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

**Oral History Number: 049-025**  
**Interviewee: Henrietta Hoon**  
**Interviewer: March Melcher**  
**Date of Interview: April 19, circa 1977**  
**Project: Montana Women's Oral History Project**

*Note: Kirby Hoon, the interviewee's husband, contributes occasionally during the interview.*

Mary Melcher: Mrs. Hoon, you said your family came from Missouri, right?

Henrietta Hoon: Yes.

MM: In 1892 was it?

HH: Yes.

MM: And, how many children were in your family?

HH: At that time there were two: Myself, I was a child about two and half, something like that I guess, and my brother was a baby—my older brother. Then there was another child later on after we came here. That made the three in the family.

MM: Yes. And you came by train?

HH: Yes, Yes at that time [laughs]. After a fashion, it wasn't much of a train. As I remember, it wasn't much of a train. Everybody sat up and always took their lunch, you know. There were no dining cars - nothing like that. And I imagine they were just plain old. They weren't even sleeping cars. Everybody sat up, you know.

MM: All night long, too?

HH: Yes, oh, yes.

MM: And your father came to work in the mines in Butte?

HH: Yes. And then from there...From the mines in...After the mines closed there in Butte, he went up to a little mining camp called Granite, Montana - just above Philipsburg, about four miles above Philipsburg in the mountains. He was one of the, what they used to call a shick boss (?), and he had charge of a mine called the Granite Mountain Mine, and the other one was the Bimetallic. They were both...What would they be—gold or silver mines? Gold?

Kirby Hoon: No, I think they were copper.

HH: Copper, silver mines.

MM: Do you remember when it was that the Butte Mines closed, and he went up there to work?

HH: Well, let me see...I was a little girl, just starting to school. I went to school...Oh, what year would that be? When it comes to dates now, I can't remember the dates. It would be—

MM: Probably in the 1890s—late 1890s?

HH: I would think so, because I was going to school at the time—just starting to school at the time—and we had a school up there. A man by the name of Kent was principal and the teacher. He taught us all.

MM: So you did move up there?

HH: Yes.

MM: Oh, you did.

HH: Yes, oh yes, I should say. They built a few houses - you know - for the miners and their families. It got to be quite a town. At one time, it was quite a thriving mining town. But of course, everything had to be carted up by bus. No, there were no buses at that time - by freight from Philipsburg, up over the mountain about four miles.

MM: What was it called?

HH: Granite.

MM: Oh, it was called Granite.

HH: It was Granite. Of course now, there isn't a thing there - I don't think there's a thing left. That's, of course, many, many years ago. It was very thriving. There were a lot of men. . .

KH: There's a picture in that scrapbook of mine of Granite when there's...taken on a holiday. [talking to wife] You remember?

HH: Oh, yes. Oh, my yes. They—

KH: There was a good many mines there.

HH: Yes, all around.

KH: Granite was quite an old...Well, it's an old-time town now—ghost town.

HH: Ghost town is what it is now. But at that time, there were quite a few people there, as I remember. Oh my goodness, we had a band—the men folks around. A lot of them were musicians—had been. But it was very thriving, lively.

MM: Yes. How long did you live there?

HH: Well, let's see. When the mines closed there, we went back to Butte, and I must have been...about that time I must have been about 14 or 15 years old, because I started to school in Butte and went to the high school there in Butte.

MM: And you had gone to country school in Granite?

HH: Yes, oh, yes.

MM: How many kids in your school in Granite?

HH: Well, let me see...I would think... [talking to husband] Would you say about 45 or 50?

KH: What?

HH: Youngsters in the school in Granite?

KH: Oh, yes.

HH: All of that. And I remember the old professor. We called him the Professor—old Professor Kent. [talking to husband] Do you remember me speaking of Kent?

KH: Yes.

HH: He was the one who taught all the grades. Oh, he had other folks around, you know, that would help him with the youngsters, but there were no separate rooms. It was all one big hall, sort of, where they taught everybody, all the kids.

MM: When you were growing up did you have chores in the house to perform?

HH: Oh, indeed I did. I should say. I was the only girl, and I can remember my father making a stool for me to stand on the kitchen table to wash the dishes.

MM: Oh, your job was washing dishes and—

HH: Oh, yes.

MM: —helping with the cooking?

HH: Oh, I helped with the cooking. I learned all the cooking from my mother, of course. She was a very fine cook—an English woman—a very good cook.

MM: Yes. So, did you ever work outside, or did the boys mainly work outside?

HH: No, not at that time. No, we didn't. I couldn't have been more than about 14 or 15 at that time—no, not that old—when I first began to do, to help my mother. Oh, I started in as a youngster, of course, because she had the two little boys—my brothers. So, I helped with them.

KH: To give you an idea, I think there's this picture—

[Break in audio]

MM: Did the boys and girls have the same subjects in school?

HH: Oh, yes, at that time. I was the oldest I guess in the room, and I never will forget Professor Kent, he wanted me to have as good of an education as possible. I'll be darned if he didn't try to teach me Latin. That's where I first began my study of Latin.

MM: Really?

HH: At that time, I must have then about, oh about 16, I would say. Something like that. As I say, he was the only teacher for all of the grades. Oh, he'd have youngsters like myself try to teach the little ones, you know, different things, but he was quite anxious that I...because he knew we were going to Butte, and I would have to go into the high schools there. He thought if I had a kind of a spattering of the idea of languages that it would help me, which of course it did. I went right into the high school grades right from the little country, little mining town.

MM: Did you study language in Butte High School, then?

HH: Well, at that time, no. The only thing we ever had then at that time was Latin. They weren't

teaching the other languages like they do now. But I had a good grounding in Latin, but that was the only thing that I recall. They may have had other languages. Let me see if I can remember some of them. They were just beginning to teach...What would it be? No, it wouldn't be Spanish nor...I don't know exactly what it would be. The only thing that I can think of is the Latin.

MM: You did study Latin in high school?

HH: Yes. Oh, yes - I should say.

MM: What type of social events did your family participate in when you were growing up?

HH: Well, of course, they had a building there in Granite. They built a nice big building, and they held, oh, all kinds of parties and monthly dances. The whole families would go and take their children, and they would wrap the children in their wraps or something and lay them on the seats along the wall while they did their dancing.

MM: Oh, so the kids could sleep?

HH: Oh, and they had all kinds of, yes, all kinds of dancing - mostly square-dancing - things like that. And sometimes, they would have a caller. You remember, an old-fashioned caller for the square-dancing?

MM: Yes.

HH: They'd have them come up from Philipsburg or from Butte or somewhere like that for a special occasion. But there used to be a place there called Miners' Union Hall, and that's where they would hold these dances and things like that [laughs]. Everybody would go.

MM: The whole family would go?

HH: Oh, yes. They'd take their children, and they'd all go and usually end up with homemade lunches, you know things like...to finish the evening. The children by that time would all be asleep.

MM: Do you remember if you had any books or musical instruments in your home?

HH: Oh, yes, yes. My father had a piano. He bought a piano from...Let me see, it was a...Oh, I still have it—an old-fashioned Kimball piano.

KH: It was an Orton, wasn't it? From Butte?

HH: Kimball-Orton that he brought from Orton Brothers in Butte and had it shipped from Butte and carted up the mountain side four miles for me.

KH: You still got the piano.

HH: I still got that piano.

MM: Oh, wow.

HH: There wasn't a teacher there for a long time. Several people—older people there—who knew something about music and had heard something about it would come to the house and try to teach me the different notes. They told that middle C and the treble and the bass—things like that—that I should know. But I was quite apt, I think, because my father would stand behind me and give me the time like this—certain rhythm. Then after that, they finally discovered that they needed a teacher, because there were a lot of youngsters that liked music and wanted to learn how to play piano and things like that. So, an elderly woman by the name of Fitzgerald—Mrs. Fitzgerald...I don't know where she came from, whether it was Butte or Philipsburg. Likely Philipsburg. She'd come up there once a week and give us lessons. So, I had a few lessons at that time. But after that when we went to Butte, why, that's when I began to pay more attention to the piano. They had more pupils in the classes, of course, at the time when I started there were only one or two of us. But, my, I never will forget that piano coming up the mountain side.

KH: You must've been pretty good, because you played for Kirby when he played the violin for a longtime. He was a concert violist and she would play his music.

HH: That's my oldest son. Oh, yes it was. We were quite musical—my father especially. He was very musical. Well, he would be coming from a family who made musical clocks [laughs]. You'd think he would be. But, it didn't take us very long.

MM: His family made musical clocks in Germany?

HH: In Germany. I don't recall what part of Germany. I have no idea. But that's where they got the Von—V-o-n—in front of their name. It's the same as a Sir in England. They're knighted for a certain accomplishment. I don't have no idea how big a concern it was, or anything about it except that my father had spoken of it to me—told me about it. But that was as much as I knew about it.

MM: Did you celebrate Christmas and birthdays?

HH: Oh, my yes. Indeed, I should say! Huge celebrations for Christmas and Fourth of July and all the holidays like that. Then they had what they called a Miners' Union Day. Of course, the town was just...it was all mining people you know, and they'd put on a great big party. But we always celebrated all the holidays and had a wonderful time because there was a lot of snow up in those mountains, and we had horses and sleighs. It was, oh it was a lot fun. We'd go down to Philipsburg sometimes. I don't know what they call those...where they'd have seats.

Kirby, was it a kind of a...they were open?

KH: Straw rides, wasn't it?

HH: Yes, like a straw ride, but it was in the wintertime. We'd go four miles down to a dance or something and then come back up the mountain four miles. They had lots of fun in those days—homemade fun—so they made the best of everything.

MM: Did you go to dances when you were a teenager too?

HH: Oh yes, yes. Certain dances, not all the dances but they were put on by certain groups, and then we'd go.

MM: And all the kids would get together then?

HH: Oh yes, I should say. Dance by themselves in the corner of the hall or something. At that time, my mother became quite prominent in...They had just started the Eastern Star Lodge, which is a—

KH: Masonic lodge for women.

HH: Yes. She was quite popular in it, and we would go to those dances. They put on really nice dances at that time, and we'd all go. Everybody would go.

MM: Was there any dating when you were a teenager?

HH: Dating? Not in my day. My father was a very strict—very strict—and I wasn't allowed to. I could in a crowd.

MM: Yes. Go with a group?

HH: Yes. But I couldn't go by myself with anyone, so there wasn't very much dating in my early days. But, they do nowadays. Oh my! It would be out of the question, couldn't possibly go. We'd always go as a group, a bunch of us. Had a lot of fun as I remember.



MM: Was there any type of sex education in the school or in the home?

HH: No, not at that time. All of that was at home, was taught at home.

MM: So, did your mother talk to you about menstruation?

HH: Yes, oh yes. I should say.

MM: Were there any people—young women—that were working during high school?

HH: During their high school days?

MM: Yes.

HH: Not that I recall. I think when they started to work, that they dropped the education in those days. They didn't go on with it. Of course, in those days when they got to working...and there were very, very few jobs for girls—

MM: There were?

HH: Very, very few. The only thing that I can remember of it at all is that they'd need help, maybe in the one hotel or something like that. They'd need help, maybe, to make up beds or things like that. There wasn't anything—no office work—that I recall at all. It was all men in those days.

MM: Yes. Were there many young women who worked instead of getting married?

HH: No, not...Seems to me that the main object in those days was to find a man and get married.

MM: Everybody wanted to do that?

HH: Yes. There were very few who...very few girls who had careers of any kind. The only one that I can remember at all was a dressmaker, and she got into that business, perhaps, with her mother. I don't remember. But, she'd rather do that than have a family - you know, get married and have a family so, she did that for a long time. She's the only one that I can recall that tried to do anything outside.

MM: At what age were women considered old maids, do you remember?

HH: Oh, dear. It couldn't have been more than... [talking to husband] What would you say, Dad, in their 20s?

KH: What was that?

HH: Young women considered to be old maids when they got up in their late 20s?

KH: Yes. You know, I always felt sorry for girls that never had the chance—

HH: Well that's it. But don't you think that we used to look on them when they were in their late

KH: Well, they were all—

HH: —as an old maid? If they didn't get married at that time, why, they thought they'd be an old maid.

MM: How old were you when you got married?

HH: Oh, my goodness, what was it?

MM: It was it 1912. You told me.

KH: You were 21, I think, and I was 25.

HH: Yes, there's four years between us. Was I 21? Well, you figure it out. We'll be married 67 years next January.

MM: Yes, you were 21.

HH: Yes. That's what I thought, and Dad was 25.

MM: Did you date, then, during your courtship?

HH: Oh, you mean—

MM: Did you go places together?

HH: Oh, yes. Oh my yes, I should say. We went to dances and to the theater. [talking to husband] At that time, you remember, they used to have those old musical comedies, Kirby, come to Butte?

KH: Yes. Katie Putnam.

HH: Yes, Katie Putnam. And you remember—

KH: And the fellow whose daughter is...the (unintelligible).

HH: Yes. Wasn't her father's name Frank—Frank Sutton?

KH: No, no, Jim Sutton, wasn't it?

HH: I don't recall the first name—

KH: Last name was Sutton, I know.

HH: Yes. And they were the early-timers.

KH: (unintelligible) Sutton Theaters there in Butte.

HH: Oh, yes. We would go to the shows, and we'd go to dances. That's all they had. Once in a great while—

KH: I can remember those names though—Katie Putnam and—

HH: [talking to husband] Did we ever go down to Philipsburg very much or...I don't mean Philipsburg.

KH: Oh, I used to go to Philipsburg. I never was in Granite.

HH: No, but we used to go to the Columbia Gardens an awful lot. [talking to husband] Do you remember, they had a big hall out there?

KH: Columbia Gardens?

HH: Yes.

KH: Oh, yes.

HH: A big dance hall and good music, and we'd go out there a lot. But in those days, we didn't drive. We had streetcar open streetcars, and we'd all go on those.

MM: All the way out there?

HH: Oh, yes. Well, it was only a short distance.

KH: Senator Clark owned the streetcar company there in Butte, and he owned Columbia Gardens.

HH: [talking to husband] How far was it?

KH: Oh, about three or four miles out of town—about three miles.

HH: Was it? Now there isn't anything there—a big hole in the ground from mining. There isn't anything there. Nothing at all.

MM: Were you chaperoned then, or did you go just you two?

HH: No, we didn't do much chaperoning in those days. No, we were old enough then to know right from wrong, so we didn't have much. We'd go in crowds. We'd go in groups of youngsters, but no chaperones.

MM: Did you have a large wedding?

HH: No, we didn't. [talking to husband] Did we, Dad? We didn't have a large wedding.

KH: No.

HH: No. A friend of ours had a nice home, and we went there to be married. Then we all went out to dinner, and that was about the extent. And dancing. We always end up with dancing. That was about the extent of our—

KH: Charlie Nevers was married. He was married to Edith at that time.

HH: Yes. So, we had a nice evening out. We had a lovely dinner way out at a place. [talking to husband] What was the name of it?

KH: It was called Barney's, wasn't it? It was a roadhouse.

HH: Way out on the flat and they got a great big wedding dinner.

MM: And it was called Barney's?

KH: We had a case of champagne, I know.

HH: Yes. Oh yes, we celebrated.

MM: Did you go on a honeymoon then?

HH: No, I don't think we did. We went over to Helena a short time after that to meet your folks. His folks lived in Helena.

KH: See, I was in Helena a long time. I was postmaster there 14 years, you know.

HH: That was his home—Helena, and that was about the extent of our trips. After that, let me see, what did we do? Oh, we began to raise a family.

MM: You had your first baby about a year after you were married?

HH: Oh no, it was longer than that? [talking to husband] Wasn't it Dad?

KH: What?

HH: When was Kirby born after we were married?

KH: About two years after.

HH: Was it about two years?

KH: He'll be 65 now soon.

HH: Well, then it was about two years after.

KH: He's the one that's in pictures.

MM: And there wasn't any form of birth control available then?

HH: Oh, no. No, my goodness, no.

KH: He goes under the name of Kirby Grant, that's my middle name, and he generally uses Kirby Grant instead of Hoon.

HH: [talking to husband] Well, Hoon is a difficult name.

KH: He was in Nabisco 14 years with that Sky King picture. You don't remember that when you were a youngster, do you?

HH: [talking to husband] No, that was before her time.

MM: No, I'm just 21 now.

HH: That was before her time, Dad.

MM: Where did you have your children? In a hospital, or did a midwife come in?

HH: No. Let's see. Jack was born in the hospital, and Kirby was born in my mother's home in Butte.

KH: Her family had a rooming there—a little hotel there.

HH: She had a nice home there right in town, right behind the Pomay (?), the old Pomay place. [talking to husband] Oh, we lived in Helena. Do you remember?

We lived in Helena, and for some reason or other, my mother wanted us to come over there for Kirby to be born—my oldest child. So, we left Helena and went over to Butte, just before he was born, and just stayed long enough until I was able to take care of him.

MM: Who delivered the baby?

HH: Doctor—

KH: —McDonald.

HH: —McDonald. An old, old doctor. [talking to husband] What was his first name, do you remember?

KH: Say, I'm going to give you one of these pictures. This was when Kirby was in his younger days.

MM: Do you remember if there was many children were lost at childbirth?

HH: Childbirth?

MM: When they were born.

HH: Oh yes, I think so. So far as I can recall. Not like it is today. Nothing at all like it is today. You know, a great many youngsters have babies today when they shouldn't, you know that. But that was unheard of when I was a youngster. When I was growing up we never heard of it. Even after we were married for a long time, you seldom heard of anything like that.

MM: Of people having children out of wedlock?

HH: Yes. I don't know whether they didn't. It may have been a lot of it, but at least they didn't talk about like they do today, you know. So apparently there wasn't that much going on.

MM: So there were children that died during childbirth?

HH: Oh, yes.

MM: More so than today you think?

HH: Oh, yes. At that time, they didn't have the facilities, of course, like they have today. But I would think that quite a few of them...I don't recall many. It seems to me they were all pretty husky, the babies.

MM: Do you remember whether the view of death was different then than it is now?

HH: A view of death?

MM: Yes.

HH: Well, I think so, I think so. When I look back now, it seems to me that it was more of a sorrowful event. We all felt that way about it when it occurred and did all we could, you see, to help out and things like that. But nowadays that isn't done not as much, you know. Things are colder now it seems to me - the whole atmosphere is colder about things like that.

MM: People aren't as neighborly now?

HH: No, I don't think so. At least I haven't...Of course, I've been out of it for so many years now that I don't remember anything like that. Of course in those days, my goodness, everybody was around. All the neighbors would come in to help and do all the cooking and things of that kind.

MM: In your marriage did you make your decisions together?

HH: Oh, yes.

MM: You sat down and talked things over.

HH: Oh, yes. We always have.

MM: You went to work when your husband was traveling on the road, right—

HH: That's right.

MM: —after you had raised your children?

HH: Oh, yes. The children were gone. Let's see, they were both married at that time, I think...No, I'm not sure. Yes they were, of course because it's only been, oh, I can't recall how many years back it was that I worked at the Mercantile.

MM: The Missoula Merc [Missoula Mercantile] ?

HH: In the Missoula Merc in the ready-to-wear.

KH: How would you like to have a nice counter for your room?

HH: Has she got one?

MM: Oh, yes.

KH: Yes, well, I just—

[End of Side A]



[Side B]

MM: And women were working—

HH: Oh, yes.

MM: —pretty regularly?

HH: Oh, yes. Oh yes, I should say—a great many women. I enjoyed it thoroughly. My first experience—

KH: She was alone so much; I was on the road most of the time. The boys were going to school here. [talking to wife] Jack was going to school, wasn't he, when you was working?

HH: [talking to husband] Oh, no. Oh, no. I didn't go to work until Jack was gone and married.

MM: What kind of jobs were women doing then?

HH: Well, the only thing that I could see was, well, in the ready-to-wear department, of course, there was a—

KH: Saleswoman, she was.

HH: Yes, I was. Yes, that's all I ever did was to sell, you know. Well, first of all I was quite a seamstress, and they hired me to...in the workshop for a while under Bertha. She thought that I was an amateur and didn't know what I was doing, and for a long time she watched me. So finally, she discovered that I could do things on my own, because I had sewed all my life. Then, my former boss thought that I could do better out on the floor selling, which I did. Then I was there for about five years selling. I enjoyed it. It was interesting work, and I have a lot of friends from that experience.

MM: Yes. Did you move to Missoula then?

HH: Oh, we moved to Missoula [talking to husband]. How many years ago from Helena, would you say?

KH: Well, I came over here in '36, I think, or...yes '36.

HH: And we've been here ever since - in Missoula.

KH: See, the earthquake hit us in Helena, and she was alone there and—

HH: We owned our own home there, and it knocked the tile chimneys off the roof and scared us all half to death. That was about all the damage that it did to our home. So then we decided—

KH: A lot of homes fell down—clear down—a lot of the brick homes.

HH: —to come over here then, and we've been here ever since.

MM: And you participated in a club. What was the club you were in?

HH: Well, I didn't participate very much. I don't think that I ever did very much in the Eastern Star because my mother was so active and was gone so much of the time.

KH: [talking to wife] You played the organ for a good many years there, didn't you?

HH: Yes, but that was all. Yes, I didn't participate in the offices or anything like that, but I did play the organ for them, most of the time. That was the extent of my work in the organization.

MM: When you were growing up in Butte, do you remember when Butte tried to unionize, and the Wobblies were around?

HH: Yes, I remember seeing them.

MM: You remember seeing them?

HH: Yes, I remember seeing what they called the Wobblies. Bunch of men, that's all. But I wasn't around where they could...You see, you have to be uptown there to see all that kind of stuff, and of course, I wasn't.

MM: Did you ever hear of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn? She was a woman who was active in the Wobblies.

HH: Oh, I've heard the name. Yes, I've heard the name, but that's all. I didn't know her.

MM: Were there any women who you knew who were in the Wobblies?

HH: No, I can't recall.

MM: Do you remember if there are any women who ever worked in the mines around Butte?

HH: No, I can't at that time. No, I can't remember any women that ever did that. No, I don't think anybody was—any women—were even allowed around the mines unless they brought their husbands lunch or something like that. But outside of that, very few people were taken down for—like they are nowadays—for a view of the workings—very few.

MM: Did you ever know anyone who was in the CCC—the Civilian Conservation Corp?

HH: No, I can't say that I do. I can't recall that at all.

MM: Did you participate in politics? Did you and your husband talk about what was going on?

HH: Oh, yes. Of course, we all did. But as far as - you mean running for offices or things like that?

MM: Yes. Did you ever think about running for office?

HH: No, no. No, no, neither one of us.

MM: How did you feel when you got the vote? Were you happy when women got the vote?

HH: Oh yes, of course. I thought it was coming to us all those years [laughs].

MM: Had you been active in the suffrage movement in any way?

HH: No, no. I never had been.

MM: Had you heard about Jeanette Rankin?

HH: Oh, my yes. Oh, my yes, I should say. Jeannette Rankin, I should say we did. We all thought she was a marvelous person.

MM: You were happy when she was elected?

HH: Oh, yes. She was a brilliant woman, really was.

MM: Do you remember if there were any prostitutes in your community—in Butte?

HH: In Butte?

MM: Yes.

HH: Oh, yes, yes. In fact there was a street—a certain street—in Butte that we weren't allowed to go on, because it was a prostitute street.

MM: Oh, really?

HH: Oh, yes. They had little cubbyholes and different doors along the building. We'd try to take a peek every once in a while—a bunch of us—but we weren't allowed up there so we didn't get very far.

MM: Do you remember if any of the prostitutes eventually married or—

HH: No, I don't recall...Yes, I do, too. I know of one girl. At that time the name wasn't known. Prostitute was not spoken of at all. This is all rumors as far as I'm concerned, but she worked as a waitress in one of the hotels and everybody thought that she was quite loose in her morals. Eventually she married quite a nice man and became quite a leading light in the community.

MM: She did?

HH: Yes. So it does happen. Of course, now that was all hearsay, you see. I never knew it to be a certain thing.

MM: Did you participate in the Prohibition movement in any way?

HH: No, we didn't.

MM: Butte was quite a lively town then.

HH: Oh, my indeed it was, goodness me, I should say. Well, Butte was known for its bars, you know. There was one building there that was supposed to have the longest bar in the country. Dad could tell you more about those kind of things than I do because I wasn't around but I heard rumors about them and things like that.

MM: You told me earlier that your father was killed by dynamite in an underground mining war?

HH: Lord Dynamite.

KH: I'll see you later. I'm going on down, and I'll get you when you get through.

HH: [talking to husband] Well, what time is it then?

KH: Well, ten minutes to.

HH: [talking to interviewer] We have our lunch here early, dear. Have you very much more?

MM: Do you have time for a few more questions?

HH: What?

MM: Just a couple just to talk about your father and then—

HH: What?

MM: —maybe just about your dad?

HH: Yes.

MM: Okay, then we'll quit. How did this happen that your father was killed?

HH: He was in charge of what they used to call bulkheads that they'd build as division points in the mining claims, and he was in charge of those. He went down this one day with his helper to see...New Year's Eve, he went down. We didn't want him to go. We begged him not to go. But he went down because he wanted to see how the next day would be. So, he went down. And in the meantime, without any warning whatsoever on the other side—on the Pennsylvania side. They lowered lighted dynamite. You see, what they'd do is have a long, long string, of course, of some kind of cable, and the dynamite was set to explode at a certain time. Of course, it happened just as my father and his helper were turning to leave. Of course, it happened bad enough at that time to kill them both. My father lived over the night, but the other man was killed outright.

MM: Why had they lowered the dynamite down?

HH: What?

MM: Why had the other company—

HH: Well, as I say, they were fighting over the division point between the two mines. You see they were rich, the Many Hilly (?) and the Pennsylvania mines were very rich mines, and they were fighting. Hinze (?) and the Pennsylvania Company were fighting over the division point. The two men—this is hearsay on my part—the two men who lowered the lighted dynamite were known, and they were sent away from this country because they were up in arms. The miners were all up in arms. They were ready to just tear them to pieces. You know, a thing like

that. And they were sent away. They were sent to Africa, so I hear. Now, that's all hearsay.

MM: Yes. And were they on Hinze's side, or were they on—

HH: Yes.

MM: They were on Hinze's side? Oh, they were.

HH: It was a terrible occasion, my goodness. That's what they do when they...gold, gold. Whatever it is that drive men crazy.

MM: Yes, okay, we'll stop then.

HH: I'll go on down and get lunch with Dad, because he wants to go downtown.

MM: Ok, thank you Mrs. Hoon.

HH: You're very welcome dear.

MM: [concluding] I just interviewed Mrs. Henrietta Hoon in Missoula, Montana.

[End of Interview]