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"Picking peas" in Moscow. Today women work at the universities. Packing fruit at packing plants. Five minutes off every hour for picking peas. The work at home on weekends was harder than the peas, but had the advantage of being different. For many the work was extra; now women have to work because they need more. Women could draw unemployment in the summer.

Starting to nurse at Coos Bay after helping sister with baby. Training at St. Vincent's in Portland. Days off on the coast; working special cases at people's homes. Enlisting in the army in 1917 - working as the shipyard nurse. Forming a hospital unit. Barracks hospitals and field hospitals.

Operations in the field hospitals in France. Deadly flu epidemic. Reaction to death. She no longer enjoyed nursing when she returned to America. Permanent disability from back injury - veteran's pension. Giving hypodermics in the field. Field conditions. Boys' fear of going overseas. Injured German prisoners.

A neighbor who said that a lot of boy babies means war. General belief that World War I would be the last. Foolishness of building weapons and fighting war.

Decisions to amputate. Orders to retreat were ignored because of injured. A sick man who offered her money to save him died anyway. Any woman looked good to the boys. Problems with clothes. A vacation when Armistice was declared at Monte Carlo and the Alps. Limited social life. Everyone worked hard.
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Lack of opportunity to eat at times in France. Sons' anger at being told how to care for his horses in war.

Excitement of threshing; it was tiring. Chance to meet opposite sex and have company during threshing. Moving the cookhouse. Ample room for cooking - no one knew any different.

Mother moved to Viola with girls during winter for school, living in the hotel. Father cut timber in winter on their place three miles east of Viola - line between timber and prairie.

Parents' coming to Viola after living in Iowa and Kansas. Mother's mixed feelings about their place. Father wondered if he made mistake by not farming near Walla Walla; but he preferred timber after living on prairie. Strawberry growing in hills.

Sisters lived in Moscow together to attend school. Father told sisters to let young Fanny win at cards because she complained. Visits from mother in Moscow; weekends back home.

Camp meetings in summer near Viola. "Faith" people were called Linusites. Adventists and the end of the world. (continued)

Adventist beliefs - borrowing from others on Sunday, since they were keeping the wrong Sabbath. Fight between a Christian and a Nazarene caused end of community church at Viola. Getting to heaven. Adventist community moved in and some sold out to them; after a time they mixed with local people. Decline of Adventist school as people moved out; a woman offered to pay tuition.
of local children who would keep up enrollment. Adventists didn't make many local converts. Adventists came about 1905. A few Adventists who had money bought land and sold parcels to those who came; many worked in sawmills.

Sisters kept money they made for clothes and school. Only brother died while felling tree with father; he needed a son to help with farm. The girls didn't do field work; Fannie rode horseback tending cattle, and harvested strawberries.

Girls had ambition to make a little money. Grandson married a girl he'd hardly noticed although he'd known her. Trend toward divorce in recent years may have peaked; working girls have freedom to leave.

People watched money carefully, and needed to use little. Drinking a problem then. Husband rented land; they farmed father's place. Depression of thirties made no difference in their well-being. 1893 depression didn't hurt bigger farmers. They couldn't save money; small difference between saving and being in debt. No money but much sociability. (continued)

Fannie seldom worked out as children were growing. Fannie cared for mother and her house for eight years. Housework - some get a lot done, others little. She and father (at 85) made "a good man" at work. Selling honey during rationing of World War I. Increase of cancer. Jack Cummerford shot himself in Potlatch store. She worked for Psychianna for several years; he was famous out of the area. People came into the office begging to see him, believing that his touch would cure.
Dances monthly and on holidays at the hall in Viola brought people from miles around. People always had company after Sunday church. People danced with everyone, not just one couple.

Viola Community Club, the oldest in the county. It started before the First World War, knitted for the boys during war. It met in homes, then school, then clubhouse. It was an extension club for a time. No use for extension agent - senior citizens were recently forced to sit through a boring lecture on buying cheap food.

Club activities through the years. Famed sociability of the club.

Viola's bad name from the early days, rekindled by outriders fighting at tavern. A local boy hung.

Consolidation broke up the community - no more PTA or card parties. They preached it would be cheaper but it wasn't. Kids started to go to Sunday school in Moscow too. Importance of club to local people - little gossiping. In town gossip is worse.

Membership at club. She worked to take care of others in recent years. Work for women was viewed as a disgrace; now they're anxious to work. CCC's and public work. Co-op mill during depression.

Faith people. Gossip had it that the reverend converted many widows.
II. Transcript
This conversation with Fannie Cuthbert Byers and Jennie Cuthbert Brouillard took place in their home in Viola, Idaho on November 5, 1976. The interviewer is Sam Schrager.

FB: Oh, not an awful lot.

SS: About when was that that people started going in town? Was it in the '30's? Depression?

FB: About after. I don't know when I did pick, but of course, they picked peas long before I did. My kids were grown up and my youngest boy was in the war when I went to work picking peas. But they'd done it many years before. The Washburn-Wilson Seed Company and several others. I don't know, every woman pret-near that had boys she put 'em through University sortin' peas. We always called it picking peas but we sort. Had great big, I expect around town you'd see some yet. They don't pick peas any more but they still sort the peas by machinery. You set, like a great, long schoolroom and you had your individual desk and the peas come down on a belt, you know and you set there and pick out the hulls.

SS: The belt stop or was it moving?

FB: It was moving all the time and somebody down below was a hopper tender that emptied 'em, let 'em down in the bin below when it got full. And old ladies seemed to, not old ladies, old girls and married women all worked at pea pickin'. And they sold 'em for seed I guess. Shipped 'em overseas. I don't know just what they did do with all of it.

SS: So each girl got her own peas. Nobody else would check yours, you had to...

FB: No, just the hopper down below. And if you let too many, well probably the next year you wouldn't get called back if you didn't do a pretty good job. (chuckles)

SS: Was it hard?

FB: No. Not after you got, it was a little bit, oh you get a little dizzy when you first start, the first year. But after, you got immuned to that and you could just set there and you didn't dare talk, it was like school, you know. Everything was quiet. You didn't dare go to sleep or anything on the job.
FB: Yes, sometimes for some of them it was. If they'd been up late or something. But there was always a floor boss going around that would talk to ya if she thought you was gettin' sleepy. One woman who's passed away now, she was, what did they call her? We just called her boss but she was a floorwalker, Mrs. Lailock for 31 years at one place. And so she seen lots of people come and go. 60 women sometimes worked there. At the head of full crew there was 60 women.

SS: All women working on the crew?

FB: Yeah, the men worked in the warehouse and they had to keep the bins full in order to keep those places for us to pick. Yeah, it was all pretty fine and pretty good method.

JB: It was a woman's job, I guess.

FB: Yeah, never any men picked peas that I knew of.

SS: What kind of pay?

FB: Pretty good pay. Course it wasn't, started out at probably 25 cents an hour when the pea houses started. And then it got up to about, I don't know what at the last, what we did get. Probably oh nothing like they get now, not 2 and 3 dollars, but probably up to a dollar. I can't just remember.

SS: 8 hours a day?

FB: Um-hm.

SS: How many days, 6, 5?

FB: Yes. If it was in season, why it would be 5 days, 6, 5 days a week; didn't very often work Saturday and Sunday although sometimes they'd have a rush order and they'd ask whoever would come back could come back on Saturday.

SS: Did they give you overtime?

FB: Oh yes. Overtime was always time and a half you know. Them days and like it is now, I guess, I don't work enough to know, but I'm sure it was overtime. But those days are all gone now. I don't know, well, there's other jobs, I guess. I tell you now they all get a job up at the university, secretaries and file clerks and that have you. That's where all the, not the same bunch
of pea pickers, they're all dead, but this new bunch of young ones that want to work, that's where they do and that's what they always said about the farmers when they got too old to do the hard work and milk cows and things, why they moved to town and went to work up to the university.

JB: There's more men too, up the university.

FB: Well men and women both though. You know several of work, partnership, you know.

SS: But you say there's lots more women now working at the university as compared to what there used to be.

FB: Sure.

SS: Used to be most of them would have to pick peas.

FB: Yes. Everybody was picking peas, yes.

SS: Did you do that for very many years?

FB: Oh, I probably only done it about 10 years, didn't I? Til I was old enough for Social Security, then they won't let ya work if they know you're that old. But many, I think Agnes and Besa and all that bunch, I'll bet they worked 25 years at the peas.

SS: Were they from Viola too?

FB: Oh no, they're from town, but they're old lodge people...

SS: Rebekah?

FB: No, they're Royal Neighbors. (laughs) Oh that didn't mean anything connected with the peas, it just happened that that bunch that I know did work in the peas.

SS: Can you tell me the techniques that you used to pick peas?

FB: Oh nothing, you can spot a shrivelled up pea or a black pea or just let the good ones go by.

SS: There were hardly any in there?

FB: Some batches it would be just like anything else, some batches were good and not much to pick out and some batches would be poor. They buy the peas from all the farmers and some would be good peas and some wouldn't be so good.

SS: Usually were there a bunch of different peas that would get in, or one or two?
FB: Uh, I think they were Alaska peas that we used to pick. I think Alaska is the popular pea around, I'm not sure. And then, long ago in the days, you know when Mattie and, always packed fruit in the fall, you know. Until this country went to wheat farmin', there were big orchards and there were packing houses all around. All the young people then packed apples, peas and what have ya. They still do it down to Yakima, I guess. But I think down there they have mostly machines too, to sort and everything. Just a certain cycle, just like these quiltin' you know, that will all run out after awhile. I think it will. (laughs) I'm not sure but I think it will.

SS: You packed apples in Juliaetta, right, 'cause I remember you told how you spent the money that you made.

FB: Did I? Well...

SS: But when you packed down there, was that right at the cannery or where?

FB: It wasn't cannery, packin' plant. We'd put 'em in the boxes, wrapped 'em in papers and put 'em in the box and they were shipped out. Like they do at Yakima now.

SS: Where did you stay when you were down there?

FB: Oh, we boarded, some of would, I can remember where I stayed. I only packed down there probably two falls and I stayed with a girl who had worked up here in the prune orchard, you know. Big prune orchard up on the hill here. And we used to pick prunes. And then later then I went down there and worked in the apples. But I suppose some of 'em worked else stayed at the hotel or something.

SS: You boarded with this girl who came up here. Did she board with you when she was...

FB: No, she stayed up where, at the Chaney's where they just got acquainted with her and just got a job down there, so it was a place, her mother would board us and that's the same way when we worked over here to the orchards, out of Moscow. A farm lady just boarded half a dozen of us girls.

SS: At the orchard where you were picking?

FB: Not far. Probably down the road a mile.
SS: Were you picking?
FB: No, I never picked apples. I always just packed in the packing houses.

SS: Were they packing this in big boxes?
FB: Well ordinary apple boxes that you see now. And pear lugs. We always called the pears was lugs. They was not quite as big as apple boxes. But you see 'em around in the stores now, the big boxes. I don't know how much, 40 lbs. they weigh? I think Carlson has an ad in the paper, $3.00 for a 40 lb. box of apples. Out, that's out Troy, you know Arlons? That's Connie Sheflin's uncle, you know.

SS: That's right. Do you remember what you got for packing?
FB: Yes, I think 10 and 12 cents a box was pretty good.

SS: How many of those could you pack?
FB: Well, some people, could, good packers packed 100. They figured to make 10 dollars a day. But I expect 75 and 90 was us kids' limit.

SS: Even that sounds good.
FB: Yeah, it was pretty good for them days, it was pretty good for them days.

SS: Working in the peas and packing, did you have much time for socializing, was there break time?
FB: In the pea picking we had five minutes off every hour. You could go get you a cup of coffee or anything in five minutes, every hour.

SS: Was that enough?
FB: Yeah. Enough.

SS: You needed that break time.
FB: Yeah, you could...

SS: To get away from it.
FB: Right. Um-hm. And the packing, I don't remember what we done, the packin' when you was on your own, you could leave your stand and go any place you wanted for a little bit, I suppose. I suppose if you stayed away too long you'd be fired, I can't remember that, but...

SS: That's because it was however much...
FB: Yeah, that was our own lookout, we tried to pack as many as we could, you know. So I suppose we didn't kill much time.

SS: I would think that the work in the peas would be hard, the tediousness.

FB: It was, but you got so that, the women all that worked most of 'em had families, and I can remember hearing them, what they'd done over the weekend, Saturday and Sunday. They'd say we come back to pick peas to rest up. We rest the rest of the week and then we wash and iron and cook and get ready for the next week. And I'm sure that's what we all done.

SS: You mean you actually worked harder on the weekend?

FB: On the weekends, sure. That was sittin' you know. And it was kinda boring but then, it wasn't hard work.

SS: Would it hurt people's backs?

FB: Oh some people complained here and there, but I don't think it ever hurt 'em.

SS: Or their eyes?

FB: Well, it might have been hard on their eyes. Some people who didn't have good eyes. Yes it might have been, but I didn't know anybody that couldn't pick peas in them days. They all could.

SS: But working on the weekends at home. That makes it sounds like a 7 day work week.

FB: Well, it was a pretty good, but then, that was different and they say a vacation is anything different. It relaxed you to do the different kinds of things that you had to do. Course some of 'em didn't do anything over the weekend but most that I knew had families and somebody at home. So...

SS: Do you think that most of those people that did that picking that it was necessary to have work for the family income?

FB: It's extra. Sure it was. And quite a few were widows, maybe their husbands had passed away. But a lot of times a husband would work there too, she would work in the packin' room and he would be down emptying sacks of peas or something. I know lots of 'em had their husbands work too. I don't think they had to work as much as they do now. They got so they, they didn't need as much quite as they do now. You know, live simpler. Now people start out...
when they get married with more than their mothers ever had. Or think they have to have in the house, more. I think that's a lot of it.

SS: So that wasn't...

FB: That was extra money for extra things, I think.

SS: You said sending the boys to college.

FB: Um-hm, that was a lot of it. I think Agnes put half a dozen boys through the university picking peas. I guess her husband worked too, but I can't remember that, oh they were just common, ordinary workin' people, didn't have any land or anything, worked in town and she got started to doin' that and every year and then it got pretty good along after, when I first started we didn't get any unemployment, and that got to be quite a racket then. You could draw almost all summer what you'd made in the winter. 'Cause it was, that was the good thing about pickin' peas. When you were out of a job, it was seasonal work, then you could go on drawin' I guess about half you made, didn't ya, something like rules about it.

SS: How many months were you laid off?

FB: Well we'd probably begin about time school started and then probably end up 6 months or 7 months. So all summer was off. Well then the unemployment lasted most of the summer. Like these fellas, a lot of these fellas now around do that.

SS: It seems pretty good.

FB: Well its pretty good if the government just holds out, that's (laughs) some of these old ladies that we know get so stingy, I said, you better get a little money in circulation when the government gets to keepin' all of us, why got to get rid of a little money some way. But what I say don't amount to much, but (laughs) that's one way of thinkin' about it. Don't want to put it all in the bank, you better keep a little in circulation.

SS: I think these days a lot of people feel that both partners have to work.

FB: Yes, I'm sure they do. Well it's got to costing so much to get to college and things. And to keep up with the Joneses, why its a struggle. Well you better talk to him a little.
I usually have the floor. She talks pretty good when I ain't around.

SS: I want to talk to you about your experience in nursing.

FB: Did she ever talk to Laura much about that? (Laura is Sam's wife).

SS: No, when we were here last time we talked a bit about WWI. But I thought you could tell me what that was like. Had you been a nurse for long before you went over seas?

FB: Oh, about 3 years. I nursed in a hospital where I graduated from, just taking special cases. And then I worked in a shipyard for about a year, emergency work 'fore I went over.

SS: Which hospital was it that you started?

FB: St. Vincent's in Portland.

FB: That wasn't where you started.

FB: I started down in Coos Bay. I never worked down there, I just went in training and I didn't like it very well, so I quit. (Chimes obscures her words)

SS: Is that where you went, to Coos Bay for your training?

FB: I went there, my sister and her husband lived there and I just went there to stay with her awhile. My first baby was born and then after she didn't need me anymore, why I thought I had to do something so I went out and got a job and went in training and stayed there I guess, six months probably. And I decided I didn't like it, so I quit and I just did practical nursing for a little while. And then I come up to Portland.

SS: What was it that you didn't like about it in Coos Bay?

FB: Oh I don't know, I just didn't like a little hospital. There wasn't anything special I didn't like about the nursing, but I just didn't like the place.

SS: Were you a trained nurse when you went to Coos Bay or...

FB: Oh no.

SS: But you could learn it in a hospital then, hey?

FB: Well that's what I went in for. And quit and got married and I wasn't gonna nurse anymore and then when I oh, they was talkin' about war and everything and I decided I'd go back in and finish it, so I did.
SS: I heard that nurses worked awfully hard.
JB: We did. We worked about 12 hours a day and every day. Sunday and everything.

Nothing like they do now.
SS: That's an 84 hour work week. About twice as long as you would now.
JB: Course after a little while at St. Vincent's and I finished my training, why then I just worked. Then we got a case, we worked 8 hours a day.

SS: What do you mean, when you got a case? When they would call you in?
JB: Yeah, most of the time. Sometimes we'd get a few days off and we'd go out to the beach so we wouldn't get called again.

SS: Why were they doing it that way, special cases? Were you working temporary?
JB: Only just as long as we needed it. Doctor would call for a special nurse and we'd go and...

FB: Yeah, but you worked all the time, you was in the hospital when you wasn't out on a special case, your time went on in the hospital, just didn't.

JB: After we got out. After we got out we was away from the hospital entirely. Sometimes we got called on a case in the hospital. Mostly we didn't then.

SS: What was the nurse's responsibility then?
JB: Oh, whatever was needed, whatever medication they had to have, whatever we had to do for em. Every case would be different. There was no special things we had to do, we just had to do what was necessary to do for sick person.

FB: I think maybe people didn't always go to the hospital, now you can't hardly get a nurse, you know, private nurse...

JB: Hardly anybody that was gonna have a baby would go to a hospital. They'd call a doctor and a nurse to the home.

FB: It was a lot different than now a days, that's why she was out, I suppose on the special cases.

JB: Once I went with a doctor who was called to go, this was in Coos Bay when I quit nursing, after I quit the training, but was still nursing. And after I quit nursing, after I quit the training, but was still nursing. And we decided, had to go on a boat and then up to one of the sloughs were she was gonna have a baby and got off the boat and it was about 11 o'clock at night...
and I got out, it was raining hard and I got off the boat and there was just a little plank. I had to go up and look back and here the doctor was in the water, clear up to his neck. He had walked right off the boat into the water, he didn't get onto the plank at all. So we had quite an excitement that night. Gettin' him some dry clothes to wear.

FB: He was worse off than the woman havin' the baby probably. (laughs)

JB: It was more excitement, yes. The baby was born when we got there, but we had to dry him out and get him warmed up.

SS: The baby was already born? Who delivered the baby?

JB: Oh he did. After he got out he was alright, we got him some clean clothes, got him some dry clothes and he shivered around the fireplace for a while and then he was pretty good.

SS: Do you think you had a lot more responsibility than a nurse would have today?

JB: No, I don't know of any more responsibility, but I think it was hard work, more. Longer hours and I did lots of things that the nurses don't do now like making the beds and things like that. They have aides to do, we did all of that then.

SS: Were you very close to the other nurses? Was there like a group of people that worked together that would associate a lot?

JB: Oh yes, that's all we did associate with while I was in training. We didn't hardly meet anybody else.

FB: Catholic hospital.

JB: After I got out I lived with 4 nurses in an apartment. We just take cases from there.

SS: I heard the pay wasn't too good for nurses.

JB: No, not near as good as 'tis now. They get about as much for 8 hours as we did for the whole time.

FB: Oh, I think more, probably for your 8 hours.

JB: I think about as 12 dollars a day was as much as we ever did get.

SS: Did you find the work exhausting? Or did you have energy left after your day?

JB: Yes, nearly always went to the beach when we had a day off or two days off. We'd
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go down to the beach and swim and have a good time. Seaside was a great place when we went. Swimming pool and...

SS: Do you think the doctors had a lot of respect for the nurses then?
JB: Oh I think it was about the same as 'tis now. I don't think there's much difference. It didn't make any difference.

SS: Did it make a lot of difference to the family income that you were working?
JB: Oh, yes, of course. Better. Like it 'tis now, it takes two to make a living sometimes.

SS: What was your husband doing?
JB: I really didn't live with my husband for about 7 years. We were separated. Never divorced, we were just separated, though. So while I was in the army I was separated from...

SS: I heard that in those days there was a lot more opposition to divorce than there is today.
JB: Yes there was. Some place they wouldn't take 'em in training if they were married. But they did me. I didn't have any trouble gettin' in the army.

SS: Had the war started when you got in the army?
JB: Yes, I wasn't in 'til 117. Last part of the war.

SS: How did you sign up.
JB: Well they just asked us all, come up to the hospital and asked us all to sign up. All that wanted to, and so I did. There was lots of 'em that didn't. There was only about ten from my bunch, the ones that graduated with me that went out of 35.

SS: What made you decide you wanted to?
JB: Oh, I don't know.

SS: Did you feel patriotic?
JB: Just the excitement I guess and wantin' to go. And after I signed up then I got work in the emergency hospital in the shipyard where they were making ships. I was there for a year. Anybody'd get a finger hurt or needed a little medicine or something, I'd, I was the only one there, just emergency nurse,
each hospital, each shipyard had to have.

SS: Were there serious injuries that you saw in the shipyard?

JB: Serious accidents? Oh yeah, if they were terribly serious, why we just put 'em on the ambulance and send 'em into town. Those that were just a sprain or something like that, why we took care of 'em.

SS: Was there a doctor there too?

JB: No.

SS: Just you.

JB: Just me.

SS: Well that sounds like a lot of responsibility.

JB: It was a lot of responsibility.

SS: Did they have an infirmary or just an office?

JB: Just an office. If they were bad enough to need a leg taken off or something like that well we sent 'em, just put a tourniquet on or whatever was necessary and sent 'em into the hospital.

SS: There was a lot of activity there in those shipyards.

JB: Yes.

SS: How was it decided that you were going to go overseas?

JB: The hospital foreman, the base hospital 46 formed there, they were all Portland doctors and they just called the nurses formed a hospital unit. There was 100 nurses and I don't remember, about 75 doctors. And a lot of corps boys. They just formed a hospital and went.

SS: Went where?

JB: We went right over to, oh well there was, see about 10 of us went to North Carolina first. And we were there in a hospital for three months and then we went to New York and we was there for quite a while and then and shipped us over whenever there was a boat. I don't know how many(Unintelligible for background conversation)... called into the army.

SS: What kind of setup did you have in Europe, what kind of a hospital did they put you in?

JB: Big barracks. We went to a little place called (?) down in the southern part
I think three different hospitals there, two big hospitals, ours was one of them and we all went there. And they had barracks. Each barracks had about 10 or 12 patients and we were in a ward there, just like we would be in a hospital. Took care of the war. And then I was out with the field hospital, just an operating team. We went out right behind the lines and just did operating and sent 'em right back. We didn't have any beds or anything like that. Put 'em on operating table and operated and then send 'em on back to the hospital. That was called field hospital.

(end of side A)

JB: And send 'em back to the base hospital.

SS: So the emergency hospital was the one with the barracks? When you were at the field hospital, you stayed there and slept there? What kind of quarters was that, just tent?

JB: Well whatever they could give us. Sometimes it was in an old hospital or church or something. Sometimes, just right out in the open and just set up our tents. Sometimes they, well, always operated in tents. Just put up the tent and...

SS: So...

JB: Fix an operating room.

SS: How big was the staff at the field hospital?

JB: Two doctors and two nurses, each operating team. And some boys to fix up the tents and do things like that. And take care of all those stretchers and all that.

SS: The men that came in there must have been pretty bad shape.

JB: They didn't leave any that wasn't. If they were able to go on back, why they just went right back to the base hospital. Just the ones that we took out shells and things like that, emergency work. (Noisy in background.) Sometimes an eye and sometimes a leg and sometimes whatever was needed.

SS: The kinds of injuries that men were getting there, was it mostly from bullets?

JB: Well whatever it was. Mostly bullets, yes. Mostly shrapnel. Taking out shrapnel all the time. Sometimes there was bleeding, we had to put a tourniquet over
an arm or a leg or take out shrapnel from, oh some of these you just can't imagine, sometimes the patient, just full of shrapnel where they'd been shot and we'd have to take that out. Everything that had to be done right away. Something out of their eye, maybe steel out of their eye. Then we'd just put 'em on the stretcher and send 'em back to the hospital.

SS: What did you have to operate with under those circumstances?

JB: They had their kits just the same as they do in the hospital. They had their instruments and everything. We had to sterilize them and keep them clean. And we'd get just big packages of sterile gauze and things like that already prepared.

SS: Was there much anesthetic available?

JB: Yes and we had anesthetic with us, ether. Besides the two doctors.

SS: That sounds like it was rough.

JB: Oh, it was hard and long and sometimes you was up all night.

FB: Kinda interesting though, don't ya think?

SS: Oh yes.

JB: And then when I went back to the base and the last two months I was in the 'flu ward, what there was. 'Flu is what they call swine flu now. We just called it 'flu. And the worse kinds were 'flu and pneumonia. I was in that ward when the armistice was signed.

SS: Was that the same 'flu that hit here?

FB: Yes, at that time, but I think its a little different than swine flu now.

JB: I don't know.

SS: Was that killing a lot of people over there?

JB: Oh yes. Sometimes four and five in one night.

FB: She said she thought the boys would all be dead before they got a chance to get home when the war was over. They was all sick.

SS: It was that bad?

JB: Yes, was awful bad. It was bad everywhere, but I think it was worse over there because we didn't have facilities to stake out.
FB: Too many people in one place, they always said, you know. Groups of people, you wasn't sposed ta...

SS: Did that get half of the boys, did half of the boys come down with it?

JB: Oh I don't know if it would be half or not. But it was an awful lot of 'em.

Every convoy that come in that just be full of 'flu patients. And some of 'em would just have 'flu and get over it and go back. Some of 'em'd get pneumonia and die.

SS: What was the treatment that they had you give?

JB: Well, that was the trouble, they didn't have much treatment. They just, we give a hypodermic of something to quiet them, something for the pain. Sometimes four and five a night they'd take every four hours, we'd have to give hypodermic.

But there just wasn't much to do for them then.

FB: Homemade(cookies).

SS: In the field hospital, can you tell me kind of how you felt doing that work and seeing what you saw?

JB: In what way do you mean?

SS: Did you, emotionally how did you feel?

JB: Well, of course, I was a lot younger then than I am now. Didn't worry as much I guess but it was no pleasure to see people die and some of 'em begging you to do something for 'em, to let 'em go home and all that. It was bad.

SS: I think I could have done that.

FB: You're learning all that when you're training to be a nurse. I think you get immune to a lot of things.

JB: Oh the blood and all that didn't faze me at all. I could watch any kind of operation, it...

FB: I think you get that way when it's your work.

JB: And after I come home, of course, I couldn't nurse any more. I don't know, I wasn't nervous or wasn't shakey or anything like that, but I just all worked up inside. I didn't like to take cases, I didn't, well I just didn't like to nurse after I got home. I did it some, but it was different.
SS: Do you think that's because of what you'd experienced over there?
JB: Yeah, I think so. And then I got this back trouble, and that didn't help any.
FB: Did you tell him how you got your back?
JB: We were just packing up to come home, to start and I don't know just how I got it. I just sprained it some... 
FB: You always told me you and the nurse picked up a...
JB: Trunk, or something.
FB: Trunk and she slipped and that done her back up.
JB: I thought that's what did it.
SS: And it didn't get better.
JB: Get better?
SS: It didn't get better soon?
JB: Oh no. Just down, I couldn't move for awhile and they took care of me there and wanted me to stay on there 'cross at the other hospital but I thought I wanted to come home. They put me on a stretcher and I come 'bout half way on a stretcher.
FB: And then she suffered with it ever since. She's a disabled war veteran. She gets a pretty good pension out of that because she is a disabled, and she used to have to go to the hospital every so often to see how bad it was and then that determined what her next check would be, if it was worse or if it was better.
JB: It never got better, it got a little bit more each time I went.
FB: And now it's settled down to one, when she gets old, why then its, she don't go any more to have it. It's just an injury and that's all. Won't get any better or worse, probably.
SS: So you really couldn't work regularly after that?
JB: I couldn't, there's a lot of things I couldn't do, I couldn't give hypodermics like I used, shots you know. And it just shake me up so I just don't know, I couldn't do it.
FB: That was from your back or not?
JB: I don't know. Fact it was just nervousness or givin' so many over there. I
used to give sometimes forty in a night. If there was 12 or 14 patients and they had to take a hypodermic every four hours, why I was just kept me 'bout busy sterilizing my needle and going through the next one.

FB: I suppose that would be emotional strain, wouldn't it?

JB: Yeah. And sometimes in the middle of the night we had to have a flashlight, that's all the light we could have. Because of the...

SS: Did you and the doctors sometimes have to work 24 hours in a row with out stop?

JB: Well not 24 hours. If we worked all night why we got off at 9 or 10 o'clock, then the next, see there was two teams at the same place. And then they'd come on, let us rest. And then we'd go on let them rest. So we didn't work awful many hours we worked long time. Sometimes I can remember standing up halfway up to my knees all night. Operating. Mud and...

SS: Outside?

JB: Oh, well, there was no floors for the tents, you know. Just go into it, if was raining hard and some of 'em was leaking, we put up little old things.

One time they fixed the emergency hospital in an old French hospital. Where the sisters had been, they moved them out and then we come in and oh, the place was dirty and we cleaned it up just couple of rooms and used them for operating rooms.

SS: How much sterilizing could you do under those conditions?

JB: We had the little burners and we'd boil our instruments.

SS: In the mud and the grass?

JB: No we'd just have to fix a table and put a sterilized cloth on it and put our instruments on. Rest of it was just like any tent.

SS: Were most of the injured men young?

JB: Oh yes. Nearly all of them. 'Cept the officers.

FB: And they didn't get hurt very bad, did they? Probably stayed out, maybe.

JB: Yes they were nearly all just young fellows.

SS: Could you tell how most of them took it, were they scared and frightened?

JB: Some of them. Not very many. I don't, they didn't show it anyway when they
were hurt. They were just hurt like any other boy, just waited to be fixed up.

FB: Tell him about when you went over. How they didn't, some of them boys never been away from home. What'd you say, they knocked 'em in the head or knocked 'em out, or what'd they do?

JB: They said they'd had to knock some of 'em out to get 'em on the boat.

FB: To go, you know, they just couldn't do it. I can imagine how it would be, hadn't been away from home and just scared to death then. I've heard that before.

SS: What I've heard about the fighting just sounds awful. Like foxholes.

JB: Well of course they were, that's where most of the fighting was. One night we had about 40 boys come in, they had, was in the forest somewhere and stopped for the night and a shell come down and hit 'em and they were just full of shrapnel and everything. They brought 'em all in there to be, some with their arms full of shrapnel and some of them with broken arms and just everything and...

FB: I expect it was kind of unpredictable. You didn't know just what was...

JB: What was going to happen. Just everything. One night, I don't know if it was day or night, we took care of the Germans too sometimes, you know. If we got a prisoner then we took care of him. There was one little prisoner, I don't suppose he was more than 18 years old and he was so scared he talked, and one of our German doctors talked German. And he was talking to him and he was so scared he didn't know what, he said, "What's the matter, with you boy, don't you know I'm speaking your language?" And he was so scared he didn't know what he was doing. To be with what was his enemies too, besides being hurt. In the barracks there was a German (Noisy) I don't know how old he was, the boys wouldn't take care of him 'cause he was the enemy, you know, they wanted to kill him. Threatened to all the time till we had to keep them out and we had to take care of him. Poor thing, I felt so sorry for him. He was no different than anybody else, but the just happened to be on the wrong side of the fence. We kept him there for a long time till he got well enough to leave.

SS: Do you recall how the boys faced death and dying? As young people.

JB: How they faced it?
SS: Yeah.

JB: Well I never was around the gassed ones very much. But I know there were an awful lot of 'em that got gassed.

FB: No, but he means just when they were gonna die. Them that died with the 'flu, how did they react?

JB: Well most of 'em were unconscious, quite a while before they died. And some just wanted to die. Like everybody else.

FB: Do you think we'll have more wars here?

SS: I don't doubt it. Since WWI was the war to end all wars we've seemed to have had quite a few.

FB: But you know, well, connected with that, when my youngest boy started to school, there was about 8 little boys all had been born at the time, they were 6 years old when they started to school and I think there was just one girl in the bunch. And one old lady, a neighbor up the creek, she said, "You know when there are so many boy babies born, that means war." And sure enough, I bet every one of them, there's one now, my kid is here, and every one of that bunch of boys that started to school here at Viola that were 6 years old that certain time, they went that WWII. Just every one of 'em. Two Getz boys, and I can name everyone of 'em, I don't believe. Maybe one was a 4-F but, wasn't that funny she predicted that. She was an old lady and she said, "That means war."

JB: Well, I don't think that had anything to do with it, but...

FB: Just happened to hit that.

SS: Did you believe that at the time that was going to be the last war for us?

JB: Yes, I suppose I did.

FB: I guess everybody thought it, but the Bible said there's war, always war and then there's a war. So.

SS: I don't doubt that, but I don't see why they all have to involve us.

FB: I know, I don't either. I don't see what good it does fightin'. Why don't they quit makin' that stuff. They couldn't shoot thmselves if they didn't have guns. It makes me so mad that this, The United States has to furnish 'em all...
with the material to shoot back at them. I think I could be smarter than that and they're supposed to be smart men. They can see that if they don't have the ammunition you can't shoot.

JB: But if they didn't have one country would dominate...

FB: Yeah, but if they'd all just quit. What's the use of killin' each other off?

SS: Don't you think it has something to do with the money to be made selling that stuff?

FB: Money to be made and too many people, that's what. You got to think that's what it is, too many people.

SS: That sounds to me like being a nurse under the roughest conditions.

FB: Oh, I think WWI was rough.

SS: Did you feel great satisfaction out of the work you were doing there?

JB: Oh yes, we knew it was necessary, we knew it had to be done, so...

SS: Did the doctors, when they decided who they were going to operate on and how, did they just let a lot of people go who they thought would make it?

JB: Oh no, I don't think so. I think they operated whenever it was necessary. And sometimes when it wasn't, same as they do now. I think they do an awful lot of operations now that aren't necessary.

SS: What would make them decide to amputate?

JB: Well of course they would have to decide it whether it could be, whether there was any chance of it healing itself or being healed. They'd send him back, either to another hospital or back home. They had to do their own deciding, just like they do now. Doctor would tell you whether it has to come off or not. If its gangrenous or infected or anything like that they know it has to come off.

SS: They didn't have much time to make a decision.

JB: No they didn't have as much time to think about it, they just had to make a quick decision. Probably made a lot of mistakes.

SS: Seems like it must have taken a lot of bravery.

JB: Oh, I don't know.

FB: I think you're under kind of a nervous strain, you just do (they both speak at
the same time.) Lots of people around here, you don't think.

JB: The shells were going over our heads and they come and told us to pack up and go out, well we knew we couldn't just pack up and leave all the patients there so we just stayed. And after, you know, we got our citation for stayin' it was...

FB: Contempt of court or something.

SS: You mean you got a bad.

JB: Yes, citation for bravery after it was over, but at the time it was disobeying orders. They told us to move back so many miles behind the lines, we were supposed to and there wasn't any of us do it and...

SS: The people you were working with, did you become very close?

JB: Oh yes. I guess we...

FB: I think, the same as it is now: in the hospitals they say a man gets sick and has a good nurse, he always proposes before he goes home, I think it's the same way then. (laughs)

SS: Did you get a lot of proposals?

JB: One offered me a fortune, he said his people were real rich. He said if I could just get him out and get him home, he said I could just have all kinds of...

FB: I think its the same today as always.

JB: He died just the same as the others.

FB: I think so.

SS: I think that the boys over there, not only being homesick, but they wouldn't have the chance to see women either.

FB: I think they were pretty lonely, I'm sure. And any woman looked good to 'em, I think. That was about the way it was.

SS: How old were you when you were over there?

JB: 'Bout 30. So I wasn't awfully young, but still...

FB: But they wouldn't have been lots younger.25...

JB: A few younger and quite a few older.

FB: Yeah, I think them old ones went too.
SS: As far as living conditions, could you keep clean to your satisfaction?

JB: Yes, we managed to do pretty good. Sometimes kind of crude way, but we managed to get our washing done most of the time and things like that.

SS: You did your own?

JB: Yeah, most of the time. Lots of times, they had pretty good facilities too in, considering everything. They had a laundry and things like that to do sheets for the boys, you know and our, we sent our uniforms too.

FB: It just sometimes got misplaced is all I think...

JB: Out in the field hospital, why we didn't, I remember that long cape with a red lining, blue cape with a red lining that the nurses all wore, we was all kind of proud of 'em when I, I had it when I was in the hospital down in North Carolina. And they shipped them over you know, and so I was supposed to get it when I got over there, but we never did get 'em, those that were in the field hospital never got 'em til they got back to base and I was always kinda mad 'cause I didn't get my cape. But so many things we didn't get. We didn't have a change of clothes and all that til we sent back two or three times to get 'em.

SS: So you really only had the uniform you were wearing? (laughter)

JB: No, I think we had a few extras, but we just, we packed enough up when we went.

FB: But it's like it is now, they get on the wrong plane or wrong something and it got a little worse in war time.

SS: Did you have any time off over there?

JB: Yes, night that, we got word that the armistice was gonna be signed about 3 days before the rest of ya all got it here, before the real armistice, and the night the armistice was signed, 2 or 3 other nurses and I put in our, well, we all put in our names for, they said we could go on vacation, take turns, you know. I was one of the first ones of them that got to go, there were 3 other nurses. And we went to the east and Monte Carlo and down on the Rivera for a week and we had a good time. One day we went up in the, remember what they call the Maritime Alps, big mountains there and watched them make beer and make wine from the grapes. And we ate in the little restaurant they had
up there. They just, kind of a, oh, like it is in San Francisco where they
go up the hill with those...

SS: Trolleys.

JB: Trolley cars. And we took the day off and went up there. And there was two
southern lieutenants going the same way, so we matched up with them and we had
dinner and we had an awfully good time that day. And then another day we went
to the casino at the Monte Carlo where they play cards one evening. I have
a dollar just to show for it, I guess I have it yet, some place.

SS: You made money.

JB: No I didn't play, they wouldn't let us play. In fact they wouldn't let us in
girls had to be escorted in. So there happened to be a captain there when we
were trying to get in, he said, "I'll take you in." So he grabbed two of us,
Jean Mc Fadden and I. We went in and we went through and watched them playing
and saw all that.

SS: Could women play?

JB: Oh yes, they were playing.

FB: Why couldn't you women get in?

JB: I don't know.

FB: Had to have an escort maybe.

JB: Couldn't anybody play with uniforms, either men or women.

FB: Oh I guess that was...

JB: They wouldn't let the girls in, unless they were escorted by some man. So we
got in.

SS: Was that the first time you had off since you were over?

JB: That was the first time. That was the first and only time we had off.

SS: How long were you there?

JB: Year.

FB: Oh you'd have rest periods, wouldn't ya?

JB: Just in the...

FB: Yeah
JB: Barracks in camp, I never was away from the...

FB: No.

SS: Was there any social life for you in the camp?

JB: Yes, I remember we made a Christmas tree and fixed up for the orphans home there.

FB: Oh I think you had dances and everything around base, didn't ya?

JB: Oh not around the base. We did.

FB: I think they got to go.

JB: Some of the, oh, where they took care of 'em and sent for...

FB: Yeah, what do they, what'd they call that where they serve coffee and you, where the boys all went? S O, what do they call 'em? You see 'em advertised, yeah...

JB: We sometimes get an invitation to go there to dance.

FB: Yes. Well now what, UFO camps, isn't it? Yes, I think they had them everywhere, maybe a little far away, some of 'em, but. Well now, UFO, that's flying saucers. I forgot the name.

SS: I don't know. I know what you're trying to think of, sure.

FB: Well, I don't know, but they have them advertised, you see 'em advertised yet.

SS: Did your nursing at the time seem to be demanding a lot of you?

JB: No. Everybody worked those long hours those days, even when I was in training, you know. We didn't have a whole day off, we had a half a day once a week.

FB: I don't think it was any more confining than it is to be a nurse in a hospital right now. You got, I think they...

SS: But the 12 hour day, 7 days a week that she talks about.

FB: Yes.

(End of side B)
FB: We never heard of an 8 hour day.
JB: Never heard of a coffee break.
FB: Grown up on a half a day coffee break.
SS: You say you got up at 4 and you'd go to bed at 9?
FB: Why, probably you was lucky if you got to bed at 9 when you was cooking for 24 men, out in the cookhouse.
SS: How old were you when you started doing that?
FB: I expect I helped when I was about 16. And then, and a few times later I had a helper and I went ahead. So I done, I cooked in the cookhouse quite a few years.
SS: How was that work?
FB: That was somethin'.
JB: That was real work.
FB: You had a flunky who had a rig with a horses and he brought the water and brought the groceries in.
JB: And 'bout the time you think you had everything done they'd come and tell you you had to move.
FB: We's gonna move. They was done with that field.
JB: Pack up everything and move.
FB: Get your dishes packed up and move. Maybe had bread bakin' in the oven. Baked all our own bread then, for the men.
JB: That was real, but it didn't last very long.
FB: No. You were lucky if you got in 30 days or 25, 30 or maybe 35.
SS: But you didn't know in advance when you would be moving?
FB: Oh the flunky would tell us, "Oh we'll move probably this afternoon." But maybe on short orders he didn't know even. He'd be in town to get meat and stuff and when he back they'd run it through a little faster than he thought and that's the way it was.
SS: How set down down could you get your routine. Was it a struggle to get it all done in time?
FB: Oh yes, but then, they was all good. But they, just so long as you had something to eat. Like you had to figure, you always had pie for dinner and cake or cookies for supper and we send out some of 'em had lunch in the morning. Some of 'em lunch in the afternoon, and some of I guess had lunches too. I don't think we ever had lunch only once a day and make sandwiches and coffee.

SS: So you only served three meals.

FB: Three meals and one lunch. So that's quite a bit of work too.

SS: Three meals.

FB: Three meals and one lunch. Um hm. But now you know, you have somebody come to fix your house or do something, they bring their lunch. You're not supposed to cook for anybody, ain't that funny? And it used to be, cook for everybody.

JB: Yes, even a traveling man going through, our mother seen coming, she'd start getting meal ready.

FB: Well we had, you know, we had McNess man and Raleighs, them traveling men that peddled your pepper and cinnamon and vanilla. Well that was quite an event when they come to your house. You pretnear had to feed 'em. And if, lots of times, it was night and you had barn room, they stayed all night. Course they paid for it but they liked to visit too and they were anxious to get acquainted with people and...

SS: You said Raleigh and what?

FB: Raleigh and McNess.

SS: Would they stay in the house?

FB: Oh usually. But sometimes they'd have their bed along and go to the barn and sleep, but I think then sometimes it was neighbors doing that, why they'd have sleep in the house. Yeah, times changed. You see that on television now, them traveling men going. One old program, what was that? Where he peddled all the lace and stuff, you...

SS: It was an event?

FB: Yes, them days it was, when there wasn't, you had to go to town with a team, you know and so it was quite an event when they come.
JB: It was an all day's trip when I was a little girl.

FB: Right, didn't go in 20 minutes like we do now.

SS: I bet that the food that you served to the thrashing crews was pretty satisfactory.

FB: Oh it was. Everybody had big gardens, spuds and potatoes and vegetables and the meat man if they didn't go to town to buy it, the meat man would butcher and travel around to get rid of their beef, you know, to the different, oh well, in this section of the country probably be a half a dozen thrashing machines, you know. And pretty good money to peddle your meat.

SS: Did everybody come inside the cookhouse to eat? What was it like on the inside?

FB: Well, probably not quite as wide as this and some of 'em had long tables on either side. And some of 'em had little square tables that let four sit around. We had both kinds. I been in both kinds.

SS: How many men could you sit in one, usually the whole crew?

FB: Yeah, usually the whole crew, maybe the roustabout or some of the bosses or somebody, oilers out at the machine wouldn't come in right when, but bundle haulers and all that was usually, you're supposed to serve 'em all at the same time. I don't know, you just got in and done it. I couldn't do it now, couldn't think of it.

SS: I would think that cooking for all those people after just cooking for your family would be quite a change.

FB: Well it was, but then, you adjusted to it.

SS: Did you learn from helping some one else?

FB: I suppose I learned, but you kind of grew up with it. You knew about cookhouses and tickled to death to get to work. (laughs)

SS: Was the pay pretty good?

FB: Yes.

JB: It was good wages for...

FB: Yes. Five dollars a day for, them days was really good. Now, well they don't have 'em any more. You've probably seen an old cookhouse, have ya?

SS: I've never seen one, but I've seen pictures.
FB: Yes, they had screen windows and with a flap down probably when it was cold for mornings.

SS: I bet it got pretty hot in there.

FB: Get pretty hot, and pretty many flies. You know, it have stickery things to keep the flies, but of course we moved, I guess when you move and didn't sit too long in one place, the flies couldn't catch up with you too good. But when it'd be a rainy spell, but of course, most of the men would be neighbors, they'd go home in a rainy spell so then you wouldn't have so many so then you could kind of relax and rest a little.

JB: Worse rain I think I ever had was over in France one time, we were moving, I don't know how we happened to be going, but we stopped at a little place where they said we could eat. We stopped and sat down at the table and the yellowjackets were so slick we couldn't hardly see our plates. Oh that was terrible.

FB: That was in France.

JB: Yes. In France. We didn't have very much to eat for a day or two. Sometimes we wouldn't get up in time, be delayed or something, we'd be pretty hungry. And they told us a place to eat, we'd be pretty happy...

FB: But I can remember when Wade was in the army. He said he felt bad sometimes they'd be packed up to move and sit and wait, and he said the waiting game always, you know, and get orders to move and he said all that good food would be just left. He said it was such a waste.

SS: Which war was he in, II?

FB: Yes, II. But he was one of those that too old, they didn't keep him very long. But he was in Austraila, do you remember where they was workin', I don't know if they was diggin' ditches or what, but he said he got so mad. He was around 30 some when they sent some of 'em from here everyplace and then when they got enough younger boys, they...

SS: They let those guys out.

FB: Come, he was there quite a while they said, then 'young smart alecks come and
and tell him how to groom his horses, he said, "I've curried a horse all my life," from the farm, you know. He didn't like it a bit, tell him how to take care of his horses.

JB: One time we went back to Paris, we had orders, it was in between times we were getting one fight where we'd go back and stay in Paris for maybe a day or two. One of the doctors was gonna give us a real dinner he said, and got it all ordered and just able to sit down and the orders come that we were supposed to go. We packed up and made a few sandwiches and took what we could and went. We didn't get to eat.

SS: I imagine in a field hospital you weren't in a good spot to get good food.

FB: I think you had lots...

JB: We had plenty but sometimes it didn't get cooked very good.

SS: Did you find the thrashing an exciting time?

FB: Yes, (laughs).

SS: What made it that way?

FB: Oh, you was young and moving around. I don't know what made it exciting. Every thing was exciting, wasn't it, when you was young? Get pretty tired. For sure.

SS: Maybe it was that the community was getting together on it.

FB: Well a lot of it, lots of times you knew most of the men who were workin'. And you felt kind of good to see 'em eat. And, oh I don't know as it was any, just hard work and I suppose, wanted the money mostly.

SS: I know a number of people that met their wives or husbands there.

FB: I expect that's one of things that was attractive too.

SS: The boys were usually pretty nice?

FB: Yeah, I think that's something about it too.

SS: Offering to do the dishes.

FB: Help a little. Well, I don't know, I never had anybody do dishes because they were usually working most of the time that we were, and pretty tired when night come, but probably a little of that on rainy days, hanging around, probably.

SS: Did you have a chance to visit during that time with the men?
FB: Oh not much, we was usually sittin' out in the field, but sometimes we'd have company, sometimes. Other kids would come on horseback, some of the girlfriends. Everybody rode horses them days you know.

SS: Would you have breaks during the day when you were caught up?

FB: Well, sometimes, but if you had a move or two, you was pretty busy most all the time.

SS: Would you stay in the cookhouse when it moved?

FB: Yeah, sometimes, and sometimes we'd ride with the roustabout. But I guess we had to ride in the cookhouse most of the time, see that the water barrel didn't tip over and a few things like that.

SS: What about everything else? The places?

FB: Well, we had places to put 'em, the benches, if we had a long table, why where they sat was benches and you piled everything in the benches. I can remember that. And then you had to dig 'em out and set the table.

SS: Right inside the benches.

FB: Um hm. Lid on and we just set 'em in the benches.

SS: Was there enough room in the cookhouse to cook?

FB: Yes, I didn't see much.

SS: You didn't feel that...

FB: No, we had a good table, I mean a good stove and a work table, you had all the room you needed, I guess. I think so. Course, you didn't know any different. You had to do it and you done it. (laughs) I think that was the way of it.

SS: When you went to school, did you have to work in Viola to stay?

FB: Moscow.

SS: To high school?

FB: Although, my mother, when I was a first grader, she lived up here at the hotel. We had a three story hotel here in Viola, and we lived three miles up the creek.

FB: We'd go down and stay all week and go home...

FB: Friday night. That's how bad the roads was to get three miles, you know...

SS: Your mother would stay at the hotel? And the kids would stay with her?

FB: Um hum.
SS: How many of you kids?

FB: Well usually three of us, wasn't there? I don't think Mattie ever stayed with us.

JB: No.

SS: Going to school?

FB: Yes.

SS: This would be for the whole winter?

FB: Yeah, all winter, til spring. Then probably she'd move home when work started. But during the bad weather we had a room, two rooms I can remember.

SS: Did you do this for a number of years?

FB: Two or three years, didn't we?

JB: I think so. Through the bad weather. We used to get deep snow, not like it is now, I don't know why, but...

SS: So your father was batching.

FB: He was batching and as a rule that's how they made their living. My dad would make wood all winter and sell it in the summer before he got enough land broke to raise hay and things. And he would make wood and he usually had a couple of friends there that worked for him and they batched and made wood. I remember them, fellas from way down at Guy, they used to come and stay up there and make wood. Yeah, that was how people made a livin'. They sold wood to the farmers.

SS: That was here.

FB: Three miles east of here is where I was born.

SS: Where is the line between the timber and the prairie here, isn't it pretty close?

FB: Just about, right along here. Up above, course, it's broke out more land is broke out now, but all up our road from Viola east, there was trees. There's been lots of land broke out and on our place up there, that was all timber. And there's been sawmills, I can remember the sawdust when we, I never saw the mill, but before we lived there, there was a sawmill and then the Mansons had a sawmill in several different hollows up the creek. They logged all the mountain off up there.
SS: Did he homestead the place?

FB: My dad? Didn't homestead.

Bought

JB: Somebody else did.

FB: He bought a preemption right. Somebody had homesteaded and let it go back. And that's where my dad got that. But he said when they came out here, it's funny, this gal lives next door, her dad and my dad come on the train. What kind of a train did they call 'em? It was...

JB: It was steam engine.

FB: I know, but they called 'em, when they brought people west, there's a name for 'em.

SS: A car that would bring...

FB: I think so, take a lot of people.

SS: And their belongings.

FB: Yeah, well they come and worked a year, my dad did and I suppose Jim Rothwell did too. They worked a year to see how they was gonna like it at the mill someplace a way up here. And then he went back and brought the folks out. But she said she come alone with five kids, my mother, didn't she? I was born after they come out here.

JB: I think he came back, but he had to come back to work and then she come.

FB: Yeah. She sold off what they had and come. She always said it wasn't such a good place, she said, they'd probably left if they ever had money to leave, but they couldn't get money to go anywhere else, but she said that but I've heard her say this is nearest heaven too because there wasn't the bugs and I don't know, and the storms, that's why they left back there. The hail storms. They come, Iowa and Kansas. They lived in both places. But that was awful hard winters in Iowa. And Kansas, I guess that was the storms, or vice versa. Yeah, hail, terrible storms.

SS: They, did they homestead there.

FB: No, but they owned some land. My father's folks farmed Iowa. I believe was the way, wasn't it? Yeah. But it wasn't bad. They had a pretty good life. But what I started to tell...
railroad land that they could have filed on, you know, big strips along that
they could have had, he could have had a good farm from here to Walla Walla,
but instead of that he come to the mountains because he said he'd been on the
prairie and knew about the storms and was afraid. He always wondered if he made
a mistake, but...

JB: He said it reminded him of Scotland.

FB: In the woods, but he made a good enough living. We didn't have much but every
body else worked hard for it but raised everything we ate and we never was
so hard up. My dad had cattle then when he got a little land broke. Made wood.
I guess we never had much money but I guess we lived about as good as other
people. I think probably.

JB: And a little later we had to pick strawberries.

FB: Yes, then that got to be strawberry country up in the hills here.

SS: Started growing 'em?

FB: Yes. And we raised strawberries.

SS: Was there a market?

FB: Oh yes. Yes.

JB: ...remember four dollars a crate we thought was an awful price.

FB: Got to be more than that, got to be four dollars a half a crate, a flat.

SS: Did he put much of his land into it?

FB: Yes. We had a whole hillside. And you'd rotate 'em, you know. And you had to
keep puttin' in, but there were two or three that had big patches up in our
hills, but now nobody has even enough for, but my daughter here, we pick straw-
berries the other day. We've had strawberries since Decoration Day. She's got
everbearings and I never seen the like. But she sets out a new row or two and
that's where you get your berries for the next year.

SS: When did they start canning?

FB: Canning. I don't know. I can remember drying everything when my mother, drying...

Corn...

SS: Is that the way you preserved?

JB: We used to can too, I think.
FB: Yes.

JB: Summer fallow and canned and dried and ...

FB: I think so.

SS: So they were canning when you were a kid?

FB: Oh yes. When I was young, yeah, they canned.

SS: But did they do it in jars?

FB: Yes.

SS: Did they use parafin then for seal?

FB: I think we had fruit jars just the same all during my lifetime. And then there was a little time a few years ago when they got, everybody got freezers and they done a lot of it in that, but now they're getting to can again. I'm sure. Course, everybody has a freezer yet. For meat and things.

SS: You went into Moscow to go to high school?

FB: Um hm.

SS: Did you work when you went in there? Did you work for your board?

FB: Well I did one year too, and that, all you girls had.

JB: Two or three years.

FB: You did, all my sisters had worked for their board. You see, I was, she went to high school about my second year, so it was quite a stretch. I was still out here going to school. But then whe I graduated from the eighth grade, then I went in too. And she was going to the university then.

SS: Where were you boarded.

FB: Well we had a rented rooms and batched three, four girls. of us.

SS: Rented in someone's...

FB: Home. Yeah, just like apartments now. We didn't have apartments but people rented out rooms and put a stove up and kitchen and bed and it wasn't like the apartments now, but they were liveable.

SS: Did you go to work for your room and board?

FB: I didn't. I was only 9 years old the first time I went to school in Moscow.

SS: That young?
FB: Yeah, 'cause the girls were going to school and, but then I went to school that year and then I went to school out here again. I suppose I just wanted to go because the big girls were goin' to school in there. I suppose that was the reason they took me.

JB: You couldn't go alone.

FB: Yes, that was the idea.

SS: From...

FB: From up home here, I couldn't get down to Viola alone.

SS: Weren't there other kids going?

FB: Oh yeah, but nobody from our house and the other girls was all in town so they let me...

SS: You lived in town?

FB: Um hm.

SS: You all lived together?

FB: Um hm. Upstairs, two rooms we had.

JB: Three of us went to school...

FB: Batched.

JB: And the oldest sister worked.

FB: She was takin' dress makin'.

SS: How did that work. Did you take care of her?

JB: I guess. I was in the eighth grade the year we moved up here.

FB: I probably (laughs) pretty sharp.

JB: We sent her after bread and all she could carry, she got a quarter's worth bread and she would hardly carry it home.

FB: Yeah, you got six loaves for a quarter and that used to make me so mad when they'd send me after bread and I had to carry all that, six loaves. Now I'd be happy to get six loaves for a quarter.

SS: Living with your sisters, did you have to be told what to do, or did you have freedom to do what you wanted?

FB: Don't you think?

JB: Huh?
FB: He wants to know if I minded pretty good? (laughs)

JB: I think our oldest sister...

FB: kep' us pretty much in line.

JB: She was five years older than me and I know I had to mind her.

FB: Yeah, I think probably I did too. But this sister, we got a sister up in Spokane in a home now, you know, she's older than Jennie. Pretty spry. I mean, her mind is pretty alert and she still tells me when they used to be playing games or cards at the table at home in the winter, you know. Said I kicked up such a ruckus and she said she could still see my dad lookin' over his paper and sayin', "Let that kid beat once." You know if they beat me every time, I'd kick up an awful stink, you know, I'd be mad about it. And she said, "I can still see our dad sayin' let that kid beat."

SS: Let that kid...

FB: Beat. In a game, you know. If they beat me I would be mad about it and be pretty noisy. That's what she said. She could still see him lookin' over his paper.

SS: Do you think it was rough to be separated from the family to go to school?

FB: Oh I don't think we ever thought about. Somethin' new to get to live in town. I don't think so. No! Our mother used to come often. Drove a team.

JB: Used to bring us fried chicken, I can remember. Early they raised Belgium hares, rabbits. She'd fry one of those and bring it to us.

FB: Yeah, I think we was always glad to see her come. And I guess she probably was glad to get rid of us for a little while, maybe. We used to come home, not every week, but I can remember gettin' up early at home and our dad would get us to town at 9 o'clock with a team, you know. So that meant startin' up there pretty early. On Monday mornings. Sometimes we would come home, you know, and stay the weekend. And he'd get us to school.

SS: But there was no high school in Viola?

FB: Then there wasn't, but my daughter went to high school, afterwards we had a good school, and I don't know if we ever had four years, but we had two.

JB: They built up the new school after it burned down. Must have been...
FB: I think, no, didn't have only eighth grade when you was, but when Shirley did...
SS: You girls were going to high school at the time except for the oldest one.
JB: The oldest one was a dress maker.
SS: You must have all been pretty independent then.
FB: Oh I guess. Twasn't hard to cook a little and get up and go to school. I guess that was the main thing.
SS: Did you have much social life?
FB: Oh, I'm sure they did!
SS: What...
JB: Yes, I know I had the measles that year too.
FB: Yeah, but he said social life.
SS: What did you do for your recreation in Moscow?
FB: Oh yes.
SS: Did you go to dances?
JB: We had parties. They were going to have a party the night I graduated from the eighth grade and I couldn't go because I had the measles and I had the girls, some of the other girls brought my diploma to me.
FB: That eighth grade?
JB: That was the eighth grade.
FB: Didn't you have measles when you went to university?
JB: What?
FB: Measles?
JB: No. I was in the eighth grade.
FB: You did. Well, you can't remember everything.
JB: Doctor said I had to stay in a dark room, so I had to stay in bed and I didn't get to go to graduation.
SS: Must have been a disappointment.
FB: I expect it was. Now was that Moscow or here?
JB: Moscow. You must have been there too. Did we live there more than one year?
FB: I think a couple or three years we lived there, that place.
SS: Did you later go to Moscow yourself for high school?
FB: Yes, these girls was all gone and some of 'em married and another girl and I batched and I went to high school.

SS: The two of you lived in Moscow.

FB: Um hm.

SS: What was that like.

FB: Oh that was, we thought we was pretty, young ladies. We used to come out here on Friday night and go to a party or a dance or somethin'. Oh just like they do now, I guess. Only we all didn't have cars and things like they do now, to run.

SS: Did you have horses?

FB: Oh, we didn't have horses in town. Although I had a horse to ride when I stayed at Cannels. So just pretty much like it is now, I guess.

SS: Did you ever go to any rivivals they had in Moscow?

FB: Oh we had camp meetin' every summer here in Viola. (laughs)

JB: That's when I, we would, what was Poor Tom's brother's name?

FB: We had a tent camp meetin' up the creek here two or three summers. And then when the faith people, what we call Linusites, and they had camp meetin' over here. So we had lots, and we had travelling ministers, we had Sunday School and church up here at this church all my life until just recent. When they consolidated the schools, then that kind a took away the Sunday School and things from out here. People who were church people, they went to town to church. And they tried, every summer we'd have Sunday School up here. And we had oh, preachers that belonged to the Ministerial Association. We'd have a preacher for a week or a month or so. So we've had lots of...

SS: What denomination were the camp meetins?

FB: Well that's what I said, the Advents. We had an awful flock of Adventists when they first begun up the creek, then they'd have camp meeting every summer. But these others, now there's quite a few faith people, you're not familiar with them?

SS: Just heard of 'em.

FB: Well, we don't know what they call themselves. We call 'em the faith people.
But we always, when I was young, we called 'em Linusites because he was the first minister, old Linus was.

SS: Was he around here?

FB: Oh yeah, around here and they preached, they got lots of people. And they kind of died out awhile and now there's a lot of 'em again.

SS: Why faith?

FB: Well, why? They're good people.

JB: They're kind of clannish, very good to each other.

FB: They're awful good to each other.

JB: Belonged to their church.

FB: But I think they think they're the only ones, well, a lot of churches do that. They're the only ones that are saved, I would say, because it doesn't matter what you do, it's alright you ain't goin' where they are anyway. They kind of give you that impression, although there's lots of nice, we got friends that are in the faith people. And if we go to church with 'em they stop and take us every time we'd go, but I didn't see the use. But they're good people and they're good to each other. If their own members.

JB: If they're sick or something.

SS: Did you go to the Adventist meetings?

FB: Oh yes, when I was a kid we went. Yes.

SS: Were they pretty emotional?

FB: Yes. What they used to have meetings around up at the schoolhouse, you know. Us kids used to go. But I can remember one old lady done quite a lot of preachin'. One of the first ones here and they didn't have an established minister. And she always expected, I can remember that since I was a kid, she expected the end of the world was comin' when they moved here, you know.

(End of side C)

FB: My mother settin' in a wheel chair and I said Mrs. Shields passed away and my mother said, "Now she got out of the world just the same as the rest of us will." After she had preached, that was 60 years later, I imagine.

SS: That we were all going to be gathered up in the clouds was just the idea of
the world ending.

FB: Yes. They preached it all the time that the last days are here. I don't know what they preach now, because there's not many Advents left. They've all passed away or moved away. There's only a family or two and they've got pretty worldly. They're not so narrow minded as they used to be.

SS: When they were against...

FB: Oh, they thought that they was the end of the world, that we were gonna be gathered up in the clouds. That woman thought it and preached it.

SS: Did they ever set a time?

FB: Oh, there's been lots of times set. My mother said one time back before they moved out here they sold their things and sat and waited for the end of the world to come. And that was an Advent settlement. So she was familiar with this end of the world here when this old lady preached it. Yes, she thought that. That the end of the world was comin'.

SS: Do they not eat meat?

FB: Oh yeah, they don't each much meat. Pigs they don't eat pork. These don't eat much, these were mostly vegetarians that lived around here, although they did eat beef and chicken. But pork, you can't eat pork, nor clams or what with a shell on 'em. For some. I've read what that reason was, but I forgotten.

SS: Did they work on their farms much?

FB: Good workers, but not on Saturday. If they wanted to borrow something, they come Sunday morning, you know. That always made me mad. If they wanted to borrow somethin' they come Sunday morning. But if you let them entirely alone on Saturday, that was their worshipping day.

SS: You were worshipping on Sunday.

FB: But we worshipped Sunday, we kept Sunday, but we were keepin' the wrong day, it didn't amount. That's one thing they was pretty snotty about. Is, you didn't keep your day, why, I can remember one time we was pickin' peas when this Byron Sheflin's wife was pickin' peas and the boss come and said, "We got a rush order for Sunday if some of you want to work, you can work Saturday and
Sunday. I don't remember whether we did or not, but I can remember Verna sayin' to a bunch of us that rode in the same car with her, said, "Well, you just as well work, you're keepin' the wrong day anyway." So we'll wait and see. She's still livin' up the creek and I'm livin' here. We'll see someday who's kept the wrong day. Or if we both kept the right one. Yeah, she said, "You just as well work, you're keepin' the wrong day anyway."

JB: Catholics are kinda like that too.

EB: If you don't do what they believe, you know.

JB: When I was in training we used to get orders to work on Sunday so the Catholic girls could go to Mass. And so, they got to callin' us the 'heathens' that had to work on Sunday.

SS: Was that in Portland?

JB: In training school. They would go to Mass, so they could get off. We didn't have any excuse, so we had to go to work.

SS: Did the, what was the denomination of the local church?

FB: It was just the community church. And the end of it, there was two men. One was a Nazarene. And one went to the Christian church and they got to quarrelin', so they each wanted to fix up the church and put their money in. And so they just kinda broke up altogether. I don't know how it did come out. That was Willis and Ed Gray. Eddie Gray. No, Art Ross used to say, "I'm a Moscow Nazarene, Ed'a a Palouse Nazarene."

SS: What's the difference?

FB: Well, shouldn't have been any. Shouldn't have been any, but he used to say it that way. Because Ed Gray kind of bossed the Nazarene put his money in the Nazarene church in Palouse, but he's finally moved close to Moscow too. He felt out over there.

SS: When you were going to the community church, did it lean towards one denomination?

FB: Well, I think Christian church. This has always been a Christian church, I think. Course, when my folks come, they come from Scotland. They're all Presbyterians, pure and simple. And I don't know what they, I can remember our dad bringing us to church every Sunday, do you, and Sunday School? But I never knew just
sort of religious people, that's all, but I'm sure this is always Christian church. It's kind of like, I always say Billy Graham's a good talker and he always can't wait to get to heaven, but when he gets sick he gets the very best physician around. He ain't so anxious when it comes right down. He's just like the rest of us. He's going to live as long as he can.

SS: Do you think the Adventists in their revivals were emotional?

FB: Oh, almost. Almost.

JB: They're pretty set in their ways. Got some good speakers too.

SS: Did they get a lot of converts here?

FB: When they come up our way, our home is three miles up the creek and between here and Viola there was a settlement, the Advents bought all the land and they had a school, Advent school up there on the hill at one time. Boarding school even and school and so the converts and some come from far away. But there were lots of families who were Advents, moved in here. And they were supposed to have, they were going to make breakfast food. But that never materialized. So they moved away, one by one.

SS: That's why they moved away.

FB: No work here.

SS: You said that they wanted to buy you place. Did a lot of people sell their places to them?

FB: Oh yes.

SS: And moved away?

FB: Uh huh.

SS: So it really changed the composition of the neighborhood.

FB: Oh yes. When the Advents were here, why, there was an awful lot of Advents around. That was sort of a settlement, but as time went on, they went away and other people come, well there's lots more people here than there was in them days, you know. I could walk to Viola and only pass three or four houses. And now there's a trailer house or a house every little bit.

SS: You say settlement; were they more clustered together?
FB: Well they're around in the hills I'd say, all...
SS: They didn't have 160 acres?
FB: No. Some of the bigger that had money, buy, bought, and then they'd sell a little place and build a house.
SS: Do you know what part of the country they came from?
FB: I really don't. I think down at College Place, maybe Walla Walla a lot of 'em come from. You know, College Place is an Advent town. But there's only the Sheflin family about all I can think of that's Advents now. I said we was here before 'em and we outlived most of 'em.
SS: Did they mix very much...
FB: Oh, it seemed like at first they didn't much. But as time went on I guess they found out we wasn't any worse than they was. As a rule,
SS: Must have changed the family if quite a few sold out and left.
FB: Quite a few it did. And the Advent school, you know, there's one old lady, Mrs. Baden always come around before school starts. "And if any of your children will go to school, I'll pay tuition." She would give that order, I can remember She's come to my house.
SS: She pay their tuition...
FB: If they would go to the Advent school to make it a few more. When they begin to get a little scarce. She was an old lady and she is a good Advent and she owned land and had a little money and she'd always say, "If anybody wants to come to our school, I'll pay their tuition." And I don't know if she got very many victims or not. But I suppose she got a few.
SS: Do you know what the instruction was like at the school?
FB: No, they're just good, only they taught Bible at school. They were alright and I guess had good, I think their credentials probably were alright because, there's some of 'em been pretty smart kids, all them Sheflin kids have. You know Jim Sheflin that's head of Music down at WSU, do you know him? He was raised here.
SS: I know who he is.
FB: And his dad went to school with my daughter at Viola, later. See the school
kind of faded away up there after they didn't have, well a lot of, like a lot of other private schools, I guess the money, too few people to make enough money to hire the teachers and things. Because Howard went to Viola a year or two, but they also went up to Spangle a lot. And that's an Advent school up there. And I don't know how Howard, but I think it was because his dad wasn't very well and he had to help with the chores and do that. I think that's why. Because him and Shirley always were tight together. They always nip and tuck, they...

SS: Did many of the people leave the community church to go to the Adventist?

FB: No. It seems that the Advents, everybody knew about 'em before they come. They used to go to meetings, to, us kids did, and I suppose some of the older, but not many...

SS: Everybody knew they were coming?

FB: Well, knew what their religion was, that the end of the world was here.

SS: I imagine a lot of people couldn't accept that.

FB: They couldn't hardly accept that. But that's like the Nazarenes, no, what was that man always used to visit us?

SS: Was that Jehovah's?

FB: Yeah. We used to be pestered with them when we lived up the creek. Travelling around every summer, this old fellow. They thought the end of the world was coming.

SS: There was quite a few.

FB: No. That's not been 10, 15 years ago. He said, "You want to be prepared, because it's gonna be right away," and I said we, the second coming of Christ, that's what they always preached, the Jehovah Witness. And I said, we been looking for 2000 years and I don't think you or I either one will see Him. I don't know what he thought of that, but he didn't think I was very smart sayin' it. But I didn't care.

SS: Would the Adventists talk to the people?

FB: Oh yes.

SS: Persuade?
FB: Right. When they first come here, but nobody listened to 'em, so they kinda quit. But they have a good school over at Moscow. They still have Advent school. You know, towards Troy, don't ya, you probably know where it is. And as and out about where you live, there's quite a few Advents. That LeRoy Carlson and all his relatives, that's...

SS: Where they here when you were young?

FB: No. I was probably about 14 or 15 when they begin to come in here. And I don't know if they'd been over at Troy before or if that's just a branch of the ones that come here. I really don't know. But they seem to, quite a lot of 'em had quite a little money. The Abaden's and the Sheflin's and the Schultz's. And they bought the land and then as more came in, they'd sell off a little bit. My dad sold 10 acres to them people and they built a house and they let it go back, finally. There was a few mills and things that they worked at when they first come here and then as the mills...

SS: That they owned?

FB: No, but they could find work and harvest in the summer. I mean, harvest in the fall. But as time went on, then they found something better, I guess.

SS: Most of 'em were pretty poor.

FB: Well, just ordinary. Few of 'em had a little money, but not a lot.

SS: But most of the people around here had farms.

FB: Yes, own land, but I don't know, everything was so cheap. You just barely made a livin'. You had to have a cow and pigs and chickens in order to live, and that's about the way everybody done. Some were a little bigger farmers, little more land.

SS: Did your family, when you and your sisters were working, was it your money, or did it go to help your family?

FB: I think it was all ours, wasn't it?

JB: I think so. We used it to buy books.

FB: I can remember the girls going, if they went with the cookhouse that fall, I can remember them splurging to go to school, get new coats and clothes. I wasn't
quite big enough to have any money then, so I can remember that.

SS: Was it important in your family to go to school?

JB: Oh yes, I think our father wanted us to go.

FB: Yes. I think so.

JB: We could. Our oldest sister got married when she was 17. He always felt bad
about that. She hadn't got as much schooling as she should have.

SS: Are there any boys in your family?

FB: Our only brother was killed right up there were we lived when he was 17.

SS: Logging accident?

FB: No. My dad and he fell a tree on him. A big limb just come and... I was 3 months
old. And Jennie can remember, can't ya?

A little. Yeah, that was a terrible time. Only boy they had. I guess they had
a baby boy back east that didn't live, but that was the only, and my dad always
needed a boy so bad with all the girls, but, that's what happened. But he had
been someplace to school the winter...

JB: Spokane to a trade school of some kind.

FB: Some friends took him and he went to school. Yeah, that was a ...

SS: Did you hear how it happened?

JB: Oh no, we didn't know just how it happened, only what our dad told us.

FB: They were up on the hill, the girls...

JB: Tried to get out of the way and a big limb hit him.

SS: Did any of the girls help in the field?

FB: Oh, I rode horseback all my life and herded cows, yeah.

SS: Did you do farm work for him too?

FB: No. I don't think I ever...

JB: Well, we didn't have too much farm work.

FB: But the neighbors done. We didn't run plow and do things like that that some
of the girls did, you know. Work in the field and in the hay, but I don't think
we ever did.
SS: Is that 'cause he didn't want you to?

FB: Oh, I think my dad didn't believe in the girls, he thought that was men's work, I believe.

JB: Mother helped him work.

FB: Yeah.

SS: She helped in the fields?

FB: Oh, when they burned brush. He'd clean off some land every year and they'd burn brush and I think that's about all she done. And then we got to having strawberries and everybody worked in the strawberries. We...

SS: Was there a lot of tending to do?

FB: Oh yes, you, I don't remember hoeing, but we picked strawberries. That was about a month. But I don't know. We helped set out the strawberry plants, but I don't remember hoeing much. Us girls didn't.

JB: We picked a lot.

FB: Yeah, we picked lots of strawberries.

SS: When you grew up, what kind of ambition did you have about what you wanted to do?

FB: Oh I don't know, hard to tell.

JB: I always thought I was gonna be a school teacher first. I never got there.

SS: Isn't being a nurse as good?

FB: Oh yeah, that's good as a schoolteacher.

SS: Maybe harder work.

JB: Yes.

SS: What were the ideals that girls had then?

FB: I don't know. Just 'bout like they do now. Grow up, I guess and get married, or I don't know any different than any other. They, I guess they go to school and go to beauty shop a little better than they did then. I think we all thought we'd get to be schoolteachers. I believe that's probably about what we'd do.

SS: I heard that schoolteachers couldn't teach once they got married.

FB: I guess they did too, get married and quit about a half, all my friends did
at least.

JB: All but Dode. She kept on.

FB: She kept teachin', didn't she? Uh huh.

SS: Did you want to be a farm wife?

FB: Well, I really don't know. I really can't remember that I, I suppose I wanted a little, you was always ambitious to have a little more money and a little better than you was. I guess you just expected to get that some way or other.

SS: You didn't want to go to Hollywood and be a movie star?

FB: I don't think so.

JB: No, I don't think that was much in the picture.

FB: No, I don't think anybody...

JB: We didn't know enough about it to be interested in.

FB: No, I don't think so.

SS: Where did you meet your husband?

FB: Oh probably went with his mother to the cookhouse, helped her at the cookhouse, after I got acquainted with him. That's probably the start of that. Oh his family just farmed around. And you get acquainted around at parties or dances or somethin'. And that's 'bout the way. Just how kids get acquainted now.

SS: I don't know if it's quite the same.

FB: This only grandson that I've got, he grew up in this house here, well, when the war was over, a boy across the street brought a woman and a little girl home with him, he'd found her someplace, that was his stepdaughter. Well Charles and her went to school all their life together, on the bus here in Viola. He never seen her at all, but after he come home from the war, why, couldn't see anybody but Marilyn, wasn't that funny? They lived across the street for 8, 10 years. Just that happened, just couldn't see anybody but Marilyn. He had grown up and he had grown a little older. But it was kind of funny, I used to babysit for him and her when Shirley and Vernon and Sonny and Clale would go someplace. Well they never paid, and he'd be settin' studyin' and she'd be, she was just a little girl, you know. It's funny, we never thought about them
They've got a nice home and live up the creek and he's plant superintendent in Potlatch.

SS: How old were you when you got married?
FB: 19.

SS: Was that about the age that a lot of people were getting married?
FB: I think kinda. I don't know. They're supposed to be married older now but I can see a lot of them just 19, 19, 20.

SS: Do you think that makes any difference?
FB: No.

SS: Whether you waited a long time?
FB: No, I don't think it does. And I think, I don't know, they've all had so many divorces and things now, it's just a trend. They'll get over that someday too.

SS: When you were growing up, what was the attitude to divorce?
FB: They didn't have divorces so many. When you got married, you got a bad one, you stayed and worked it out. But then, later than now, like now, I think it's about as bad as it'll get. It'll get the other way, go the other way. They're just everybody's, everybody's almost that you see. When we lived up home here in the last ten years I babysat around for, oh, I didn't have anything to do, I could go. Well, pretnear everyplace I babysat, well they either had a step-dad or a stepmother. And I said to them Hall kids, I said everybody you know has got a stepmother or a stepdad. Just no full families.

SS: Is that 10 years ago?
FB: Yeah, that's right now...

SS: Its got a lot worse than that.
FB: Well, it has got worse, that was the begining. Yes, just everybody now, pretnear. The younger ones.

SS: Looking back, do you think it was a good idea when the people had to stay together?
FB: Oh I don't know whether it was any worse, but it's now. I can see why they do now. The girls are just as independent as the men and get to work and if you got a little money you don't have to stay with him. You can just get out and go.
...that's the, that's why it's happenin' so bad now, 'cause the girls are working. They get just as big money as the men. They don't have to be. I think they'll get over that, I believe. I don't know, but I think maybe they will.

SS: In those days did it seem to you like a lot of marriages were unhappy?

FB: I don't think so. They all worked hard and raised their kids and I guess that's...

SS: But if you had to stay together and you didn't want to, or did you want to stay together because you had to?

FB: Oh, I don't think everybody wanted a divorce like they do. That's the first thing they think about nowadays if they quarrel or something, why they just leave. That's all. They can seem to do that. Did you see the mail come? Leta'll be looking for me probably. (Pause on tape.)

SS: How close people would watch their money in those days. Do you think it was very close?

FB: Oh indeed. My sister, that one in Spokane said, "The dollars come so easy nowadays," and said, "I just feel bad the dollars were so hard to make." Oh yes. But there was other things; they worked and raised garden and things. They didn't depend so much on the dollars. You couldn't live without money now. They lived. Maybe with very little money. Had plenty to eat, all you bought was coffee and sugar and some people didn't use that. The flour was cheap and raised 'most everything you ate. Never thought about needin' money every minute. Oh that was different, I know that. A little money went a long ways them days. Well you bought a lot more with your little bit of money that you had. Was another thing.

SS: Do you know of many families where the men had drinking problems in those days?

FB: Yes. I know a few.

SS: I had the idea that that was quite a problem back then.

FB: Well I don't think it was quite as bad as it is now. I don't believe it was quite as bad as it is now. But there were more men, more people, I don't know maybe it was just the same.

JB: I don't know whether it's worse now or...
FB: I don't either. I don't know whether you'd say it's worse now or...

SS: It would usually be the man with the drinking problems, not the wife?

FB: Oh yes, yeah. I don't know, in my lifetime, I don't know any woman I don't think that had a drinking problem and they say they're so many now. We don't know about 'em, but I know one or two that do have, but you'd never know it.

SS: What would she do when her husband started drinking up all the money?

FB: Oh well, lot's of times they went out and worked or something like that. Separated probably. But I don't know if they were any worse then or now. They say there's awful lot of drinking now, but of course, I'm not around to know about it. I don't know about it. So.

SS: When you got married, did you find that you could make do on very little? Did you have much when you got married?

FB: Oh, I don't know. I guess we had a team and a cow and a few chickens, I guess, probably started out like everybody else then. Around here I guess in town they done a little differently, I don't know. But about everybody I knew was about in the same boat, I'd say.

SS: Did you have your own farm at the time?

FB: No, we rented a farm at first and then he rented my dad's place in later years, and that's the way it was. And we had a little place of our own later.

SS: When the depression hit here, was the 30's worse than the 20's?

FB: Nah, we didn't...

JB: I can't remember the depression at all, seems like we had just as much...

FB: We had just as much as we did any other time, the way we lived. People who work and lost their jobs, that was different. We lived on a ranch and raised things, I didn't think it was any different than any other time. I can remember when they say in '93, that's the year I was born, that was the bad depression when a lot of people lost their land and the land banks got everything. Well my dad said that was about the best year he had because there was so much spoiled grain that they just bring it for a little wood. And he could feed his cattle and he said that was about as good a year as he'd had. So it worked both ways.

SS: Did he lose his grain that year?
FB: Well he didn't have much. He only made wood and had cattle to feed. And the farmers needed wood to, because they had wood burnin' stoves, and he said he could get a little, he could get lots of grain that was spoiled a little but was good enough for cattle feed. And they had to have wood and they just traded for everything. Wood. So it wasn't any worse, that's the year I think he said he built the house. Or got the lumber to build it.

SS: That's pretty good.

FB: But a lot of people went broke on their farms, had to begin all over again.

SS: Some people said to me that right after WWI, and the early 20's were rough for them on the farms because the prices were low. Do you remember it as being hard?

JB: The big farmers, I think...

FB: I think probably the big farmers, but now they complain they don't get enough and I can remember the last oats that we sold, last few years, if we got $35 a ton for oats and now it's $108 I see the price on television, and still they complain. But, we farmed with horses, didn't take so much to farm, them days. So I don't know.

SS: Were you making enough money...

FB: To live?

SS: To save.

FB: No. We never saved. Then you done good to buy what you needed I think. Oh, we bought a car, Tin Lou, when the new cars come out. I guess by hook and crook it's just like it is now. They just, some people had a little money and some people spent it all and some people was in debt. I don't see much difference.

SS: Seems like there's a lot more money now.

FB: Ain't there? Why there is. They talk about the good old days, and I can see good, good things then. We didn't have so much money but we had other things. But...

SS: Like what other things?

FB: Well, we were more...

(End of side D)
FB: A lot of 'em don't. Well country people sure don't and I don't know what they do in town. I don't think they do in town because they don't know their neighbors. I can see that people that I know don't even know their, maybe I'll know 'em out here from comin' to club or meetin' 'em someplace, they don't know who their next door neighbors are. And it was more sociable, those days, 'bout that way. But as for havin' money there's more money, these kids get more money than the men did, used to. And are not happy unless they do get it.

SS: When did you first start working out after you were married?

FB: Oh I never help, maybe help a woman in the house or somethin', I never worked for a long time then, til my kids was bigger.

SS: Did you find it was full time work just to keep the home?

FB: Sure. Well, my mother was old at that time and we lived next door so then as time went on, she got in a wheelchair, so I was pretty busy for quite a few years.

SS: You were caring for her?

FB: Well, helpin'. Dad was...

JB: 'Bout 8 years...

FB: She was 8 years in a wheelchair. So I been busy all my life, doing somethin', sometimes didn't amount to much.

SS: Did you live in the same house?

FB: No. No.

SS: You took care of both houses.

FB: Yes and I wasn't very good housekeeper to boot.

SS: You weren't?

FB: So I said its kind of hard to keep two houses when you ain't a very good housekeeper in the first place. But oh yes, we washed for her and we done a lot.

SS: Was there a lot of work that you had to do in a house then that you don't have to do anymore?

FB: No, everything.

JB: It wasn't as easy...
BYERS/BROUILLARD  

FB: Well, we didn't have things as handy as I have in later years. But then, you always had to cook and wash and keep your kids clean and send 'em to school. I don't see a bit of difference what the women do now as what they did then. Only most of 'em have automatic washers and a few things. But there's probably other things they do that we didn't have to do then. I don't know.

SS: It seems like they've got a lot of free time...

FB: Now.

SS: Then they had.

FB: Oh indeed.

JB: Now you so much as put up already, almost to put on the table.

FB: But it's just like one sister said: you can stay busy if you want to, doin' nothin'. And some people can get a lot done in that same time. But they think they're just as busy. It seems like it works out that way. I don't know why.

SS: Why was your mother in the wheelchair?

FB: Oh she just got old and...

JB: She fell and hurt...

FB: She said, "I had one hip that never was any good and it just gave out." I don't think she had a stroke or anything, and just sort of enjoyed bein' waited on. I said she had the ambition that my dad had, she wouldn't have stayed in the wheelchair, but she did. And he lived to be, lacked a month of being 99 years old and only about three months that he was just a little bit over the hill. He was pretty smart. I always said when he was 85 and we were puttin' up hay or I was helpin' I said him and I made as good a man as the other men who were workin' (chuckles) Him and I together.

SS: But he was still working at 85.

FB: Oh yes. He was a pretty good man at 85. Had bees. Him and I used to extract probably 400 lbs. of honey a year. That was in, when they couldn't get sugar they'd just beat a path to our door. We didn't have a bit of trouble selling our honey. (laughs)

SS: When was it they couldn't get it?

FB: Don't you remember when sugar was rationed?
SS: WWII? or WWI?

FB: Well now, I just can't remember, but all of a sudden, then when it come on, why it wasn't so much sale for honey. But just the other day I paid a dollar and a half for a little glass of honey probably wouldn't be a pint would it? Probably s'posed to be a pint. I said we sold buckets and buckets for a dollar and a quarter, half gallon. Tin buckets we put it up in. But that's the difference. There wasn't no money then, but things didn't cost so much. If you had a little money you'd get about as much as you would now with all the money that's in circulation. I can't hardly believe it but seems to be the way of the world.

SS: So what they call the depression...

FB: That was before that. Had to be before that.

SS: Probably WWI.

FB: Must of been the tail end of WWI.

SS: I think there was rationing then. When that depression came, you really didn't feel it?

FB: I don't think we did. I don't believe we did.

SS: Things were about the same.

FB: Yeah.

SS: But then the price of crops was down.

FB: Down, but we were getting more because I can remember my dad, when we'd sell a veal and got so much. I don't know, I suppose we used to sell 'em for $15. Then when we sell a veal, get 35 or $40, he thought that was wonderful. But he didn't realize on the other tail end, we was paying quite a little more for groceries that we'd bought before, but that was wonderful to get so much more for a veal. So, I don't know, it worked both ways.

SS: As renting land, were you interested in buying?

FB: Oh, that was just, we had a little place next to our dad's and he just farmed 'em all. That was after my dad got, oh, too old to, and we milk cows and we done lots of things.

SS: Was that uncommon...
FB: No.

SS: For someone to be 85 like your father...

FB: Oh, well, he sort of outlived a lot of the neighbors, but then we had lots of old neighbors too. We had lots of old neighbors.

JB: Seems like they didn't get cancer then like they do now.

FB: That was the first. The neighbor down the way, that's the first cancer I remembered and the men used to go set up with old Man Lynch, you remember? But now, just every other person got a cancer pretnear. Women and men both.

SS: You mentioned that one of the Cummerford boys shot and killed himself. Why? Do you remember?

FB: 'Member? Jack? How'd I happen to tell that?

SS: You mentioned to Laura and I'd heard something about it before.

FB: Well that was in the Potlatch store. And he worked in the men's department.

He married a Brown girl, do you remember?

JB: Who was that?

FB: Jack Cummerford. And he shot himself in the shoe store. And I guess that was over his wife, but I can't remember. Yes, she fell in love with his brother, wasn't that, married his brother after that, I do—believe. I believe that's the way of it. Been' so long ago. But I can remember. When they went to work in the morning, there he had struggled around, there was blood all over that Potlatch shoe store. I can remember him telling that. Yeah, that was Jack Cummerford. I don't think they a any kids, I'm sure. But I believe it was the brother or brother-in-law that she...

SS: Did you ever hear of Psychianna Robinson?

FB: Oh indeed. I poked envelopes full of papers there two or three years.

SS: You worked for him.

FB: Never saw him. He was quite a man, wasn't it? Doc Robinson.

SS: A noted figure.

FB: Indeed. Where have, oh you've just heard from different...

SS: I've heard from all over.
FB: Well, that was funny. We used to get somebody moved away from here and wrote back and said did we ever hear of Doc, papers, other places, you know, had big write-ups about him, but nothing ever here in the Moscow paper. Yeah...

SS: They wrote and asked if you ever heard of him?

FB: His fame had spread far away but not, course everybody right in Moscow new who he was and all that, but didn't pay any attention to him. Like they did from, at other places.

SS: Do you know what the women who worked for him thought of him?

FB: Oh, it was just a good job and the mail, that was puttin' up mail. Kept probably oh, ten of us. Stuffing papers. They must have bought...

JB: Was he a real doctor?

FB: Oh yeah, I don't know. He was sort of...

SS: He was a religious leader.

FB: Yeah. And he had a lot of pull, people, I can remember the bosses where we worked would say some people come in there and say they wanted to see him so bad. Course, he was never around where we were. But they said that if they could just touch, just look at him or touch him, they could be cured. He had that much power over some people.

SS: Was it hard for them to see him?

FB: I don't think he ever was around much in Moscow. I don't know if you could see him or not. I really don't. No.

SS: So that was another job the people around here could get.

FB: Well a lot of people worked there, different, oh yes, he had big crews sometimes, wasn't very much improved when I worked. He was fadin' out. But one summer, maybe two summers I worked there. And...

SS: That was when you were off pea picking?

FB: Yeah, that was later. But I think that was going on. Quite a lot got pretty much during pea picking time too, 'cause some of the gals who had picked peas worked there. I don't, it didn't go on all the same time but I think kind of the stuffin' the envelopes come along just as the pea picking was sort of
slackin' off. I believe that was the way of it.

SS: Was the socializing in those days more like just two families getting together, or more neighbors?

FB: Oh, neighbors. We used to have parties and dances. Yes. Lots more than now adays.

SS: Where would they be?

FB: Oh over this dance hall up here. I don't suppose they could head a dance in them days, but we all went.

SS: Dance hall?

FB: Yeah, right up there on the hill.

SS: Was it outside of town?

FB: Right here in the city of Viola, but everybody come from miles around. Christmas and holidays and maybe once a month they'd have a dance up there.

SS: Private owned?

FB: Somebody owned a, but somebody would run the dance, have an orchestra. Hire the hall for all winter or somethin'. Yes, they don't have any dances like that around in the country anymore. I think they do at the pool halls, maybe, when they drink and dance. I don't know anything about that. And at the Moose and Elk's they still dance, but we don't have any country dances like we used to. There's none around anyplace. I don't know just why. Kids nowadays don't dance. I mean the high school kids, and I guess other people do, but no country dances. But...

SS: Was there much visiting back and forth among families?

FB: Oh yes everybody knew everybody else and visited. A lot more than they do now. They would scare you if you see a family coming to get dinner for Sunday. And always expected to do that. I think, wouldn't it? Scare everybody if they seen a family come to get Sunday dinner. You always went home with somebody or had company after church and Sunday School. But that's all the socializing and all week they worked. Now the kids go to school kids, all of 'em got a car, they go to town every night. Something. Yeah.
SS: Would people of all ages come to these dances?

FB: Yeah, big and little. They didn't have babysitters. Sometimes there'd be a whole lot of babies or little kids settin' around. Yeah, whole families come.

SS: Would there be food there?


SS: People would bring them in?

FB: Oh no, usually the man that was runnin' the dance, you had to buy your supper. He'd have somebody preparing it. Yeah, that's really gone.

SS: When they danced, would you dance with a lot of different people?

FB: Sure. They finally got then, in later years you danced with just the two couples that you come with, or maybe your own. But we danced with everybody. Everybody knew everybody else. Yep. That sure got funny after while. They're gettin' back to ballroom dancing now. You see it on television. But the kids, they don't know nothin' about dancin', they hop around like...That's right.

SS: You have a club like the quilting club now. Was there anything like that in those days?

FB: Well now, during WWI, they met around at the houses here and they knit and they made stockin's for the men and went on. Pretty soon they had...[missed text]

SS: Was that Ladies Aid or was that local?

FB: That was, they always called it club here. I don't think church, although church women come too. In town it was always Ladies Aid. Out here they knit and did things for that and then it just went on and on. This is about the oldest club in the county I think.

SS: Its the same club?

FB: Oh yeah. Went on, I mean the old ones die off and the young ones come on. Same club. Used to be an extension club from the university or the county, you know. But we don't have her come out anymore, because nobody, there's gettin' a few young ones now, but it got to be mostly us old ones and we'd had all that dressmakin' and cookin' and what have ya and we didn't want that any more, so we just pay our dues anymore, so we dropped.
SS: The extension club, that began after WWI?

FB: Um hm.

SS: Was the beginning of the club WWI, or before?

FB: I would imagine even before first world war. And then got a little better durin' the war. And then its just always went on and on and met at the houses first and then up in the old schoolhouse when they didn't have school there. After the county was consolidated. And then it went on and on til they built the little house up there and now we're gonna wear it out, I guess, this bunch. The next bunch will, probably. Yeah. Always been somethin' doing there every Thursday for many many years.

SS: So you think it never stopped after WWI.

FB: No, it never stopped, but at one time it was, like they still have extension clubs around, you know, where this JoAnne Anderson, she was out here the other day demonstratin' the crockpots cookin' for the 4-H girls, but the 4-H girls had to go to school so the other old ladies had to come. She had a dozen old ladies. I didn't go, but a lot of 'em did. And she would come again, you know, she was always lookin' for somethin' to do, which is alright. She's doing her job, but we don't need her. We have had...

SS: Was it useful in its day, extension club?

FB: I don't think that it ever was, but that's one man's opinion. I think you talk to other women you would think it was alright. She gets good wages and she puts in her time, but I can tell you here just how it works out to me now. Maybe these young ones who want to learn things, but you know, they learn so much in the books they don't need her. She's, I think that's surplus money that's spent. But that's just my opinion. But we went to a dinner at the Moose, you know, the Moose is now givin' free dinners to old people. Well I didn't go free, I pay for my dinner and I've only been twice. But one day that I was there, she talked. And she was doing, she was paid to do this speech after dinner and I'll bet she spent an hour and a half telling all old people like me, half of 'em was asleep before she got done and I just couldn't hardly set
there, I wanted to get up and go, tellin' us how to buy and what to buy. Well
we've done that 'fore she was born, til it's just boring. Now if you know what
it was.

SS: I believe you.

FB: Well that's just exactly what it was. Wasn't nobody interested at all, with
her speech, but she was doin' what she was supposed to do and doin' a good
job tellin' us what kind of cheese to buy a little bit cheaper than the other.
Well heck, us old ladies, if we want some cheese we know enough what kind of
cheese to buy.

SS: What about when they had the club here, what was the purpose then, 40 or 50 years
ago?

FB: Well, she come and they used to have dress making and they had, oh we've taught
a few ceramics up there. And just different things that the club tries to keep
at the university to, there's been lots of different women that have been
extension agents.

SS: Do you think it was good for the people back then?

FB: Oh maybe. I don't think it was, I think we knew just...

SS: You knew the skills.

FB: I think we knew, somebody in our group was good seamstresses, better, probably
than she ever was. She just doin' her job all them years.

SS: When did you first have anything to do with that club?

FB: Oh I use to go once in awhile when my kids little. That's 60 years ago
when they met around the houses. And then...

SS: WWI.

FB: Um hum. And then probably before WWI. And then I just went, I'll tell ya, I
haven't been a steady member for, when I picked peas I used to go to the dinners
and stop once in awhile when I had a day that happened to meet. But here since
Jennie moved up here, we went pretty regular in the last 20 years, ain't we?

JB: Yeah, I have.

FB: Twenty. Well and I went when I wasn't workin'.
SS: What did the club do besides making clothes during the war?

FB: Well, they sewed, they always had some kind of project. We've got a glass cutter up there and we've had, mostly its sociable. We quilt and but they used to sew, they got a sewin' machine, they must've sewed. Well, they done dress makin' awhile.

SS: How long has the quilting been going on?

FB: Upholstering. We've had a class in all different things that they do now for these younger ones at the university. But we've outgrown it. Nobody, well if they learnt to do it, they don't need to be taught always, they can do it. But...

SS: You used to teach it at the club?

FB: That extension woman would come out when she had a class and so everybody knows how to do it. Or anybody that's interested.

SS: How long had there been quilting there, ever since you can remember?

FB: They've been quiltin' for, they quilted when you first started, didn't they, in '50! And more or less all this time. They done other few...

SS: Think they did it back in the thirties too?

FB: I don't know when they did start.

SS: I know you can't pin it down.

JB: I guess there were considerable clubs started...

FB: No, I don't think they, well they didn't make quilts too, but they didn't quilt at the club house, I don't believe. I don't know how long that's been. Probably 30 years though.

SS: Was that the only club around? Was there another?

FB: Oh Royal Neighbors in town. Oh that's just lodge. That's just a lodge. Royal Neighbors. And there was Royal Neighbors in Grange and Eastern Star, all them in town.

SS: Viola?

FB: No, Moscow. No, we don't have any grange out here, but a lot of people belong
to the grange from out here. So. But...But the quiltin' seemed to settle down and everybody needed a quilt fixed, so that's been goin' pretty strong for, I guess pretnear ever since we built this. A woman wanted to know the other day how long this and I have to ask somebody else. I don't know how long we've had that clubhouse. I remember...

JB: It was before I came up.

FB: That was before, sometimes early 40's I guess. One woman, they kind of tried to collect a little money, we used to give dinners and things for the benefit of the club, you know. One woman wouldn't donate any money. She said the clubhouse shouldn't have put it there, it was gonna slide off into the creek. Well she slid into the next world years ago and the clubhouse still settin'.

SS: So you only called it the club?

FB: Viola Community Club. We got a, we can write checks with a Viola Community Club and they accept them.

SS: It seems nice that you have something that's lasted so long.

FB: Well you be surprised how many women come out, somebody will invite somebody from the university, why they just rave about it. They think this is the most sociable place they ever, and the nicest people. Viola didn't always have such a good name, but (laughs) it's living the bad name down. Some of these old people will always have to bring in how many saloons Viola used to have, but they've all died, they've passed into the next world, too. All these people that used to...

SS: I've heard people talk about how tough Viola was in the early days. Is there truth to that?

FB: I don't know as if it was any tough, they drank. I suppose rode horses and done a few things that people used to do in the early days. I don't think it was any worse than any other little town. I think it was all the same. I don't think it ever was any worse.

SS: I've heard that too.

FB: Sure you do. Anybody.
JB: Well it seems like when there was a pool hall here, that's all you ever heard about. You didn't hear about...

FB: It got pretty bad here some years when certain people had the tavern up here. They get to, you know, it wasn't Viola people, it was people from other places, but they'd come and they'd fight and give Viola kind of a bad name. But then that ain't what you heard. I think what you've heard years ago when...

SS: Early days. That people around Viola were mean and tough.

FB: I don't think we hung one man, did we?(laughs) One man from Viola, but I don't think he was raised here. Was he?

JB: Who?

FB: Horse thief, don't you remember? Somebody got hung, down at Walla Walla, but he had lived at Viola. But he wasn't hung.

SS: Are you talking about Hill at Colfax?

FB: Who's told you that tale?

SS: It's in history.

FB: Yeah, well that's who I'm thinkin' about.

JB: Hill?

FB: Uh huh.

SS: Was it Ed Hill?

FB: I think, I wouldn't know, but I believe so. I believe so. But you know. That would been Bud's brother or uncle. Anyway, Hill has been head of this club for ages, wouldn't want her to even, she knows it, of course, but wouldn't even want to breath it to any of the new people. But I think it would have been...(tape leaves off momentarily)

SS: Whether he was really guilty or not.

FB: Hill. I think stealing horses, I guess, he probably was.

SS: A bit extreme.

FB: Um hm.

SS: To hang someone for doing that.

FB: Yeah, but I guess they did that years ago when they get, probably hung some
innocents ones too, but, yes we know all that Hill, both families and its funny now, Eunice's son farms on this side of the mountain, and the other Hill boy from the other family farms and they broke land clear up, we always laughed, the Hills had met up on top of that mountain. They've broke out the, but they're good friends, these grand, they'd be second, third generation, you know, but they're farmin' the land that the other Hills...

SS: I want to know about school consolidation. What effect that had here. I heard it wasn't too good for the town.

FB: Well it wasn't good for the community. It sure did break up the community if you didn't of course, and now it wouldn't make any difference although might hear news from my grandkids, but that sure broke up the community. We didn't have no card parties nor PTA meetings or anything where people got together. The kids went off to school and among strangers and it sure did break up the community. And you know they preached to us that that would be cheaper, to have buses than to keep up so many schools. But we found out it wasn't. Got more expensive and more expensive. I think taxes around this town are half school taxes. Anybody will tell you that. And maybe more than half right now. Course, we got so old, we don't know too much about taxes.

SS: Did people here oppose it when it first came out?

FB: At first they did, but then we had good speakers come out and it kind of got so it carried, so they got 'em consolidated and everybody went to town. But I think I've heard since, oh, maybe they think they get better schoolin', I don't know. But we had smart enough kids when we had country schools.

SS: Do you think that the community revolved around schools?

FB: Well it did, sort of. The school and we always had church up here. Well, then when kids all went to school they got to go to Sunday School in, got to go on to Sunday School in town and that's the way. We didn't have any school or church. So there was nothin' to keep the community together. And that's just the way we ended up now. We don't have.

SS: But the club.
FB: We've got the club and that's a good thing, because a lot of these women wouldn't see anybody from year to year. They just go to town and get their groceries and maybe certain people they would visit. But there would be no community to hear the town gossip or news. Not all gossip. This ain't a very bad to gossip. It's like that woman says, "We don't repeat gossip twice. If you want to listen first, close the first time." (laughs) You hear that on television? She always says that. A bunch of women settin' around tellin' they don't gossip so you better, or we don't repeat gossip, so you better listen the first time. And that's the way it is up here. We don't. People don't talk bad about each other. I don't think. I don't know. I don't believe they do.

SS: In the early days was there much gossip?

FB: Oh I don't think so. They never had time to gossip. Never seen each other often enough. Did they? No, I don't think it's as bad as it is in town, or some other places. I don't believe it is. So.

SS: Does the club have the same regulars...

(End of side E)

FB: And the next school district, or they've bought little pieces of land. There's a nice mobile home and some have got a little piece of land that have bought houses. Well a lot of them women are startin' to come because they, well they feel like they're in the community, and I guess we've invited 'em and so there's quite a few, a lot of, several professors' wives that live up there and so one by one they come and maybe they won't come anymore and another one will get started. There's a few locals that just sort of, regular.

SS: So there's a group of regulars, about a dozen?

FB: Yeah, 'bout a dozen regulars. Yeah. I'd say, about that many. But its kind of good to have a few new ones, why some of us old ones will drop off some day and they'll be somebody to, I guess it will just go on and on til the clubhouse falls in, I don't know.

SS: I would hope so.

FB: Yeah. Yes, it's kind of nice to have it. And anybody's welcome, they don't...
SS: Do they visit it much outside of the club, with the people in the club?

FB: Not a lot. We don't have any way to get out and visit, you know, anymore.

SS: They'd have to come visit you.

FB: Yeah. They come and visit us, but I don't think we would anyway. We didn't when we had, runnin' a car to town once in awhile. We was out Sunday for dinner, she come and got us. That's our old neighbor up the creek. But I know people...

SS: You're not running around working?

FB: No, I don't work no more.

SS: I wouldn't be surprised if you did.

FB: Well this woman down here, I packed her papers. She fell and broke her ankle or sprained it. I've took her paper to here for a month or two. But she ain't as old as I am. But she just takes her pills and wonders what ailment she's gonna develop.

SS: Did you ever work in people's houses?

FB: Yes. Took care of a lot of people.

SS: Was this later years?

FB: Yes, later years, not too long ago I have. Jennie's been up here. She come up here in '47 from Walla Walla. And I've worked several places in that time when she was up home. She'd hold down the fort and I worked. Oh yeah, I could work yet if I would. I mean, I've good chanass, I could take care of people. Probably younger than myself, but they need something done.

SS: It seems that the feeling people have about work has changed.

FB: People used to think it was kind of a disgrace to work, is that what you mean, and now they're tickled to death to have a job? Get so much money. Yeah.

SS: I don't know where that idea came from. Seems like for women mostly.

FB: I know it, but they got liberated. They don't want to set at home. They want to get out. That's what's the trouble now, these young ones that work...

OB: They want a lot of this big money.

FB: They want the money and they get too independent, that's what causes a lot
of the divorces. I can see that among the kids around.

SS: But it seems that people like work less than they used to. Seems like people don't like their work.

FB: Well they like the money. No, there's some darn poor workers, but they like the money. So...

SS: Do you think that in your day people liked...

FB: Enjoyed your work more I believe, oh some people do now. Some people enjoy workin'. But some don't, but I expect it was always that way, probably. Probably always that way. (pause in tape) I'm thinking of PT, what was the workin'? IWW's was a long time ago, I wasn't very big from that, but...I Won't Work.

SS: The strikers.

FB: Yes. And they went along the railroad tracks and bummed food. That's about all I can, I'm thinking of the PTA, no, what is it...

SS: Did the PTA start here in the 30's.

FB: No, that's teachers. No, what I'm thinking of...

SS: You're thinking about work?

FB: Work. About the time, the CC boys and the yeah, I can remember all that.

SS: Were they around here?

FB: Yes, I was married and had a family, but this gal of mine, she justed to go to dances around and get acquainted with the boys come out. Yeah, at that time. But the others than...

SS: Were they thought much of?

FB: Oh some of 'em was. Edna married one, that's how he got out here.

SS: Who married one?

FB: Oh a Rothfort girl. He first come out here, Chuck.

JS: Mabel's daughter?

FB: I think so.

SS: Did people here get on a public works program?

FB: Yes a lot of 'em did. They had jobs. I didn't know anybody really that did. I don't, I think maybe we had a little road work. I think maybe my husband
heaved gravel on the road. I believe that was, what you say, WPA?

SS: Yes.

FB: Yes, I can't think just what it means, but that's what it was...

SS: Works Progress.

FB: Yeah. Well anyway I remember, but I just remember the initials of the IW, we always said I Won't Work, but that wasn't... No, I don't think, they were not...

SS: What about the government surplus food, did you get any of that here?

FB: Some people did. Surplus foods. Not much, but I believe some, a few families did. Oh yeah, we had the co-op mill. Wasn't that surplus.

SS: Co-op what?

FB: Mill. Up in the woods. Somebody run it and they, yeah, John worked at that. And you got lumber. You had to take it out in script. You could get lumber at the mill or, that's how you got paid. You didn't get cash. But I don't think we had that too long around here, but I remember that.

SS: Was that nonprofit?

FB: I think so. And they had garden and canned stuff and sold it. I don't know how that got started. I don't seem to know too much about it. But that was during my time and we had it around here. And the co-op mill. And I remember they made, yes they did, at Lula's house. We canned fruit, didn't we? Yep.

SS: Was that depression or before?

FB: I don't know anymore depression then I ever...(laughs)

SS: I heard around Bovill some people were almost starving to death.

FB: Well I think they did where they depended on a certain thing for jobs, you know, and it shut down and there was nothing else to live on. But it didn't make much difference to us when you lived on a farm, you just milked another cow and sold a little cream and things like that. That's why we didn't know about, but I know town people did. I've heard people talk about it. Well you know how it would be living in town now if you didn't have money to buy groceries, you'd go out, you wouldn't eat, because there's, there's no free stuff around.

SS: A place like Bovill...
FB: Well I suppose they all depended on the mill or woods or whatever it was.

(pause in tape)

He said, "You want to get your parents long lived. Long livered, so you could
tell who your parents were gonna be." He said, "That's the secret of your
long life."

SS: Were your parents both long lived?

FB: Well, our mother died at 92.

SS: And your father at 99.

FB: 99, so I guess you'd call, pretty long livered Scotch, I guess. (pause in tape)

SS: They were religious people, here and there. I don't know what they preach
anymore than about to the end of the world, don't they think that?

FB: Yes, they think they're gonna be gathered up in the clouds too.

SS: I kind of believe they do. They say they're Bible students.

SS: But they're against wearing slacks.

FB: They don't wear slacks or much jewelry and you get your hair done up in a little
wad on top of your head. You can tell them a mile away.

SS: Does Marilyn have her hair like that?

FB: Yes, um hm. She does and don't wear slacks. She used to wear pretty slacks
but she don't any more. Nobody says the reason. I don't know. I guess when
you join the church you get into that. You learn a little more of their methods.

SS: Do you remember this Linus fellow?

FB: Oh I can't really. They always said he converted all the widows. I can at least
remember this. This is gossip. They said it wasn't the religion, it was the
minister that converted so many, a lot of these old widows joined and they were
when he was here.

SS: Two by Twos.

FB: Yes. That's what Mrs. Boyles always called 'em. She didn't call 'em Linusites
or faith people even. She called 'em Two by Twos.

(End of tape)