

Dr. Radke-Moss Women's Oral History Collection

Deanna Meyers - Life Experiences

By Deana Meyers

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Box 1 Folder 19

Oral Interview conducted by Sara G. Crook

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Brigham Young University- Idaho

SC: Friday, January 21, 2005. Sister Myers can you recite your full name?

DM: My name is Deanna May Draper Myers.

SC: Where were you born?

DM: Pocatello, Idaho.

SC: Wow, that's fun. Okay. Do you mind if I ask what year?

DM: What year? 1941.

SC: Cool.

DM: Fateful year of... I was born in May and Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in December.

SC: What're your parents' names?

DM: Leroy Joseph Draper and Eva May Warth.

SC: Cool.

<Interruption>

SC: Okay. What were your favorite childhood memories and activities and things that you did?

DM: Well, we always did everything as a family. We loved to camp and fish. Course, my dad was an avid fisherman and hunter. And he loved to do that and so did I. And we... my sisters and I we always played baseball, tether ball, any kind of ball, volleyball. You know, we did lots of those things. Favorite activities? My dad was the best fudge maker in the world. And he used to make fudge in an old iron skillet. It was the best thing in the world. There were a lot of things we did together as a family. My sister and I loved paper dolls. We used to cut out paper dolls. We had every paper doll there ever was of every movie star and all of them. And then our brother when he was a little tiny boy tore off all the heads. So then after that we couldn't play with them anymore.

SC: Oh, no. Did you have like a little book or like with instructions on how to make them?

DM: Nope. They came that way. They were punch out. Sometimes cut out. We used scissors with them a lot back in those days you see...

SC: Now days it's easier. Do you remember how to make fudge, like the process?

DM: I never could make it like my dad. Never could. I make the one with marshmallow cream now.

SC: What was it like growing up after the war years?

DM: Well, my father was a diesel mechanic for what they call Garret Freightlines. We never had a lot of money. I remember by Friday we were chewing on dry spaghetti until my dad came home with his check and then we got to have a box of crackerjack with a prize in it or fudge-sickle or something like that. But we... my sister and I we remember having one new pair of shoes for school. We had to wear them all the way until the next year, and then we'd get one to play in sometimes. But by summer we were always embarrassed because we had holes in the bottom of our shoes and we had to cut cardboard and put in the bottom so we always kept our feet flat on the floor. It was... and my mother was very excellent seamstress. She would go to like Salvation Army or places like that and get dresses and she would make our dresses. We very seldom ever had a bought dress. And, I hated socks. And so I would get half way to school take mine off. Mother would make me wear them, but I would take them off.

SC: So, your dad worked for the truck business right? What did... did your mom do anything?

DM: My mom was a homemaker. She stayed home and we were glad.

SC: What was high school like?

DM: Some years were good, some were bad. You feel like you know all that has to deal with your friends. I loved high school. I like sports and so you know we had courts that we played sports together. And we did the regular things like everyone does now, but they think we were old. Our hairstyles were different and our clothes were different, but we did the same things. We liked boys and we did stuff together. We'd go swimming and... I loved school. I got good grades. Actually I was 3.9 to a 4.0 student.

SC: Wow, a whole lot better than I am. Where did you go swimming?

DM: Indian Springs. And then we had a small swimming pool that was out what they called Ross Park. It wasn't a real pool. But we had fun. That was the only one close by. Indian Springs was probably about 30 minutes away.

SC: Who was, if you don't mind me asking, who was your first crush?

DM: My first crush? His name was Junior Rhodes.

SC: Junior Rhodes.

DM: He was a... I always liked short, stocky, dark haired guys and he was one of those.

SC: Did he do football or anything like that?

DM: Yeah, he did a lot of things. Yep.

SC: How did you meet your husband?

DM: Actually, his sister was one of my best friends. And the very first time I met him, we were getting ready to go to a basketball game, and I walked over to her house, and he was going to give us a ride to the ball game. And he took her into another room and he asked her if I would go out with him. And I said, "No way." But he pers... he, he kept coming. And finally I went out with him. But we always were in a group. We very seldom ever dated single. And he, you know, his sister dated one of his friends and so we would do things together. We had a whole group of probably fifteen of us, sixteen of us. We would do all things together.

SC: So you had a lot of friends?

DM: Yes we did. My dad was a little strict. He didn't let me do a lot of things. He kind of had a wild sister and he wasn't going to have wild children. So, he was really strict about what he expected us to do.

SC: Did you ever have a job when you were growing up?

DM: I had several jobs. The first one I had was with a construction company. Actually, I cleaned their offices, kept their offices all cleaned. And I babysat six days a week, eight a.m. to six p.m. Had to cook meals, do laundry for twelve dollars a week.

SC: Oh my goodness.

DM: I thought I was making it pretty good. I had to pay my own way to school and buy my own clothes. And I did it all on twelve dollars a week.

SC: Wow, I wish I could do that. What were... what was the year that you were working for the...?

DM: The construction company?

SC: The construction company.

DM: Let's see. I was born in 1941 that was about 1954, '55.

SC: Okay. What do you remember about the Cold war?

DM: About the Cold War? Not a whole lot. I wasn't heavy duty into politics. I mean we watched, you know, we supported President Eisenhower. And, we were afraid of Russia, the communists. And that's what we thought about a lot you know, because they didn't believe in God. And we know that there was a God. What they were doing to their people, oppressing them, you know. That's a lot what we were aware of.

SC: When did you get your first television?

DM: I was fifteen when we got our first television. And it was an old Hoffman, with an oval screen on it.

SC: Wow!

DM: One of the first ones that they made.

SC: Here in Rigby, huh.

DM: Well, yeah, probably. I remember seeing Elvis Presley for the first time that spring.
[Probably on the Ed Sullivan Show]

SC: On TV?

DM: With his legs going all wild and all the girls going all crazy. I didn't go crazy. But he was a good singer.

SC: He still lives on. He's still alive. What are your favorite memories of those years?

DM: Well, I had a lot of friends. We used to do a lot of things. I had to do a lot during the day. Favorite memories of those years probably were the holidays. We loved Christmas. We always decorated our tree. And on Thanksgiving we had our big turkey. And our families would come over. My mom was an excellent cook. And I remember... I guess I remember the smells and the fun that we had together. We didn't get an awful lot. In fact, Christmas would be when I'd get my winter coat for the year, a new one. I'd get it for Christmas.

SC: What about the Korean War? Do you remember much about that?

DM: Yeah, I remember a little bit about the Korean War. We were worried about our soldiers dying over there. And we knew that it had to be, you know, because it was communism. And Russia was helping them. And there again was our focus on the Communists. You know, we felt that the soldiers weren't respected enough for doing the fighting over there.

SC: Did any of the local schools do like bomb drills and stuff?

DM: Oh yes, they did. We had all kinds of drills, fire drills and bomb drills. And I, as for myself I don't remember them very much. I'm thinking of what years, what years were the Korean War?

SC: It was '50s. [Korean War 1950-1953]

DM: See, I was married when I was 18. So, I was busy having children and taking care of the home. [She would have been only 9 to 12 years old]

SC: Did you ever build a bomb shelter or anything like that?

DM: No, but my husband helped people who had money do it. You know, there was a Doctor Call in Pocatello and he helped him prepare his bomb shelter. We always had a place where we would go. We thought we would just go to the Church or the schools you know. That's where we always thought we'd go. And there was a great worry about the bomb.

SC: Did you see any, like commercials or ads on TV about it, like about all the bomb scares and stuff?

DM: Oh yes, all the time. Yes because in that era too, there were communists that were on American soil. I especially remember one couple [Julius and Ethel Rosenberg] that were being tried and they were convicted and sent to jail. And they were fighting against Americans.

SC: Do you remember Vietnam?

DM: I do. That was a sad war and a lot of our friends went over there, the young men that I knew. There was one out of our ward that went over there. Actually, he had a fairly good experience with the war because he did a lot with the Church over there. It was a sad thing because a lot of those soldiers that come home there were no "thank you's" and no cheering and things because the war ended up being America was embarrassed of it I guess, quite a bit.

SC: You mentioned friends going over to fight. Were there any in the Korean War that you remember?

DM: No, I don't remember any in the Korean War. We had relatives that fought in World War II. We had one of our relatives who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and he came back and he had scars all over him because he didn't have a stand for his machine gun. He never talked about it much. It was too traumatic for him.

SC: Do you remember doing any like, aluminum drives or anything like that?

DM: Yes we did. We did a lot of different things to help... I'm trying to remember some [of] them. You know its funny how you don't think about it for a long time. There, there were a lot of things that we did to save money, to help the soldiers. Vietnam War there weren't so many as there were in the Korean War that I remember.

SC: That's because so many people were against it.

DM: America was divided at that time. There were a lot of people fighting against it. I think it's the same as it is now with the war in Iraq. That, a lot of people don't realize the threat that they are. And so all they see is that a lot of our young men are dying over there and our young women. And they don't realize that that's what the prophets tell us is that we are to support those people who are not strong enough to fight dictators and cruel men who will reign one day.

SC: Do you remember Kennedy's campaign?

DM: Yes I do. I remember hearing him say, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." He was a very well liked president. And I remember standing in my kitchen and I was doing dishes the day when they announced that President Kennedy was shot. That was a troublesome time trying to find out who did it and then having the Oswald guy shot by the other one so that they never really knew what happened. They didn't know.

SC: What did you think of Johnson's campaign?

DM: Lyndon Johnson? I wasn't very impressed by him. I didn't like President Johnson very much. And I don't even remember all the reasons now. I know that I didn't. I suspected him I guess. I suspected him of being part of that [of Kennedy's assassination], but, you know, we never knew.

SC: Do you remember the... well, being in Idaho, do you know any black people?

DM: Oh yes.

SC: Or have any contact with the Civil Rights Movement or anything like that?

DM: Oh yes, in fact, actually and where I grew up the blacks were not hated as much. You know, we had when I was a sophomore, we had a black, Jim Anderson was his name, he was student body president. And I had a friend in orchestra who was a black girl, and of course an Indian girl was there. So we weren't, we didn't have to deal with that as much. We had the part of town where the blacks lived, you know, and it was the more rundown parts of town. And they knew they were a minority at that time. But we watched the Civil Rights Movement and knew in the southern part of the United States, the blacks didn't act a lot like they did in our area. "Ours" were pretty respectful. Of course we didn't know the bad guys you know, we didn't know who the ones that were out doing bad things in town. We, you know, knew some of the "good ones." We paid attention to them. I paid attention to Martin Luther King and his campaign you know. We felt that he was a good man.

SC: Did you get to watch it on TV?

DM: Oh, we did some.

SC: About the whole, "I had a dream?"

DM: Yep, I had a dream. "I have a dream," yes. "I have a dream." And, for a little of it, we thought that he was a little eccentric, you know, but it takes somebody like that to make changes. And they were mistreated in a lot of ways, through segregation, and if anything happened they thought the black men did it. And not always true.

SC: Do you remember the whole Neil Armstrong landing on the moon?

DM: Yes I do, very well. Very well. We were pretty excited that we were watching. We were watching that. And amazing and amazed that we really could do that. It was a milestone for the world. And we thought Neil Armstrong was pretty neat.

SC: And Buzz Aldren. What do you think of Nixon and his...?

DM: Lost all faith in him. You know, lost all faith in him. He put America through a lot of embarrassment because of his dishonesty. You know, we were glad when he was impeached... we liked him when he was President. I don't think what... was wrong, I think that he deserved it, but it was hard on him and his family. Pat Nixon I think was a good first lady of America. She was different.

SC: Do you remember Reagan?

DM: Of course I do.

SC: Of course.

DM: I remember him as an actor.

SC: And a football player.

DM: And his wife as an actor, actress. Yes, he was one more; actually we really supported him because of his belief in God. And that he wasn't afraid to say it. And he was, he had a way about him that, he just had good people skills. And lots changed in the world during his administration.

SC: Well, the Berlin Wall fell down too.

DM: Yep, and he worked with Gorbachev [Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev—Soviet leader] quite a bit. I just remember his face and Gorbachev together with that map on his forehead you know [a birthmark]. Gorbachev on that map. Yes, we liked Reagan, very much.

SC: Where did your husband serve on a mission, or did he?

DM: He did not serve. He went in the Air Force. My husband was not active for a while there. He got active after he met me. But he went, he went in the Air Force. And he had Bulbar Polio when he was four years old and so he had problems with his health that they told him that he had a disease in the marrow of his bones which he ended up having. But he had doctors from all over the world looking at him. And he came home from the service and he was home only a little while and we got married.

SC: How many years did he serve? Just...?

DM: Oh, he was only in there a year. But most of the time he was in the hospital. And they, they discharged him 4F, you know, which means an honorable, it was a medical discharge actually, which broke his heart because he wanted to fly planes, and he didn't.

SC: How many kids do you have?

DM: We have three sons.

SC: Three sons.

EM: Yes.

SC: No daughters?

DM: Brian, Bret, and Barry. All B's.

SC: Wow.

EM: Our oldest son, Brian, lives in West Valley City, Utah. He has five children, three girls and two boys and married to Lori. And he is a purchasing agent and doing very well. And his children are beautiful. And one of them looks just like her grandmother. And our second son Bret has worked for the University and he is now working for a business out of Idaho Falls. And he lost their first little son, and he has three children, two girls and a boy. And they're wonderful too. And then our youngest son Barry is in... lives in Layton, Utah, but he's a bank examiner for the state of Utah. And he has one little girl, Rachel. And she was born premature. She was no bigger than a five dollar bill when they took a picture of her. But she's seven now and very active and very smart. Very smart.

SC: How premature was she?

DM: Two months, enough that her lungs were not fully developed. Two months.

SC: Two months?

DM: Two months. But her lungs are still, she still has some problems with them.

SC: Does she have like asthma or something like that?

DM: Yeah, well, not exactly asthma. But she does have to have a, take breathing treatments. But it does act like asthma.

SC: I was three weeks premature.

DM: Really?

SC: Yeah.

DM: This girl, she's a miracle.

SC: What about church responsibilities?

DM: Well, I've done about everything but be bishop. When you're my age, you've all had a chance to do it all. I've worked in the stake. I've been stake young women's president. And I've worked in the stake primary. I've worked as primary president. I've been relief society president more than once and councilor. And I've been in all of the young women: young women's president and teaching young women. And I've taught about every class in primary. And I'm going backwards now. Now I'm secretary in the relief society and I love every minute of it. And I've been advisor to the wards on campus. I love that too.

SC: That is fun.

DM: Oh my, the young women of today are so accomplished. I'm so impressed [with] those that are active and make the right choices. And I've loved every minute of it.

SC: How long have you worked here on campus?

DM: On campus, I've worked fourteen years. And I've loved every minute of that too. It's been an excellent experience in my life. I have been quite a few things, even pear beats, sugar beats, lifting the buckets three hundred times a day. It's hard work. And it was a big job. And then that's when I had children and that's all I could do at the time because I wanted to be a full time mother. And I worked in several different places, where I was an accountant. And I taught an aid teaching school in two different units in the social studies and music.

SC: Have you just worked this job or have you work other jobs on campus?

DM: No, I would never trade my job for any job on campus. This is the best one. I love being the supervisor of the information desk. I know everything and do nothing.

SC: How many girls have you had work for you?

MD: Oh my, we have six a year during fall/winter. And then we have had only four during the summer, but the last few years after they started the new track system we've had to have full, a full six. So over fourteen years that's a lot of girls. And I still hear from them. Know where a lot of them are. Some of them have six children themselves. They do. It's a great thing to be able to make friends that are eternal friends forever.

SC: Do you have any special hobbies anything you like to do?

DM: Yeah, I have a lot. I used to do horses when I was younger. I loved my, I loved horses and I love the outdoors. I'm a camper, and I still love to play ball. I can't run like I used to. I can't throw like I used to because I had surgery on my arm, but I love quilting, I love scrap booking, and my grandchildren are my hobby. I love my grandchildren.

SC: How often do you get to see them?

DM: Well, everyday for the ones that live here and the other ones pretty often. My husband hasn't been well so we haven't been able to travel as much. And with five kids it's hard for them to travel too. But we talk at least once a week or more. We have a lot of contact.

SC: What do you think about women's rights?

DM: Well, I remember the Equal Rights Amendment. And I was very much opposed. I remember one thing about that, one thing I remember was the fact that they could put women in the service and in battle on a gun. And actually, the equal rights amendment would have taken a lot of the rights away of our women. And I think as members of the Church we have all the rights that our Heavenly Father has given us. We are free. We are a free society. And you know so many women when they were protesting wanted to be like a man. They said they could do anything that a man could do, but they're wrong they can't. And that's why Heavenly Father made us different. And I feel that when the prophet says women should not work they should stay in the home with their children. That's what keeps a society operating the way it's supposed to. Otherwise we have dysfunctional, dysfunctional families. And it is now where money's difficult to get and some women do have to work. And I'm sure our Heavenly Father understands that. But to me, equal rights means that we aren't at our husband's side and support him in the family. I think this women's feminist group, especially NOW [National Organization of Women], NOW are just a bunch of angry women. They're angry and I think Satan has a good hold on them.

SC: What do you think about abortion?

DM: Abortion? Abominable, abominable in the sight of our Father in Heaven of course. And we know that the only reasons that it's supposed to be okay. I, I do not agree with the abortion. And there are people who keep pushing it. Trying to make it look like that it's okay. But it's not.

SC: What about in cases of sexual harassment though?

DM: Cases of sexual harassment or well, rape or if there's incest, and if there are other things that are happening you know a mother should not be, you know, the one that is pregnant. That is not, I have nothing against having an abortion. If it was just because she didn't want to have the baby then no, it's wrong. Sexual harassment is part of this evil world and it is wrong. And whoever's doing it should be prosecuted or somehow, you know, make it stop... if they do then. People want favors they expect favors.

SC: Do you, what about, do you think about stem cell research or cloning?

DM: I guess in some areas like Michael, what's his name the actor who has Parkinson's disease? The Michael, he's...?

SC: Oh, Michael J. Fox.

DM: Michael J. Fox, he of course thinks that it will be good. And you know our Father in Heaven gives us science to help us with a lot of things. And that's why we have things to help

cancer and things to help, but I think that we have to be careful. We don't want to delve into things that are our Heavenly Father's. And not, you know, I don't know, I would have to know more about it. I don't know that I agree with it.

SC: What did you think about the first Gulf War?

DM: The what?

SC: The first Gulf War.

DM: The first Gulf War? Well, I feel like no matter what we do we have to defend America. And maybe it was done stupidly, but I think that our government was working, the best assuming it was good. And we need to be aware that if we don't watch the world, you know, they are going to be on our soil. I feel like we should be protecting our family and supporting the people who are leading and care about other humans.

SC: What do you think about President Clinton or former President Clinton?

DM: Are you asking me? I never voted for him once. I did not respect him. I thought he was very dishonest and very immoral. So I didn't like him. I didn't vote for him once.

SC: Not even before?

DM: Nope, did not, I didn't vote for him. I watched him this debate as he sat by his wife, that they don't even live together. And I wonder how long they see each other, you know, but they put on a front. But you could see by his face, just watching him. And maybe I'm being judgmental, I don't know, I just don't like him.

SC: Did you get to watch the inauguration yesterday?

DM: Part of it, yes. I did. I was sick so I did. But I was watching his face as he was looking at his wife. Almost like please forgive me type of eyes, you know, you don't know you think you know, but you don't. It's too bad when America will hold and of course you can't judge, but Clinton's a pretty good statesman, you know, he buys the gift of gab. But I think that's about it.

SC: What about our good ol' George W. Bush?

DM: I love President Bush. I do. I love him because he stands up for his standards. He isn't afraid to mention our Father in Heaven, God, as he sees it in his religion because he knows that's the only way America is going to survive. He's not afraid to send our young men into war because, you know, there not anyone on this earth, especially like that, that's in the public eye, that is going to go about that lightly. They don't want to send people to their death. No way. And I'm sure he has a lot of feelings over that, but he has to stand strong. And I appreciate that in him very much. And I, you know, maybe he's been a wealthy boy all his life, you know, and people are always trying to find something to belittle that. I think that our country is in as good hands as it could be other than a member of the Church that lives their religion, you know, that

understands the gospel and actually knows through prophesy what actually is happening on this earth. And I think President Bush is a very blest man, except for his two wild daughters.

SC: What do you think of First Lady Laura Bush?

DM: She's an elegant lady. She doesn't, she very quiet. She has goals and they are good ones. She's very modest and I admire her very much. She's a good mother and a good wife. I mean it looks, you know, to us it looks that way. She supports her husband. She doesn't have any crazy ideas about thinking... She's moral.

SC: What do you think if Hillary were to run for president?

DM: I would vote against her in a minute. I... some of the things that happened during Clinton's administration, I feel like she had too much say so in it. And I don't, I think, I wouldn't vote for her. I think it would be a detriment to the United States.

SC: What do you think about talk about a new amendment to allow foreign citizens to become president?

DM: I'm against that. If they're, I think they have to be citizens of the United States in order to be a president. And, and understand, you know, they can't, they need to understand America's needs. Because most of the world, because of our affluence, are negative to us, very negative to us. And maybe some of our people are proud, maybe they do push our values upon other people, but on a whole, America has been, and you see like 9/11 you find out you are a fighter, the way we pull together, and the way we believe in God is what has kept us going. You know, I don't feel like a foreign person that doesn't have a citizenship here deserves to be president.

SC: What about the whole gay rights movement and gay marriage?

DM: Well, any member of the church has strong feelings toward that. Our prophet has told us that it is abominable in the sight of God. It is what destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. And if we allow it to come and to all on the fact, what they're saying is that everyone has a free choice that they have the right to do as they wish. Not so. Not so. Because there again we will have families that are... Marriage is between a man and a woman. In the scriptures it says so. And that's what I live by.

SC: Well, if anybody, if everybody was given a chance to do whatever they wanted they'd get away with everything.

DM: Yes they would.

<Interruption>

SC: What do you think about foreign citizens having driver's license?

DM: Well, actually they're not citizens. If they are citizens of another country I think they should have to do exactly what other countries require. And I do not, I think that if they are going to be a foreign citizen and have a driver's license that they have to meet certain requirements like anyone else and that on their driver's license it would have to show that they're not a, that they're not a citizen of the United States. And the thing that's happening is in the areas that I see the drug problem it's coming from a lot of citizens that are not, they are not, they're bringing in the drugs to sell because they need money and then they take the money to Mexico or wherever they're from. I don't agree with it. I don't think they should. And I think California's doing the right thing.

SC: What about local things in Idaho, like things happening in the news?

DM: What to ask? Maybe we'll have to turn off the tape and think about it.

<Interruption>

SC: What do you think about gun control?

DM: I'm against gun control because I think that's what happened in Germany and I think that citizens have that God-given right to be able to defend themselves without having to have the government know where their guns are. I don't believe in these rifles that are wartime, being able to be sold. And I can see San Francisco, you know, they want to get rid of their hand guns around, but they're not going to stop the criminals from having them, they won't. They'll just stop the citizens from having protection in their homes. And if, you know, it's money that they can't get enough police officers to watch, we need to do something about that. We need to have a better control over what they, the gang land area is doing, you know, and keep them from killing people. And yes, we do have those who are using substances that innocent, I mean and killing innocent people and families. And I, you know, that's a major, major issue on how to keep our citizens from getting into drugs and alcohol and using it. Because they're using their own freedom to do that, but it's abusive to their families and to their... I do not believe in gun control because I think criminals will get them anyway. No way to stop them.

SC: When can you retire?

DM: I have a year and five months. And I'll be 65 years old. And I will be retiring and I have a lot on the agenda.

SC: Like what?

DM: I want to do a mission and I want to do my genealogy and I want to read and I want to quilt and I want to do compassionate service in my ward. I never have enough time to do that.

SC: If you could go anywhere in the world and just visit, where would it be?

DM: You know, I love seeing things, I love studying about countries. I would probably like to go to the Holy Land. I really would like to go see, you know where they, at least the terrain and

things. I'm sure things have changed since the Savior were there, that was there. But I would love to see the Dead Sea. I would love to see the Sea of Galilee. And I would love to see where he walked. You know, that's what I would desire. Well, the country I'd rather see, some of the historical sites, I have never been back to Nauvoo. I've never been to Carthage. I would much rather see that than any part of the world.

SC: I'll take you.

DM: Okay, you know, you've been there.

SC: I've been there. I'll take you.

DM: That will be fun.

SC: Have there, if you don't mind me asking, have there been any recent deaths in your family?

DM: In my family? You know, in my family we haven't had a, my husband's cousin passed away just recently, and he was only 64 years old. And he was one of my husband's good cousins. He'd been fighting heart trouble, which he has a history of heart in his family. But that's as close as we've had. We really haven't lost anyone in our family for a while except, I do remember... my mom. My mother passed away in April, just a day before her birthday and a day before Easter Sunday. It was the most sweet, spiritual, and special time. We had some neat experiences... She was my best friend. Also she never thought I did anything wrong so that was, you know.

SC: I love LDS funerals.

DM: My mom worked in the temple... I actually was able to go through and do endowments with her, and it was the most special time in my life. I think about it often, it's a strength to me. She was a beautiful person.

SC: What do you think about President Bednar becoming an elder?

DM: Well, you know, we've known all along since he come that he was a special man. That he had great things in store. He, he could give a talk and not have a note. You know, and he had a way of... his life... very educated and very spiritual people... he has a lot of talents... We miss them both, but we love President Wilkes too.

SC: How did you feel when you found out that sister Hinckley had passed away?

DM: Oh, well, my first thought was I felt bad for President Hinckley and how close they were. And then to see him sobbing... that's a strength to have been married that many years, and your marriage is that good, it's hard...

<Interruption>

SC: What were you doing September 11, 2001 when you heard about the towers falling?

DM: Well, I had just barely come into work. And we watched it, we had the television on. And there were tons of students crowded in watching what was going on. And we were all totally shocked that something so tragic could happen. And Ken Howell, he was the public relations man for the university and had just retired. He and his wife had served a mission and come back and—I knew their son Brady and he'd married and was working in the Pentagon. And he was one of the persons that was killed in the Pentagon. And that was a sobering thing because he was such a good person, excellent person. It was hard for the family. And it was hard for all of us to watch so many people lose their lives for nothing, innocent people. And you wonder the reason. You know, other than some terrorists who wouldn't care about life at all. They say they're living their religion and they're not. It's too bad. It was a sad thing.

SC: That's not a religion though. I don't think.

DM: No, not a religion that our Father in Heaven approves.

SC: What did you think about President Bush going into Afghanistan and then later on Iraq?

DM: I thought it was pretty neat. You know, of course, I admire President Bush. And I think it'd be pretty scary to do that for a president. I'm sure he had troops around him, but the way that they were bombing other people he could have lost his life as easily as anyone. And it showed the people he cared. And he does care.

<Interruption>

SC: Well, thank you Sister Myers.

DM: You're welcome.