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Interviewee: Mabel Stilwell
Interviewer: Suzanne Vernon
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Note: Jenise Eskridge, Mabel Stilwell's daughter, also participates in this interview.

Suzanne Vernon: We start with the basics. Can you tell me something about your parents and your grandparents? Your grandparents in particular.

Mabel Stilwell: Rolls. Fred Roll and Martha Roll. Berkham was her name. They had two sons, John Roll and Charlie Roll, and a daughter. We called her Wendela. We just had this place over in 24. My grandparents had 24, part of it. And my dad and mother had another part of it, a quarter. Then Jimmy Lynch, they all worked for the railroad, so they lived together over there. There was a black man, who came (also). He was going to settle back of my grandparents, Rolls. But he didn't like the weather and everything. So, he went back down south. So that's how it started there. We got land to live on and work. They had cattle, some of them. Not too much. Just a little start. My dad liked to work with the Forest Service, so he'd do that in the summertime. He went up to Holland Lake. That building that was right close to the lake, there. I don't know if you remember it or not. They moved it back in the woods or something. But we stayed in that portion of that.

SV: How old were you?

MS: Just small, not even in school. I was born up here. On 24. At the Gordon Ranch they had doctors, come and stay there. Wineglass, they call it. Let's see, they, there was a doctor there (Note: Doc Witherspoon is mentioned in other files). Dad went over on horseback to get him. He came over just to see how I was and my mother. So they called me Swan Reed. Mabel Swanreed Lundberg. So that's where I got my start.

SV: Do you remember any stories that your parents or your grandparents told you about why they came here?

MS: I think they wanted to have something of their own. This way they did. Had each a quarter section of 24. Like I say, the Negro he didn't like it here. It was too cold. He dropped his part, portion of it. That was next to my grandma and grandpa. We called it 24. They would get . . . Dad had a wild team, at one time. Alice and Queen. They were just ordinary horses. They seemed to be all right. Dad could manage them. They were real fast ones. But Dad took care of that. Let's see. Like I say, my grandparents, my father's parents, were down next to us. We were up on the hillside there. Dad took care of 160 acres, each one. Like I said, we all stayed but the black man, the Negro.

SV: Did they describe to you what some of those first trips were like when they came in.

MS: Oh yes. I can kind of remember. We had to camp along the road. And it took two days and one night to come up. . . from Missoula (with a wagon, buggy).

SV: Did you ever make trips in the winter with a sleigh?

MS: No we didn't stay. At one time we didn't stay on the ranch, the place, at that time. Just the grandparents. But we had a place in Missoula. Dad worked for the railroad. It was something that they wanted to get to, to be in the Swan. So when I was born, why they called. . . Dad had to go on horseback to get to the doctor at the Gordon Ranch. I was here when he came. Had me up in the Swan.

SV: They didn't have access to that Forest Service telephone line? He actually had to get on a horse . . .

MS: Oh yes. No telephones. So he had to go over there.

SV: What is your birthdate?

MS: August 9, 1917.

SV: Do you have any recollection of what that house looked like that you were born in?

MS: Oh yeah. It was very small. It was just very small. Well, I imagine about as big as this room (12 by 12?) and about that high. (ponto to eight foot walls). We got so we needed a school. We had the Roll School. Rolls built a school over on the edge of their land.

SV: Did you go to school at the Roll School?

MS: We went there. Also we went to Missoula, too. The folks finally, when we stayed up here, Dad built on to that cabin. They had a sleeping area. We kept the teacher for the Pine Ridge School, I mean, Roll School. I don't know, let's see how was that. . . Mary Holden was the first teacher. Then she stayed with the folks. Then Florence d'Autrement (sp?) I don't know how to spell that. Then Ruth Dettweiler (spelling).

SV: Do you remember what the Roll School looked like?

MS: It was just a room, probably just a room like this. There wasn't too much to it. We had a barrel stove that kept it warm. It had windows on the side. It was okay.

SV: Was it a log building?

MS: Yes.

SV: Was the cabin you were born in log, too?

MS: Yes.

SV: Do you suppose the logs came right off the property?

MS: Yes. Cuz they had 160 acres. The folks had milk cows, and they 'd sell cream. They'd take cream to the mail boxes and then . . . I don't know, who was it? I guess he'd take the whole thing out. But that was a little income. Of course the teacher, she had income and she paid for what she had in the house.

SV: Do you remember what you had for meals.

MS: Oh, it wasn't anything. . . just meager stuff that they'd raised. Potatoes. Deer meat. Chicken. We didn't kill chicken. Mom would sometimes sell it to somebody where she could get some money for them.

Fish. At the, where the falls is on Holland Lake? There'd be fish. . . they'd go up there and just gather them up. I can't remember the kind of fish. I remember the folks brought home fish from there. Dad did. They put up whatever they could.

SV: How did they store their food?

MS: We had a root cellar.

Jenise Eskridge: Grandma canned the fish and the meat.

SV: She must have had a wood cook stove.

MS: Just didn't have too much but we had enough to be happy.

SV: Do you remember that she salted meat?

MS: Oh yes. Various ways. And dry it. I forgot what they call it. Jerky.

We used to have a few dances. Especially when my grandparents, the Rolls, they had a building built that really could take care of people. They always liked to have fun. Lot of dances there. Charlie Roll used to play the accordion.

JE: Well, and what did your dad play?

MS: He played the violin once in a while.

SV: Did you get to dance when you were a young girl?

MS: Oh yes.

SV: Were there very many kids your age?

MS: Well, the only ones I knew up in this area were Wilhelms, and I don't think there were very many others. Tauno and Uno, and . . . I can't recall (everybody). (Note: History files contain other names.) Once in awhile the Deegan's would bring in somebody that would stay at their cabins, that had some children.

SV: Did you look forward to those dances?

MS: Oh yes. And my grandma's oldest son would play accordian. He liked to play accordian, so we had that to dance by. They were the first family to have a Victrola, too. (Rolls) They liked music, I guess.

SV: Do you remember any of the other furniture in their house?

MS: Fred would build chairs. In the wintertime, he had time. And he made some nice ones. So that sufficed. I don't know. . .

SV: What kind of bed did you sleep on? Do you remember what the mattresses were made of?

MS: Oh the mattresses were spring mattresses. See we had a place in Missoula, too. On Hall Street. (?) We'd stay with the grandparents. . . and Dad worked for the Forest Service, too. . .

SV: Was that in the summertime?

MS: Yeah.

SV: So you got to stay with him at Holland Lake?

MS: No. . . on 24. And then like I said, Jimmy Lynch was working for the railroad, too. I don't know what happened but he didn't have much . . . I think they owned the place but it was, they didn't use it much.

SV: Your grandparents must have had to clear quite a bit where they were at?

MS: Well, the meadow, that you see up there, they had that. Of course, they had to cut their wood and things like that. But they had cattle at first. Then decided they wanted a big place

where they could have dances. So that's when they built that big cabin, where they had dances. Which was nice. . . for people to get together. The folks took care of a couple of teachers. Ruth Dettweiler. And, Florence d'Autrement. She was a good teacher, too. A fun teacher. She was lots of fun. She was nice looking, I thought. Happiness.

SV: What were your favorite subjects?

MS: Oh, I think she liked reading, history.

SV: Do you remember having very many books around?

MS: Oh, I think we had plenty. . . sent them down from the superintendent in Missoula.

SV: Did they have a library?

MS: No. Not that way. Teacher took care of all that. She was responsible.

SV: Did you have any favorite books?

MS: Not too many. I liked poems. Memorized, which was good.

SV: Did Florence like poetry, too?

MS: Oh yes.

JE: One thing Mom was talking about was that the teachers wrote mostly on the board. Because they didn't have a lot of paper and stuff.

MS: That's true. Had to be careful. Then I don't know it seemed like it wasn't too long, Rumble Creek School down here had all the children that were in that area. I'm not sure, but it was, sometimes they say we were kind of rough on that old school. What else. . .

SV: When you came here in the summer do you remember what kinds of things you did for chores around the house?

MS: Oh yeah. We lived, went to school, and had to stay with friends or, to go to high school. . . I stayed at Cath's (?) place and that wasn't too far from high school.

JE: When you'd come up in the Swan during the summertime, what were your chores? What things did you do around the house, or outside.

MS: Mother usually had control of that. She, we didn't. . . we had to carry water, or something.

SV: Where did the water come from?

MS: A well.

SV: Did you use buckets? Did you use a yoke?

MS: We just carried buckets. The folks had one of those. And, they'd use it sometimes. Especially when we'd have enough cream, we'd have to use that.

SV: Did you ever have to churn butter?

MS: Oh yes. We had a butter churn. We had to have. . . we didn't buy too much. It was always something that we made, or had made. We got along okay.

SV: Did you pick berries in the summertime?

MS: Oh yes. Huckleberries. We'd go up in the hills and find some good places for picking berries. Then Mother would can them. Had huckleberry jam and so forth.

SV: Did she ever dry berries?

MS: No, she didn't. I don't know, see. . . when we were able to stay at the cabin, dad worked at a job up at Holland Lake in the fire season, especially.

SV: Was he kind of the lookout guy?

MS: Well, he helped on that. They had, up on Holland Lake Lookout, they had some people on that.

JE: Grandpa Lundberg was building and maintaining trails.

MS: Yeah, eventually.

JE: Then he did fire control.

MS: Yeah, he did.

SV: Was there a trail from here to Holland Lake?

MS: There was a road. And a road from where we lived on 24. Then we had a road clear to the mailboxes. We usually had to walk to get our mail. It would come in once or twice a week, is all.

SV: Can you describe to me where the mailboxes were.

MS: Right alongside the highway, where the main road is. He couldn't go out of his way. . . .because he had quite a few. . . I don't know exactly how many. There was quite a number of people homesteading. The Knupfs, and the. . . who else? Burch. (sp?) And then, see, we moved from the 24 over to, 31. And Dad had the homestead there. We went to school from there. It was easier because . . . in fact, they would get someone to take the kids from that Rumble Creek School out to this school (Pine Ridge).

[End of Tape 1, Side A]

[Tape 1, Side B]

SV: When you were on 24, you said you sometimes had to walk to get the mail. Do you remember any funny things that happened. . . ?

MS: Well, we usually tried not to go in the snow. . . we liked to wade in the snow, cold. We didn't mind that too much. One thing we minded, we had to wait for the mail. Sometimes they, like Stoner, he'd have a fire built so we could get warm there.

Clarence Stilwell: He'd cook squirrels. . .

SV: Do you ever remember eating squirrels?

MS: (laughs) No, no. We'd eat deer meat, but not squirrels. We'd get hungry, when we'd have to wait. A lot of times we just have the horse and buggy. The mail came from Seeley Lake.

SV: Do you remember seeing any bears. . . ?

MS: Oh yes. They were around. It was not bad. The teachers like it somewhat. The teacher's like it up there. (talking about 24)

JE: You told us once about a story when you were walking to school and there was a mountain lion following you guys.

MS: It's possible. It was kind of wild-like, you know. We'd come off the mountains. (laughing at clock in background)

Let's see, we always liked to have picnics, too. We had picnics—school time—school picnics. They liked to have dances and everything, the teachers did. Rolls had a big house built for that. [log building]. Of course, the folks sold their place on 24 and came to 31. So, they started building there.

SV: When your dad built the new place was that a log building, or was it lumber?

MS: It was log. Had a barn, and root cellar, and other things.

SV: So you must have had a garden on that place?

MS: Oh yeah.

SV: Did you have to work in the garden?

MS: Oh yes. They had special things for us to do. We had to help out.

SV: Do you remember what kinds of things they grew?

MS: Oh, they planted plenty of potatoes. Something that wouldn't freeze, too much. But then we used to have friends that would come up and hunt with dad. So we had hunters, during hunting season, which was fun. We always had a good root cellar.

SV: They had to feed all those hunters?

MS: Yeah, although they were pretty good.

SV: Do you remember seeing Indians? Indian families?

MS: Just, I think it was just one time, we saw. They came over from, well, Missions, and come over the mountain. On 31. They were acquainted with it, you know, they liked to be. . . just visit. They didn't come too often. At first they seemed to be. . . they enjoyed coming. We didn't have this place. . .we had the place but there were no buildings or anything. . . they'd visit. They came up. . . do you remember how the Indians used to come up here?

CS: That was before my day.

MS: I think they just wanted to visit this country, it was just right over the mountain. They liked it.

SV: Did they camp out in tents?

MS: Oh yeah. We weren't living here then. They liked to visit. And I imagine they had, probably they had graves some place. They were quite active.

SV: Did you guys have pets when you were a kid?

MS: Dogs and cats. We had the animals, we liked to have the animals. (dogs) Had Tip, and had Quisson. Norwegian name.

SV: Were your grandparents from Norway?

MS: Sweden. Dad was Swede and Mother's Norwegian.

SV: Do you think this country looked pretty familiar to them when they first saw it? Do you think they liked the mountains?

MS: Oh yes. We could never have too many family from Norway come. Mother had to go home to see them. It would be nice if she hadn't. My dad's mother, brothers--Joe and Charlie--Roll. And Fred Roll and Grandma Roll (were here).

SV: What traditions did they bring with them? What about skiing?

MS: Mainly snowshoes. A teacher used to come up and we, the folks took care of the teacher on 24. She brought. . . skis. She used to like to ski down the hill, cuz there was a hill from our house. That's about it. We didn't have too many. . . .

SV: Did they make their own snowshoes?

MS: No, they bought them. They were pretty sturdy. They needed them because the snow got pretty deep. We didn't mind it too much. We'd leave sometime and go back to Butte so that Dad could work in the mines and we could have some extras.

SV: Do you remember what the roads were like?

MS: Oh yes. Not too nice.

SV: Somebody told me that the wagons that they used, had bigger wheels, so the axles were higher. They'd clear the stumps. . .

MS: I don't think so. . . I can't remember. It took quite a while. . . You had to make use of everything you had. Ate deer meat and fish. Things we could get from the country. I don't know, I think it was pretty nice. I liked it. I can't think of anything better than to be from this country. Dad used to, you know he worked on the railroad, too. He had friends come up. It made it nicer for us to see other people, too. Of course, the teachers would live with us. Ruth Dettweiler.

SV: You mentioned the school picnics. Wasn't there also a 4th of July picnic?

MS: Yes. At Holland Lake. Where the Forest Service cabin was. It was fun.

SV: That must have brought a lot of people out.

MS: Oh, if they could get around. They all got together, the ones that had the ranch, Holland Lake, and Wilhelms, they all. . . got together.

SV: What was the best part about the picnics? Food? Games?

MS: Well, there was games. Mostly, we visited. You know, you didn't get to see too many of them most of the time. . . We used to have some dances, too, which was fun, especially if there

was special places. We used to use the. . . Rumble Creek School. We used to have dances there. Occassionally, people at Holland Lake Lodge would have everyone up there, just to get together. It was fun. Just to see everyone.

SV: Did you stay all night?

MS: Well, it was quite late. We didn't get to stay, just finished and then went home.

SV: When you moved from 24 to 31, it wasn't too much later and that fire came through there?

MS: I was here. The '29 fire. I don't know exactly. . . it, Dad had a fire, but the Ranger said. Well, yours is sort of a back fire. So, it was all together (note: later explains that Dad and Stoners both were burning slash in different areas. Fires got away.)

JE: Were you evacuated?

MS: Yeah, we had to go to the ranch? Gordon Ranch.

JE: Did you take anything with you?

MS: Not much. We took ourselves. That's about it. Kettlesons were real nice people (caretakers at Gordon Ranch). Real accommodating. It was scary. I don't remember just exactly when it took place. (Remembers smoke) It was . . . Miles was the ranger there. And he said, "well it was a good thing, yours was kind of a back fire, Charlie (Lundberg)."

SV: They must have brought some fire fighters in?

MS: Yes. They had a lot of people to get it conquered. It took off . . .just takes it all. Had to be.

SV: You said you went to high school in Missoula. Was that the first time you worked for wages, was when you went to Missoula?

MS: No. I stayed with some friends. Mrs. Cath (?) She lived on Plymouth Street.

SV: Did you have to do things for your board and room.

MS: No. Just be with her.

JE: Where was your first job?

MS: First job? Oh it was, you mean teaching?

JE: No, when you were young, who did you work for?

MS: I worked for. . . at the ranch. Gordon Ranch. Mrs. Kettleson. I stayed in her place. Shorty Kessler and those guys were in the big house.

JE: How much did you get paid?

MS: A dollar a day.

SV: What did you have to do for that dollar a day?

MS: Well, anything that needed to be done. Cleaning, mostly. But they were nice. Very nice. Made you feel. . . (I was in) high school. That was in . . . Let's see. When I started staying with Mrs. Cath, I didn't have to do anything but be with her. Stay at night.

JE: You said something about cleaning the rooms and helping with some of the meals at the Gordon Ranch.

MS: Oh yes. I did that.

SV: Do you remember the Holland Cabin, the Holland house on the Gordon Ranch.

MS: Yeah, I think so. I'm not sure, it's been awhile, you know?

SV: Did you cook over there?

MS: Oh yeah. I peeled potatoes. It was fun, different.

SV: Did they have Forest Service telephone?

MS: Yes. They had a phone, I think it was Forest Service. I liked the Kettlesons (Martin). And, they liked me. I don't know who has their homestead down the valley. I always looked forward to the dances, they always had good dances, especially at Holland Lake.

SV: Somewhere on your family history, you said you were married to Jens? Did you meet him at the dances?

MS: Just went to school with him.

JE: Jens was my father.

SV: Did Jens work for the Forest Service?

MS: No, he looked for that transport in Missoula.

SV: You don't have any other bear stories for me?

MS: Oh, let's see. We had one here, didn't we.

JE: Well, I think the dogs that Grandpa and Grandma had, kept most of the wild animals away. I can never remember a bear over on 31.

MS: I remember before we moved over there. We'd see deer and bear. . . after we moved we didn't see them (as much).

JE: The dogs were pretty protective of the place. They helped with the cattle. Tip would go down and bring the cattle back, the milk cows. They were protective.

SV: Were there elk in there, in the meadows, do you remember?

MS: I think so. There were some. They'd get down in the meadows somewhere. But after so many people coming in I don't think there's too much. . .

SV: When people came up hunting, with your dad in the fall, did they hunt for deer?

MS: Yes. Deer and elk. They liked to come up. See dad worked with them on the railroad.

JE: I remember Grandma Lundberg telling about they would bring a sleeping bags. It would be wall to wall sleeping bags in the living room. . .She'd get up in the morning and have breakfast for them.

MS: She made some good pancakes.

SV: Did you always call her Grandma Lundberg?

JE: Oh, Grandma Lundberg. I knew her as Grandma Lundberg and as Grandma Gutzman. Both.

[End of Tape 1, Side B]

[Tape 2, Side A]

SV: Tell me how bad the mosquitoes were.

MS: They swarmed.

JE: Grandma said it was like turning daylight into dark, there were so many mosquitoes down there. It was the pits. . .

SV: She's talking about 24 or 31?

MS: 24. She took juniper and broke it up, and made a smudge in a can and took it in the house.

JE: Grandma said it not only got rid of the mosquitoes it got rid of them, too! (laughs) They couldn't breathe. It was just. . .

MS: It was bad for mosquitoes.

JE: I asked Grandma how many times she did that, and she said she only did it once. She learned her lesson. Tell about your cupboards on the cabin on 24. We talked about it the other day, Grandma had curtains on the cupboards, instead of doors. I thought that was interesting. I'd never seen cupboards without doors. . .

SV: Did she like to sew?

MS: Yes, she did. She liked to sew, but she had quite a lot else to do. Haying, and milk cows. Dad never milked cows.

JE: Grandma made quilts. And she knit socks.

MS: She'd just sew up the heel with a darning needle. They made do with anything they had. It wasn't too expensive.

JE: And every two days she made bread.

MS: Oh yeah. Svenstakakka. (spell?)

SV: Tell me what this is?

MS: It's Swedish bread. Svenstakakka. It's round like a wheel. (leavened bread) They were about this big around (about like a steering wheel).

JE: It was round, but it was kind of like a flatbread. It was only about that (four inches?) thick. I'm not kidding that was the tastiest bread you'd ever want to eat. It would almost melt in your mouth. Everyone would fight for the first cut, the end piece. Everyone wanted that first piece. That was always the best. She started it on the bottom of the stove. She had a big round flat paddle she would put it on and she'd slide it in there to develop the crust on the bottom. Then she'd put that paddle in there again and bring it up and put it on the rack and let the rest of it cook through.

She used to take it over to Lindbergh Lake Lodge. . . Vina Cord (?) she was one of the cooks. Rosie Cord her daughter would come over with her and she was Olive and my age. We'd play together while Vina and Grandma would talk. Grandma sold her eggs and cream and milk once in awhile, and Svensekakka.

MS: That's what she had for spending money.

JE: That was our chance for, to have a playmate, other than Olive and I. I lived with my grandmother, from, because my mom went back to teaching in Missoula, so I was going. . . I probably started in September of '44, until '47. (I think Jenise said she was 55 at the time of this interview, 1999)

SV: Was the pond there, the lake (on 31)?

JE: We called it the lake. The lake was always there as long as I remember.

SV: Did you swim and ice skate and all that stuff?

JE: Oh yeah, all that stuff. The fish would be in there and every once in awhile Grandma would put Olive and I in the rowboat and row us out in the lake. . . and in the summertimes, even after Dad and Mom moved to Kingston, when Dad was Ranger, Olive and I would come up in the summertime and stay with Grandma during the summer.

We'd help with the haying. I used to ride the bull rake with Grandpa. Olive and I, Grandpa would drop the hay onto the beavertail and we'd take the horses out, to make the haystack. That was our job. That way, Charlie Roll would cut and Grandpa . . . they would cut it and they would rake it. Then Grandpa Lundberg would lift the bull rake when Dad wasn't there. Charlie Roll would even out the stack. He would be back under the bull rake as the hay went up and dropped down. He would spread the hay evenly on the stack. That way they didn't need a stacker. Then Olive and I, they had breakfast early in the morning and lunch at noon. And then about 2 o'clock, Grandma would send down a bucket of peach shortcake. For the guys, the workers. Olive and I would carry that and the water jug. Down at 2 o'clock. They would finish up and come in, about 5 or 5:30. Then the evening was theirs. That was a fun time for me but it was hard work for them.

MS: Well, it was nice you could be there.

SV: They must have had to do a lot of haying.

JE: They did. They had a lot of whiteface cattle. That's all Grandpa had, was whiteface. Except for the milk cows and horses. He had good horses, then. But I don't remember their names.

MS: Alice and Queen?

JE: That was on 24, but on 31. . . see Olive and I could ride those horses. There was a gray one and a brown one. You did talk about your dad having, over on 24, an airedale dog. That was just Dad's dog (Grandpa Lundberg's dog)

And you didn't have pigs until 31. I remember one time, Olive and I, I don't know what, but we loved the pig pen. The sow had babies. Grandpa heard a commotion in the pig pen. Olive and I were in the pig pen with the sow and the babies. All I remember is flying. Because Grandpa got bitten by the sow. Olive and I went flying over the log barrier. That's the first and only spanking I can ever remember getting from Grandpa Lundberg. He was so angry. He was scared. He kept saying, "That sow will kill you. She would kill you because of the babies." All I can remember is flying through the air.

SV: It's funny they had pigs and the bears never bothered. The dogs must have kept them out.

JE: Yes. . . We were talking about the vehicles. I loved to drive. Grandpa Lundberg would let me sit on, I call it a buck rake sit, and he would let me steer the bull rake. And Grandma would let me drive over to the mail box on 31 with her. One time I almost put her in the lake. (laughs). But I can't remember what it was, either a '46 or '48. First they had the buggy. Then they had a Model T. I don't ever remember driving a Model T. They had an older Ford or Chevy truck that they picked us up in Missoula. We'd come in on the Greyhound bus. So I think it was probably a '48 Chevy. You went to Kingston in '48.

SV: That must have been a journey.

MS: They liked to come out here.

SV: What was the best part?

JE: The best part was just being in the Swan. Being around. . . Grandma had a regimen for us. Mom did, too. You got up in the morning and had breakfast. Then we'd help Grandma separate. After breakfast, Grandma went over and milked the cows. She'd carry it back. As we got older we got to help her milk. But when we were younger we'd help her separate. She'd put the cream in the ice box and the milk.

MS: I think she set cream out.

JE: Yep. She set it out with her mail. Then we'd have lunch and have a nap. Grandma taught me to iron. With the hot irons on the stove. I was just young.

SV: What did she iron?

JE: Everything. Underwear. In the wintertime, I remember when the clothes were so stiff, she still hung them out on the line. But it so stiff. Then she would put them when they got real stiff, she'd bring them in and they'd dry faster. I never understood that, that they'd dry faster if the clothes were cold. But she would bring them in and hang them on a line that was in the living room, across the barrel stove. Every Monday was wash day.

SV: Pretty organized.

JE: Well, it had to be organized. I think that's where Mom got her organization, and she passed it on to her kids.

SV: You said, Grandma made quilts. Do you still have any of the quilts?

JE: I think Mom still has one of her quilts upstairs. Grandma Roll made quilts. Lots of them. Some of those are at Lindbergh Lake. Mrs. Ukrainetz would be able to tell which ones. Some of them stayed at Lindbergh Lake Lodge. Grandma Roll made quilts and sold them, for dudes, to cover the dudes (beds). Olive and I used to cut the material. Grandma made it out of old, old material. Some she would make. Grandma made me a quilt when I graduated from high school. I wore it out. I wish I would have saved it. She made one for Olive. . .

I remember, I was telling Mom and Dad, Grandpa Lundberg told me it was a bicycle, but, what did you call it Dad? The grinder, the sharpener. It was like a bicycle. Cuz you peddled up and down like this. Grandpa Lundberg had varicose veins really bad. So his legs would get tired. So he told us to ride the bicycle. We'd push on that, we'd sit on the seat and push on it while he'd sharpen his sythes. And the little triangle things that went on the mower blades. Sickle bar. And that way he didn't have to sit there and do it.

But that's basically, we talked about Thanksgiving. I asked Mom if they had turkey. They didn't have turkey. They had chicken. Over on 31 Grandma raised turkey. She would save one for Thanksgiving. But the rest she sold to the Lodges. Same with the geese. Grandma had some mean geese. They used to chase us. That and that one rooster.

SV: Quite a farmstead, ranch. Do you remember seeing swans and geese on the lake?

MS: Oh yes. Nesting time.

JE: Ducks, yes. Most of the time when we saw the deer. Grandma had two gardens. They had the potato garden, which was across the lake. I don't know if you've been over to 31? But you walked over, across the land, dike, and over in that area is where they also got wood. They had the potato garden. Also the water spring, where we got the drinking water was just down over the hill. Then the other garden was down along the fence line below the barn. That's where they had big high fence to keep the deer out. Grandma grew her radishes and lettuce, and carrots. Down in that area. Onions. Had a terrible time keeping onions. The deer liked those onions.

SV: Didn't the deer get into those potatoes?

JE: Sometimes. But they planted so many potatoes, they never really seemed to have too much of a problem.

SV: Did she have flowers?

JE: Hollyhocks. Dahlias. Peonies down by the lake. Hollyhocks were up by the front porch of the house.

MS: She liked to plant.

JE: Then they had hops, out by the front of the house, around by the kitchen. Carraganna bushes. That was kind of a break, for the cows. (Shaded it, too.)

Grandpa had an ice house. He got the ice from the lake. They harvested it every year. Dad helped him with it. I remember going out there and getting it out. They used those big crosscut saws. They had a special saw that hung in the ice house that he only used for cutting the ice.

SV: I wonder where they got their ice before that lake was built?

MS: Holland.

JE: Do you remember when the electricity came up here? '56 or '57 comes to mind. . . (Map) This is kind of a little diagram that I drew (of the homestead). The lake, the earthen dam. Lake regulator. . . something with a big wheel on it that would lower the level down into the spruce swamp. Down behind the woodshed. (Cellar between woodshed and garage.) Out near the root cellar was the. . . where they had the big bonfires to heat the pig mash. An outdoor cookery. Cook shack. That's where Grandma would make her soap. And, she would make soap and she would do candles. We got to help do the dipping.

SV: Did she use her homemade candles, or kerosene?

JE: Kerosene. But once in a while they'd run out and they'd use candles. As a matter of fact I have one of her candle holders. It is shaped like. . . it had a loop on it. Hole for finger.

(discussion) Could carry it. (Heavy, smooth. Dark.) She had it down in her basement. . . on Burlington. When I bought my house on Sussex when I started teaching in Missoula.

(Drawing shows barn, mowing shed. Grinder stone. Pig pen, pig house. Barn. Chicken coop. Outhouse. Little house, grain house. Chicken feed. Garage. Charlie's (Roll) Cabin. Root cellar. Woodshed. Backporch, wood thing. Ice house. Storage building. The "things" house. I say, "Grandma what do you keep in there?" She's say, "things." (laugh) They kept their saw, crosscut saws and stuff back here. Saws, milk cans. . . in this shed. The woodshed, the ice house, the "things" place then the shed. '73 was the last time I've been over there.

SV: Do you remember seeing a lot of swallows over there?

JE: Oh yes. Lots of barn swallows. There were a lot. . . Grandpa Lundberg had a lot of bird houses. He liked bird houses. Do you remember that, Mom? There was a birdhouse near the outhouse. There was a birdhouse on the garage, course they used the garage. The barn swallows built all along. . . (swallows in the birdhouses). Grandpa had to build them up high because of the cats.

SV: Bluebirds?

JE: There were some, not a bunch. There were robins. There was a gate, and a carraganna bush. Peonies down here, and hollyhocks right here. Hop vines. But there were big trees (two places). Bedrooms, here's that extra bathroom. Place for bathroom, but never used it. Just a room then. Front porch, back porch. Big window here, and a little window right by the stove. Pot-bellied stove. There were, was . . . an addition.

[End of Tape 2, Side A]

Note: Off tape discussion about hummingbirds frequenting the hollyhocks.

[Tape 2, Side B]

SV: What was the saddest thing you remember from your childhood? (One of her cousins drowned here.)

MS: Right down at the hole, here. (Pine Ridge Road, at the Swan River where Holland Creek comes in.) His name was Arnold Brunson. He was staying with his Grandma and my Grandma, Roll. He was swimming over here. It was different. (The river was different then. Got caught up in the roots)

JE: I can remember when we would go down there, as youngsters, picnics and you guys would take us down. You wouldn't let us swim there. There's an undertow that goes under those big roots. That big tree is still there. With the roots. They would take us up above there and we would swim above. But we never could go down to the hole.

MS: Seemed like there's a whirl. . .

SV: Were you down there the day it happened?

MS: No, we were on 24. Grandma Roll was just close by. He laid in the back there for a while, I don't know for sure. He was gone.

JE: Who was he swimming with?

MS: Wilhelms. They were so sad. It's too bad, it just happened that way.

SV: Did they have a funeral service at the house, then, too?

MS: No. His folks, mother and father were from the North Side in Missoula. They come up and got him. It took a long time to come up.

JE: The body laid in the back bedroom.

MS: In the old house. Homestead house. I remember just everyone so sad. Didn't think that would happen. But you never know. I was always aware of Mother saying, "No, you don't go to that hole." Because of the way the water takes you under. I don't think it's so bad, now, do you?

CS: I don't know as if I ever saw it. (Not as much water now.)

SV: Do you know of any other burials?

MS: The Indians would come over from the mountains, St. Ignatius. They had different places they would go.

JE: I think somewhere in this area here (pointing to the map) between the garage and the chicken coop, at one time, was an Indian burial. There were some apple trees here. And Grandma Lundberg told us a story about an Indian lady that would come and sit by this one tree, apple tree, out in this orchard and she would just wail and cry. So I asked Grandma why she was crying. And Grandma Lundberg said she was crying because that was where her baby was buried. So, there were, some burials, out in this area. I don't know where else.

MS: They came over here when it was hunting season. They had a trail they'd come over.

JE: They'd come up through the meadow and cross over. That's the only story I knew about Indians. . . was that one.

[End of Interview]