high school chums, and she was going to Wesleyan College in Helena. Which I'd never heard of a school...a Methodist school, and we were not Methodists. Well, we were sort of. There was a Methodist church in Whitehall we went to occasionally. So when she told me she was going to Intermountain...I mean, to college, Wesleyan—the name changed to Intermountain while we were there, and it is now Rocky Mountain College in Billings.

GP: Oh!

CC: Yes.

GP: I didn't know that.

CC: It was quaked out in 1935, in that quake in Helena, 1935 that destroyed the college.

GP: Oh, and then they moved it?

CC: The whole college consisted of two buildings—a dormitory and a dining room, and then Helena Hall, where all classes were—a very small school, and it was also an academy for high school kids. So it's there I met my husband. I never would have met him if I hadn't gone to that school. So when she told me where she was going, I decided that maybe I could afford to go there. So I went with ten dollars in my pocket and my scholarship as a valedictorian. They honored it at Intermountain. Then Zoe and I both needed jobs, so we got the job as Saturday cooks and we made the pies and cakes. I had cooked all my life. In fact, my summer jobs were always cooking for rich families, or for hay men up in the Big Hole country. So then that's where I met Linus. We were both engaged to other people. [laughs]. When I saw this man, I knew he was the one for me.

I remember an incident in math class when the math teacher said, "I'm interested in why you people came here." And they went down. Some had ambitions to be a corporation person, some wanted to get into teaching and all the various professions. When it got to me I said, "I came to college to get an education and to find a good husband."

GP: Oh, you were honest about it.

CC: I was, and that's the remark he made. He said, "I have an idea that Miss Mallaghan was perhaps the most honest person in the class," because I had a definite purpose. I considered it worthwhile.

GP: Now what was Linus studying?

CC: He was studying to be a minister, because his father was a Methodist minister. While they had never said that that's what they wanted him to be, he somehow felt that that's what he ought to be.

GP: It was just implied.

CC: Right. He was a student pastor while he was going to school, which meant that he preached at Marysville, a mining town out of Helena. He preached at Toston and at Avon. He would take the train and go out there on preach, and that supported him.

GP: Now, you said to get an education. Did you have any goal in mind?

CC: Certainly not to teach. It never occurred to me to teach. But I was a home economist. I mean, that was my major, and math was my minor. So I think I wanted to get into dietetics.

GP: Home economics was a fairly common major, wasn't it, for girls?

CC: Well, considering the size of this small school, there were six of us in the class. So it would be hard to judge. I would imagine that state school that that was a different situation, and in Butte High, I had taken all the cooking, sewing, all that sort of thing that I could cram into my high school curriculum. So it was an early ambition of mine to get proficient in that field. But not with the idea of teaching it.

GP: Now, how many years did you go to school up there, then? Did you finish?

CC: Linus finished. He was a sophomore when I was a freshman. He finished and graduated in 1925. I was more interested in marrying him once he'd got a job than I was in going back and finishing my last year. But we had an interesting experience his senior and my junior year, because they asked us if we thought we could handle the cooking for the whole college. So we took the cooking job, and we staggered our classes so that one of us would be in the kitchen all the time.

GP: For the whole college?

CC: For the whole college.

GP: Now, how many people would that have been?

CC: That was perhaps 160 people that we cooked for. I can look back now and see that I could have done a much better job, because after all I was pretty green, but I had the cooperation—and needed it—of the home economics teachers. She served as chief. She made up the menus—

GP: I was going to ask. She gave you the menu?

CC: Yes. She gave out the menus and so on. So we didn't poison anybody.

GP: I'm sure you didn't. Looking back on your childhood, I know it wasn't easy—it was kind of a rough childhood—did you have any recreational times?

CC: Oh yes, I had fun. I had a marvelous life. I'm naturally a happy person.

GP: One thing about those people who drink—they tend to be like that too, to some extent, don't they?

CC: Oh, we had lots of music. My father was very clever with his hands so we had all kinds of backyard equipment, whirling, teeter-totter, we had swings, and he played baseball with me and my brother. I had lots of fun. He played the harmonica. I played the piano.

GP: I know that Butte was, and still is, sort of an ethnic community. Did you have that feeling of being a part of the Irish community by any chance?

CC: Oh yes. We were called micks, and we called other people by those derogatory terms, but without any idea of their being derogatory.

GP: I know what you mean.

CC: We called the Australians [Austrians?] and the Serbians and those people, those were bo-hunks to us. And the Chinese were Chinks, and the Japanese were Japs, and the Welsh were Cousin Jennys and Cousin Jacks, and Jewish had their own derogatory name, but they were said with as much respect as you would your neighbor.

GP: Sure, I know that, because I grew up in Chicago and it was the same thing there.

CC: Yes. Italians were dagos or wops.

GP: Yes. Butte and Chicago have a lot of similarities in that respect.

CC: Right, where you have a mixture of both.

GP: One thing that I'd like to ask you now, you say you were from the Protestant Irish? Was there any feeling, at that time, between the Catholic and the Protestant Irish, do you recall?

CC: So much so that in my immediate family one branch didn't speak to the other. My grandmother, who really didn't have any church connections at all, might like a person until she



heard that person was Catholic, and then she was immediately taken off her list of friends, because there couldn't be any virtue in a Catholic.

GP: Oh, that's quite interesting.

CC: So, yes. And my cousins were Catholic, my school friends were Catholic, I felt no...I never have felt because I had so many friends across all lines and played with all these children.

GP: Other than what you've said, I want to move ahead into your life and Linus', but I don't want to overlook anything from your childhood that you would like to recall and record—significant events in your life or memories of your mother. You haven't said much about your mother.

CC: I'd like to pay tribute to my mother because she was a guiding light in my life. I don't mean to have that sound stilted at all, but we had, in our home, a dictionary. While she had no more than an eighth grade education and my father had a fourth—and bragged about it—any time we read—and she encouraged us to read, and I always got books for birthday and Christmas—and we'd say, "What does that mean?" she'd say, "Look it up." So we early learned, and I'm sure the dictionary was more treasured than the bible, because it was used in our home. She stood against my father when he disliked the idea of my going on to school. She thought it was great. So that yes, she's one of the people who had great influence. I had some fine teachers that meant a great deal to me and influenced my life. One of them being a Sunday school teacher, because while church wasn't a big part of our lives, I did have a Sunday school teacher who had a great influence on my life.

GP: How old were you?

CC: Well, I went to Sunday school from the time I was a little tot, whenever we were allowed to. Mother went to church—her folks were Baptist, and we went to the Christian Church in Butte.

GP: So you knew this teacher for a long time, this Sunday school teacher?

CC: Yes. It was really a group called the Bluebirds, and so it was sort of a special class. We did lots of things together, and she was a beautiful girl and her niece is Charlotte Clemons (?), here in Missoula.

GP: Oh, is that right? I know her. She's a lovely lady.

CC: Yes. Charlotte and I reviewed this, because Mabel Bennet (?) is the name of this aunt of hers, and she really influenced my life greatly.

Well, to get to college now, if you want me to get Linus in this picture. He was the only one in his class who could teach and preach, and that was the requirement of this little town of

Galata. The school board member came down to see if there was anyone in the graduating class who could hold the pulpit on Sunday as well as be superintendent and teacher in the school. So that's how Linus got his first job.

GP: Now, was it customary for the male students at Wesleyan College to become ministers, for the most part? Was that an orientation of that institution?

CC: It was, yes. There were a lot of ministers' sons and daughters going to Intermountain. It was a cheap college to go to. They got special rates, so that their tuition was less than the other students'.

GP: Was there a seminary that they usually went to after that?

CC: No.

GP: That was it?

CC: Well, yes. Well, they would go to the same seminaries that most religious students would now. But we had a good religious education course in the school because of this fact that there were quite a few Methodist ministers' children there.

GP: Did he have more training in religious education than you did?

CC: Oh, much more. In fact, he took every course that he could, and he was so good and had had so much that the religious education teacher finally turned some classes over to him. That's the only teaching experience. He had no classes in education, practically no classes in education. He took Greek, he took four years of Latin because he thought that would help him. Hated it. But he did take it. We both took educational psychology, we both took child psychology. But as far as methods in education, or any of that, he had none. So I think you've read that story that—

GP: Yes, I have.

CC: Yes, where he got a brief helping from the superintendent of schools in Helena on how to run a school, a brief course. So we went to this little town. We were married August 15, 1925.

GP: This was after he graduated?

CC: Right.

GP: Then did you have three years there, then?

CC: Yes. I finished three years, and the summer that we were married I cooked at one of the bankers' homes that summer and he preached up at Kremlin, Rudyard, and Hingham, up on the Hi-Line. It was then he was able to make...because Galata happens to be up on the Hi-Line, it's a little town 19 miles east of Shelby. He made the personal application, found the house for us to live in, and they contracted us for 1,350 dollars.

GP: And this was 19—

CC: 1925.

GP: 1925. Well. You were not very old, probably—

CC: Twenty, and he was 22, two weeks after we were married. So he was 21 when we were married.

GP: So what was your reaction to life in Galada?

CC: Galata.

GP: G-A-L-A-D-A, is that it?

CC: A-T-A. G-A-L-A-T-A. It had no running water. It had no electricity.

GP: This is your home?

CC: The whole town.

GP: The whole town!

CC: In fact, even today they haul their water from Canada. We went back to a reunion that was 57 years after we'd first gone there—I can't remember how many years ago that was—but we went back there, and there still is no drinkable water in the town of Galata. It's hauled and put into—

GP: Big storage tanks, or reservoirs?

CC: Storage tanks. So people have bathrooms and so forth in their houses now. But we were asked to board and room the teachers as soon as we landed. We'd been married for two weeks, and there was no place for the teachers to board and room.

GP: How many would that have been?

CC: Four. The primary teacher, the high school English and bookkeeping, and then a man and his wife—she taught the upper grades and he taught in high school. They asked us if we could board and room them. Well, we only had two bedrooms in this little house, and so we took the young girls—there were the two young girls—and the other couple found room at the president of the board and that's where they boarded. So we were never really alone.

GP: How many teachers were there altogether up there?

CC: There were five, is all.

GP: And you had a high school?

CC: We had a full, accredited high school, and, yeah, four-year high school. Linus taught something like six or seven classes. He directed all the plays. He handed all the athletics, and it was a very athletic-minded town. And he put out the school paper. [laughs] That's the way it was.

GP: How many students, all told?

CC: Perhaps 40 in high school, at that time, and maybe as many in the grade schools.

GP: He was able to get basketball teams together, and—

CC: In fact, there was no place for the basketball team to play. They'd been playing in a hall downtown, and during his first year they found an empty store building and they moved it by a 36-horse team up by the school and that became our gym. It was still there when we went back eight or ten years ago, and we had the fun of dancing in that same hall that we helped bring there.

GP: Was there a football team too, that he scraped up?

CC: No, they didn't...they just had basketball. It wasn't until we got to Moccasin that we had football, and he coached six-man football there.

GP: I don't imagine that there was anything for the ladies in the way of sports.

CC: Not anything. There wasn't even a girls' team, at least at Galata, but everybody supported the team. They came out for everything. Of course, small towns have huge [unintelligible], and everybody comes to community meetings. However, Galata was a factioned town, so it caused great problems. I don't think I want to go into some of the problems, because they were violent. It was a time during the rum runners, and so the Prohibition—

GP: It's Prohibition now, we're talking about 1925, '26.

CC: Right. So the big cars were zooming through the town—we were on the direct route from Canada down to Great Falls—and in the middle of the night you'd hear these high-powered cars going through. Well, we also had a local bootlegger in town, and some of those caused real problems, because there was drinking among the high school kids and Linus wouldn't let them play basketball if they were drinking. So he suspended 14 kids before Christmas, which was a shocking thing to do, because that meant there was no basketball played. So it made those people on the bootleggers' side quite angry, and they called the community and they told Linus what they thought of him, to the point of shaking their fists under his nose and saying they'd rather have their child dead than—

GP: Than not in sports.

CC: One of the board members said, "Somebody may be carrying a gun tonight," so the school board members escorted us up to this community hall. It was a wild, open border town.

GP: It sounds like a small-town mafia, doesn't it?

CC: Yes. Those were rough times.

GP: I have read about trucks, so-called coal trucks, coming...one must have been coming down from Canada, with the booze underneath the coal. Did you observe situations like that, or how was the booze brought in?

CC: No. It was brought in these high-powered cars.

GP: Just flagrantly brought in.

CC: Flagrantly brought in.

GP: How did they get across the border?

CC: Well, they ran it, that's why they ran at night.

GP: That's why they were called rum runners.

CC: They were chased by federal men, and I imagine that some of them caught them. It was a wild trail. There was a trail between Canada and Great Falls that had no towns in between, it was just a wild trail. And it was that trail that Linus followed the night that our first child was born, because he was trying to make it as fast as possible.

GP: Now, they weren't coming through—

[Break in audio]

GP: This is important.

CC: [unintelligible].

GP: Well it's history.

CC: It made a colorful life for us.

GP: Sure. So he did what he thought was correct.

CC: Yes.

GP: Did you stay there long?

CC: Well, he was threatened by the one group in town, and of course, all the time, he's conducting funerals and marrying people and preaching on Sunday after having had a whole week's classes. So it would have been most uncharacteristic if he hadn't held out for his principles. Because how else could he [unintelligible] church? Pretty close to the end of the year, he was threatened that if he came back the second year, they would tar and feather him. It was that blatant.

GP: Could I ask you—if this was any...I don't want you to have to say anything that you don't choose to. But, was this a group of townspeople or were they from the country or did they support this rum running in any way? Were they a part of it?

CC: A lot of time has gone by, and I wouldn't want to mention any names because some of the people are still alive, but the bootlegger did have his following. He was in absolute opposition to Linus, you see, because Linus had gone against his letting the kids use his hall for the practice and so on. So it set up, and it was already a factioned town before we got here, so it just added fuel to the fire. Being a man of strong feeling, [laughs] Linus said, "It'll probably be a very unpleasant year, the second year. Are you willing to go back for another year?"

I said, "Sure." I must say that my knees knocked together at that community meeting that night, because there were angry people who had been drinking before they even [unintelligible]. So it was a very...I would say, it has some very unpleasant overtones to our first two years of teaching.

GP: You were there two years then?

CC: Yes. We went back the second year, and it was during the second year that our daughter was born.

GP: And what did you say he was doing at the time that she was born?

CC: Well, I went down to Great Falls—of course, there was no closer place to have a baby in. I had to go down two weeks ahead of time. When they sent word up to him that the baby was on the way, he immediately left school, but it was after four o'clock in the afternoon and it turned dark before he got to Great Falls and he had something wrong with the car. He heard this terrible noise, and he was frantic. He went down, finally got the flashlight out, and it was a piece of barbed wire that had gotten caught. So he got there, but the baby was already there and I was fine. But it was a 98-mile trip, you see, without any help along the way. There might have been some farms not too close, but there was no way of getting help.

GP: I have forgotten exactly what you said, that when she was born there was something, he was at a meeting or something like that? What was it you said earlier? He was involved in something pertaining to this situation.

CC: I'm not sure I remember what I said. She was born...I never got back to Moccasin. She was born in May and I never went back to Moccasin, because I was still in the hospital when school was over. So I never got back. He packed up, and we went to Thompson Falls just for the summer.

GP: Now. You lived at Galata, though. Now where does Moccasin fit in in this?

CC: Okay, during this... he quit teaching, you see, he resigned—

GP: At Galata?

CC: —after the second year. So we had no job to look forward to for the next year. Linus' folks were in Thompson Falls, his father was a minister there, and they invited us to come down and he could probably get a summer job in the Forest Service. So we went to Thompson Falls, and he did get a summer job. While he was up cooking for trail crew, his sister and I wrote teachers' applications to various towns, and we got two jobs for him. [laughs] But in the meantime, a friend of ours wrote to him and asked him if he'd be interested in a job in Stanford, Montana at a college there, and that's where we went.

GP: Now, but what about Moccasin? I'm confused about—

CC: Well, Stanford was the in-between town. He was assistant principle at Stanford for three years, and then the superintendency at Moccasin opened up in 1930. We went there and lived there for 11 years. That's where we spent the longest time up to that time in Montana. Moccasin is only 19 miles from Stanford. Stanford's the county seat of Judith Basin.

GP: Yes. I know where that is. I don't believe I've ever been in Moccasin, but I have been in Stanford. Now, that isn't exactly the garden spot of America up there.

CC: Not really, and it was the Dust Bowl years—

GP: We're talking '30s now.

CC: We were there in the Depression, and we were there in the time of poor crops and high winds and blowing tumbleweed and drifting sand, and the farmers' fields just blew away. It was the time of WPA [Works Progress Administration]. The farmers were all on WPA, they were getting surplus commodities, they were going up to Stanford for canned milk and for food and for butter and the things that they ordinarily would have on their farms. They had to sell the cows. Holding companies took over the farms, and Linus with his 1,800 dollar a year salary, looked like we were really sitting on top of the world. For that matter, we were. Because we had a check coming in every month. We had to take a discount on it—

GP: Were they warrants? Was he getting warrants?

CC: Yes, they were warrants. The banker down in Red Lodge, the father-in-law of one of our teachers, said he'd buy up all the teacher's warrants at face value. So we were lucky. He held them, and he made money on them, no doubt, he didn't lose anything. But that did give us 1,800 dollars a month. Then they wanted to cut all the...grade school teachers were making something like 800 or 900 dollars a month.

GP: A year?

CC: Yes, a year. I mean, a year. The board wanted to cut, across the board, everybody's salary, and Linus said that wasn't fair. He and the Smith-Hughes teacher were getting the biggest salaries, and therefore they ought to take the biggest cuts. So that's the way it was decided.

GP: Smith-Hughes was an agricultural arrangement with federal money.

CC: Yes. The FFA, Future Farmers of America, is what it is. Being an agricultural town, that was a very popular course. The girls took home economics and the boys took...and that was from the extension at Bozeman.

GP: Sure. Now, I don't want to forget that this interview is about you. I know your lives were so intertwined—

CC: Yes, they were.

GP: —but I don't want to forget to ask you how you were reacting to all this.



CC: I think I was a small town girl at heart. While Butte was considered the city of Montana at the time of my birth—the largest place in Montana, 60,000 I think it was then—we had lived at Wise River, where we had no running water and no plumbing and no electricity, and that was no big deal for me. Linus and I liked to camp, and so we were used to roughing it, that sort of thing.

GP: Now, was there running water in Moccasin?

CC: No. There were two or three houses in Moccasin, perhaps, that had running water. Their own well with a pump—gravity feed and that sort of thing. They had running water. We had the privilege of living in two of the houses for one year in each one. So we did have, for 11 years there, we did live in a house that had running water.

GP: What about electricity?

CC: We had electricity. But we didn't even have a well that would produce water. That's how low the water table was. So we had to carry all our drinking water, all the wash water from neighbors who had a more productive well. And the school had no running water. There were outdoor toilets. But in the time that we were there, one of the stores burnt down, and it had a very good well. So Linus talked the board into piping the water from that well, and we put in showers and toilets into the high school, and a drinking fountain, which made it much better.

GP: Did you see a lot of desolation among the farm people at that time during the Depression, and where there a lot of people who left the area at that time?

CC: Most of the ones that we saw hung on. Whether the holding companies encouraged them to, with the idea that times were going to get better. They were hardy farmers, and they had big tracts. Of course, in order to raise dry land wheat, you've got to have an awful lot of land.

GP: Three hundred-sixty acres or more than that?

CC: More than that, sometimes. Those years we were there were [unintelligible] the crop would be four bushels to the acre. They didn't even bother to cut it. If they got seven bushels to the acre, that gave them back their seed. But it was country that had produced 60, 70 bushels to the acre, so it was a very difficult time. Banks had all gone broke.

GP: Was Linus preaching [unintelligible] then?

CC: No. He felt the value of that job...one of the big values of that job was to give him the chance to see which field he was more interested in. It soon became clear to him that he would have more influence with young people in school than he would in church, because kids didn't come to church, for one thing. They had to go to school. But he loved teaching. And as long as

he was in school, even as a dean at the university [University of Montana], he only kept the job because he could be a teaching dean. I think there hasn't been a teaching dean since he left.

GP: I think Pulliam [John D. Pulliam] is teaching.

CC: Does he teach?

GP: I think so.

CC: Well that's good. I think it's very valuable for a dean to teach because that way you keep your finger on students and their problems.

GP: I want to make sure that I have this information correct. But I know that you and Vanetta Lewis are friends, and she told me a story about her first teaching job. Was that at Moccasin?

CC: Right. Her brother Clancy [Dwight "Clancy" Johnson] got her there, and I'm sure it must have looked pretty dreary to her.

GP: Well, she told the story, now, and I'm not positive about it, but she said something about how some of the job applicants came on the train. Did the train stop there?

CC: Moccasin used to be a division point. It had a roundhouse, and it was a big place.

GP: She said that these young women, I think they were, when the train stopped, they would take one look at the area and stay on the train.

CC: Get right back on the train. That's right.

GP: But she didn't.

CC: She didn't. I often wondered why.

GP: So I wondered if she came on the train or not.

CC: No, she came with Clancy, her brother. They drove up. He looked around, and I think she said he looked around and made some derogatory remarks about it, because here he was dumping his young sister in this little town. Well, for one year, we boarded Vanetta and some of the other teachers, because we were still in the business, whenever there wasn't a place for the teachers to be, why we did it. An interesting thing about Moccasin is that...it was while we were at Moccasin, Linus started going back to summer school and working on his master's, and it took us four summers.

GP: Was that here?

CC: Yes. Well, he had gone one summer to the University of Washington, one summer to the University of Colorado, and decided if he was going to really work on a degree he had to concentrate at one place, so then he started coming here to Missoula. We were here for 1930—1936, '37, '38—and then he graduated early in 1940 and he got his degree. But he was fired at Moccasin after 11 years of dedication and so on. He was fired and came home from the board meeting, and said, "I don't have a job."

GP: I have a feeling that he was standing on his principles again.

CC: He was. He'd disciplined a student whose father was on the board. [laughs] I don't think it bothered the board member so much as the mother of the boy, and she made the brag that she would get him and she did. So we spent that summer in pretty low spirits, and strangely enough, all the applicants for his job stayed at our house, because there wasn't any place else to stay. [laughs] So we boarded and roomed all the people who were coming to apply for the job that he'd been kicked out of. That was interesting.

GP: What year would that have been?

CC: That was 1941.

GP: After he had his master's.

CC: Right. So Payne Templeton, who was a big gun in education in Montana, was the superintendent of schools in Helena. He had taught over here at the university one summer, and Linus had been in one of his classes, and apparently made an impression on Payne. He got a letter from Mr. Templeton saying, "Would you be interested in a vacancy in one of our grade school principal-ships?" So he asked Linus. He said, "There are several other applicants."

So we went over and applied, and we went to every school board member's home and got acquainted with all the school board members, which was, I think, a plus. But not only that, we visited the man who was being released from the job in Helena, and he said of all the people who have applied for his job, we were the only ones who took the time to come and talk to him. So Linus was hired, and that meant he was principal of two grade schools in Helena. We went there in 1941.

We were there for three years, when Mr. Templeton...1941 was the beginning of Second World War. So Mr. Templeton decided to go into the educational overseas services and got a release from the board, with the idea that he'd get his job back when he came back. So they were looking for a superintendent, and they asked Linus to take the job. He didn't think he was capable. So he turned it down, and Ray Bjork, who is now a doctor in Helena, came from Glendive and took the job as superintendent. Then he decided he wanted to be a doctor. He'd always wanted to be a doctor, and this seemed the time to be. He married the art teacher in

Helena, and she said she would finance him to get his doctor's training. So he said, "Linus, it's your job." So he talked Linus into taking it, and he was superintendent for our last two years there—1944-'45, '45-'46.

GP: How did World War Two effect your lives?

CC: We felt...and this may sound weird, Linus volunteered for any way that he might be helpful. I found his letter when I've been looking through...his letter from the president thanking him and saying that he was too old to serve in the army. But he could do a service to the community by making talks over the radio, and that's what he did. We felt that a war period brings people together. They somehow get closer. Here's a terrible situation going on, and it draws people together. I'm not sure that that's...that was our observation. It also gave me a chance to go to work, because all the young girls were going out to the West Coast to work in the factories along the coast, the—

GP: I know what you mean.

CC: Kaiser Shipyards, and that sort of thing. So I was asked if I would be interested in a job in a local bakery. So I went to dip the potato donuts into the glaze, that was my first job.

GP: Did you have more than one child by this time?

CC: Yes, our girls were both in high school then. We had two daughters. They were 21 months apart.

GP: So the second one was born, probably—

CC: In 1929, and the first one was born in 1927.

GP: I was just wondering, the second one was born, where, in Moccasin or Stanford, or—

CC: She was born in Great Falls the same way—

GP: [unintelligible; speaking at same time].

CC: —because we were in Moccasin, but I still had to go to Great Falls to have her, yes. Again, I had to go two weeks ahead of time in order to be sure that I was there.

GP: So they were born in hospitals. A hospital, I should say.

CC: Yes.

GP: Well. How did you like being out in the world working?

CC: I loved it. Because, again, I loved cooking—anything that had to deal with cooking. I got the great sum of 35 cents an hour. I finally worked up to 75 cents an hour, which was the highest paid woman in the bakery, and I was baking wedding cakes and doing things like that. Not decorating them, but making them.

GP: I'd like to back up a little bit, Cecile. One area that we haven't touched on at all is health. I don't know the year you were born and it doesn't matter, but since you got married in 1925, you must have had some remembrances of World War One. Many people whom I've taped have talked about the flu epidemic. I think it's important—somebody might listen to this tape, or be referred to it, knowing that there's some medical information. So let's just back up if you don't mind, and talk about, first of all, what do you remember about health provisions as a child? Were you ever sick? Did you have the childhood diseases?

CC: Had them all. The whooping cough, the mumps, measles. Had the measles in this mining camp in Oregon, and never a doctor. You didn't run to a doctor, you used homemade remedies unless some terrible complications came up.

GP: Do you recall that you were very ill with these diseases? Or the people around you, say your sisters, and you had a brother too, you said?

CC: Yes. I was very sick with the measles. I think my eye problems started with the measles. My mother had to put sheets around my bed—we lived in one room, the whole...it was not divided into rooms. But the worst thing I had was the flu, the Spanish Flu. My little sister was born in March the year I was 13, and she and my mother both had it and almost died. I had it very severely too, and my grandmother moved me over to her house and she took care of me. My mother's brother and sister-in-law came and took care of her. This was a period when my father had deserted my mother again, so he wasn't anywhere around. But there were—

GP: So you were 13, this was in—

CC: I was 13. I was in high school. And you had to wear masks. You couldn't get on the streetcars without gauze masks on.

GP: In Butte?

CC: Yes.

GP: Let's see, would this be around World War One time?

CC: It's 1918, '17.

GP: 1918, okay.

CC: And the caskets stood in front of the mortuaries, piled high. It was the wintertime, and it was very difficult to dig the graves, and they couldn't keep up with the deaths. And so they were piled high, and probably, I suppose gruesomely enough, the bodies were frozen in the caskets, because it was a very severe winter. That year there was an outbreak of smallpox also. So we were not allowed to return to school until we'd been vaccinated, and I didn't take. I was vaccinated four times, and they finally made an exception and said, obviously I was not going to get smallpox, so I don't have a vaccination mark on my left arm. But we had to have a certificate saying that we had been vaccinated.

GP: Were there quarantines? Do you recall quarantines?

CC: Yes, yes. There was quarantines for everything you had in those days. Measles quarantined you, scarlet fever...Linus and I had scarlet fever in college and spent the end of his junior and my sophomore year up in the infirmary at Intermountain College. The way we got scarlet fever was that we were the kitchen crew, and we used to skim the cream off the milk, and we'd use the cream for our cereal and we gave the rest of the milk to the ones out in the dining room. The scarlet fever was traced back to a milkman from whom we got the milk. So there were about 16 of us had scarlet fever that spring in college.

GP: And they all survived?

CC: Yeah, they all survived, but the worst...It left me with kidney trouble, and I was not really supposed to have a very successful first pregnancy. I was...I had—

GP: Uremic poisoning.

CC: Uremic poisoning, yes.

GP: What about, then, when you lived up on the Hi-Line? Do you recall what medical care was like? Were people generally healthy? How did the Depression affect their health?

CC: I'm not sure it was the Depression that affected their health any more than the regular way that people regarded doctors. You only went to a doctor when you were vitally in danger of dying. You didn't go at the beginning of a disease, you waited until it was in good progress before you went. We were 35 miles from Lewistown, so you just didn't dash over there when you got something wrong with you.

GP: Well, on top of that, there probably wasn't a whole lot a doctor could do about a contagious disease. It had to run its course anyhow, didn't it?

CC: But Linus was quarantined out of our house when the girls had measles, and he'd come home and he'd fill the coal buckets and bring in the water and set it in the shed outside and I

had to survive the best I...and get groceries for me. He had to live with friends, because those were the days of quarantine. But to go back to the doctor situation: we had a county doctor at Stanford, when we were at Moccasin. We had a county doctor at Shelby when we were at Galata. The only time we went to the doctor in Shelby, our first two years, was we wanted to know what made...the water that we drank had to be hauled in from the Marias River and put into cisterns. You could see little animals jumping out. [laughs] If you strained it, you could see them in the strainer. So Linus went up to the doctor in Shelby, and he said, "How about this water?"

He said, "Well what do you mean?" and Linus explained to him and he said, "Well, just as long as they're jumping, it's all right. If they quit jumping, then you better worry." So we got to where we never even strained it. You just—

GP: It must have made you tough, Cecile.

CC: You didn't think anything about it.

GP: Imagine that going on today.

CC: Yes, right.

GP: It'd make national news, wouldn't it?

CC: Well, I've had giardia since I've come to Missoula. [laughs]

GP: Oh you have? That's pretty good.

CC: Survived Moccasin and Galata, but...yeah.

GP: Well, anyhow. You worked during World War Two. Did you keep that up? Where were you living then now? Refresh my memory.

CC: You mean during World War Two?

GP: Yes. Still in Helena?

CC: We moved there in '41, and it started that December 7 of our first year.

GP: Yes. I remember that.

CC: The armistice was signed in August of 1945, and we left in August of 1946. So I stayed working at the bakery, because the girls were not eager to come back, and I worked until we

left. Then when we got here to Missoula, they needed a cook at the nursery school at the university, so pretty soon I'm cooking up at the university.

GP: So you came from Helena to Missoula?

CC: Right. The dean of education came over to visit Linus—they hadn't met—and asked Linus if he'd be interested in coming and teaching at the university. In the meantime Mr. Templeton had come back, you see, and the idea was that he'd get his job back. So we were going to be looking for a job. Linus applied at Great Falls and was hired as superintendent of Great Falls about the time that Dean Maucker [J.W. Maucker] came and asked if he'd be interested in a university job. So Linus decided, yes, he'd like to try. Even though the salary at the university was 3,000 dollars, and the salary at Great Falls was 5,600 dollars. So we chose the Missoula job.

GP: Now, I don't remember exactly what you said about Thompson Falls.

CC: We spent three summers there, because you didn't have anything to do in the summer and you usually used up...you couldn't save up enough to carry you through the summer at the salaries they were paying. And he liked working for the Forest Service. Thompson Falls was a beautiful place to live. So he was trail cook until the fire season opened up, and then he rode behind the passenger and freight trains on a speeder. At that time the trains, the engines were fueled by coal. So that there were hot ashes dropping into the rail bed, and it was their job to put out those fires that the trains set. Once in a while, one would get away from them, and they'd have to get out a crew. But that was his job, was riding a speeder behind the...I was talking to a grandson who was here this weekend, and he is an auditor, he's a CPA and he's been auditing at Thompson Falls. I said, "Your grandfather rode a speeder between Paradise and Trout Creek."

He said, "Oh, that's just the country that I'm in, Grandmother." So he was interested in finding out that we had history in Thompson Falls.

GP: So you spent three summers there.

CC: Yes.

GP: That must have been an enjoyable experience, being in that country.

CC: It was.

GP: Well. So, you now come back to university life. Did that make a big change in your life?

CC: A very big change. One of the biggest we noticed was that in school, public schools, you have a ready-made set of friends, in a way. You've got all the PTAs [Parent-Teacher



Associations] that are anxious to know who this new principal is, and so we went to all the PTAs. That meant there were six grade schools and the high school.

GP: This is in Helena, you mean?

CC: Yes, in Helena. So we went back to all of those, and the PTAs were very friendly. We came to Missoula, and I don't mean to think—after having been here for 40 years, 44 years—but my first impression was that it was cold, because nobody was here to greet us. We were just one more—

GP: Faculty.

CC: —faculty member. It followed the war. There was short faculty. There were all of three people, I believe, in the School of Education when we came here. You can think how that has grown in the time we've been here.

GP: Did the School of Education have an expansion of veterans entering?

CC: Oh, a great number. Which made it very interesting for Linus. He felt that was one of the most interesting years of his life, with the veterans coming back, because they'd been all over the world. He might be teaching something about—

[Break in audio]

—and a member of his class might challenge him and say, "Dr. Carleton"—they didn't call him Dr. Carleton, Linus didn't have his doctorate, but he'd say—"Mr. Carleton, that's not the way I saw it." So he had a whole different perspective because he had spent time in these places that Linus was talking about. So Linus made use of those students. He felt they were very important addition to his class periods, because these students came back with...they knew what they wanted to do when they came back. They weren't the freshmen right out of high school. They had been around, and they knew and they had a purpose for coming back to school. So he felt it was a very special group of students.

GP: What did you do now as a university wife?

CC: Oh, I supposed I fitted the pattern. The only thing that disrupted the usual course is that when I was 43 and Linus was 45 and our daughters were 19 and 21, we went back into changing diapers and mixing formula and so on. We had a son. That meant that there were some things I couldn't go to that I might have. It gave me a whole new range of activity. We started the whole PTA thing again, [laughs] but this time for our child. It was a very interesting change in our lives. Very precious. We were a little old to be going back to that again, but it was a very wonderful time. We did get accused of raising our babysitters before we had had our baby, but our daughters were married shortly after the baby was born, so that didn't work out too well. But

he added dimension to our lives that I couldn't help but appreciate. He might bring a little boy home with him from first grade, and I'd be shaking a rug and I'd say, "You better come in and change your clothes."

The little boy would say, "Is that your grandma?"

He'd say, "No, that's my mom!"

The boy would say, "Oh, your stepmother?"

"No, that's my mom!" because I had white hair then, and he's just a six year old.

GP: Boy, you were just ahead of the times, because that's a common thing now—these baby boomers and late motherhood.

CC: Another interesting thing in my life that took place was going to the Wesley House, and becoming the cook in the time of the student unrest during the '60s. At the Wesley House they lost their cook, and I happened to be at the booster's meeting, which was a group of women of the Methodist Church that supported and furnished the Wesley House. [unintelligible] came in and said, "The cook has quit at the Wesley House."

I spoke up and I said, "I believe I'd like to do that."

They said, "You would?" as if I had something wrong with me.

And I said yes, I thought it would be kind of fun. So I had, I think, the very privilege of getting acquainted with students at the time of the Vietnam War and seeing firsthand the problems that they were going through. Because these students at the Wesley House were very much involved in the sit-ins, in being Maced, and the protest marches and that sort of thing, because they were that minded. A lot of them went to...not a lot of them, but some of them went to federal prison rather than serve time.

GP: Were they Maced here, you mean?

CC: Oh yes. They were Maced right down town. Some of my girls would come home with their eyes in real bad shape. They'd been in a sit-in, and they'd been Maced downtown.

GP: Who did the Macing?

CC: I'd rather not say. I'm not sure.

GP: I mean, was it police, or—

CC: Yeah, I think it was.

GP: Or people maintaining order.

CC: Who were upset that these young people dared to do this. It was a time of high emotion.

GP: Well I know that. I have some children in that age group too. Well, did that affect the School of Education in any way, that period?

CC: You know, that I was so involved with my group that I'm not sure I could speak for that. I'm sure it must have made some impact, because those same students were going to classes, and it was changing their perspective as to what they wanted to do with their lives. They were not sure that they wanted to become...as I used to call them, I used to say, "I want to see you when you're 40 years old and see what you do with your lives," because at that time they were thinking of anything but going into the professions and so on. Objecting to these companies—the Dow Chemical and some of those—who were recruiting people on campus. So I think it had an impact.

GP: Now, since you were involved at the Wesley House, I don't imagine you saw much of this, but this was also the period when the drug scene was rising.

CC: Right.

GP: Did you come into contact with any young people who were experiencing the drugs?

CC: Yes, because this was the time...the drug that was more evident at the Wesley House, I mean at the group that they were talking about, was marijuana. One young man became 21 while he was at the Wesley House and I was the cook, and he wanted to me to make his birthday cake in the form of a whiskey bottle. One of the girls wanted her birthday cake made in the form of what she called a joint, which I guess is a marijuana cigarette, and I had feelings against that.

GP: Did you do the whiskey bottle?

CC: I did the whiskey bottle, because I felt that was legal if he wanted to do that, and I even went down to a drug store and got those little medicine things and put the candles around the cake in those little...they look like shot glasses. Yes, I did that, because there wasn't anything illegal. But when she asked would I make a birthday cake in the shape of pot, I played dumb and said, "What kind of a pot?" and she let me know and I said, "No, I can't do that for you." So I didn't. I couldn't say that any of the kids smoked. I don't know. They were a choice group of kids, but they were going through some traumatic times. But there were, at least if I can believe what they told me, they said there was a group of California students who came up here to make trouble. So they were aware of that and probably acquainted with those kids, and if so,

they were undoubtedly some of the kids that were mixed up in the drugs. But I would never say that the Wesley House kids themselves were involved in that, because I had no indication of that. Bill Placker (?) was the director then, and he was a very strong—and still is—a very strong leader whom the kids respect. And I can say that.

GP: So you've lived here 40-some years.

CC: Forty-four.

GP: Forty-four years. I'm sure that Linus saw the School of Education expand tremendously. Did your role have to become greater at the university, as the School of Education expanded? Were there some expectations of you...I guess what I'm thinking of is, I picture the university in decades that have passed as having certain...oh, certain, not exactly requirements...expectations perhaps, of what women's role was supposed to be. Did you find that to be the case?

CC: Well, I'm trying to think back. When I think of my first year here—and of course, Linus was not really [unintelligible], because he didn't have his doctorate. He came with the idea that at some point he would have to go away and get his doctorate. Each time he would think about it—the dean one time was called over to Russia for some reason—and Linus was asked to be acting dean. Then there was a person in counseling went away, and the dean was asked to take over the counselor's job, and Linus again was asked to be acting dean. Until he just finally had to say, or somebody said it for him, but it was time to go and get his doctorate because he was getting close to 50. It was a very difficult time for him, because we finally went away for two school years. He was competing with young students who were well grounded in their major, and he was definitely determined to make A's in whatever field he went into. It was at that time he developed an ulcer, but he got his A's.

As a wife, I can remember—as a young wife, I mean, as a new wife—a feeling in awe of the faculty wives then, who called on us and left calling cards and came with white gloves and always hats. And you never saw slacks. No. So I had to have calling cards made, and I haven't yet figured out why you left three cards in a dish. But I might go downtown and get something for Linus when he'd be building something, and I'd dash down in my slacks and sure as shooting I'd run into some faculty wife who was in hat and gloves and dress and I felt that I somehow didn't belong. Now, whether I caught up with them or they caught up with me, I don't know, but I don't think there's too much difference in people now. I don't think it's as formal as it was when we first came to campus.

GP: I would say that you were avant-garde, because when I was teaching out in Bonner, I remember that my youngest son was in high school, I think his class had a sit-in or struck or did something, so that the girls could wear jeans to school. But I presume that you were wearing them before that.

CC: Well, I probably started wearing slacks very early, because I was comfortable in them. Of course, I don't even own a dress now. I don't know if you know that.

GP: Oh, is that right? No, I didn't know that.

CC: Eleven years ago I just said to Linus, "I'm more comfortable in slacks. Does it make any difference to you?" and he said no. So I don't even...and about that time is when I lost the weight, so it would have meant a whole new wardrobe. So I don't even own a dress. But I think the...to go back what my expectations as a dean's wife was, it depended on the president lots of times, because the president did direct a lot of the social activities, the president's wife. If there was something that involved the deans and their wives, of course, we were there. We always felt it a pleasure to entertain summer staff. So I don't know if that was done generally over campus, but we always entertained the summer school staff. We would take them on a picnic up Pattee Canyon, or we'd have them in our yard and we got acquainted, we felt, and gave them a nice welcome into Missoula for their summer teaching. But it was a privilege for us to get acquainted with these people that came from all over. And I like to entertain, anyway. I did then.

GP: The University Women's Club is well past 70 years old now. I remember that you and I both attended the birthday party. Lovely.

CC: I was the oldest one, I think I got a certificate they were giving out for the person who was—

GP: The longest member?

CC: The longest member.

GP: And I got one too—

CC: Did you?

GP: —for having been the chairman for the longest time of a group. I'd been chairman of the history group for 11 years, 11 or 12 I don't know which. Anyhow, I was wondering, when you were a dean's wife, if you were involved in that and if this was a rather formal thing. They had teas, didn't they? Were you a bridge player? Was that expected of you at all?

CC: Well, I love to play bridge. That was no problem for me because I was an avid bridge player in those years. I was president, is that the title of the faculty women at one time?

GP: I think so.

CC: Which was a most uncomfortable job for me because that was not my cup of tea.

GP: Well, this is University Women's Club. Faculty women I don't know what that...that was separate, wasn't it?

CC: No. we only had one organization early. It was during my tenure as president of the Faculty Women, or the University Women, whatever it was...I think it was to make no distinction between any wife of a university employee. Isn't that the way you understand it?

GP: That they had that name?

CC: I thought so that it was secretarial help and that sort of thing—those were all part of the faculty women's organization. But it was during my time as president that they tried to split into interest groups. So they did start some of these smaller groups. It almost split up the faculty women because some people felt it was the end of a—

GP: Of a large group.

CC: —of a large group. A unified group. That we would get into our own little interest groups and we would not work together. But I think now that's been dispelled because they work together. They have these interest groups, but they also work toward these scholarship meetings that they have.

GP: Well. I know that Linus retired some time ago, and I know that following that, both of you were involved in volunteer work too. Do you want to talk a little bit about your orientation—

CC: I'd be glad to.

GP: I suspect it involves food again too, doesn't it? [laughs]

CC: Well, yes. But by choice. It was interesting to both Linus and me that we read the *Missoulain* one day, and almost as one person said, "That's something I'd like to get involved in." It was a full page spread on the opening of the Poverello Center. So it was very nice for both of us that we didn't have to persuade the other one to be involved in it, and it was just very young.

GP: Was this just about the time that he retired, too?

CC: Yes, he had been retired. We'd done some travelling. We'd been to Europe and we'd taken the Inland Passage to Alaska, and so we had the time to devote to this. So we started attending...Well, we went up and talked to the director, June. Her name is June Foyd (?)—that wasn't her name then. Said, "We'd like to help out," and she was very glad to get some help. We were then located in the Knights of Columbus hall. That's where it was. They had lent us that. Poverello was started by a Catholic ladies' group, but it was ecumenical in the way it was

run, and still is. We said, rather than come up and work up there, we preferred to cook the meal in our own home, the whole meal, and take it up one day a week. And that's what we did. So we cooked the whole meal. The first meal we cooked, we had maybe 19 people. The last one, I mean, we had as many as 112 before we ended. We always cooked it in our own home and then took it up there. Mark Jennings (?) joined us shortly after we got involved in it. Mark decided he wanted to do the same thing, and he worked on the same days that we did. So he would often bring a salad for 100 people. We would...it was a challenging job, because you used whatever was available. Maybe all we had one day was soup. Then we got more and more people got aware of what we had in this community, and I really feel very appreciative of the way Missoula has supported this center, because we bought the house on Pine Street after we were at the Knights of Columbus and the neighbors were unhappy with us there. Then we finally bought the present location and have improved it so much. I'm still involved in it with my heart and contribution, but not in a very active way.

GP: You've made your contribution.

CC: Well, it was fun. We also got involved in a cancer program, which was driving cancer patients to the cancer center for their treatments, because once Linus found out he had cancer—and we had to move to Seattle for his treatments because there was not an oncology center here then—we could relate to that kind of work. We did that almost up to two months before he died.

GP: How long did he live after he found out he had cancer?

CC: Almost 11 years.

GP: Eleven years.

CC: Yes, and it was during that time that we did some of this travelling. So I would say we had made the most out of what could be a very sad time. Whatever he felt like doing, we did. We went to see our son and his wife, who then lived in Louisville, Kentucky. We went there several times. Made several trips out to the West Coast where our two girls are. Always went up to Glacier Park at least once a year, and did that even the year he died. We went there in June and he died in July. He said he wanted to go up to Glacier Park, and so we went to Glacier Park, yes.

GP: I recall reading, when he died, of the remarkable situation, when he died, of you singing. I will never forget that, because it seemed like such an unusual way to conduct yourself at such a trying time in your life.

CC: It was really very easy. I had the support of all three children, of course, and they were here and they knew how we felt. We didn't like heroic methods used to prolong life. However, after Linus went into a deep coma, the doctor did put in a stomach tube through his nose, and that was to help his stomach be more comfortable, I think. But it was very uncomfortable, even

through his coma. He kept trying to pull it out with his one free hand. So then he had to have restraints put on his arm. That was a very difficult thing to see. I stayed every night. The children took turns staying. So there were two of us, always, up there with him during the eight days that he was in the hospital. On one night, one daughter sat there and wrote a beautiful poem about having gotten together on the Fourth of July, and what a happy occasion. We all knew it was the last time, we recognized, but it was a very happy time. And she wrote a lovely poem about it, and then she sang to him that night. The doctor said, "Keep talking to him. We have a pretty good idea that even though they're in a coma, they can hear. Even they can't respond, they hear."

So our daughter, who could not stay until he died, had to go back to the Harborview Hospital, and she had her time with her father when she even felt he was trying to communicate with her, trying to tap out a message on her hand. She said goodbye to her father. So the son had a meeting to go to in Helena, and the doctor assured him that his...he was quite sure Linus would not die until he got back. However, it became evident around noon that he was not going to live too much longer. And he was struggling for breath then. We had talked to him, we'd eaten our meals in his room. We'd get trays from the kitchen, and we talked to him while we were eating and say, "Sorry, you can't have a piece of this," or something like that—included him always. We had stood around his bed and had our service, while all the children were here. Then when just Kay and I were left, I said, "Let's sing something." It has since occur to me that why didn't we think of some hymns? But what we thought of were the silly songs that we used to sing together as a family. So we sat there and sang and one of the nurses came in and said, "A person doesn't really like to die in front of the family. If you would leave the room, I think he would die."

I said, "But we're not going to leave the room." So then I said to Kay, "I think you should say goodbye to Dad." And we both did, and said, "You've lived long enough, Linus. You can die now." He took two more breaths, and he died.

GP: What a beautiful way.

CC: Just like that. I had heard from a granddaughter who had taken training in hospice that part of the grief of people who lose a spouse, or a dear one in the family, is that they feel they didn't get to say goodbye. That haunts them. 'I never got to say goodbye.' She told of an incident where she'd gone to a training session, and the director said, "Has anyone in this group lost someone recently?"

One woman said, "Yes, I lost my husband."

She said, "Did you say goodbye to him before he died?"

She said, "No, I didn't."



She said, "I'd like you to get in the chair in the center of the circle. Now, say goodbye to your husband," and the woman did. So I remembered that, and I thought, 'Well that must be of value.' I really think that that was of real help to the whole family, that we felt we gave him permission to die. We didn't want him to suffer, and it was time. Doesn't mean that we didn't miss him terribly and didn't really want him to go, but it was...

GP: Sure. As you look back now, on your life, Cecile, what gives you the greatest satisfaction?

CC: That's a poser. What do you mean? My whole life, or—

GP: What do you feel the best about?

CC: Well, of course, I've got many regrets, because no matter how well you think you might be handling a situation—and just telling you this incident of his death, I felt we handled that rather well—

GP: I would say so.

CC: But the last two months that he died...I mean, before he died, when he was going downhill rather rapidly, I can see where I could have been more patient. There are always things that you think of—the things that you could have done, or the things that you wish you hadn't done. But I think, while I don't know this is satisfaction of what I had done, I feel privileged to think that I had almost 62 years of happy marriage with a very remarkable person. So I guess that's why I feel fortunate now. I can't feel deprived. I'm deprived of a companion, of course, but I had so many more years than a lot of people ever, ever have in their lives. And they were happy years. So to say you don't have any regrets would be lying, of course. But generally I've had a very wonderful life. I came from the wrong side of the tracks, and did things that I never in my wildest dreams would think I could have done and spent a wonderful life.

GP: But you had it in you. I like to think about people like your father and your mother, and I have some family members like that too. They didn't have the education, they didn't have the opportunity for it, or they didn't have the opportunity to make those choices. It wasn't that they didn't have a lot inside them. If it had only been developed.

CC: That's right. Oh, and I think they contributed greatly for me to be the person I am. I feel that way about life. I think the mistakes we make are as important as the good things we do because you gain some knowledge.

GP: You learn from them, yes, you do.

One more question I would like to ask you. Since both of you were involved so heavily in education, did any of your children become teachers?

CC: One daughter, my older daughter taught for a year at White Sulphur Springs. That year all the teachers but her were fired, and she wasn't very happy with that situation. She never could quite hurdle the fact that she was not as good a teacher as her father. And maybe the reason she got that—

GP: Job?

CC: —job was because of her father, and maybe the reason they didn't fire her was because of her father. That became a real stumbling block to her.

GP: Did she know, were there any reasons why all of the others were fired?

CC: Oh, there were some problems, but White Sulphur Springs was a difficult town too. It was a lot like Galata. It was a hard town to teach in.

GP: Oh, yes. Factions.

CC: Yes. But so then, she started out teaching in Helena the second year, and she only taught two months and decided that she was not cut out to be a teacher. And she quit. During the time that...My son was a drama major, I think you know, and he got his first job in Louisville, Kentucky, working for five legitimate theatres there. His major was in...what do you call—

GP: Fine arts, or something?

CC: No. He was not a designer. He made the props. He was a props man. So he made all the things for the stage. But he found out after he'd been there that they expected him to design too. So about the time that he realized he was not pleasing them, they recognized it, and they fired him. It was a mutual parting of ways, because he knew he was not doing the job that they wanted. So he did various things, and he said, "And I even taught for a while." He taught in a junior high, largely black children, and he didn't think that he had a very successful experience. However, in some of his work since, he's had...while he's not called a teacher, he's in [unintelligible] situations in his work, where he's doing teaching. But not as such. The other daughter never did teach. She's an artist, she's a graphics artist. Works at the Harborview Hospital in Seattle and is doing [unintelligible].

GP: Well, I think we've covered about your whole life here.

CC: [laughs] Yes. I didn't mention any of my grandchildren, I guess, except briefly, but I have eight very special grandchildren and six great-grandchildren of whom I am very proud.

GP: I can imagine. Is there anything else you'd like to add? [pauses] If you had to tell your grandchildren and great-grandchildren anything about living their lives, what would it be?

CC: Oh, I think follow your star. I wouldn't choose anyone's life work for him, but I think give it your best. That sounds so trite, but it's true. I don't care what field it's in. I could say that my grandchildren have done that, as well as my children. They followed their abilities and built them to the upmost. Made some mistakes—

[End of Interview]