

Dr. Radke Women's Oral History Collection

Marjorie Place's - Life Experiences

By Marjorie Louise Spalding Place

October 9, 2005

Box 1 Folder 23

Oral Interview conducted by Candace Yvonne Place

Transcript copied by James Miller March 2006

Brigham Young University- Idaho

CP: What is your name?

MP: I'm Marjorie Place.

CP: Can you spell that for me please.

MP: M-a-r-j-o-r-i-e P-l-a-c-e.

CP: Do you have a middle name?

MP: Louise. L-o-u-i-s-e.

CP: What was your maiden name?

MP: Spaulding. S-p-a-u-l-d-i-n-g.

CP: Where were you born?

MP: At home, in Oceana county, Newfield township, in a log house. [September 18, 1924.]

CP: Really? That's something you don't hear about much.

MP: It was homesteaded.

CP: Was this in Michigan?

MP: Ah ha. Hesperia, Michigan; H-e-s-p-e-r-i-a.

CP: So what was it like? Was that the house you grew up in?

MP: Until I was around, probably, ten years old. We moved from there. I was in the third grade in school when we moved and then we moved to my grandparents'. Our house Dad was buying wasn't ready to move into yet so we moved in with grandpa and grandma. And then I walked back to the same school I had been going to was out of our district so it was a long ways. So, in the winter I missed a lot of school. The next year I took the third grade over again. And ah, then we were in the school district we were suppose to be in and it was closer.

CP: What were your parents' names?

MP: Cecil, C-e-c-i-l, and Cora, C-o-r-a, Spaulding.

CP: Is that who my dad's named after?

MP: Yeah.

CP: Oh, fun.

MP: Yeah his grandpa Spaulding.

CP: So what was it like growing up in that time period of log house and having to walk to school?

MP: Well, I walked one and three quarters of miles to school from the kindergarten through the third grade. Winter and summer, you know. And in the winter time or in bad days my dad would come on horse back and I would go home with him on horse back. And then when we moved and I had so far to walk. I asked my grandfather one time how old you had to be to vote, and he told me, if I would start out and walk across the county I'd be old enough to vote, that's how slow I walked, I guess, 'cause sometimes when I'd get home from school it would be dark. We got out at four o'clock. But then I had, when we moved I had over two miles to walk. I wasn't a fast walker, I played all the way. One time, do you want me to tell you stories like this?

CP: Oh, yeah, please do.

MP: Okay, um, one time it was raining and I had not taken a coat to school. It was in the fall but it was a warm day, and it had started to rain so mother come to meet me to get me out of the rain. She was disturbed with me because I was walking along picking milkweed pods, opening them up and letting stuff fly out of 'em and playing along in the rain, and she was just hurrying to get to me to put a coat on me and I was not hurrying home from school. I was playing all the way. We lived on a farm, had cows, horses, and stuff, and so we moved from that farm. While we lived there I had an older sister, I was four years old, she passed away, so the folks were quite in debt over her sickness, and she was sick for quite some time. We didn't know, they took her to different doctors, and they didn't know what was wrong with her. And they still don't know why, but now that I've growed up and we know more about medication, I think she had brain tumor. Anyway, she passed away when she was six years old, so Dad was in debt. He had to sell the farm, get rid of it and buy something different. So we moved then. He still got a farm, but it was a smaller farm because before we had, I can't remember, I know it was probably 120 acres all together I mean he had the land, but when we sold, we only had 40 acres and the house. He worked, he was a butcher, and worked for a meat market besides his little bit of farming.

CP: What did you grow on the forty acres?

MP: He put in beans, stricken beans, you know, string beans, and pickles. We picked beans and we picked pickles. Otherwise he had a little corn. We had a couple cows, and like I said a horse. Sometimes two horses, one died one time, I remember. Like I say, he didn't do a whole lot of farming on his forty acres. Then we had maple sugar bush. So we made our own syrup, he sold some but not a lot. And we did that by hand too, it wasn't like it is nowadays, with the evaporators and everything. He had an open pan and boiled the syrup in. Then when it got to a certain point he took it off and put it in a smaller pan. And mother finished it off up on the cook stove in the sugar shanty, we called it, and canned it up there. So, we had our own maple syrup.

CP: Dad told me you had different horses, like one that would stop when you'd say hello.

MP: Oh yes, Mother's. This horse had been owned before they bought her by two old maids. And they used to take her on Sunday afternoons and just go out and drive and then they'd see people on the road and stop and talk, you know, so Mother and I would start to town, and everybody Mother would speak to the horse would stop and she used to get so mad at that horse. Because she'd just say hi to somebody and the horse would stop. Because she thought you were going to sit there and talk. She wouldn't do that with Dad. Every time Mother had her, she used to hate to take that horse to town because she'd just stop "well you're going to talk now." Well trained. Yeah, they said those people used to tie the lines up and just let her wander along the road, you know, and they'd take to people, and let the horse do about what she wanted to do. So she was not a real good horse to talk out and go some place, for Mother anyway. Like I say, she'd never did that with Dad guess she knew the difference in the men's voice.

CP: That's funny. What was school like back then for you?

MP: The schools had one teacher and they taught kindergarten through eighth grade. And they had a bench up in the front, and the teacher's desk, then there was a bench for people, the kids, so go up and sit on, and she'd call a class like arithmetic, or something, eighth grade, seventh grade, whatever she was calling, or reading, and you'd go up and whatever, people in the class would sit on this bench, and you'd take turns giving your lesson, either reading or correcting, or teach arithmetic or how to do it if you had it done correct it, you know. And then we had one teacher, when I was in the second school I went to, if she'd speak to someone in the back of the room that was whispering or something, and if you turned your head around to see who she was talking to she'd always slap you aside the head. I mean, they had capital punishment back when I was in school. I remember once some boys got, the first teacher I ever had was a man teacher and I was really kind of frightened of him because there were some boys and I think they were in eight grade of something, and they got in trouble and he leaned them over my desk because I was in the front row. Now the desks went from the smallest up to the largest in the back, and I was sitting in the front desk. He leaned them over it and spanked them with a rubber hose, kind of scared me to death. He was real nice, I found out afterwards. But, yeah, they gave spankings in school then. So we had a one room school house and one teacher to teach up to the eighth grade.

CP: Were these college educated teachers?

MP: County Normal, they called it. They went to ah, after they got through the eighth grade they went two years to a just to learn to teach, that's all they took, was just teaching I think, I mean, they didn't have to take a lot of classes like you do today. They just went through what they called County Normal. I think it was two years when they started teaching, so they were pretty young usually, the teachers, when they started out. By the time they were twenty years old they could be teaching, or before, you know. So, like I say, we had pretty young teachers. A lot of them were more elderly too, the one that use to slap everybody when they looked back of the room she was an older lady. She'd been teaching a lot of years.

CP: What was it like to grow up from the horse and buggy to automobiles?

MP: My folks never had an automobile as long as I lived at home. We did all our—either walked or horses. I used to go to town; we lived about four miles, at least four miles out of town,

and once in a while I'd go with Dad to town. While he'd walk I'd run to keep up. Trot, trot, trot to town with him. And then where we went to church was probably a mile and a half, two miles, we walked there to Sunday school and Sunday morning and church in the evening. So we did a lot of walking back then.

CP: When was the first time you saw an automobile?

MP: Oh, I saw them as far back as I can remember because we had when I was two years old they tell me, of course I don't know, we had a big barn and had one of those flaning they called a barn approach up to the upstairs part of the barn that had a, you know, soil but it slopped up to the barn so you could go up there to unload the hay and stuff at the top of the barn. And my granddad they said left me in the truck, an old model t. and you had to pull gears to make it go, anyway, I pulled the lever and drove it off the barn approach and down across the barn yard and I guess I wouldn't have stopped it but it went into the manure pile and stopped the truck. So I was two years old when I drove my first vehicle. 'Course I don't remember but they always told me about it. I was four years old when my sister died, and I just remember when she passed, sort of made me mad, I guess. I was outside, we was at grandma's house, 'course they didn't do it in morgues then, they laid them out in the home, and she was laying there on the ah, they called them fainting couches, it was a couch that had a raised pillow like on the, she was laid there at the time, I remember, they did get a coffin afterwards, she was in the coffin the day of the funeral. But, the day of the funeral, I remember, I went out in the yard, there was a crate out there, I sat down on, my older sister come out, she was six years old, I mean she was eight years old, my sister that died was six and I was four. She come and said Dad wanted me to come into the house, and I said 'no I'm not going in the house, I'm never going to play with anybody ever again, I'm just going to sit here and not going to play with nobody.' My dad come out and got me then and carried me in the house. I guess I was just really upset over it and made me mad or something.

CP: Was it just the two sisters and you, or did you have more siblings?

MP: Oh, I had after my two sisters I had three brothers younger than I was and three more sisters. So there were three girls, three boys, and three girls in my family. But then my sister died, and then the other sister, the older sister, she stayed with grandma and went to school, 'cause grandma lived in town, and the school was close, so she went to school with her, or in town while the folks were taking my other sister to different doctors and stuff around, hospitals and stuff they stayed with her. Beatrice never wanted to come home, she always stayed with Grandma. She lived with her a year or so, and went to school, she didn't want to change, so I was always the oldest one at home, then. Cause' Beatrice stayed with Grandma Spaulding. I had one younger brother at the time that my sister was sick, and my brother and I stayed with my mother's mother, Grandma Brown, because she lived out in the country. We didn't have to go to school. So, I was the oldest one at home and I had six younger than I was.

CP: Wow, that's a lot of responsibility.

MP: I did a lot of babysitting.

CP: I bet. When did you meet Grandpa?

MP: He was a neighbor. He lived probably two, two and a half miles, from us. First time I remember seeing him he came, he was four years older than I was, about almost four years older. I don't know how old he was but he drove a car, he must have been maybe sixteen and I was probably twelve. I was at Grandma and Grandpa's house and he come, him and his mother come, and picked us up for church. When I first remember him, he was driving. And his mother and my mother were real close friends. And after that I saw him on and off at different things, well they had a lot of plays and different entertainments at school houses and I met him one time at a Christmas program at the school I remember seeing him there. And then he come to, well he was going to plant corn on Dad's property, he had a tractor, and so he come to plant, or see Dad about planting his corn. That was his excuse anyways; I guess he come partly to see me.

CP: Do you remember what year this might have been around?

MP: It was in nineteen, around nineteen forty, forty-one.

CP: Okay, so just before the war than?

MP: Aha. 'Cause we started going together in 1942 and we got married in 1944.

CP: How old were you?

MP: I'd just turned twenty. I was married the twenty-third of September I was turned twenty on the eighteenth of September and we got married the twenty-third, and his birthday was on the twenty-eighth of October and he would have been twenty-four, so he was not quite twenty-four when we got married and I was twenty. And we lived; his mother's house was actually two houses put together, so we lived in one part of that house for a while. Maybe a year or so and he farmed the farm, then his brother come home and he bought the farm, so we moved. He went to work, my husband, went to work in the factory in Muskegon [Michigan].

CP: What factory was that?

MP: Shellwalker's where they make the office furniture. File cabinets, lot of offices have Shellwalker, file cabinets and stuff. He worked there thirty-two years.

CP: He was good with his hands. I remember that.

MP: Yeah, and he, I don't think he missed more than five days maybe of work, in those thirty-two years. He always worked.

CP: So were you then still living with your parents during the Great Depression? What was that like?

MP: I really don't remember the Depression that much. I was born in '24, and the Depression was when? '30, '28, '30? Yeah, I don't really remember. We was hard up anyways. I

remember Dad used to, he was a butcher, so we never went real hungry because he'd butcher for farmers and that, and they'd always give him, they couldn't pay him money, but we always had meat. They'd pay him in meat and that, so, I don't remember the Depression being hard up, ya know. We had our own, we had the farm, we had our own milk and eggs and meat and so like so many that went hungry, no, we never went hungry. I don't ever remember being, I mean we were hard up and didn't even know it, I mean I didn't know I was hard up, didn't have much money or anything. Where I was in high school, my Dad worked for twenty and twenty-five something hour and I think about that now, I used to go get money from him to go to basketball game or something, and to go to the game and for some popcorn. To get some popcorn it was twenty-five cents. I mean he had to work an hour that week for me to go to the basketball game. Just to think of that afterwards, you know.

CP: What was high school like?

MP: We had to carry four subjects. And we went to school from 9 o'clock to 4. Your classes was hour, I think some of them were over a little, an hour, hour and a half maybe for geometry, chemistry, and stuff. Chemistry was a long class because you had your lab and everything in high school. Had ah, was trying to think how many teachers, but we had four depending. And you knew everybody, I mean, the school wasn't that big, knew all the teachers, all the kids. And during the war time, our business teacher we had, Mr. Lund, he was missing in action, so I never heard no more of him. They had to go to war, he was a younger fellow.

CP: What was it like to have all of these individuals going off to war?

MP: Well, when I was a senior in high school, all the boys that graduated, I don't think there was hardly anybody in our class. We had a class of twenty-eight and I think pert near every one of them had to go to war just as soon as they got out of school. Wasn't very many guys in town, you didn't find anybody around. Young men, most of them were gone. But I was a senior in high school. And your grandpa, he had to go for an examination and classified, they had to classify them, and of course he was farming at the time. They didn't take; if there was more than one boy on the farm they would take part of them. But they tried to leave one to do the farming because someone had to feed the people that were in the war. So he was the only one on the farm so he was deferred, they called it deferring for farming, and so the war got over before, if it got real desperate they would call in the farmers. I don't know what they did, the ones that couldn't farm, but he never got called except to go and have his examination, that was right after we got married, he left for Detroit [Michigan] to get classified.

CP: Did he want to go?

MP: No, not really, he didn't want to go because he was supporting his mother and his wife. I don't know what we would of done if he had went. Done just like the rest of them I guess, that when the women started going to the factories to work, because there were no men to work in the factories. And work in the factories on the farm. And everything was rationed. I mean you didn't, you got your sugar was allotted by how each person in the family got to much sugar, I don't remember now how much it was. In meat, meat and sugar, everything you had to have a coupon to buy, I mean, you just couldn't go and get stuff. You had coupons; each family got a

book of coupons. And when they were gone you didn't get nothing till the next ones were issued. So it was hard to, so much of the stuff, we did our own canning and stuff, but you had to can without sugar a lot of it because, we didn't suffer too much because we had so many babies that weren't using that much sugar but they were allotted the sugar too. So we had a little bit of sugar. And gas was rationed. Your grandpa he had a tractor and farming so he got allotted more gas than some that just had a car for pleasure; you didn't get gas for pleasure. So what few boys was around, the young fellas' would come around and try to buy gas from him, because he had tractor gas. That was going on all over, they'd try to get you to sell them some gas if you had some to spare, but usually you didn't have much to spare. But, then when we first got married we had to try to furnish our own house. You had to put your name in the hardware stores for a clock, a stove and you didn't get the stuff till once in awhile it'd come in and they'd call you and tell you they had a clock in, did you want it? I remember we had to go down see if we wanted the stove they had; you had to take it because that was all you were going to get anyway. We didn't have no choice. I don't remember what else. You just couldn't go to the store to buy something. I remember the first television I ever saw. The hardware store cleaned out one of their display rooms a little bit and put up chairs, and they had a television going and you'd come down to the store, they was having a, Joe Lewis was having a box, he was a big boxer you know, and they was having a boxing meet. And we'd go down and sat in the chairs to watch this boxing on television, I wouldn't watch it now for nothing. In fact they didn't have television all the time like they do now. They would just once in a while have a program on and you could go and see or if you had your own television. Friends of ours got a television in their home, but didn't have something on all the time. I mean you could go when they had a program on. You could watch it. It was really something to see that picture come through the air, you know, same with the microwave oven. I remember a girlfriend of mine got a microwave. She said you could put stuff on a paper plate and put in there and it won't burn the plate. I just couldn't quite imagine that. But then I saw it work. That was, grew up in a period where things were changing all the time. That was interesting.

CP: Do you remember the fifties, the post World War Two era?

MP: Um, yeah, I guess I remember the fifties. I was married and had a family then. Things started, oh you know opening up, and you could do more things. They started, like I say, that was probably, was it the fifties where they started walking on the moon and that, Early fifties? [1960s.]

CP: It was the Cold War era. Do you remember "duck and cover," Sputnik, anything like that?

MP: Yeah, I remember that, it was like so many of the other things. It was just such a miracle that they could shoot stuff up like that you know, and put people on the moon. That's when Glenn, wasn't it in the early fifties that he walked on the moon? [John Glenn orbited the earth in 1962.] I remember that. It was just mind boggling more, you didn't, it was like the microwave that wouldn't burn nothing on a paper plate, hard to believe.

CP: I remember once that you remembered what it was like when President Kennedy was assassinated.

MP: Oh, yes. I remember when it come over the radio, while I remember Roosevelt too, when he died. They brought it over the radio. When Kennedy was shot I was hanging out close and listened to the news that he was shot. Then we saw it on television. Then too, we had television by then. When ah, what was his name, Ruby, was there shot, oh I can't think of the guy's name that shot Kennedy, they showed that right on television when the fellow that shot Kennedy got shot. That was right on television. I saw that right when it happened. [Jack Ruby short Lee Harvey Oswald.]

CP: Oh wow, how'd you feel about that?

MP: That was another thing, you just couldn't believe it was happening, you know. They was bringing him from prison or something, I don't know what they were doing, moving him or something, there was a whole bunch of people around him, bunch of men, you know, getting him, moving him. Bunch of guards I suppose, moving him from one part of the prison to another or something, and all of a sudden, POP, and he was shot right there. They showed a lot of Kennedy's on television too, the whole thing when the bullet hit him, how he slumped and Jackie bent over him, holding him, all the blood and everything on her. Yeah, they showed all that on television. It was very sad. Yeah, I couldn't believe they would show it, but they couldn't help it, they were showing the parade. It was right there when he got shot. Same as when the fellow that shot him got shot. They were just showing the whole thing, got it right in action. I think it made everybody cry at that time, I mean, it was sad. For Kennedy you know.

CP: What was it like to be a young mother during that time?

MP: I don't know; I was just a happy young mother. I wasn't happy about that, but I had a happy married life and I really enjoyed the children that I had.

CP: What did you use to do as a family together?

MP: Oh, well, you know, we lived in the woods there; used to walk in the woods with the kids a lot. We had a creek in the back of our house, we'd walk in back at the creek and when the other kids were in school and Bruce was little we use to take our pack lunches and go out in the woods and eat lunch and go to the creek and stuff. Oh, we had games we played, badminton, in the summer time. And in the winter time we always tried to make them a skating rink out by the side of the house, ice skate. Bank up the snow and spray it with water at night and it'd freeze. So we'd make them a skating pond. We had sleds to slide down hill, we had a nice hill at the back of the house. They always called it Grandpa's hill, Grandpa would go over there, he had a great big long hill, they had toboggan and slide down hill. Then later on we had snowmobiles. The boys, Grandpa and I used to play on the snowmobiles in the winter time. The boys always had, well the girls too, the boys played in the woods a lot, built forts and did things out in the woods. My family was spread out a long ways. I had, my oldest daughter was six years old when I had the second one. And then she was four and a half when I had the next one, then he was six and a half when I had the last one, so the oldest daughter was seventeen years old when the last baby came. We had a lot of years in between the children. So each one kind of did their own thing. I guess they played together some, too, but not, like they were not the same age. Road to school bus to school, they did, caught the bus out in front of their house and road to

school. Which was different than I did cause' I always had to walk to school, no matter how far it was. Except when I went to high school I boarded, ah roomed in town, yeah, most everybody had that lived out in the country they would get up—the people in town had rental rooms, rent your room. But my aunt and uncle lived just at the edge of the city limits so I lived with them went I went to high school. But there was a big farm house right across the road from us and they had a lot of rooms they rented to high school kids. So you lived in town during the week. On the weekends I usually walked home until I met Grandpa and junior senior year he'd pick me up and take me home on Friday nights.

CP: Was it hard living away from home like that?

MP: Not really, because I was with my aunt and uncle that I lived with, and the other kids, no I don't think any body minded it because they all chummed around together. I never heard of anybody that got really homesick over it, anyway, because you go home every weekend. You weren't that far from home, you know. But there—the kids that lived in town went home at night, but there were a lot of kids from the country that would room in the town, or have rooms. You usually had a hot plate to cook on and I think a lot of them brought of stuff from home and on weekends they'd bring stuff back with them. Big stuff, ya' know.

CP: Are there any other stories or memories you might have?

MP: I was trying to think... I can't think of anything that a.... You got something in mind?

CP: I just remember growing up hearing stories; Aunt Jane getting scared by Dad [Cecil] for hiding bugs or something.

MP: Oh, your father was such a tease, he really was. The poor sisters, I know one time Margene and her cousin Charlene was playing jacks, you know those ball and jack game, and they left to go to the bathroom and when they come back there was a big ol' bug there in their jacks and ball. Margene took her shoe and started whopping that thing. And your dad, Cecil, started hollerin', "Don't hit it! Don't hit it! That's my bug!" She had it so crushed; it was just the shell of a great big bug he'd collected. But she thought it was the real thing. She really smashed it with her shoe. He was a tease. And then they used to have stuffed toys—the girls had stuffed toys on their beds. They had this big ah straw Mexican hat on the bed, and one night—then he knew they was getting ready for bed he went and put ah, rubber spider underneath that hat. When she picked that up she fainted. Luckily she fell across the bed. His dad went and grabbed the spider and threw it in the trash, told him leave it there or it was going to get burned up. She came to, she was a—he teased about—then Margene, he would tease her and then get her after him and she'd run after him and she never wore her shoes, she was always barefooted, so he ran in the woods and then she couldn't catch him, so he was always safe to run in the woods to get away from her. He did like to tease.

CP: So, when did you and Grandpa move into the house in Hesperia, the house I remember?

MP: Ah we started building that, a neighbor wanted us—well we were really close friends with the people next door to us, they wanted us to live by them, so he gave us that acre, except we had

to pay the paper work on it. That's all we paid and then we moved in there, and then him and Grandpa, ah he could lay blocks, and they started building the basement and they built that one summer and finished up the basement and we lived in the basement for awhile. So, some people, guys, come along and want to build the top of the house up, or put up the rest of it, for advertising their work, for I don't know it was really cheap, I can't remember now, it didn't cost us a lot to hire them to build it. Course we furnished that materials and that, but they put it up. And that was in fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-two I think we moved in there, built that house. Norman was a barber, he was the one that was our friend, and ah, so he took a week off from work from barbering, and him and Grandpa built the basement. And he did a lot—they both did a lot of work on the house, too, so did I. Use to work through the week so on the weekend we could go fishin'. Yeah, they—perch was really bitein'; they'd get those great big Perch up around Lake Michigan. So that's where you remember we lived, and I think we built that house in fifty-two.

CP: Yeah, I definitely remember that house.

MP: You had a lot of fun there, didn't you? I know Nathan and you said, "Oh, what are we going to do when you sell your house?"

CP: Oh, I know, we were so sad.

MP: "Sell the house, what will we do?" No place to shoot his gun, his arrows and stuff that he liked to put target practice with in the woods.

CP: The swings.

MP: Oh yeah, the swings. Grandpa used to stand out there and swing you by the hours.

CP: I know. What was it like to become a grandma for the first time, and to...?

MP: When I first became a grandma, Janice got married and Terry was in the service and so he got shipped overseas to Vietnam. And she come home to live with us. She was going to have the baby and so we—he wasn't home, we had to take her to the hospital. She had the baby and then we called, the Red Cross got a hold of him and told him that he had a son. And she lived with us then until I think Terry Lee was about—he was about nine months old. They come to move—he got out of the service and they moved to California. That was rough because we'd had him for all those months he was growing up, for the baby you know. Then they moved away. That was hard. We were just glad he made it home but.... Yeah, we had been out camping, I know, one time and we come home and the phone started ringin' and I went to the phone and they wanted Janice, they said it was the, oh I don't remember it was through the army anyway. Oh no, no, no. So I put her on the phone. I thought they were going to tell her that something had happened, you know, and they said Terry was having "r" and "r" and he'd be in Hawaii, and he wanted her to come to Hawaii and bring the baby because he'd never seen the baby. The baby was born the fourteenth of June and this was sometime in July, I think he was only a few weeks or months old or something. So she took the baby to fly to Hawaii so he could see his dad.

CP: I bet that was a relief then.

MP: Oh, it was. Oh man, I was scared when that army officer called and said Terry—or they wanted to talk to Janice. Oh course they didn't tell me what they wanted, I was petrified. Found out they just wanted her to go to Hawaii and meet her husband. Well, it turned out to be a happy time.

CP: That's good then.

MP: Yeah.

CP: Do you mind if I ask a more personal question?

MP: I don't—yeah, okay. I don't mind.

CP: What was it like for you and Grandpa when Dad met Mom and joined the Church of Later-Day Saints and became Mormon?

MP: I was just glad that he was following the Christian upbringing, I mean, it didn't bother me what religion he'd had, just so long as he had religion. Ah, it didn't bother us, except we'd never met your mother, but that wasn't our choice. I mean, I figured if it was him that was gonna live with her, not me. Just was surprised when he called me once—cause' he had called and said they had planned on getting married and wanted Bruce to be a witness and be with them, and so Bruce had just got out of high school and we was getting—trying to get him a tux and that and we—just I think the next day or so we were suppose to go and get him measured up and for a—his suit, and that night the phone rang and your dad on the phone and he said, "I got married last night." And I said, "What?" I mean, I couldn't believe. I said, "What?" and he said, "You heard me, I got married last night."

CP: Oh goodness.

MP: And I said, "Oh. Okay, I guess we won't be coming out for awhile."

CP: Oh goodness.

MP: But we did go out that summer then; when Grandpa got on vacation we went out. And ah, we had a trailer, and Margene and Gary, and Matt was a baby. We all went out. Met your mother and everybody liked her. But it was—I was so surprised when he called and said—said it was just too hard to plan a wedding by themselves, the two of them out there together. There wasn't nothing in Monticello [Utah], you know, they had to go to Colorado someplace to get everything, so much driving back and forth and around trying to plan a wedding.

CP: So they just eloped. That's funny.

MP: Yup, so they just took off and got married. And when he called me and said, “I got married last night,” I said “What?” he said, “You heard me. I got married last night.”

CP: Sounds like him. Sounds like something he’s taught Nathan now to do.

MP: Right.

CP: That’s Nathan, he just wants to take work off some day and get married. Oh, goodness.

MP: Yup, I know the religion didn’t bother me. I mean we have always been church people. And he had already—already was been baptized in the church so, it didn’t bother that he went to a different religion; it made no difference, so, anything else?

CP: I don’t know, is there anything that you’re just—something you want to leave, closing thoughts I guess? I don’t know?

MP: I just can’t think of anything, I mean, I’ve really had a happy life.

CP: It sounds like it.

MP: When, ah, Grandpa passed away, we already had planned I would move—we were going to move to Midland [Michigan]. We had a place picked out here, in fact we’d seen the realtor; and we had a house. As soon as we had sold our house we was going to buy here, we had already spoken for an apartment, not where I’m at now, but another place where I first moved to Midland I lived. So when he passed on, we ah, I just said, well, we had our house up for sale and everything, so I just kept on movein’. And everybody said, “Well you can’t move out now when you’d be too unhappy to move now. And I said, “Well, this is what we had planned, so this is what I’m going to do.” There was nobody left there except Fred, I mean, we had a lot of friends in Hesperia but, my family was all over here anyway. Except for Janice and she’d never lived around close anyhow. So I just kept on movein’ into the apartment that we had already picked out to move into, we had already signed for it and everything.

CP: Right. Was that a hard move to make then?

MP: No, it wasn’t as hard as it would have been to stay home, I mean, back where—after Grandpa died I never stayed there once—never slept in the house again after he was gone. Then day—it was Thanksgiving Day when we had dinner together, a bunch of us, I can’t remember who all the kids were there. I know Margene and Gary came. I think your folks might have been there, I can’t remember. But, ah, then next morning we had to leave, I think we got up at four o’clock; we left real early for Milwaukee. That’s where he was going to have his surgery. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We left the next morning. So Thanksgiving dinner, Thanksgiving was always kinda’ sad because that’s the last meal we ever had together, was Thanksgiving dinner. And then we went to Milwaukee and he had his surgery all day and Saturday and on Sunday morning he passed on. So we just turned around and come back home and we all got home that night, there was, I don’t know, quite late. I mean, seven o’clock, maybe when we got in to my old house. Some of my friends were sittin’ in the car waiting for us. And they come in and

talked for awhile and then we all of us come on, cause' it was Margene and Gary, not Margene and Gary but Margene, Bruce, Cecil, and I were together from Milwaukee, we drove it you know. So we just went on to Midland then. It was—everyone wanted to get home to their family. It was Meagan's birthday the day Grandpa died.

CP: Oh sad.

MP: Uh huh. So Bruce was really upset. Yeah, it was her seventh birthday the day he died. I'm not sure if she knows that or not. I've never discussed it you know. Didn't want to ruin her birthday, but, ah, so we just come on and went to Midland and then I never went back home to stay in the house. When I went to Hesperia I stayed with a friend of mine. We cleaned the house out and that; I didn't stay there, stayed with Wauneta. So I moved into the apartment where I come here to Midland. And then after a couple years I moved into here.

CP: That's right; I remember the other apartment, too.

MP: Yeah, I, ah, was kinda sad there cause' I moved here and didn't, I mean moved there and didn't know anybody. The only family I had, you know. And the people there, was young people. They all worked so I didn't have anybody around me that was my age. That's why I wanted to get into here, senior citizen apartments. Really like it here. Had a good time. So, I had a real good time here, have a lot of friends.

CP: Good.

MP: Got any more questions, can't think of anything?

CP: No, can't think of anything, either. I think this is good.

MP: Is that a good report?

CP: Yeah, this is good, thank you very much.

MP: Well, you're very welcome, sweetie.

CP: So, I guess I'll talk to you some other time.

MP: Have you turned off your recorder?

MP: Not sure if I told you or not, but when I was little and that was before we moved from the bigger farm we had a lot of cows and that, my dad went in—well, we had a manure pile out 'cause they'd push it out, you know, throw it out on the pile. In the winter time they didn't spread it in the fields till spring cause' it'd freeze up. Found on the manure pile they'd—anything would die they'd throw it on the manure pile. There were dead chickens, and baby calves, they'd get thrown on the manure pile till spring. So, one time Dad went down to milk, I guess he was milking, I don't know, anyway a cow kicked him anyway and knocked him out. And so my mother and a fella that lived on the farm with us, he was kind of hired man like, I

think he was kind of like co-owner, too. And, cause' he had a house there on the farm. But anyway, Sim, his name was Sim, and Grandma went to get Dad out of the barn because he was layin' back of the cows, he was out cold, you know. So they dragged him out the barn door. I was little, probably maybe five years old, I don't know, I moved from there when I was young yet. They started dragging him out the barn door and I was standing there hollering, "Don't throw him on the manure pile! Don't throw him on the manure pile!" They just wanted to get him out in the air, it was a winter day. They was heading right for that manure pile, so I was hollering, "don't throw him on the manure pile." I put that in her book; too, I think I did anyway. [A class project her granddaughter Meagan made for school that was discussed earlier when the tape was off.] But different things that happened that I remembered.

CP: That's funny.

MP: But I didn't know if you wanted that in your story.

CP: Definitely. Any story that you can remember is fun.

MP: Then, when we graduated from the eighth grade they always had the whole county had a—well I'm just thinking of these things now—the whole county had a graduation in Shelby, which was another town. Kind of the county center, and so, my cousin, I got all dressed up for graduation, you know. You don't where cap and gowned but we had real nice dresses and everything, long dresses. He was going to take me to graduation and he drove an old truck that didn't have windows on the side and it started to rain like crazy. So, I don't think when I got to graduation over in Shelby which was probably twenty miles, I probably didn't look as good as when I did when I started from home. The rain was beating in the window part of the time, window well of his truck. Well, anyway we went to graduation. I don't remember all what I had in her book. But it had a lot; it was like an interview because it had topics you were suppose to fill in. In school one time, in high school, we had to write limericks. And I remember I was really kinda' embarrassed because the teacher posted mine up on the bulletin board. I wrote, "I had a wee brother named Bud, he went to school when he could, one day it was raining and I heard him complaining, and there he was stuck in the mud." And she posted that. I had a—I was embarrassed that she posted that thing up there.

CP: Teachers are good at doing that sort of thing to students.

MP: I know. She thought it was good, I didn't think it was that good. I had a hard time thinking of something to write, rhymed, you know, a limerick.

CP: That's funny.

MP: So, I'll let you go. It was nice talking to you.

CP: Yeah, thank you for all....