

**Oral History Interview of
Bonnie McCathern**

**Interviewed by: Elissa Stroman
September 23, 2015
Hereford, Texas**

Part of the:
General Southwest Collection Interviews

© Southwest Collection/
Special Collections Library



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

**Southwest Collection/
Special Collections Library**

15th and Detroit | 806.742.3749 | <http://swco.ttu.edu>

Copyright and Usage Information:

An oral history release form was signed by Bonnie McCathern on September 22, 2015. This transfers all rights of this interview to the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, Texas Tech University.

This oral history transcript is protected by U.S. copyright law. By viewing this document, the researcher agrees to abide by the fair use standards of U.S. Copyright Law (1976) and its amendments. This interview may be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes only. Any reproduction or transmission of this protected item beyond fair use requires the written and explicit permission of the Southwest Collection. Please contact Southwest Collection Reference staff for further information.

Preferred Citation for this Document:

McCathern, Bonnie Oral History Interview, September 22, 2015. Interview by Elissa Stroman, Online Transcription, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. URL of PDF, date accessed.

The Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library houses almost 6000 oral history interviews dating back to the late 1940s. The historians who conduct these interviews seek to uncover the personal narratives of individuals living on the South Plains and beyond. These interviews should be considered a primary source document that does not implicate the final verified narrative of any event. These are recollections dependent upon an individual's memory and experiences. The views expressed in these interviews are those only of the people speaking and do not reflect the views of the Southwest Collection or Texas Tech University.

Technical Processing Information:

The Audio/Visual Department of the Southwest Collection is the curator of this ever-growing oral history collection and is in the process of digitizing all interviews. While all of our interviews will have an abbreviated abstract available online, we are continually transcribing and adding information for each interview. Audio recordings of these interviews can be listened to in the Reading Room of the Southwest Collection. Please contact our Reference Staff for policies and procedures. Family members may request digitized copies directly from Reference Staff.

Consult the Southwest Collection website for more information.

<http://swco.ttu.edu/Reference/policies.php>

Recording Notes:

Original Format: Born Digital Audio

Digitization Details: N/A

Audio Metadata: 96kHz/ 24bit WAV file

Further Access Restrictions: N/A

Related Interviews: Bonnie's husband, Gerald, was interviewed by Monte Monroe on the same date.

Transcription Notes:

Interviewer: Elissa Stroman

Audio Editor: N/A

Transcription: Emilie Meadors

Editor(s): Katelin Dixon

Transcript Overview:

This interview features Bonnie McCathern. Bonnie discusses her background and family, attending school, and moving to Hereford with her husband Gerald and being a farmer's wife. Bonnie also discusses Gerald's involvement in the American Ag Movement.

Length of Interview: 02:15:11

Subject	Transcript Page	Time Stamp
Family background	5	00:00:00
School and friends	9	00:08:30
Sandstorms	10	00:13:15
Moving around and parents	11	00:18:49
School	12	00:24:01
Relationship with siblings	12	00:27:27
Brothers in the military	14	00:37:00
Graduating from high school	16	00:44:24
Lubbock in the thirties and forties	18	00:49:48
Meeting Gerald	19	00:59:20
Hereford	22	01:08:19
Gerald and the Ag Movement	24	01:18:19
Washington, D.C.	26	01:26:17
Move to Virginia	28	01:37:46
Community involvement and church	29	01:43:03
Grandchildren and children	30	01:53:12
Animals	33	02:07:07

Keywords

American Ag Movement, farming and ranching, Hereford, Texas, Lubbock, Texas

Elissa Stroman (ES):

Today's date is September 22, 2015, and we're recording now. My name is Elissa Stroman, and I'm interviewing Bonnie McCathern at her home in her Hereford, Texas. I'm going to put the recorder down next to you. So Bonnie, if you can tell me your full name.

Bonnie McCathern (BM):

Bonnie Ola Traweek McCathern.

ES:

Okay, tell me your middle name.

BM:

Ola, O-l-a.

ES:

O-l-a, okay.

BM:

O-l-a.

ES:

And then Traweek is T-r-a-w-e-e-k.

BM:

Right.

ES:

Okay, and what's your birthday?

BM:

April 11, 1925.

ES:

Okay and where were you born?

BM:

At Amherst, Texas.

ES:

And tell me your mom and dad's names.

BM:

Arispy and Stonewall.

ES:

Traweek, right?

BM:

Traweek.

ES:

Can you tell me a little bit about your grandparents on either side?

BM:

My grandmother and granddad on my daddy's side, her name was Isabel, and his name was, oh, William Burleson Traweek.

ES:

So that was your father's side?

BM:

My father's.

ES:

Okay and then your momma's side?

BM:

My mother's side, my mother's was—she married a Dobbins. She was an Emery and her mother was a Boyd.

ES:

Okay. What else about that family do we need to know?

BM:

Well, my mother's mother and daddy died when she was young, and I never knew them. My grandmother on Daddy's side went blind when she was about seventy, and Granddad had problems, so we went to move from Muleshoe to Slaton to take care of my grandparents, and that's where I went to high school.

ES:

Okay, okay. Now is it your mother or your father's side that you can trace back to Stephen F. Austin?

BM:

Well, I had both sides written down. My cousin on one side did the genealogy, and my cousin on Momma's side did the genealogy.

ES:

Okay, and that's the stuff we were looking at when we visited last time.

BM:

Yes.

ES:

Okay tell me about—you have siblings. Tell me about your brothers and sisters. How many siblings do you have?

BM:

I have three brothers, and the oldest one was Aubrey.

ES:

Spell that for me.

BM:

A-u-b-r-e-y.

ES:

Okay.

BM:

And Albert was the middle one. Emmett Anthony was—do you want the other's middle name or not?

ES:

If you want to, you don't have to, though. Emmett Anthony is the third one? What was Aubrey's middle name?

BM:

Colon, C-o-l-o-n.

ES:

Okay and Albert's?

BM:

Albert Allen.

ES:

And so these are all Traweeks?

BM:

Yes.

ES:

And where—you also, did you have any sisters? Did you have any other siblings?

BM:

No sisters.

ES:

Just three brothers, okay. So, tell me about Aubrey.

BM:

Well, he went to high school at—he went to school sometime at Slaton, and then he graduated from Liberty School close to Mushule. It's a little country school, and he graduated from there. Albert graduated from Slaton, and Emmett graduated from Slaton, and I graduated from Slaton.

ES:

Okay, so let's backtrack a little bit. Tell me how you got from Amherst to Slaton?

BM:

Well, I lived at different places when I was little, but I know one place they said we lived was at Quail because I could go like a quail when I was little. We lived at Slaton for a while, and then we moved to Muleshoe out on the farm. That's where I went to grade school at this country school, and four of the girls that I went to grade school with all the time, we kept up with each other till—I had one girlfriend that was the same age as I was, and our birthdays was the same day. But we kept up with each other until I lost the one that was our birthdays were the same. She died about four, five years ago, and the one that stayed in Muleshoe was killed in a car wreck about eight years ago or so. Then the one that moved to California to school, I lost track of her. I don't know if she's alive now or not.

ES:

Well, what's her name? The one that's—

BM:

The one that was my age was Mary Gulley—

ES:

Okay.

BM:

—and she married a Smith, and Dorothy Gable and Wanda Miller and me.

ES:

Tell me about you and those girls—well, if you need to take a drink at any time, sip on water or anything—but tell me about those girls and what y'all used to do. Y'all use to run around together, did ya'll—what did y'all do for fun?

BM:

Well, when we were in grade school, well we had little parties and I would go over to Mary's house, and we would play with her little sister, play house. I remember one night all four of us stayed over at Mary's house, and we laughed and giggled all night and kept the rest of the family awake. I remember one day we all ran away from school at Easter, and we just ran out in a pasture in front of the school, and I stuck my hand in bear grass or something, and every year at that time, my finger would swell up. That went on for years.

ES:

Really?

BM:

We had parties and we all had boyfriends. I remember there was a big lake at the end of our road, and one year it rained—it rained—that lake full of water. We would go down there and go swimming, but we always thought there was something in the lake that's going to—we could feel all kinds of bodies. We had parties, and we played baseball or softball, the girls against the boys. Then one year, I belonged to the 4-H club, and we went to Progress to some kind of contest, and I won the contest for the best reporter, and so they had me come to Lubbock to be on the radio. I thought that was something.

ES:

Do you remember what your report was?

BM:

No, no, I don't. And then I made a dress when I was in 4-H, and I think I still have it. I have a baby doll that was given to me when I was little and I had a little rocking chair, and I would play house by myself and rock that little doll. Then when I was about twelve, my daddy gave me a Shirley Temple doll, and I still have those. But my chair, my little chair got destroyed. We had a cellar to go to when the sands was blowing. We lived through in the thirties—well we had sandstorms, sandstorms, I mean really bad ones. Then we lived through the Depression, and that was before the war, that was in the thirties.

ES:

Well, tell me a little more about those sandstorms. What do you remember?

BM:

It was so dark, I remember one time we went to Lubbock, and we were at a cousin's house when a sandstorm hit. The light in her house was just a little bub hanging down from the ceiling, and it was so bad you couldn't see that little bub hanging down in the house.

ES:

So the sand was getting all in the house and—

BM:

Oh yes, when I lived at Mushu, well my mother would put a sheet up from the head of the bed down over me at night, and I could sleep, and, oh, sand was just awful.

ES:

Do you remember your mom doing other things to protect y'all? Did she make you wear handkerchiefs over your face or did she do anything like that?

BM:

Well, I know my mother when I was grown, I never did talk to her much about our days at Muleshoe or anything, but I wonder every once in a while if she ever went hungry so I could have something to eat. I never did ask her all these questions that I wish I had of. I didn't ask her about her mother or her daddy. I met her sisters and brothers, and when we were little, a cousin of mine from Lubbock, she and her husband came to Muleshoe and got Momma and I, and we went to Oklahoma to see one of my cousins. She's the only living first cousins I have now and she lives on Pueblo. I remember one time I went into town with my middle brother, and we went with the horses pulling a wagon, I guess. Saint Claire's was the store at Muleshoe, and I think it may still be there, I don't know, but I would go in there and shop around, and my daddy, when he would holler for me, he'd say, "Missy, Missy." And I never did like for him to call me Missy, but he gave all the kids a nickname, and so I know that was after we moved to Slaton that I went

back to Muleshoe, and my brother, my middle brother was farming there. I asked him if I could use his car to go see Dorothy and he said, "Yeah." I didn't know how to drive, but I went up to Dorothy's and got her and then we went over to Progress to see Mary, and I was driving and I went around the corner, and I went out in the field and around, and Dorothy thought I was going to turn over and she said, "Can you drive?" And I said, "No. I can't" Dorothy was used to driving. Then there was another girl named Bonnie that I would go over to her house and we would warm up wax and put it on our hands, between our fingers and all. But when I was over at Mary's we always played house, but then I had two other friends that were sisters, and when I went to their house, we always played cowboy and Indian. We'd climb trees, and we had our two little guns, and so then I played baseball and just all kinds of stuff. What else?

ES:

Well, you said you moved around a lot, so what did your parents do?

BM:

Well, when we lived at Muleshoe, we farmed, but the sand, and it was real dry. We didn't have irrigation, it was real dry. So he finally went down in South Texas and dug up those old trees that come up on the ranches. During the Depression he went down there and they paid him some to dig up those ole mesquite trees. My mother and I stayed at home in Muleshoe, and my dad, during the Depression, he used to butcher calves or pigs or something. He'd put a white sheet in the back of the car and cut the meat, he knew how to cut meat, and he'd cut the meat up and take it around to neighbors and sell it out of the back of the car. So, we usually always had pork or beef or something, but our refrigerator in the house was just open the window and build a metal pan out there, and my mother planted bluebonnets to come up over it. That was our refrigerator. So you didn't keep anything there at all. We had a garden, and when I was little, when the peas got ready to eat, I would go out there and eat them raw in the garden. So we had a windmill, but we had to carry water, and there was no indoor toilet or anything. I went to this country school. Back then, we called that YL, but the real name was Liberty. We had—it was—the school was also a church. One Sunday was Methodist and the next Sunday was Baptist, and they would have parties, cake parties and pie, parties to raise money, and my teachers, I know, I remember my first grade teacher, I don't remember her name, but right after lunch, well she would always fix her face, put on a new face, and then tell everybody to lay their head down and take a nap on their desk. Well, when she went to sleep, we would get up and go back in the back, and there was a big sandbox back there with little toys in it. We'd go back and play in the sandbox. So when the second grade teacher came along, she was from Friona, Ms. Goodwin from Friona. She said, "You kids didn't learn anything in the first grade, so you have the first grade all over again." So, she was a good teacher, and I really liked her.

ES:

So was this a one room school house or were there multiple classrooms?

BM:

It was a brick school, and one year, about before Mary died, well I would meet Mary, Dorothy, and Wanda, and Wanda's sister at Muleshoe, and we met till a few years ago. One day while Mary and I drove out to YL, but it had burned down, but I got a brick. It was just a lot of bricks then, and I got a brick and brought it home with me, but I don't know what happened to it. It got thrown away. But, we always, always enjoyed YL.

ES:

What was your favorite subject to study?

BM:

Math.

ES:

You liked math, okay.

BM:

We would have, after school or at recess, we would go to the chalkboard and do our adding and subtracting and have races. I always liked math. Then we moved to Slaton, but we used to go from Muleshoe to Lubbock to see my cousins. I had a lot of cousins in Lubbock and still have some second cousins. We would go to Lubbock a lot, and we would go through Sudan and they raised those big, big, big black diamond watermelons. Sudan was a pretty good sized town then. We would go on a day that they were having a watermelon feast or something. Oh, those black diamonds were so good. My brother, my oldest brother put in a photography shop in Muleshoe, but my youngest brother was eight years older than I was, and then there's Emmett was eight years older and Albert was two years, and then Aubrey was the oldest.

ES:

So you were the baby of the family?

BM:

Oh yeah, they babied me.

ES:

Tell me more about that. Tell me more about your relationship with your brothers.

BM:

Well, my oldest brother was already out of high school and gone before I started at school. Well, I probably started to school—well, I probably started to school, but I don't remember him in school. My middle brother and I were close because he farmed for a while at Muleshoe when I

was in high school and my youngest brother, I worshiped him. We were real close. What me to tell what happened to him?

ES:

Oh we can get to that in a minute. We'll talk about the war in a little while because that was the brother that died in World War II, right?

BM:

Yes.

ES:

Okay, let's finish up then talking about you growing up. So you graduated from Slaton. Were there still only eleven grades or was there twelve grades?

BM:

Eleven.

ES:

Okay, and what year did you graduate?

BM:

'43.

ES:

'43, okay. And you said in grade school and high school you were doing 4-H stuff? What other—?

BM:

Well, it wasn't was in high school—in grade school.

ES:

What kind of activities did you do in high school? Do you remember? Were you like in the marching band or did you do anything like that?

BM:

No, in high school I had a good friend that she and I liked to go dancing, we had boyfriends, and we went with boys that lived in the country because they could get gas during the war. So we would go to the Cotton Club—and not like it is now—and dance. What would happen, I'd tell my mother that I was going to the late show, the late movie show, and we'd go to the Cotton Club dancing every once in a while. Then in high school, well, some neighbors would invite

military boys from Lubbock down to eat lunch on Sunday and they would invite me over—the neighbors would invite girls over to eat. I went to the First Baptist Church in Slaton, and it seemed like everybody was busy with the war and thinking about that. I remember when they hit Pearl Harbor, I was sitting at the dining room table studying, and it came on the radio that Pearl Harbor had been hit. So at that time, my oldest brother had married and was working for Northrup Air Factory in California. So then my youngest brother joined the marines in January right after Pearl Harbor. He came home for Christmas before he joined the Marines, and we took some pictures and everything, but then before he was shipped out, my mother and I rode a bus, a Greyhound bus to LA, where my oldest brother and his wife lived. They took us to San Diego to see my brother before he shipped out. I can remember now how he looked straight in my eyes as if I won't be back, but I can still see that look on his face. Then my older brother, my oldest brother that worked for Northrup, they finally was going to draft him even though he worked for Northrup. They was going to draft him because he had no children. So he tried to join the Marines and he was too old for that, so he joined the air force and went different places in the United States, then they sent him to Guam with the B-29s, and that's where my younger brother was with the Marines and he was on different islands and things. He was wounded in Eniwetok.

ES:

And this is your older brother?

BM:

Youngest brother.

ES:

Okay so Emmett was—

BM:

Yeah, he was wounded on Eniwetok. And should have been sent home according to his friends, but back then, well they needed marines so bad, they just would send them from one island to the next island. So he finally was in the first wave of Marines that went in on Guam, and he was shot. He was shot in the liver and arm and stuff and was put in the hospital, and two days later he passed away and was buried at sea. Then after that, after the marines took Guam, well then my older brother was sent over there with the B-29s. Albert had two kids born in the thirties, and boy, they were just babies at the end of, like in '39 and '40 one of them was born. And so he worked at Fort Worth for a while with an airplane factory and then he started farming when—he had a boy and a girl, and I remember one time my dad was going to Muleshoe to see the babies, and he brought my nephew back to Slaton without any extra diapers or anything. My sister-in-law was furious, and so he had to take him back.

ES:

So Aubrey was over in Guam with the air force, but he made it home safe?

BM:

Yes.

ES:

Okay and Emmett, this was the story we were hearing about last time we were here. Your mom tried to figure out what happened to Emmett and sent out a bunch of letters, right?

BM:

Yes, she got the *Marine Corps* magazine, but when Emmett was killed, there were different generals that sent her letters and things, and so she would write. I have the letter that she brought down when the war was over and said, "The war may be over for some, but my precious son didn't come home." After the war—and after that, well we never—

Pause in recording.

ES:

Okay, we're recording again. So we took a brief break so you could get your voice back going again. So we were talking about your mom trying to figure out what happened to Emmett over in Guam. So I was going to ask you, did y'all get a telegraph, is that how y'all found out what happened?

BM:

No, the Marines came to my—my mother and I was in Lubbock because I was working at the air base and my grandmother was still alive and my dad was in Slaton, and so a Marine came and told my dad. Then he came to Lubbock and told me, and I remember I just screamed and I couldn't, for years and years and years I always thought, He will come back. I know he was buried at sea, but they buried the wrong man, he will come back. I thought that for a long time. But after he was killed in action over there, we just wouldn't mention his name or anything about him around my mother, and after I was married and lived at Hereford, my oldest brother asked me, he said, "When didn't we ever say anything about—" By then we called him Tony after Anthony. So he said, "Why didn't we say anything about him?" I said, "I guess we didn't want to hurt Momma anymore." So we just never said anything about him.

ES:

What else would you like history to know about him? You said you worshipped him.

BM:

Well, I guess because he and I were so close and then when he went into the Marines, I worried about him all the time. We would write letters. I still have some letters that he would write to Momma and I. I know—I read the last—I think it was nearly the last letter that he wrote. He was telling me—I was working at South Plains Airbase, and he said in this letter, “Well, those kids may think it’s going to be fun and games, but there’s nothing fun and games about war.” So I was just real close to him. I guess because he was the youngest. Then after I got married, and we lived in Hereford, well my oldest brother lived out on a farm, and after his wife died, well he was in a wheelchair, and I would take him to the VA in Amarillo all the time. That was in the nineties, but at that time, the VA didn’t have appointments, they just waited until he was nearly going to die, and then I took him up there. But they didn’t have appointments to keep check on him or anything.

ES:

So the war broke out when you were still in high school, and then you graduated in ’43, and immediately did you go to work for the Army Air Force?

BM:

No, I went to Draughton’s Business School for a little while.

ES:

Okay.

BM:

Not very long at all, and then I got a job at South Plains Airbase, and that was a glider school. I met two girls from Sudan, Eleonora Boyles and Juanita Parrish. Juanita was my bridesmaid and Eleonora was in the wedding. I really liked them. Juanita was the sweetest person I ever saw. I kept up with her until— well, on my birthday this year, I got a letter from her daughter, and I knew that she had Alzheimer’s because when I would call her, well, I would call her and then she’d say, “Do you know Bonnie McCathern that lives in Hereford?” And I would say, “Yeah Juanita, I’m Bonnie.” And she said, “Oh, you’re the sweetest thing.” I said, “No Juanita, you are the sweetest person that ever lived.” Then this year I heard that Eleanora passed away, but as far as I know, Juanita is in a home down at Fort Worth.

ES:

Now what did y’all do at the airbase? What was y’all’s job?

BM:

My job was to change regulations and books.

ES:

Okay.

BM:

I can't remember if it was change regulations on the glider or the plane. Anyway, it was books that I kept. I would get this stuff in every morning, and I'd have to look up what it replaced in the books, and we went with boys from the airbase, and I went with one boy that was going to graduate from Reese Airbase. He wanted me to go to his graduation with him, and I went to his graduation, and after his graduation he pinned his wings on me. I couldn't tell you what his name is, what he looked like, in fact, I've forgotten all the guys' names I went with.

ES:

They don't matter. The only name that matters is Gerald, right?

BM:

Well, I didn't meet him until after the war. He came to Lubbock to go to Tech. But when I was in high school, we would go watch Tech play, and at that time, it was the Southwest Conference and the only school that wasn't a Texas school was Arkansas. I hated Arkansas.

ES:

So you enjoyed the game. Did you watch the game on Saturday?

BM:

Oh yeah, I love football. I still love football.

ES:

Yeah, well that Texas Tech/Arkansas game turned out pretty well for us on Saturday.

BM:

Oh I'll tell you, I was so proud—I'm so glad they beat that Arkansas. Because used to we'd go to Tech games after I met Gerald, and I know one time we had to sit over on the Arkansas side of the field, and I would yell for Tech in the middle of all those hogs. I always loved football. I still loved football.

ES:

That's great, that's great. So tell me about Lubbock in the forties, in the thirties and forties, what was it all about?

BM:

Well, I remember my dad saying that when he first went to Lubbock, it was just downtown, and after we moved to Lubbock, Thirty-Fourth Street was the last street south. I would take the bus and go downtown and meet a guy in a little old convertible thing to take me to the airbase. They had carpools, and it would get so cold in that little convertible. It had the top up, but it was cold to ride out to the airbase. Then I would ride back to town with him and then catch the bus.

ES:

Were y'all dancing? You said earlier you were dancing at the Cotton Club in high school. Did y'all do that during the war as well?

BM:

Yeah.

ES:

What kind of music? Was it a live band that was playing there?

BM:

Yeah, but it was always Big Band.

ES:

Okay.

BM:

So my oldest brother could play any kind of instrument. He loved music and I loved to dance and do the Jitterbug during the war. Like I'd say, we'd always go with boys that lived out in the country because they could get gas. We would go to the shows, and in high school, I worked at a drugstore, but I worked where they made malts and stuff, so I worked there during the war at Slaton and make malts. I remember what we had to make a malt with was not ice cream. I don't know what it was.

ES:

Was it because of the rations? Y'all couldn't get ice cream?

BM:

Yes, everything was rationed. I don't remember—we had a ration card, but I don't remember—I remember gas being rationed and sugar and stuff like that, but I don't remember really if we did without stuff, we didn't know it. When I was out of high school, well my girlfriend and I would walk home for lunch, from high school, we had time to walk home and eat lunch and get back, and I loved my English teacher. My English teacher was an old maid, my math teacher was an

old maid, and they were really good. My typing teacher was a man and a woman, but I loved typing. We did eat some hamburgers when I was in high school, but I know we—of course we walked all over Slaton when you went any place, you had to walk. I remember we lived with my granny and granddad, and in the morning when I got up, well I would go in the other room and Granddad would be sitting there smoking his pipe and he would have that coal stove going. He would always get up about four o'clock and light that coal stove and sit in front of it. I don't remember Granddad ever saying anything except one time I got mad because Momma wouldn't let me go on a date or something, and I slammed the door to my room. I heard Granddad say something to my mother about me getting mad and slamming the door. When we lived at Muleshoe, well my cousin, during the Depression, my cousin from Oklahoma would send me secondhand clothes, and oh, I loved to get clothes from her. There would be different clothes to wear, and I remember going, when we lived at Muleshoe, I would go to the mailbox which was down the road, around the corner, and down the road again, I don't know how far. It was sandy, so I would go barefooted to go to the mailbox, and I remember it being hot. I know one time my sister-in-law's nephew was there, and he had a little Shetland pony, and he came over and got me and we were riding down the road on that little Shetland pony. And I went to sleep and fell off. Well, it scared everybody to death that I fell off in the sand. My youngest brother would go during the sandstorm was when there was a sand hill that the sand blew so much that it made a big hill of just sand. In grade school, for a trip, we would go down to that sand hill and roll down the hill in the sand. My youngest brother went down by the sand hills, and he had picked up a whole cigar of perfect Indian heads. When we moved to Slaton, we took those arrowheads with us, and I do not know what happen to the arrowheads. Back then, you could find a lot of arrow heads. I know at that time, Muleshoe was, I guess the county seat and it was pretty big. My oldest brother and his friend put in a photography shop there and took pictures, and my oldest brother could do anything. He loved music.

ES:

So let me ask you, tell me about you meeting Gerald.

BM:

What?

ES:

Meeting your husband. So the war was over with, right?

BM:

The war was over.

ES:

And you didn't have a job? Actually first, what happened to your job at the airbase?

BM:

I worked at the airbase until it closed. Then I went down, I took a bus and I went down to a friend's down at Galveston, and I liked it down there. I wrote my mother a letter that I was going to stay down there. She wrote me a letter that she's brokenhearted. So I stayed about a week with Eileen, and then I came back to Austin and stayed with my uncle for a few days, and then I came home, and by that time, my daddy had built a rock house in Lubbock, and my grandmother was living with us and so my mother rented out a bedroom and she rented it to Gerald and his friend. That's where I met him. We met in March, and we were married in June.

ES:

Of what year?

BM:

Of '47.

ES:

Wow.

BM:

That was his first year in college, and so I worked and put him through Tech.

ES:

And where did you work?

BM:

Well, one place I worked was at a cotton grading place. I would dab the cards with the cotton grader would give me the length of the cotton. And I would put a stamp on this card how the grade of the cotton is. I worked there for a while, and then after we were married. Then I worked at the *Avalanche Journal* checking the ads, measuring the ads some way, and I worked at the *Avalanche Journal*.

ES:

So you funded Gerald's education. Was that happening a lot after the war? Did you know of a lot of people that the wives were paying for the—were the breadwinners of the family?

BM:

Well no, I mean I'm sure there was after that time after the boys were going to—he went to Tech on government—

ES:

Oh, he had that GI bill?

BM:

Yeah, and he got a hundred dollars a month, and after we met, and before we were married, he came back to Hereford and helped his dad cut wheat and stuff. So he made about ten thousand dollars, or his dad gave him about ten thousand dollars. So we bought a little house on Sixth Street, I think it was. We didn't keep it very long, and his brother said, "You ought to get a little trailer house." So we got a little twenty-three-foot trailer and parked it in my folk's back yard. I remember it came a big rain where their house was, the back of their house was a big drainage ditch. It rained real big and the water got up in my mother and dad's house, and it probably got up a foot deep in their house, and then finally after that, they fixed the drainage ditch, but there was mud all over the floor. Of course, it got in the trailer and everything.

ES:

Now where was this house? Do you remember the address?

BM:

On Avenue P.

ES:

Avenue P. And do you remember roughly what block or what area? Avenue P, that would be—? So that would be east of Avenue Q, so that would be kind of downtown. So was it south of Nineteenth Street?

BM:

Yeah, it seemed like it was Twenty-Fourth Street, I'm not sure.

ES:

I'm just wondering if the house is still there.

BM:

No.

ES:

Oh, it's gone?

BM:

They sold it to some club or something, and they tore the house down, and then my folks moved over in another part of Lubbock, and I don't remember that address.

ES:

It's where y'all got your start, that's where you met him. Its y'all roots, that area. So you were working at the A-J, and he was going to school. He graduated, I'm guessing, and y'all—

BM:

He graduated in '51, and he went work for Baroid Well Company. So we had our trailer, and we moved down to—we moved to some place in New Mexico was the first job. And then, I think we moved back to Sweetwater or Snyder, Sweetwater. But he only worked for Bariod for six months, and then he decided his brother had moved to Hereford to farm, and he decided that he wanted to move up by his brother. All through high school I said, "I will not marry a farmer. I won't marry a farmer." And so then when I married him and he worked for the oil company, I said, "See there, I told you I was not going to marry a farmer." Well that lasted six months, I was back on the farm.

ES:

Did you tell him when said he wanted to be a farmer? Did you say, "I wasn't going to marry a farmer?"

BM:

Yeah, whatever he wanted to do.

ES:

So y'all moved up here to Hereford?

BM:

We moved first, I think, we had—bought a little—well, first we moved in, his mother and dad had a barracks behind them, behind their house that had been fixed up to live in. So we moved into that, and then we bought a little house here in town over across the street from the Catholic church, but we were married four years before our first son was born. And then he was four years old when our first daughter was born. She was nine years old when our second daughter was born.

ES:

That's quite a spread.

BM:

Our kids were all—my middle daughter was born in March before I was forty in April.

ES:

And so that is—what year is that?

BM:

Mike was born in '41, Cathy was born—no, in '51—and Cathy was born in '55 and Colleen was born in '65.

ES:

Okay and what work did you find? Did you do any work or did you just take care of the kids?

BM:

Well, I would have to cook for hired hands and take it up in the field and wait on them to eat and then bring all that mess back home.

ES:

So you were a full time farmer's wife? That was your job.

BM:

Oh yeah. And I would have to go to Sam's and get oil and stuff for it and run after the kids, and when we finally moved to town, all the time out in the country I would cook for hired help.

When we lived at Blackwell, some of them would live with us and Mike was little and some people, when he hired somebody, they just lived with us.

ES:

So how many people did you have working on the land with y'all? Do you remember how many you would have to cook for?

BM:

Oh, during harvest, well I would have to cook for five or six for lunch and then bring home all the dirty pots and pans, and I cooked fried chicken and potatoes and I had a dessert and everything.

ES:

What kinds of desserts did you make?

BM:

Well, I would make peach cobblers and cakes and stuff like that. Then I had to come home with all that dirty pots and pans and get ready to make them sandwiches to take back to them for supper, and had to make iced tea and everything.

ES:

What other lunches would you make? What other types of food?

BM:

I would have roasts and fried chicken, just everything that you ate. We would buy a beef and have it cut up, and so we had all kinds of beef and stuff for me to fix. I would fry chicken and fry potatoes and boil potatoes and just everything. And sometimes I cooked red beans and cornbread and stuff like that. Take care of kids and go to school, drive in to town for school activities, and I know Mike and Cathy and Colleen, they were all three in the band, and in 1979, we kept a boy from the Netherlands as an exchange student, and so he couldn't drive, he wasn't supposed to drive or anything, so I had to go back and forth to town. Mike would—sometimes he would take a pickup in to high school, and in the pickup, well he would have a shotgun and a rack right behind his head. Well, back then all the kids would have a shotgun and a pickup, and no one ever bothered their shotguns or anything. When Mike was in high school, he was ornery and he would pick up rattle snakes and put them in a jar and scare other farmers. He liked to do stuff like that. Mike and Cathy had their own car. When Mike graduated, we bought him a new car, and then we moved to town and Cathy had to drive an old car. I'd ask Cathy to take Colleen with her and she'd say, "Okay, get in that backseat and don't let anybody see you." When we lived out at the farm, Colleen said, "Mike locked me in the closet and ran off and left me in the afternoon." Well, that's what Colleen says; Mike said he didn't do it.

ES:

So they kept your hands full. Not only did you have all the farm work to do, but your kids, they kept you busy.

BM:

Oh yes, when I was little, I forgot to tell you that we had to pick up cow chips to burn in the stove. So one day, well my youngest brother and I went down in the pasture to get the cows, and he picked up a big old bull snake, and he would let it just hit my ankles while I'd run back to the house screaming, screaming. He would aggravate me, but I loved him.

ES:

Well let me ask you about what—Gerald got involved in the American Ag Movement. So we're fast forwarding a little bit.

BM:

While Colleen was still in grade school—in 1970 we took a bus with a bunch of friends to Washington, D.C., and I guess Gerry got a political bug then. I hated Roosevelt because during the Depression, he would have beef killed and covered it up, so beef prices would go up. Well people didn't have money to buy beef anyway, and my dad just hated Roosevelt because he would kill the beef and cover them up in the dirt and people didn't have any money to buy beef anyway. Anyway, then in 1970, after we were married, we took a bus with some farm group to Washington, and after that, we were farming and Gerry got involved with some

farm group. We went on trips. We went to Arizona to a meeting, but coming back, we stopped at Las Vegas and then he got involved in NFO when Colleen was still in school. He would go all over every place talking to people about hog prices and stuff like that. So he was gone a lot and I had the kids and the yard and school and the house and the cooking and the washing and ironing, I had to iron everything. Then after NFO, well, he got involved in American Ag, and he was really gone then a lot.

ES:

Were you involved at all or was it you just needed to stay home and take care of everything back here?

BM:

Well, he always wanted me to go to the NFO meetings. I know one time, we went to Georgia at an NFO meeting and one night I sat up all night and listened to a bunch of farmers condemn one little farm guy because he sold his hog when he wasn't supposed to. And that bunch of farmers sat up all night and one after another would get up and talk about that one little old farmer. I was disgusted with that bunch. And the women in the day time, we hired this old taxi driver, a woman, to take us out to this place out in the country, Sewanee River something. We went out to his house and visited, and we really had a good time. That day, this taxi driver we had her all day, and she didn't charge very much. She took us to the cemetery, the old, old cemetery. We went in where they had the old tall stones and everything.

ES:

Where was this? Was this in Washington or—?

BM:

In Georgia, some place in Georgia, that was with NFO. And then American Ag, he got involved in it in, like, 1976 or something, and we'd make trips to Washington, and they had an office rented at some motel, kind of a motel thing. We would go up there and work with some people from Michigan, I think where they were from. I know at that time—well, Gerry was always wanting copies made, copies, copies, copies. And so we would make copies, copies, copies of everything and then nobody ever looked at them, just like the government does. And in the daytime sometime, I would go—I went to the art gallery, and there was nobody but me in the art gallery. I went to the Smithsonian, and it was cold and snowy, nobody but me was in the Smithsonian. And then after we went up there a lot of trips and worked at this office, then they had the tractor drive and about the weekend before the tractors were supposed to land, a planeload from Hereford flew to Washington. He had already gone along from the tractors. A planeload flew from Hereford to Washington.

ES:

So were you on the plane?

BM:

Yeah, and I stayed up there a week, but on the morning that we went in, we had a Winnebago and Arles Edwards was driving a Winnebago, and of course, that was bumper to bumper traffic. Colleen was with Gerry on the tractor, and he sent word back for me to come up and get in the tractor. Well, Arles was driving the Winnebago and I was sitting on the back, in the very back getting ready to go to the tractor, and he stopped real suddenly, and I just rolled up at the front and broke my right wrist. Well, they had to call an ambulance. I don't know how an ambulance got through, but they called an ambulance, and it took me to Virginia to a hospital and he set my wrist somehow and put it on and wrapped it all up and everything. So I went back to the office that day, but I didn't see Gerry or Colleen all day. So then my finger started swelling and turning black, so a friend of ours from Dallas South said, "I'll take you to the doctor and see what he can do. Your fingers are not supposed to swell and turn black." So, we got in the cab and went back to Virginia, and we looked and looked and looked and could not find that hospital. It was getting dark, and there was twenty-four inches of snow on the ground. So the taxi driver says, "There's a hospital over there by where you're staying." So this friend took me to the hospital, and we saw a doctor and he loosened the bandage a little bit and put my arm in a sling. Well, when we got out—we had to wait—and when we got out of the hospital, well there was no cabs running because the snow was so deep. When we got out, we asked these people said, "Where is this? How do we get to this motel we're staying?" They said, "Oh, you go down this street and you turn left and then you go down that street." Well, we went down that street, and I had on sandals.

ES:

In twenty-four inches of snow.

BM:

And so we kept going until we ended up way over, and we asked somebody, said, "Where is this place?" They said, "Well, see that church way over there? Well you're a block from it." And so we had to walk through the snow.

ES:

So you couldn't feel your toes anymore and your wrist was broken.

BM:

So when I got back to the motel, well Gerry didn't come in until late, and some newsman had asked him to interview him the next morning. Well, I don't think he slept all night because he had this interview. Well, the guy that interviewed him didn't ask him anything about the tractor drive or didn't ask him anything that Gerry thought he was going to. So anyway, I stayed a week

and he said, "Why don't you stay up here with me?" and I said, "No, I'm going home." So all of us that went up there was coming home, and there was like one, two, three, four, a whole bunch of McCatherns that was going to fly home. And so we got out of D.C. and flew to Chicago. Well, we had to wait. And so when we started to leave from Chicago, they said they looked on everything and they said, "Colleen didn't have a ticket." She started screaming and chewing them out and she said, "You better stop that plane until I get on it." And so they—

ES:

And wasn't she a teenager? How old was she?

BM:

Oh, she was still—I think she was in junior high then.

ES:

And she was chewing out all these airline people.

BM:

Yes, screaming and said, "You'd better hold that plane until I get on." And they did. But there was a bunch of McCatherns, and they got all the names mixed up. So then we came back and my arm was in a sling, and I always wrote the checks on the farm, paid the bills. So I had to write with my left hand and pay the bills when I got home from Washington. So the bank called and said, "Your handwriting's different." I said, "Well, I'm having to write with my left hand." So they understood. My daughter-in-law really—my daughter had married and was living out on the farm and my daughter-in-law, Mike's wife, lived here in town. So she drove me around to where I had to go. Mike was in Washington helping his dad.

ES:

And you were back here keeping everything together.

BM:

Yeah, keeping it together.

ES:

So didn't Gerald for a time actually work in D.C., or he was back and forth a lot, right?

BM:

No, he was up there from 1979. He was up there until April of the next year before he came home. Then he had to take me to Amarillo to a doctor and he operated on my wrist a little bit, and then he went back to farm. He farmed his uncle's place, and my mother passed away in '81.

ES:

What year was your mother born? Do you remember?

BM:

She was ninety-three; she lived to be ninety-three. And my dad, like from September to November, being a hundred. They moved up here, so I could take care of my folks. They moved up here, and my mother had a stroke and lived from Wednesday to Saturday morning and then that left my dad and he couldn't take care of himself, so we hired a lady to stay with him. I don't know how long she stayed and then we put him in a home at Friona, and I would have to drive back and forth over there to see him.

ES:

So all this time you have been in Hereford and Gerald's in D.C. doing stuff off and on, you were home taking care of the farm—

BM:

Well then after my mother passed away, well he got a job with agriculture department, and so we moved to Virginia, and we lived up there about a year, I guess, and while he was working, and Colleen was a senior then, and Hereford had a really good football team, and she wanted—she didn't like school in Virginia because they made fun of her southern accent. So she hated, hated school, and at that time, she had a little car. She said, "I can drive, and I will leave." So she and I came back to Hereford, and she finished high school at Hereford High, and they played football in Texas Stadium. I think they got beat, but they went to state.

ES:

You said Colleen didn't like Virginia? I imagine it's a huge culture shock. What did you think of it living up there?

BM:

Well, we rented a house and the people on one side of us had this big American flag in the front yard. She never came over and had anything to do. And the people on the other side was from Argentina. Her husband was a marine at their embassy. We got a little book to translate, and we tried to visit with each other, but we couldn't, we couldn't communicate. But she was real nice, and they had a boy about the age of Colleen or something, but Colleen made her own friends, and we didn't know who she was running around with or what she was doing or anything. She and I moved back to Hereford and she finished school here. Then I moved her to Tech to go to school, and she had to take all these big old stuffed animals to college with her. I had a car full of stuff to take to Tech and take all those, and she roomed with another girl from here, but while she was down there, this friend of hers tried to commit suicide, and they put her in the hospital, this friend, and Colleen would go up there and visit with her instead of study, and so she didn't

go to Tech very long. And then Gerry went back after he left. He worked for the agriculture department about a year, and Colleen and I was down here, so he came back home and started farming again. He rented his uncle's place, and so then it was back to taking lunch out to the farm, but I just took one meal out there because it's out north of town.

ES:

Since you didn't have kids in the eighties, they had all graduated and moved on with their lives. So did you get involved in the community in other ways?

BM:

I had always gone to the Baptist Church, and when Cathy was in high school, we moved to town and went to the First Baptist Church. Well, I didn't like the preacher, and so I told Mike. He had married a Nazarene girl, so I told Mike, "I'm not going back to church again; I do not like that preacher." He said, "Come over to the little Nazarene Church, I think you'll like our preacher." Well, I went over there and I really liked him. So while he was here, while he was here, we built a new Nazarene church and a Nazarene school. I really liked him. And then after that, after he left, he left, the good preacher left and went to Ohio to a big church. So we got a preacher from Georgia, I think, but he brought his song leader and his wife with him. Oh, he was the best preacher. The church just filled up, and so then the superintendent said he had an affair with the song leader's wife, and the superintendent got rid of him, but oh he was a good preacher.

ES:

Do you remember his name?

BM:

No.

ES:

Okay.

BM:

Anyway, we said, "Well, we can forgive him." So we went through different preachers, and finally the preacher that built the church had a youth director, and we finally ended up with the youth director. Well, he's a preacher there now, and he's still a youth director. We used to have a big class in Sunday school, but we didn't like the music, and most of the Sunday school class died and quit going to church and so the youth director is still over there.

ES:

So tell me what else I need to know. We're kind of on the eighties and up till now, so what in the last thirty years?

BM:

Well, like in the nineties, my brother was on the farm in a wheelchair—well, I would have to buy his groceries and tend to his banking and go visit him and take him to the VA and take care of him. Then he passed away in 1996, and I was his only heir, so I got the property of his house and then he had some property in Wyoming that we went up there and sold. Then I kept his house and kept it rented for years and took care of him till '96. And then Gerry bought a little travel trailer, and so we have to go fishing every April at the beginning of April and the beginning of October, we had to go fish in Oklahoma. I hated that we had a diesel pickup to pull it with. I hated to go down there because I couldn't drive the diesel pickup, and I was just stuck in that little travel trailer. My sister-in-law, Gerald's brother, we would go down and go fishing with them. Well, she never liked to go shopping so we never went shopping. The only thing that I could do was just go for a long walk. I hated to go down there, I hated it, I hated it, I hated it. So they always wanted me to go. So then after my youngest daughter got married and lived in Plano, well she would come to Oklahoma and get me. I would go stay with her a few days and play with her kids when they were babies. But ever since then, every first of April, and first of October, you had to go fishing. I would take music tapes and sermons and all kinds of tape on the tape player and listen to those. Then when Colleen's kids got a little larger, well she would bring them up there and then Gerry would take them fishing.

ES:

Well what about other hobbies? You know, you said you liked to go on those walks.

BM:

Well, when we lived down at Westway, I was in love with the church, all the meetings and everything. I know one year, Gerry gave me—I said I believed in tithing, and he didn't. I said, "Well, give me an acre." I thought it was an acre, I don't know, an acre of cotton to hoe so I can use the benefits to pay tithing. So he did, so I hold that acre of cotton, but the church out at Westway. Baptists fight all the time, and it was just one big fight after another, you know, with a little church. One preacher came out there, and I didn't like him, I finally ended up in the hospital. Anyway, then after we moved to town and I joined the Nazarene church, I enjoyed it because I learned more about the Bible. We'd have deeper Bible studies and all that. When we lived on the farm, it was always the church and the kids and cooking for farmers.

ES:

Well, so I'm looking over my notes and I think we've covered pretty much everything. So I'm wondering what—so this recording is going to go at the Southwest Collection, and it's going to be there forever. And so if somebody's listening to this recording a hundred years from now, what are some of the things you want them to know about living out here, living through the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression and World War II? What are some of the things you held onto or something that you think is really important to know?

BM:

Well, during the Dust Bowl, it was my mother and daddy and the friends that I made for a lifetime, and I'm not anything during the Depression. Then in high school I made a best friend that I kept up with her until she passed away a few years ago. And then the two that was in my wedding that I worked with at the airport. I still need to check whether to see if Juanita's alive or not. She didn't know anything on my birthday. But then after—well, while my brother was still alive, I would go by myself to Castle Rock because Cathy's little boys would have to go to school three weeks and at home three weeks. So the last week they were at home, well I would go to Castle Rock and take care of her little boys. Cathy's daughter, by first marriage that went to college at Colorado State and while she was there, she studied Ebola. So then the last few years she's having to go to Africa to be there with the outbreaks. But before that she would go over there with a group and they would go down in those caves where there were all kinds of snakes, deadly snakes, and make the bats come out, and she would test the bats for Ebola. We would always go. Our first grandkids, Mike's kids, graduated from Hereford, and Mike and his wife graduated from Hereford. Then when Cathy got a divorce, she got a divorce while we were living in Virginia, and she moved to Colorado. All of her kids graduated in Colorado. The boys were born, and I went up, he was in politics in the eighties running for congress and I went up when Trey was born and then I went up when Tyler was born. So Tyler—Cathy and Larry had moved to Elizabeth, and it was going to be a really bad snow storm and Cathy was due, and I said, "Y'all go onto Denver—" I guess it was Denver "—to the hospital because I'm not good at delivering babies." At that time, Trey was only eleven months old—there were eleven months difference in the boys. So they left Trey and Tara and I out there in that snowstorm, and we ran out of butane so I had to call all of the butane companies and they finally got there with some butane about dark right before we ran out of heat. But sure enough, they were in Denver when Tyler was born. So then when Colleen's first child was born, we went to Austin. I went to Austin a month early and stayed with Mike and Colleen and her husband part of the time. I waited a month on Sydney, and then the night before Sydney was born, Michael wanted to come over and stay with us. So he did, and so in the night while Colleen and her husband woke us up and said, "It's time to go to the hospital." Well, we went to the hospital and waited and waited and waited, and Michael kept getting one of those carts that the nurses push, and he'd pushed them down the hall. Finally I called Mike and I said, "Mike, you're going to have to come get Michael." Because he was real close to Colleen; Colleen took care of Michael and Amber when they were little here in Hereford, and he was real close to Colleen. They had finally had to do a cesarean on Colleen. I remember after the baby was born, I could see her through the glass and that doctor was just turning her all upside down and I thought, He's going to kill her. But he was a specialist in cesarean birth, so it's a good thing that that was her doctor. And so then when Brody was born, we were at Plano when he was born, and Kim was born at Plano.

ES:

Well tell me about your children's births. Were they at home, were they at a hospital?

BM:

No, they were born in Hereford Hospital, all three of them with the same doctor. I know Michael, Mike, was born on a Saturday afternoon, and I know I woke up, and when I was in the delivery room, they gave me ether, so when they brought me out, well I wasn't breathing. My brother-in-law said, "Well, she's not breathing." And so he was the only one that noticed I wasn't breathing. When they put me to sleep it's hard to wake up. So they woke me up, and I think the first thing I asked was, "Well, what was the Tech score?" Anyway, we stayed in the hospital a few days, and then he had a cousin that was born. Mike was supposed to have been born the nineteenth of November and Cameron was born, and Cameron was supposed to be born on the twenty-fourth, and Mike was. Anyway, they put Mike in a bed and had a little glass around the edge. I went out in the hall and he had his head over the glass. "Oh, somebody come get his head off." But he was always—

ES:

From birth he was always in trouble?

BM:

In and out of everything, and when he was little, we lived out at Black, and I would lay down with him in the afternoon to read a book, read a little book. I read it a few times, and he grabbed the book, turned it upside down and read it, what all I had been reading to him. And the desk we had, well he'd pull out the bottom drawer and climb in it and another drawer and climb, climb, climb. When he was little, the people across the road from us didn't have any children, and they thought he was the cutest thing. And so they entered him in a beauty contest at Friona, and so, it was a neighbor's idea. We put him in a little raggedy overalls and little torn straw hat and a fishing pole. Well, we went to the beauty shop to the beauty pageant, and he won first place. I have pictures of when he won. He was four years old when Cathy was born, and I always made her little dress up dresses, and she had a friend over at Summerfield named Valerie and she and Valerie would play house, and Valerie would come over and spend the night with us, and here on my birthday, Valerie said, "I always remember you always gave us peanut butter and crackers or something when we went to bed." I know one time, Colleen and Cathy was sleeping together, so Mike brought in this snake, bull snake, and put it in bed with him. And then my dad bought Colleen a little Pony, a little Shetland pony, but it got on the highway and got hit, and Gerry shot it. I said, "You didn't need to shoot it." Anyway, they always had—Cathy liked horses, and of course, they showed calves, all three of them were showing calves in high school. We'd have to—one time, I think it was Cathy won, and we had to go to Houston. We went to Houston several times with Calves to show.

ES:

What other animals did y'all have? Y'all had calves, y'all grew mostly cotton up here.

BM:

Well, we had cotton and maize, and one year we had sugar beets. One year we had pinto beans, and one year we had lettuce, and one year we had potatoes. There were several years there that we raised vegetables, a lot of the vegetables.

ES:

What about animals? Did y'all ever have—?

BM:

We had dogs and cats. When I was little, out at YL, I had a lassie dog, and I loved her. She finally came up to the house one day and she couldn't see, and Momma said, "Don't touch her because she might have rabies." Well, she came up to the house, and then she went away and we never saw her again. I had a white cat when I was little, but Gerald's mother always saying that we had a little dog. She'd keep us and dogs [?] when the kids were little.

ES:

What type of little dog?

BM:

Well, when Cathy got married, she got a little Pekinese, and then she decided she needed a friend, so she got a little Peekapoo. So the little Peekapoo scratched the other one's eyes, and she brought it to town. She said, I can't keep—" and its names was Misty—she says, "I can't keep Misty anymore because she scratched the other dog's eye." So I inherited from Cathy, this little Peekapoo and we kept it, oh, probably fifteen years or so. It was the best little dog. It wouldn't get out in the street or anything, and it loved to be trimmed, and little bows, she thought she was so cute with little bows. Finally, she went blind and disappeared. One time, the pound called us, and said they had her, and so we went and got her. Of course, I kept her in the house, but I let her outside, and she disappeared, we didn't know what happened to her and looked and looked and couldn't find her, and she had fallen in a hole in the backyard. That was awful, we had to bury her. Then after Colleen married, well they got a big English, something English, a big old dog. Well, it only lived about two years, and then it died. Well, they had it cremated, and Colleen brought some of that up here and buried it in the backyard. But before that, they had two little, like, Peekapoos and they were the best little dogs. One of them, I was keeping one while they went snow skiing. It got sick and died, and I sat up all night with that little thing. It just likef to be loved, and it was so sick it couldn't even—and it died and it was buried in the backyard. Misty was buried in the backyard.

ES:

So you have quite the little animal cemetery in your backyard. Well, I don't want to tax your voice too terribly much more because I know your voice has been giving you some issues. Is there anything else you think people should know about life up here in the Panhandle?

BM:

Well, during the war, of course, both brothers went to Pacific so I was worried about the youngest brother because he and I were so close, and that was just during high school. And then he got killed over there, and then the other brother and his wife, when they came back from the war, they moved to Wyoming to farm, and they lived up there for a long time. Then when he came back to Hereford, and after his wife died, and I had to take care of him so much, he and I got real close. My middle brother worked for the Santa Fe railroad, and he retired and they moved down at Reklaw down by their son, then he passed away with a heart attack. My mother died in '81, and my brother died in '83, I think. My sister-in-law died in '84, and my daddy passed away in '85. In the eighties was when Gerry was running for congress twice, and Cathy got married and had two kids in the eighties, and Colleen got married and had her first child in the eighties. Oh, I hated the eighties.

ES:

It was a lot. You had a lot going on then.

BM:

Oh it was just some—

ES:

Well, I think we've covered pretty much everything, so I'm going to—

End of Recording