Q. (by Julie Jones-Eddy) This is Julie Jones-Eddy, interviewing Margaret Tagert Jones, on April 15th, 1984, in her home in Colorado Springs, for the project, "Women in Northwestern Colorado, 1890 to 1940."

Mrs. Jones is my mother.

Mrs. Jones, I understand that your mother, and my grandmother, came to Meeker quite early. I believe she was born in Park County, in about 1883. Is that correct.

A. (by Margaret Jones) That's right.

Q. And then she came over to the Meeker area when she was about what age?

A. I think she was probably about six years old.

Q. Which would make that about 1889?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did her family settle and live when they first came to the western slope?

A. The first story that I remember that she told me of a place where they lived was Juniper Springs. At that time there were no towns in northwestern Colorado. Craig did not exist, and neither did Meeker. There was a stockade at Lay, Colorado, but these people and some other early pioneers, I guess you might call them, who came to that part of the country lived near Juniper Springs, which was a natural hot water spring.

Q. What direction is that from what is now Meeker?

A. It would be northwest, slightly west, or slightly north, that is.

Q. About how many--how far--can we figure out far?

A. It was about 30 miles from Meeker.

Q. When her family lived there--can you--do you remember any stories that she told you that you found interesting when
she lived in that area as a little girl?

A. Yes, there were at least a couple of stories that I remember she told me, because the people in that area made trips twice a year to Rawlins, Wyoming to get supplies for the rest of the year. And the men went in wagons, and the mothers, the children stayed at home. So it meant that the mothers had a lot of responsibility—of course, they always did, but they were alone for sometimes it might take a month to make this trip. She looked forward to that, though, because it meant all these good things that they would bring home, and she did tell me about Christmases when, if they usually were able to manage to have a fresh orange or two, or maybe a half a dozen, which was a real treat. The children looked forward so much.

But one story especially—they lived on the banks of the Bear River. They called it the Bear River in those days, but now we call it the Yampa—the Indian name for bear. But they were on the south side of the river, and had to ford the river to go north, which was the direction of Rawlins, Wyoming. So the men had little boats, canoes, I suppose. Maybe they were flatbottom wooden boats—I don't know what, but something to transport them across the river.

Of course, when they took the wagons, I guess they just forded the river with the wagons and the horses. But they kept this boat, so that they could get back and forth, and it was a sort of a lifeline, I guess, to other neighbors, and whatever happened in the community, and to Lay, the only place of any community activity which did serve as a stockade.

So the mother—the men had left on this trip, and my grandmother looked out the window, and noticed that this—the little boat, or canoe had been washed away from the mooring. They kept it tied to a fence, a sort of a wire fence that extended out into the river a little way, and the boat was tied to that. But it had gotten away. However, it had sort of hung up at the end of the fence, and she felt that she might be able to retrieve it, but she'd have to climb out on this fence. And the river—it was in the spring, and the river was fast and deep. So she told my mother, who was the oldest child, and I'm not sure, I think there might have been one or two other little ones at that time, younger than she. My mother, I think, might have been around eight years old. So she told her that—what she was going to do, that she was going to try to retrieve the boat. If she couldn't—if she didn't get back, and she
fell in the river, then my mother should get the horse, and put the children on the horse, and go to the neighbor's, which was about seven miles away—the closest neighbor.

So she was successful at this, and she did get back, and my mother would tell me about how disappointed she was, because they very rarely got to play with the neighbor children! That was a real treat, and it only happened once or twice a year, and here she'd missed a beautiful chance!

Q You've mentioned the stockade at Lay. What was the stockade for?

A. After the Meeker Massacre, which was an uprising caused because—was it Captain Meeker—anyway, he had been sent in by the government, he and his troops, and forts were built in Meeker. It was not called Meeker at that time—it was just an army post, and he ordered their race track to be plowed up, so that caused a great deal of trouble over there, and there were many people killed, including Meeker, his daughter and wife were abducted, and after that, the Indians were supposedly sent to a reservation in Utah. However, I guess that the supervision must not have been what it should have been, because they did get away, and they tried to come back to their home territory, and did, so my parents were living—or my grandparents were living in the Powell Park Valley, where all this occurred, just below Meeker, just west of Meeker.

And so they did encounter the visits from the Indians, when they came back. Sometimes these were hostile visits, and at that—if that happened, and they were afraid of some unpleasant incidents, the families packed up and went to Lay, which was on the Yampa River, and would stay there until the Indian scare, as they called it, was over.

One of the times that this family went—my mother has told me about—was after the birth of her little sister. It was the day after the baby was born, and this Indian scare was going on, so the families were packing to go to the stockade at Lay. My grandmother, of course, and the new baby were just packed into the back of a wooden wagon, and made the trip, which was about 30 miles to the stockade. All of the children, of course, were born at home, usually with midwives. So it's a miracle, in some cases, that they ever survived a trip of this kind.

Q You mentioned that your mother had just had a child—
or your grandmother had just had another child, and had to go to the stockade. Do you remember, did your mother tell you anything, or what are your memories about the other children that were born to your mother when you were a little girl?

A. The only other child that was born, that I would be able to remember, was a little brother. He was six years younger than I, so I would have been six years old on the night that he was born. I had not been told anything about this, and I seemed to be very unobservant. I had no idea that there would be a new member of the family. I had not noticed any difference in my mother's . . . physique, I guess you might say. She was overweight, and maybe that had something to do with it. But I was treated to a very nice thing—I couldn't understand, even at the age of six, why this happened, but two of our most attractive teenage girls came to our house, got me, took my pajamas along, and I was to spend the day and the night with them. It was a wonderful day. They treated me to everything I wanted—played with me, had a lovely dinner, and the next morning, when I went home, I had a baby brother. I was completely amazed, and I don't know how I felt about it. Because there were four of us already in the family, that would make five, and it—even at the age of six I realized that too many children were very hard for families of our kind to take care of, and also that my mother's health would be affected, at least temporarily, which I worried about.

So I don't remember feeling overjoyed about the birth of the baby. I do remember that I had a lovely time the last day—the day that I spent with the girls.

Q. Do you remember your mother discussing female problems, or biological functions such as menstruation, male-female relationships, or any of that sort of thing, or did she ever tell you stories about her experience with that as a young girl?

A. No. She never did. She did tell me about menstruation, prepared me for it, in a way. However, she really didn't understand it enough to go into the explanation of why it happened. But this happened to me when I was, oh, golly, I think I was 12 or 13 years old. I should have known, but of course, no sex education in the schools, and nobody talked about this. But she did, and I was grateful to her for explaining what would happen to me at this time, and then she helped me with the sanitary pads and all of that. And there were many of my friends who knew absolutely nothing, even at that time, which would
have been in, let's see . . . around 1925, so you would think that . . . now, when she was a girl, and this happened to her, she had no warning at all, and of course, didn't tell her mother, or anybody, and worried about it, as many of them did then. She tried to keep herself clean, washed her underwear at night, but had no idea what was happening, thought maybe she'd been cut, you know. So it was certainly a dark age, as far as things of that are concerned. And then the female, the male-female relations, I knew nothing about at that point. I had a friend with whom I was very close--she had a big family, a lot of girls in the family. So we used to get together, and there were girls of all ages, of course. There was one, her older sister, who I think must have been around 17 at the time, and she said--we were talking about this, and we said, "Now how do these babies get here? What happens to us inside?" We knew they came from inside the mother's stomach, but we didn't know how that took place.

She said, "You know, I think it's this thing that boys and girls do." Well, we had heard the word for that, and had pictures drawn on our--I had a boy who sat behind me in school who drew some pictures that were pretty graphic, and I got an idea from that. Of course, we didn't talk about any of this, but that was my first, I remember, a light dawned, and I thought, "Well, I'll bet that ties up." So that was--

Q. That was it?

A. That's the way I learned about that.

Q. Did you have any idea as to whether there were any birth control methods, or whether women in your mother's age group just had to have as many children as they had? Was there any way to curtail that?

A. Not in the early years, but I think around--it must have been around 1920, maybe, that I believe she started using a diaphragm. In her case, whether she used it properly or not, I don't know. But it didn't seem to work, and so she had one baby after that this baby six years younger than I, and after that, there was a miscarriage. My brother, three years older than I, and I were aware of this. We were wakened up in the middle of the night. I must have been about ten years old--I think he was about 13. And we both worried about our mother's health, always, and we knew that there was something going on with her that night. But we weren't allowed to go into the room. All this happened at home, always. The doctor was there,
and so then the next morning, she was in bed, she was ill, but nobody told us. But we figured out later it was a miscarriage, and she did hemorrhage. I think she may have told me this later on. She hemorrhaged, and just escaped death, I guess, by a miracle.

Then there was a doctor who was--this was a very small community, population of--what? Maybe . . . maybe several hundred people, three, four hundred people. One doctor, whom everybody loved. He was a humanist, as well as a doctor, and he really felt for these women, who could not control this thing, and who did become pregnant at times when it would be very dangerous to their health. We heard that there were cases where the doctor did perform abortions to save a woman's life, which, of course, was illegal, and it was not talked about.

Q. When you were a child, under the age of ten or 12, did you have particular responsibilities at home? Did you help your mother, or--

A. Yes. The one thing I remember more clearly than anything else are the dirty dishes. I had to do the dishes. And with a family of five--five children, the parents, a family of seven, all of them boys except me--I had a lot of dishes to do, and I hated every minute of it.

Then, in addition to that, I was responsible for the care of my younger brother, who was six years younger than I, and from the time he was able to walk, he had to have somebody with him constantly. He was a kind of a hyperkinetic child, and I was with him every minute. We'd be turned out of the house in the morning--my mother had lots of work to do, and I would just kind of go with him. I guess I played with him, but I remember resenting it. I do remember that he had a little coat with a collar that I could hang onto. So here we would go, with me hanging to the back of his collar. Occasionally he got away. He was a bright child, too, and my grandfather at that time had a horse. He'd ride downtown and tie the horse to the hitching post. And somehow, I guess Bill got away from me. He got Grandfather's horse, and was gone all day, with the whole town looking for him, and of course, it was my fault!

Q. How old was Bill?

A. Bill must have been around five at that point, and I, of course, was carrying an awful lot of guilt all day. He
came home in the evening. He said that he'd taken the horse, he'd gone up into the hills just behind our little town, and he was looking for a rabbit to make a dinner. And so he was fine, but we didn't know that. There were other instances like that. But he was my responsibility.

Q. Did you have friends who also had to do that sort of thing?

A. It seemed to me that none of them had the responsibility I did. They did take care of brothers and sisters, but I think the brothers and sisters were a little easier to take care of than mine happened to be.

Q. Did you notice, were there chores around home that your brothers were responsible for?

A. I just don't remember around home that they did very much. They were always working out on ranches, during the summer time, during the time—as soon as they were old enough, which was pretty early, probably around 12, and during the summer, they would get a job on ranches, to make a little money, to carry them through the winter. They were great sportsmen, and they spent most of their spare time hunting, fishing, doing things of that kind. Now I can't remember that there were—we did live in town, and of course, we didn't have the chores that we did at one time have a cow in town, and had to be milked night and morning, but it seems to me my father did most of that. Maybe the boys helped.

Q. When you did the dishes, you didn't just put them in the dishwasher. How did you do them?

A. Well, you had a dishpan—we had a dishpan, and sometimes, the water had to be heated on the stove, poured into the dishpan, then we tried to heat enough water to rinse them, but of course, it wasn't a very sanitary operation, but we managed that way.

Q. When you played as a child, and just enjoyed yourself, what were some of the things you most liked to do?

A. I guess the thing that I enjoyed most was playing with dolls. I would spent hours talking with the dolls. They'd get sick, the doctor would come, and then I'd sew, make clothes for them, and I spent lots of time, being an only girl in the family, I was alone quite a bit, although I did have friends to play with, but it seems to me that my best times playing with
the dolls and playing house were when I was alone.

Q To change course here, just a little bit. Do you remember anything about illnesses of people in your family or other children, and how those illnesses were treated, and what sort of medical attention you were able to get, or what was available, perhaps?

A Well, there was very little available. We had a doctor--there might have been two at that time, when I was very young as a child, but there was nothing such as preventative medicine--no penicillin, no antibiotics of any kind. I can't even remember aspirin. I'm not sure--we may have had aspirin, but I wasn't conscious of that. I do remember one experience, when I was probably about five years old, of losing a little companion who died from diptheria. There were several times in my childhood when diptheria had broken out in the town, and it was as if there was a pall over everything--terribly depressing, because people were losing their children, and they were friends--we all knew each other. So it took its toll on all of us. But I had a little friend called Chad--his father was a doctor, and I don't believe that I realized that Chad was sick. He and his little brother and my friend, another girl and I, played together so much, and then one morning they told us that Chad was gone; he'd died of diptheria. The way the diptheria seemed to act was that it affected the respiratory system, and of course, there was nothing that could be done. No oxygen, nothing of that kind, so the children literally choked to death from that disease, or that was my impression of it at that time.

The other thing that happened in my family, a very tragic thing. My three brothers were in their adolescent years, when I think it must have been an epidemic of scarlet fever that swept through the town. I wasn't really conscious of that at the time, and I'm not sure, of course, at this point, whether that's what it was, but I feel sure now, in many ways, that it was. Our home was very small, so we had what we called the tent house in the back yard, and the three boys lived there, of course, coming into the house for meals and many other things, but they were--it happened then, isolated when they had this disease because of our living arrangements. They had temperatures, I remember, they were very ill. My mother was taking care of them as best she could, and the doctor was looking in on them, but as I remember, it was never diagnosed as scarlet fever, but from that time on they did recover from this--all three of them recovered, but in a few months, their hearing
seemed to be affected, and they began losing the hearing so rapidly that by the time they were in their early twenties, their hearing was so impaired that now they would have been labeled as handicapped. Later in life, of course, they're all--one brother, the oldest brother, is now not living, but the other two are totally deaf, probably from that experience.

Q. Now when they lived in that tent house, I assume that was in the summer time. Did they live there in the winter?

A. Yes, the year round.

Q. Was there any sort of heat?

A. Yes. Our only source of heat were coal stoves, and, of course, the thing to do was to bank the stove, as we called it, to carry it through the night, so that it wouldn't go out, and so that it would at least take the chill off of things. But we got used to lots of cold, cold weather, waking up in the mornings with below zero temperatures in our rooms, actually. So it may be that we were--had become impervious to the cold. We'd had so much of it. It's very hard to keep a house heated with any kind of regular heat with a coal stove, and at night, in 40 below zero weather, I'm sure it must have been several degrees below zero in the house.

Q. What material was this tent house made of?

A. It was a wooden building, it's hard to remember. Now it may have been--I think the reason we called it that was because the upper half of it was canvas. Now, I'm not sure whether it was that way permanently or not, but that's what I remember.

Q. Did you enjoy going to school, and was your school far from your home?

A. The school probably would have been about three blocks from my home, and I enjoyed it. It was a brick building up on where the hills started, and it was surrounded by sagebrush fields, so that in the spring, we could go out and catch horny toads, and gather buttercups. There was also an Indian burial ground in one of these sagebrush fields that we discovered, and used to dig for the Indian beads--we thought that was a real neat trick, like finding Easter eggs, you know, for children. And it didn't seem to bother anybody in the community, and I'm sure we didn't--well, I don't know what we did. I do remember
that it was exciting to find something there when we were digging in the graveyard, I guess it was--an Indian graveyard.

Q. What subjects did you like in school?

A. I didn't like arithmetic. I think I liked everything else, as I remember.

Q. When you went to school in the winter time, or in the spring, when the weather wasn't good, anyway, which would be the time when you went to school, did you go on horseback, or did you walk through lots of snow, or--

A. Well, we walked through lots of snow. And in the spring, through lots of mud. Of course, none of the streets were paved, not even gravelled. Nobody had thought of doing that yet. So everything just turned to a sea of mud, and we--I remember I wore overshoes, we called them, high rubber boots--and even though they had fasteners on them, I remember one day I was trying to get across the street. I had only one really muddy street to cross before getting to the school, and in the middle of the street, it pulled off my shoes and and the boots. So there I was, with--just had to wade in the mud.

Q. Did you want to continue your education after high school? What was your feeling about what you wanted to do after you graduated from high school?

A. My feeling was to do something to see more of the world than I had seen, being limited to the small community. The best way to do that, of course, was to go to college. I was fortunate enough to be able to do that--my parents could afford to do that at that time. It was not terribly expensive, but relatively speaking, it was, I suppose. However, I had friends who were going away to school, and then getting a better education was one of the things that I felt would enhance my life. I felt that I would have a broader view of things. I would be--I'd have a better quality of life if I were able to get more education. So . . .

Q. I've heard you mention living on some sort of ranch outside of Meeker in the summer. How old were you when you did that, and what were some of your experiences there?

A. This was a place called Sulfur Creek, about 12 miles north of Meeker. It was land owned by a wealthy easterner. At the time he was living in Bermuda. He was a friend of my
father's, and so my father was a kind of an overseer of this property, and was allowed to grow crops on it—hay crops in the summer, and to run cattle, as we said, on this property in the summer time, so we spent our summers up there. It was a very crude living operation. We lived in an old log cabin. I remember the packrats pounding around in the attic at night. It seemed as if there were several people up there walking around. But being a child, I slept well, so it didn't seem to frighten me too much.

The one thing that was pleasant about this place that I remember was the spring. We carried all of our water from the spring, and it was very desolate country—hot sagebrush country. So the spring was a real oasis. It was about 200 feet from the house, I suppose, in a little cleft in the land, and around it grew watercress. It was a cool, lovely place to sit—the only one in the countryside, actually, and the water was so pure and cool. But I remember the spring was the pleasantest place that we had.

Q. What kind of work did you do, and about what age were you? Did you have quite a few responsibilities?

A. I was about seven years old, and I was still taking care of my little brother. So that was one of the responsibilities I had. The other one that I remember very clearly is churning butter. We had—let's see, I believe we may have had two kinds of churns, one with a dasher that we splashed up and down, until the butter started coming, and the other, I think we turned with a crank. That took a long time before the butter started to form, and I used to get very tired of that.

Q. Did your mother have to do a lot of cooking for people other than your family?

A. Yes, during the haying season we had a hay crew. I'm not sure how many men there might have been, but probably as many as six or eight and it was our responsibility to take the lunch to those men in the field at noon. So we made lots of potato salad, fried lots of chicken, got together quite a lunch with iced tea and we carried most of this to the men. I'm not sure whether we had—we might have had a little wagon to put some of it, but we did carry it, because I remember my mother had the potato salad packed in a wooden bucket, and one day on the way to taking the lunch to the men, the bottom came out of this bucket—all the salad went into the dirt, and we both cried!
Do you remember the first times that you traveled outside of Meeker, what were some of your experiences?

A. I think when I was--I must have been three or four years old, my mother took me on a train trip to visit the aunt and uncle who lived in Arizona at that time, and my uncle had a cattle ranch there in White Mountain, so that was quite an expedition.

The thing I remember on the trip in the train, I can still visualize the train and our seats, and berths, and how it felt to sleep on the train, to have the berth made up and to sleep on the train. I also remember the Harvey Houses, for eating. The train would stop at the Harvey House. We'd walk into this beautiful big room and the waitresses with their typical Harvey House uniforms, which were long--I believe they were long dresses--I'm not sure, they might have been black with the white aprons. It was a standard uniform, and the food--I have heard since--was absolutely outstanding. Of course, at that age, I thought any food was pretty good! And I loved it, all the people, having come from a little town, probably never having been in a restaurant, this was quite an experience.

I remember I had to--I remember my mother saying, "Now, we have only"--what--"twenty or thirty minutes, and then the train will leave again, so you eat your dinner, so we'll be ready to go." And I just enjoyed every bit of it.

How did you--where did you catch the train when you left home?

A. We boarded the train in Rifle. It probably took us 12 hours, I suppose, although I don't have any recollection of that, but it would have taken a long time to make the 50-mile trip between Meeker and Rifle.

What sort of conveyance did you make that trip in?

A. I think it was a car, probably a Model-A Ford, I mean a Model-T Ford, which was the first automobile that Ford made.

This would probably be around 1918-19?

A. Around 1919.

When--did you ever have your mother--did your mother
tell you stories about her travel outside of Meeker--do you recall that?

A. The only one I remember--well, I do remember two. The first was her honeymoon, which would have been in 1901. They went by stage to Rifle, to get the train there. It took two days, because we had a halfway house, just about halfway between Meeker and Rifle where you could spend the night, then go on the next morning. Then they boarded the D & RG to Denver. I'm not sure how long that trip took, but they were in Denver then for a week. I remember she said she packed a trunk to make this trip. Because of course, the dresses, the clothes were very bulky, and had to have everything. That was one time.

Now when my mother was in high school, it was at the time that Leadville was booming, with--it was gold in Leadville, and she had an aunt and uncle. The uncle had been very successful in gold mining, and they lived in a beautiful home in Leadville. This was also at the time--she's told me about seeing the Ice Palace. She was able to live with her aunt and uncle for a winter and go to high school there. So she has told me about the wonderful balls, the excitement of living in Leadville.

Q. This must have been about 1896 or 7--something like that?

A. Yes.

Q. She was about that age?

A. Yes, yes, it would have been, uh-huh.

Q. When you traveled outside of Meeker, and then she also did, did you have a different view of Meeker then, or were you--what was your feeling about civilization outside the White River Valley?

A. I don't believe that occurred until I had gone to school here on the eastern slope. I really wasn't aware of that at younger ages. The only other trips that I remember at younger ages, which occurred between the years of eight and 12, I imagine--it might have been to visit an uncle who lived in Aspen. This was--Aspen at this time was a ghost town, but it was a wonderful place to visit, because you could explore all the old houses, and my aunt and uncle lived in what I
thought was a beautiful house—it had a big fire—lovely fireplace, a formal dining room. But no bathroom—you had to go outside to the back. But it was located where Little Nell is now, or it was just down the street from Little Nell. Of course, it's been torn down long ago. But those visits were exciting for me, and at that time, my uncle was a kind of an overseer for some property owned by two Scandinavian men who had come there years before to ski, just crosscountry skiing, and they were just sort of exploring at that time, but they were very impressed with the terrain—the snow conditions, and all of that, and did buy some property there, and built a lovely Scandinavian lodge, which later became one of the Copper Kettle restaurants. It was up—what's that little creek—ummm, anyway. I believe that the music school is now located on that property, and at that time, it had a lake in front of it, and the lodge was beautiful, with all the Scandinavian furniture that they had shipped over here. So that was an exciting time for me, too.

Q. Did most people do their traveling in the summer months? Was there—could one get out of Meeker in the winter, with the snow?

A. No, I'm sure there was no—almost no traveling done. You could get out of Meeker, of course, there were men, businessmen in town who went to Denver, did things of that kind. But for most of us, there wasn't much traveling.

Q. Do you remember—you've told me a story, I think, about your trip to CSU, Colorado Aggies when you first went to school.

A. Well, this was not when I first went. This would have been in 1935, and the road from Meeker to Rifle was still a sea of mud during a rainy period. It happened that my father was going to take me to Fort Collins, and the road from Meeker to Craig was a sea of mud because of rains that we'd had, so we almost literally had to push the car that 50 miles, and it took quite a long time—about two and a half days to get to Fort Collins.

Q. What route did you take?

A. We went through Walden, over Rabbit Ears Pass, through Craig, Steamboat, Rabbit Ears Pass, to Walden, and down that pass—the name escapes me now. It's just recently been paved,
only in the last five years, so that was a pretty rugged road at that time, too.

Q. Was there any paving on any of this road?
A. No.

Q. Was there gravel?
A. Yes.

Q. From Craig to--
A. Yes, from Craig to Walden.

Q. It was gravel?
A. Uh-huh.

Q. And then it was no gravel again?
A. Yes. A dirt, very windy road down the Poudre Canyon. The road, which was a very primitive one at that time, but it was scenic--beautiful road--still is, of course.

Q. So then, really, for people to get to Denver in the wintertime they had to get to where the train took them to Denver?
A. Yes.

Q. One couldn't use those roads in the winter?
A. No.

Q. With a car?
A. Well, yes, yes you could, and it may have been that they did, but I just wasn't very conscious of that. By that time you could, yes.

Q. During your teenage years, or when you were younger, did you get an allowance, or any money for the work that you did at home?
A. No, no allowance. I can't remember that I had many
expenses. I'm sure there were a few items of clothing that were sort of faddish at the time, and I wanted those. My mother would buy those for me, and otherwise, except for maybe a coat now and then, I didn't really need very much money. It was nice to have, but--no, there was nothing like an allowance.

Q. Did you feel that you wanted to work to make some money when you got into your teen years?

A. Yes. I did work in the summers, and part time during the winter. My first job was in the local library, a very small library, of course, but--the manager, or the librarian, although she had no particular education in that field, and I ran the operation. It was just a matter, mostly, of checking out books, and then she did lots of repairing. She was a great book repairer, and I expect there are many books there now that she did, and are still in good condition.

So that was a nice thing to do. It happened that our library was located in one of the old forts--the log forts that were built for the--during the time of Meeker Massacre--before that, and later, some of those were turned into homes, and I lived in one of those. Right next door was another one of the old log building, and that's where the library was. So it didn't take long to get to work or to come home. And it was a very congenial, friendly kind of a situation, and I enjoyed my work there.

Q. About how many--was it one room, perhaps, or how big was it?

A. There were three rooms, but these were just, probably rooms about--oh, 12 by 14, maybe 12 by 16.

Q. Did they all have books in them, or--

A. Yes. The walls were lined with books. We had some stacks, and I have no idea what number of volumes were in the--and most of them, of course--well, a lot of them were contributed to the library by townspeople. But there was also a budget to buy new books.

Q. Did you have other jobs?

A. Then I worked in a dry-goods store, I guess you might say. That's what we called it in those days. If you didn't sell groceries in the store, you sold everything else, well, those were--that was dry-goods. So I worked in that store for
at least two summers, and then after school during the winter.

Q. Did you spend that money on some particular things you remember? Did you save it?

A. I really can't remember what I spent it on, but I'm sure it must have been on things that I wanted. But I was a pretty practical child, having grown up in a family where there was not much extra money, so I'm sure it must have been on clothes, or books, or things of that kind. I do remember that after having worked what seemed to me for several months, I got a paycheck of $18.00, and I was overjoyed!

Q. Do you have memories of what you did during your teen years with some of your friends, and what kinds of activities that you did that were especially fun?

A. Yes, the things we did on the weekends, when we weren't in school, were mostly—we'd just get together with friends. We'd talk, but we walked a lot. We had lace-up leather boots that we were quite proud of, which we walked in. So we would walk to the monument, three miles below Meeker and back—six miles, and then around town for an hour or two. Just visiting, and having wonderful times. I guess just nothing, but—we didn't know it was that, because that's what we had to do, and we enjoyed it.

Q. Was this just girls, or did boys and girls do this sort of thing occasionally?

A. It seems to me that these were just girls who were walking. But as happens now, there were boys who had cars, and they would zip by us now and then, and maybe stop and pick us up. There was no danger, because there was never—there were never any bad incidents of any kind over there—no violence, no... nothing to be afraid of. We never locked our homes, it was that kind of a thing. Just didn't seem to have any problems of that kind.

Q. Was this around what—the late twenties, or mid-twenties?

A. Yes, the late twenties.

Q. The late twenties?

A. Uh-huh.
Q. Do you remember anything about crime of any kind, or anything that related to that at all?

A. I do remember, now that we're becoming so conscious of child abuse, maybe it's because people are more willing to talk about those things now. We didn't at that time, except for one incident. A friend of mine--she was a classmate of mine. Her father did sexually abuse her. It was known all over town, and people were very incensed, and were talking about ways to deal with this man, because very often in those days, the citizens might take the law into their own hands. And I really don't remember exactly how it came out. I remember that the girl continued in school, but I'm sure it was a hard thing for her to do.

Q. Do you remember any kind of attitude in your family or in the community towards divorce among married people during the time that you were a teenager?

A. I think I had a vague idea that divorce was not something that was looked upon with any kind of ... 

Q. Acceptance?

A. Acceptance is right. I'm not very conscious of that, because I have no memory of a friend of mine whose parents were divorced. There were children with one parent, but it was always because the other parent had died, which might have been pretty common in those days, but I really remember nothing about divorce among the people I knew.

Q. What about when you decided to marry and have a family; what was your feeling about that and others that you knew? Was that a possibility if things didn't work out well?

A. No, it really wasn't with me. I never considered that I would be divorced. Some of that may have come from insecurity, because I might have not felt secure enough to make it on my own, so I do admire some of the young women these days, you know, who--if they are in a completely bad situation, that they can't solve, then I think it takes a lot of courage. I'm not sure I had that kind of courage, for one thing. The other thing was that divorce was so uncommon of the six young couples that we knew when we were first married, and spent a lot of time with, and had--we'd go on picnics; we had dinner parties; our children were born at about the same time, and thinking
back on those couples, not one of them ever divorced. And they must have been married at least an average of 30 years.

Q. And that probably doesn't mean that they got along exceptionally well.

A. Oh, no. No. I'm sure that we had many of the problems that couples have today. But it was an attitude about what to do about it that was different than it is now.

Q. Was there a particular attitude towards women who perhaps had a career as teachers or whatever else--those women who married and then continued to work after marriage, or after having their children?

A. Not after I had reached adulthood, no. I don't remember an attitude like that. The one I do remember in our small town was that mostly it was a family who couldn't make it. The father really just couldn't make it. So we might say the mother had to get a job. And in a lot of cases it was a menial type of job that she had to hold, because of not having skills and so on. So it seemed to me that if there was an attitude at that time, that's the one it was--the norm would be for the father to provide the living. But if he couldn't quite make it, or if he died, then the wife, the mother, she would get a job, if she could.

Q. If you--since you did have daughters, did you have any hopes for their lives in light of your experiences in your own life?

A. I hoped that they would get good educations and go on from there in whatever way they felt was right for the social times, which is what we have to do. And they have done that.

Q. Can you think of a person or persons who most influenced you or helped you during your lifetime?

A. I think of a teacher when I was in high school, taking English literature. And this teacher, Basil Salzman was his name--he was a different type. He was the kind who didn't seem to try to transfer information from his head to ours--he tried to get us to think about interpretations of Chaucer and Shakespeare, some of those things. And then he would help us to explain some of the language so that we would have a better idea, and he helped us with interpretations. But it seemed to open up a whole new work in literature. I have always been
grateful for that; I think it's helped me since.

I'm not sure that I can think of anybody else. Except my mother, of course, who was a great influence in my life, and gave me a great deal of love and understanding.

Q. Can you think of one or two things that you are most proud of about your life that you have done or accomplished?

A. I guess I have a little trouble with that word "proud." For me, it infers society's opinion, you see, and I'm not sure that if my life were looked upon by society that there might be things of that kind. Certainly nothing that outstanding. But I would rather use the term "satisfaction and a sense of wellbeing." And I have—I've gotten that from reading, from having new worlds opened up through travel. My husband and I have been very fortunate in being able to travel to many places in the world, and then the satisfaction and the happiness—the sense of wellbeing I have had from my family, particularly my two daughters, whom I wanted more than anything and more than boys! I'd had four brothers—I wanted girls. I was fortunate to get those, and it's been a joy to me to watch their progress, and to continue to watch it as they mature into middle age at this point.

So there are so many things that have brought me this sense of wellbeing. They would be abstract things of that kind, I imagine.

Q. Well, you were a homemaker all of your life, and did not have a career. Do you have any thoughts on what you were able perhaps to do in that role that you wouldn't have been able to do if you had had a job always?

A. Yes, I do, because in that role I was able to do lots of volunteer work in the community, which I think benefited the community, and it certainly did me. It's helped me to learn about human nature. I was able always to be the homeroom mother for my children in school. One of my little daughters always raised her hand when the teacher said, "Whose mother can bring cookies?" I made dozens of cookies. I was leader of the Girl Scouts—the Camp Fire group we had, met with them, what was it? Maybe twice a month, or something when we had meetings for several years.

I sponsored groups of young people to our church summer
camp for a week, probably, at a time—taught some of the classes and also acted as a counselor in some cases, when some of these troubled girls might come and talk with me during that time. I enjoyed that very much, and developed an interest in psychology. Well, I had taken psychology courses in college and I was fascinated by it. And anything that has to do with human behavior is very interesting to me.

There were other instances where I was able to learn in these areas. I served on our school board, and dealt with rural people, who had the problem of getting their children to school. Our buses had certain routes, and in some cases, we could see that it was a hardship for these parents to get their children even to the bus stop. So we were able to rearrange some of those routes, and to understand the problems that these people had.

During the Vietnam war, through—let's see, I think this was Red Cross—I was chairman of the Red Cross in our community for a number of years. And during this time, during the Vietnam war, we would gather before Christmas—well, we worked on this pretty much the year round—gathering up little gifts that we could wrap in Christmas paper and send along with popcorn and some other things that could be eaten around Christmas time that we were able to send to Vietnam to the boys there.

Q: What year was this?
A: It was in—

Q: The late sixties, seventies?
A: Yes, uh-huh. And for five years during that war, or maybe four, it was. I remember each Christmas we’d gather, and we'd think—"Oh, we're glad to be here, but we're sorry that we have to be here another year."

We got lots of letters from those boys, telling us how they appreciated that kind of thoughtfulness and they were boys from all over the nation. So it gave us a little insight to read their letters, with some of their experiences that they would have, so we could understand, even though we might not have had a member of the family, or somebody we were close to over there, we got that feeling through the letters that these boys sent to us.
And then in another women's organization that I belonged to we had a philanthropy project. We had few transients through the town at that time, but there was a lot of poverty, too. So it gave me a chance to get into those homes. We had some minority groups there, and families, who needed help, and I was able to learn a little bit about welfare, and--but more than that, understanding how those people might or might not accept help, and why they might feel the way they did about us.

Like--there were some pretty graphic instances of babies who were not well fed, and in many cases, there were not enough clothes for the cold winter, and so it did give me a much better understanding of human behavior.

Q. Do you have any major disappointments in your life?
A. No major disappointments. A few minor, but--

Q. Yes--
A. Relative, of course.

Q. Yes, but--
A. We all have those.

Q. If you wouldn't mind talking about it, if you have such a thing, can you think of what was the saddest time in your life?

A. I guess the saddest time was when my mother died. I was 23 years old at the time, but I feel that I never matured as young people do now, probably because of the attitude of society toward younger people, and having been isolated in a rural area. So I--my mother was sort of my lifeline. We were close. I felt a great deal of love from her, which I didn't particularly from the other members of the family, or from my father, who was of the old patriarchal system, and really didn't show emotion. So when she died, it was probably the saddest thing that I have been through.

Q. At a relatively early age in your life.
A. Yes.

Q. Are there any things that you wish you had had the
opportunity to do in your life, and for some reason did not do them?

A. No.