

MOLLIE KELLY

INTERVIEW

September, 1977

INTRODUCTION

This document is a transcription of an interview which was conducted in late September, 1977. The interview was recorded on cassette tapes and then transcribed. This is a re-typed version of that transcription. Numerous blank spots are within the document and result from the uncertainty of what was said when the original transcription was made. The original typed manuscript was done by Rose Tucker, grand niece of Mollie Kelly. The original tape recordings were in the possession of Harriette Hine, Lansing, Michigan. Current plans are to obtain the original tapes and then complete the editing process, filling in all blank spots.

Participants were:

- Interviewee: M. "Mollie," Mary Otilla (Gilfillan) Kelly
Born: December 3, 1894 Died: August 25, 1984
- Interviewers: K. "Kay," Kathryn Rose Snyder, Niece of Mollie Kelly
Born: December 16, 1917 Died: 1995
- H. Harriette Louisa (Snyder) Hine, Niece of Mollie Kelly
Born: May 4, 1922 Died: December 31, 2003

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- H. We're talking about Kathryn's Mother which would be your grandmother. Her maiden name was Cosgrove and we don't know what her first name was. She was born in Ireland.¹
- M. She was the daughter of a peasant.
- H. She married Bernard McDermott.
- M. He was from an aristocracy. They had to get out of Ireland because you didn't do that. They were shocked he married into a peasant.²
- H. Now where did they get the money to come over to New York?
- M. I think Grandfather McDermott had money.
- H. Was he young?
- M. They were both young. They were around 20.
- H. He must have had money. Either he inherited or his family gave it to him. Do you know where it was in Ireland?
- M. I don't know if it was where I was thinking it was.
- K. That was where I went to the village. It's right near the border. It's over north of Ireland. I was over in England in 1950-51. I went to the village. I went down from Belfast and I stopped at this village. Mother had something that said where the area was that they came from and they're still in Northern Ireland. So I stopped at the inn or pub. I told them who I was and that I was looking for family members of the McDermotts. They were very nice and sat me down to have breakfast. Somebody went to get an older gentleman of the village. He came and we talked. He was pretty sure he knew who the McDermotts were. He said they had something to do with that house up there, the big house. But he was just a very young lad. It was more what he heard people talk about later. A lot of people left around that time. When they came over, what year was it they came over? It was just before your mother was born. 1852?
- M. She was born in New York City and her mother used to take her down to the Atlantic Ocean and have her paddle in the Atlantic Ocean. So when we went to California, we had to take our shoes off and paddle in the Pacific.
- K. That's pretty country but it's not as prosperous.
- M. Well, they were pretty poor except for the McDermotts.

¹ Ann Cosgrove was the mother of Katherine Jane McDermott who is the mother of Mollie. Mollie's sister Bessie is the mother of Harriette and Kathryn the interviewers.

² There is a story that he was Catholic and she was Protestant. This would possibly be a greater incentive to leave Ireland at that time.

- K. I was surprised. Now were the McDermotts Catholic?
- M. Oh, yeah.
- K. It's odd that they had any property. Because that was during the time of the (persecution of the) Irish Catholics. Usually if they stayed Catholic, they didn't have any property.
- H. Oh, yeah they did. They just had to pay Because there were still a lot of the Irish Aristocracy still Catholic. But that was during the potato famine. Remember the book my mother gave you as a Christmas present. I read half the way through and I had to give up.
- K. You should have read about before the potato famine. The history of Ireland before it, when the English took over.
- H. But her maiden name was Cosgrove and that sounds like an English name to me.
- K. No, it's Irish. It's in there. I had a map that listed all the different areas where the names came from and Cosgrove was in it. Mother and I did quite a bit of hunting.
- M. Now her sister was the one that we called Auntie. The one in Peoria. Anne and Eleanor's grandmother.
- H. Now, Annie and Eleanor were your first cousins, weren't they?
- M. No. Tom McKinney was my mother's first cousin.
- K. And they were his daughters, so they were about third.
- M. Aunt Bridget wasn't really any relation.
- K. Aunt Bridget was the mother of Annie and Eleanor.
- M. Grandmother Cosgrove McDermott's sister was Auntie Mckinney. Tom, Mark, Jack, and Duke were all first cousins. Tom McKinney was only a second cousin of mine and Aunt Bridget was just his wife. Annie and Eleanor were third cousins, at the most.
- H. When did Aunt Bridget come over?
- M. She and her brother came from a family of about 17 children and they got the plague. They died _____. So they finally decided to send them to America to save _____.
- K. Did Bridget and her brother come over about the same time you did? Or earlier?
- M. Later. So Aunt Bridget was a bit younger than Grandmother McDermott.
- H. Was grandmother Cosgrove McDermott the oldest in her family?

- M. She was the oldest.
- K. Do you know how many she had in her family?
- M. No.
- H. You were so little, only four years old when she died.
- M. I remember them telling about that they had to leave Ireland.
- H. Yes, our mother told us about that too, and she was five years older than you.
- K. When did they decide to move out west?
- H. Kathryn Jane McDermott was born on December 25, 1853 in New York.
- M. Then they moved west to Illinois. I think she was just little. They lived in Springvalley, something like that.
- H. Do you know where that is?
- M. Across the river from Chilicothe. They were poor, very poor. Grandfather McDermott was very much of a gentleman, but he couldn't make money.
- H. How did he earn a living?
- M. As the children grew up, they went out and worked. There was Uncle Mike and John, so there were two boys in that family. And there was Aunt Annie, Aunt Louisa, Aunt Matilda, Aunt Mary, and Aunt Josephine. There's _____ died.
- K. A good Catholic family with the statistics of those days. Did (they live) on a farm or in a village?
- M. I think he had a little patch of ground and a shack. They had a garden and things like that.
- K. Did the boys ever work on the railroad?
- M. No, that was the McKinneys that did. They lived there, I can't remember how long over there across from Chilicothe. Then Mike and John and all the girls except _____ because _____ went to Sutton, Nebraska.
- K. They must have lived there for quite a while, if your mother married before ____
- M. Yes, they did.
- K. And they moved there when your mother was a little girl. So she got married when she was about 20?

- M. Yes.
- H. Then Kathryn Jane married William Albert Gilfillan. Do you know about what year they were married? She was about 20 or 21 so it would be about 1872.
- K. It'd be after the Civil War.
- H. He would have been far too young to have been in the Civil War.
- K. The boys had worked anywhere they could and the girls too. Now your Aunts, the three aunts, that went west must have had some education, because I remember it.
- M. Aunt Annie stayed with Mother, I guess, and helped her. And she didn't go west right away. I think she finished the country school. I think she finished seventh grade. And then she went when the girls got a little older, not _____ especially, but the oldest boy Ted. She said, "Well now, Kate, I think I should leave because I keep telling the girls what they should do and they don't mind. And they have to learn to help." So she went down and stayed with this Auntie. She was tall and gangly.
- H. Auntie who?
- K. The one that brought the rest of the family over. The McKinneys.
- M. Of course, the McKinneys were all born in this country.
- K. Yeah, but it was Aunt Annie that got here first.
- H. All right, it'd be Kathryn Jane's cousin that they called Auntie.
- M. Well, that's her aunt.
- H. Oh, that's right.
- M. She went down there to live with Auntie. Which wasn't a very desirable place. She went to the _____ school. She was tall and gangly and old, 16, I think. She went into the 8th grade and all the children laughed and thought she was the funniest thing they ever saw. She said, "I don't blame you for laughing. I think I'd laugh too if I was a little girl and someone came into my class _____." But she won them over because she could tell such interesting stories. They all just felt terrible when she left. Then she went to Normal. And how she got the money to get to Normal, I'll never know.
- K. She must have worked.
- M. And, she got her teachers certificate. Then she went out West.
- K. Now, when they went West first, where did they go?
- M. Sutton.

- K. And then from there they ended up out in San Francisco area.
- M. Aunt Louisa did, but not the whole family.
- K. But the main family went to Sutton, Nebraska.
- M. Mike stayed there. John got TB and went to Arizona to live. Thought that would cure him and he died out there. He was 24 or something like that when he died. Then Aunt Louisa went to the University of Nebraska and she graduated from the University of Nebraska. Then she went out west. She taught school in San Francisco and got her masters degree from the University of California. She was a very brilliant person.
- H. Now these ...
- M. That' the sisters of Mother's.
- H. One was this Annie that
- K. Got through Normal.
- H. Now Annie's the one who lived with Kathryn Jane.
- K. Until she was about 16.
- H. Uh huh. She went back to school and she went and got to Normal. Then to Sutton and on out to the West coast.
- M. John was a school teacher and got TB. He moved to Arizona, but it didn't do any thing for him.
- K. He was only 24 you said.
- H. He was a teacher. Well they believed in education then didn't they.
- M. Oh, yes.
- H. So many of them in that day and age did so well. They were all poor.
- K. They all made it on hard work and guts.
- M. Except for Mary, I don't think - went very far. She went to high school.
- K. Mary was the one that married the ...
- H. ... the successful saloon keeper.
- K. What was his name? Do you remember?

M. Clayton. He had his in Omaha.

K. They lived in Omaha City or Omaha?

M. Omaha, Nebraska.

K. He was the one that told Mike that he wouldn't be as successful.

H. Because you said Mike was always telling

M.Telling the fellows when they came in to buy liquor to go on home and by shoes and some food for their children. Clayton said he'll never make a success.

K. So, then, tell us about Mike.

M. So then Mike gave up the saloon business and went out and bought farmland, and everything he bought just doubled. He became very wealthy. He went four times to get married to this Ruby that he went with. Her mother said to her, "Why don't you get tired of having him come four times and changing his mind." She said, "I've just made up my mind that it'd either be Mike or it wouldn't be anyone."

K. You mean, he'd start to get married and then change his mind?

M. Four times.

H. Did they ever get married?

M. Yup. They had two children.

H. Genevieve?

M. Genevieve, and she had diabetes. It took a long time to

K. And she died young, I suppose.

M. And she was a beautiful child. And the other girl wasn't so nice looking but was very amusing. Last I heard of her, she was in Denver.

K. Did she marry?

M. I think she married.

K. Well, we can go back through birth certificates.

H. If anyone wants to pursue that. Well, I always like to look up my rich relatives. They might have some.....

- K. Not anymore.
- H. But you said, Mike, you thought, when he died was about a millionaire.
- K. Well, that takes John and Anna and.....
- M. Aunt Louisa finished the University of Nebraska. Then she decided to go to the coast. She was the one that went to San Francisco and got her masters degree at the University of California. She taught school in San Francisco.
- K. What about Jo?
- M. Then there was Matilda. Well, Matilda married a fellow in Kansas. He was always going to build a machine of perpetual motion. They didn't have any thing, of course, because he'd spent all his money on this perpetual motion. They had three girls and a boy. Aunt Louisa educated the boy and he wanted to be an attorney.. _____. Agnes married a doctor. I don't know what the other two girls, ever happened to them. But anyhow, Aunt Louisa bought a house in Kansas someplace. In a small town. She bought the house but she wouldn't give it to Matilda and Tipper, they call him. Because he'd talk her out of it and spend the money.
- K. So at least she'd have a house to live in.
- M. That's what she did. And she paid the taxes and just lived there. I don't know if they kept it up or not but that's what they did. Then Jose was the old maid. She was a business woman – I mean an office person. She worked for some man in Omaha.
- K. That was in the early 1900s, wasn't it?
- M. Yes. She worked there for four years. Then after Grandmother McDermott died, Anna and grandfather McDermott moved to Omaha. It wasn't too far away. Then Jose lived with them. There was the two of them, Jose and Anna, and Anna took care of grandfather McDermott just like you take care of _____.
- H. She was the housekeeper.
- M. She sure was. The nurse and everything else.
- H. He lived to be 94. This was the guy that was of the Gentry in Ireland.
- M. He was alive when mother died. And when Grandmother died, he didn't really realize that she died. Anna had a nurse come in and stay with him and she came back to the funeral and Mike came back to the funeral.
- H. So, he outlived his oldest daughter. He was about 94 when he died. And that was about when? What year was it he died?
- K. When did your mother die?

- M. 1920. He must have died in 1921 because it wasn't only I think he died in the spring after mother died.
- K. That's McDermott.
- M. Bernard. Then Aunt Louisa had a nervous breakdown in California. The doctors said the only way she'd ever get straightened out was to have somebody go up in the mountains with her and stay where there's no pressure on human beings. So Aunt Annie came out.
- K. Oh, my goodness!
- M. She went up in the mountains with her. And she came out of it. Then Jose came out. They lived there in Berkeley.
- H. The three of them.
- K. Yeah, mother and I saw them when we went west right after the war.
- H. I thought they went to San Jose. Now when Annie died _____. Then Aunt Louisa - and that left Jose alone. They were getting up in years. That was the business woman.
- M. They put Jose, Will and them, decided that she ought to go into a home. So she went into this home and then Will died. Poor Marion had the responsibility of Aunt Jose. The nurse had called her up and she said, "You know she has awful nice clothes, but she goes out looking just like a rag woman," and she said, "I think there's liquor in her closet, but I can't find any excuse to go in there. So maybe you could come down or come up and see what we can do about this or find out." Sure enough Bernard was taking her liquor.
- K. Ho, Ho, Ho, Bernard Gilfillan.
- M. So finally she died.
- H. Bernard Gilfillan was my first cousin, but he's....
- M. My nephew.
- H. Yes, and it would be her great-nephew.
- M. So when the estate was settled, Bernard got_____.
- H. I always thought the money came from Aunt Louisa. But it wasn't, it was Aunt Jose.
- M. I got \$100 Liberty Bond.
- H. She kind of did it on the basis of who she thought needed it, we figured. She kept changing her will and adding, codicils all the time.

- M._____ had a good life. When your mother came down to see me, I thought she acted kind of worried about something. I said the her, "What's wrong?" And she said, "Did you ever get any money from Aunt Jose?" And I said, "No." She said, "What?" And I said, "No, I got \$100 Liberty Bond from Aunt Louisa." I said, "Why?", she said _____.
- H. I think she got like \$1,500 and then when they sold some property she got another \$6,000.
- M. She got some and _____ got some. Kitty didn't get any. Louie got some, I think. And Will got some.
- K. It was after Daddy died, so she figured she was a widow.
- H. What year was a that Jose died?
- K. I thought all three were alive when we went out and that was right after World War II.
- H. Somewhere in the '50s. I was thinking back because it was after mother had been to Europe and it was before we bought our house. I think it was in the '50s somewhere. We still had the bakery, because she put the money in the bakery.
- M. So I said to her, "Why are you bothered about this. I don't care. It didn't bother me with one way." I said, "Certainly, John needed something to live on. And you've had a hard struggle. And Louie certainly has had a hard struggle _____. I don't know that Will was so hard up _____.
- K. Will was all right. He was a government employee.
- M. Dolly and I used to laugh. Because we were the only two that sent Mass cards.
- H. She was Catholic and you were the two that were Catholic.
- M. A lot of people, if they know people are Catholic they'll send Mass cards. Of course, McDermott's. I don't know if John was.
- H. I didn't realize so many of that generation were that well-educated and financially successful. That they lived well classed lives.
- K. Actually, on a whole, they were about the educational level of middle-class.
- M. Well, Aunt Louisa was kind of a brilliant woman.
- K. Well, you see the sparks some of it comes down to a us on the Gilfillan – McDermott side.

H. It was Katherine Jane that believed in education. Now, shall we talk about her generation. Well, we have been talking about Katherine Jane's generation, but we ought to talk more about Katherine Jane McDermott Gilfillan. The stories that you remember about her. I always remember – tell the story about what the banker said when she died. And when did she die?

K. 21.

M. I went down with her to the bank, when I was about 14. I wanted to dress up, but she said this was all right. I had a house dress and my sun bonnet

* * * * *

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* * * * *

H. This is a story about Mike McDermott,³ son of Bernard McDermott.

M. He went to this dance. This Taylor – – we figured it out, this fellow was an uncle of Ida Gilfillian's – we laughed about that, of course, – so anyhow, he was bothering some young girl. And Mike went up to him and told him to leave her alone. He had one of those switch knives, I suppose. He cut him from here down to almost the end of his back.

H. From the base of his back to the end of his spine.

K. Mike got cut.

M. And he was bleeding terribly. There was a doctor who had TB that lived closer on a farm near there, who was trying to get his health back. They took him to his place. He put him on the dining room table and he operated on him. It just missed the jugular vein up here. When he operated on him evidently the tip of the knife that he was doing the surgical work with or this fellow that cut him up, the tip of that knife, they didn't find it.

K. It probably was the one that stabbed him.

M. Then his face – his circulation was different and he had such a red face. He came back to see mother and father and you'd have thought he was a drunkard. Some friend of Wills said to Will one time downtown, he said "Boy that guy sure likes his liquor." Will said, "I never argued because I could see why they thought that." But he didn't drink at all. One day he got a lump under his arm when he got older, all of a sudden. He went to a doctor. He had a friend who was a doctor. He said, "Did you know I got a lump under my arm?" He said, "We got to do something about that. You'll have to have that operated on and take it out. Maybe it's a tumor and it might be a malignant tumor." Well, he had it operated on and what was it? They found the tip of the knife that broke off. It just built scar tissue around that knife until it formed a lump.

K. Did he always stay red-faced?

³ Mike McDermott is the brother of Kathryn Jane. Kathryn Jane is the mother of Mollie.

- M. He always had a red face. I think Uncle Mike was one of the homeliest people I ever knew. He also was the best loved person I ever knew. He had such a nice personality.
- H. Did this fight take place in Sutton?
- M. No, down across from _____.
- K. Illinois.
- H. When he was young and living there before the family moved.
- M. That was long before he was married.
- K. I've heard tell, that Aunt Ida's family came from Kentucky in the mountains and those mountain people all carried knives.
- M. This guy had a knife. He was named Taylor.
- H. But even then as you said earlier, he was the one who looked after the underdog. That was why he wasn't a successful saloon keeper. Tell that part.
- M. Well, he'd say to the fellows, they'd come in and want to spend some money, he'd say go home and take the money and buy your children shoes or some food. Claytie said you can never be a saloon keeper.
- H. Claytie was
- M. A very successful saloon keeper.
- H. He was the husband of Mary.⁴
- M. Mary was the dressy one.
- K. Well, she was the saloon keeper's wife.
- M. I can remember they came back to see Mother and Father. We just lived in an ordinary house. Nobody came down with a long dress on. But down she came and we ate in part of the kitchen. And here she came down with this long dress on. I thought "what's wrong with her?" Even as a young teenager, I thought that was pretty silly.
- K. She was wearing an evening dress then. When she came down for supper?
- M. Of course. Mother was in a house dress, and Father maybe was in his work clothes. To me it was a lack of judgment.
- K. I think she just wanted to show off her clothes.

⁴ Mary McDermott, sister of Kathryn Jane.

- H. Then later Mike bought the land, went out of the saloon business and everything he touched became valuable.
- M. He kept his mother and father. Will⁵ and Father and Mother went out to see all the relatives after Will graduated from high school.
- K. That was before World War I.
- M. So they went to see Matilda⁶ in St. Joseph, Missouri. The girls were paper boys. I'd never heard of girls being paper boys, but they had to work.
- H. This was about what time?
- K. About 1914.
- M. 1914. I graduated in 1913. Will graduated in 1912 or 11. So anyhow, these two girls saw Will coming. They ran down the hill, threw their arms around Will, and kissed him. Oh, he hated that. He was so mad, I can just see how mad he could get, too. He didn't want anybody to touch him or make over him. Mother tried to smooth things _____ . He came home and he was still mad. She was the oldest of this big family.
- K. This was Kate.⁷
- M. My mother. She went to school, but every time there was a new baby she had to stay out of school. So you know how much schooling she got. But, I think she did, I suppose, finish 8th grade. But they were just as poor as poor could be. I think Mike and John and the girls moved out then. The older girls went out and worked for people. So then, Father was a hired man around where they lived. That's where they got _____ and they eloped.
- H. Where was this that they lived at that time?
- M. Across from Chilicothe. Grandfather McDermott did not approve of that, the Justice of the Peace. He made them get married by a priest. So they were married by a priest, but that didn't help matters either.
- H. No one knew how Bernard McDermott earned his living. No one remembers.
- M. I think he did odd jobs till they went to Sutton, Nebraska. I don't know what he did out there. I think Mike kept him in later years. But he was never a success.
- H. They went out to Nebraska after Kate was married.

⁵ William Emmet Gilfillian, brother of Mollie and Bessie. Bessie is the mother of Harriette and Kathryn.

⁶ Matilda - sister of Kathryn Jane. I do not know the names of her two girls mentioned here.

⁷ Kathryn Jane McDermott.

- M. And, Anna stayed with Mother. And then when Louie and Kit were in high school, she went down to live ____ and went to 8th grade in the Greely School in Peoria. Then she went to Normal. I suppose she worked her way through Normal. She wanted to be a teacher.
- H. She's the one who kept house. Did she teach while she kept house?
- M. She taught school in Sutton.
- H. And kept house.
- M. After their mother died, I guess Mike was living, cause Mike didn't get married till he was 45 or so. But she and Louisa⁸ went on an Indian reservation. She was a matron of animals and Aunt Louisa was a teacher. They used to see these football players, handsome Indian boys. Every time when they came back they brought water to them. That's the way they played football. They played for keeps. They'd be killed.
- H. They brought them back . . .
- M. Dead. At least one, she said. Aunt Louisa just thought it was terrible. Which I think so, too. But they didn't have any referees, I suppose.
- K. They didn't have much protection equipment either. And they did the massive V shape, the old way.
- M. The Indian men had much higher morals than the Indian women. They had a terrible time with the Indian girls. Trying to get into the men's dormitories. She said, they were a lot higher sexed than the men. The men had much higher morals. Then I read a story about an Indian and in that it said how men had very high morals and the Indian women didn't have such a high moral character. So then, after that, Aunt Louisa was mostly in San Francisco teaching school. Anne went home to take care of . . .
- K. Grandfather.
- M. Because Mike was getting married. They had a varied life. Then they all came to Berkley.
- H. About what time was that?
- K. It was after Grandfather Died.
- M. Pat was in college.
- H. Which Pat? Your Pat?

⁸ Anna and Louisa were sisters of Kathryn Jane.

- M. Um hum. She works in Arizona University. She went up to some kind of a meeting at the University of California. She was picked as a delegate or something. She went to see them. She was in the university and she would be about, well she graduated when she was 17, so she'd at least be about 18 or 19. Nineteen years from . . .
- H. She was born about 25 and add another 20 years to that, that'd be 45.
- M. They were out there then.
- H. Teaching or retired?
- M. They just retired.
- K. They had a house out there.
- M. They rented out rooms.
- K. During the war, they rented out rooms, I remember.
- H. When did Louisa first go out to California?
- M. She went out there
- H. Before the First World War?
- M. Oh, yes. Because she lived with a family in San Francisco. She had an attic room. It was a big attic. She had a bedroom, kind of a living room, and on the first floor was where the folks lived. On the second floor they had men roomers and some women roomers. There was a German boy. It was just about during the First World War because this German boy had quite a time. He was a very fine young man and Aunt Louisa thought a lot of him. There were two other boys. They weren't of the same caliber that this German boy was. He had a terrible time. Anti-German feeling.
- H. When you were out to San Jose at Normal school, was Aunt Louisa living out there then?
- M. Yes.
- H. And what year was that? That you went out there to Normal School, before the War?
- M. I was about 20.
- H. That would be about 1914. She had been there for quite awhile?
- M. Oh, yes. She was still there. She always stayed.
- H. And actively teaching?

- M. Teaching. When she got sick, she had some bladder or kidney troubles, was what really took her. When they all came out and got this Berkley house. Bought a house in Berkley and lived and rented out rooms.
- H. That was after Bernard died.⁹
- M. See, he lived a little longer than your grandmother. My mother died before her father died. Mary never knew he was senile.
- H. Mary was the pretty one in that family.¹⁰
- M. Oh, I always claimed Aunt Louisa was the pretty one. Mary was supposed to be - pretty, black hair and the biggest blue eyes. She was pretty, but I always thought Mother and Aunt Louisa had more aristocracy to them. They had more polish. They were more of a lady type. Now Aunt Annie was a very fine person. She had no style and the poor soul she was a saint. She took care of everybody. She and Mike were just homely. That's all you could say. They were fine people. They were both very fine people.
- H. Did they have the crooked jaw that runs through the family?

⁹ Bernard McDermott Mollie's maternal grandfather.

¹⁰ Mollie's aunt.

Descendants of Bernard MCDERMOTT

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1. Bernard MCDERMOTT (b.1825 d.1921)
sp: (Ann) COSGROVE (b.1825 d.1899)
  |-2. Katherine Jane MCDERMOTT (b.1823 d.1920)
  | sp: William Albert GILFILLIAN (b.1853 m.1872 d.1921)
  | |-3. Rose GILFILLIAN (b.1874 d.1927) (Rose)
  | | sp: Lou KENT
  | |-3. Anne GILFILLIAN (Anne)
  | |-3. John GILFILLIAN (b.1878) (John)
  | | sp: Ida TAYLOR (m.1905)
  | |-3. Clara Louisa GILFILLIAN (b.1880) (Louie)
  | | sp: Arch KENT (m.1907)
  | |-3. Kathrynne Isabelle GILFILLIAN (Kit or Kitty)
  | | sp: Clyde MCMILLAN (m.1912)
  | |-3. Bessie Ellen GILFILLIAN (b.1890 d.1975) (Bessie)
  | | sp: George L SNYDER (b.1893 d.1935)
  | |-3. William Emmet GILFILLIAN (b.1892) (Will)
  | | sp: Marion LOWDEN (m.1918)
  | +-3. Mary Otella GILFILLIAN (b.1894) (Mollie)
  | sp: Everett C. KELLY (b.1895 m.1920 d.1961)
  |-2. Mike MCDERMOTT
  |-2. Anna MCDERMOTT
  |-2. Matilda MCDERMOTT
  |-2. John MCDERMOTT
  |-2. Louisa MCDERMOTT
  |-2. Mary MCDERMOTT
  | sp: CLAYTON
  +2. Josephine MCDERMOTT

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- M. No. I don't think so.
- H. Did that come from the Gilfillian side, rather than the McDermott?
- M. I think so. Rose had it. Your mother didn't have it as decidedly as Rose had it.
- H. She definitely had a crooked jaw. She always spoke about her crooked jaw.
- M. But, Kitty didn't have it. Now Louie really was a beautiful girl when she was in high school. I remember when she graduated from high school she always has carried a lot of weight, but she was pretty in the face. She worked out on the farm. Her skin got a lot of sun. Well, now George moved to Georgia.
- H. George Kent.¹¹
- M. The kids were around teenagers.
- K. That's George and Lou Kent that went to Georgia when the kids were teenagers. Before that they lived in Illinois?
- M. They lived up on _____ .
- K. Where Louie lived.
- M. No, the farm south of it. That was Father's farm. She did get some from that episode. She got the farm she lived in. They sold that and went to Georgia.
- H. That wasn't the _____ place.
- M. We didn't call her place _____. We called Father's place _____.
- H. Were there two different places?
- M. There were.
- H. There were two farms that came out of that deal. And she lived on one of them. Then they sold that. What one did they call Rose's farm?
- M. _____. Then they moved to Georgia. I don't know whether George went to Utah, and then he married some girl out there in Utah. But I think they had about six children.
- K. When was George born? Before you?
- M. I was four years older than George. I don't ever remember Rose living at home.
- H. George was born in 1898. He had how many children?

¹¹ George Kent, son of Lou Kent and Rose Gilfillian. Rose is oldest sister of Mollie and Bessie.

- M. I think six.
- H. Six children and they settled in Utah.
- K. Salt Lake City.
- H. I knew one of them. The youngest one.
- M. I never saw George after he went out there.
- K. Mother and I did. Didn't George go into World War I?
- M. He may have.
- K. Because Mother spoke of his coming back and coming to Michigan to visit her. She was fond of George. Like you said you were fond of Frank. She always thought quite a bit of George. One of the main things why we went to Salt Lake City on our trip in '67 was to see George.
- M. Well, George, I think was a very nice boy. But he wasn't too _____. Now Frank had his mother's brains. I don't believe Frank had any training. George evidently was a boy that didn't get into trouble. Just went along and lived his own life.
- H. Mother - there was one of those that had quite a few children and she made sure that they really felt welcome when they came because she knew what it was like to travel with a large family. There were very few people that could take in a large family.
- K. They came and visited us one time. The whole family!
- H. Frank came to our house, too. I can remember Frank.
- M. Frank gave a really bad impression when he was at Mother's funeral. When Mother died, he was just at that age when he wanted to tell everything that he did. He had a woman and this, and a woman and that. Finally, he said to me, "You don't get shocked very much." I said, "No, you can't shock me." He wanted to shock Aunt Ida. Aunt Ida would get shocked you see. I made up my mind, I wouldn't get shocked and it won't be any fun telling it. How much was truth and how much was fiction, I don't know. But, he was smart and he has done very well. He has a nice home in Chicago Heights. His wife died. She had _____ arthritis. He never remarried. He and Isabelle live together.
- K. He never had any children.
- M. She had two children. He never had any. He worked for this big company. I think he's done very, very well. He's certainly awful good to Isabelle. When I went to see her they had a hospital bed in the living room. That had big windows and she could look down onto the street. She was very cheerful. She has a malignancy in the rib cage. I don't know. They are giving her chemotherapy.

- K. How much younger was Frank than George?
- M. Just about fifteen months. They were close together.
- K. He'd been born about 1899 or 1900.
- H. Then Isabelle was the youngest. She was born when?
- M. She is in her 70's.
- K. How much younger than Frank, do you know?
- M. I think she must be about six to eight years younger. She was a nine month baby and almost died.
- H. Well, she's in her 70's now and it's 1977, so she was born in 1906 or something like that maybe.
- M. She was very cheerful.
- K. What did she do? She never married. Did she work in an office?
- M. She worked for a Jewish family in Peoria. As their maid.
- K. They came back up from Georgia then.
- M. They came back after they brought Rose up. Rose died and they kept her until the summer after she died and brought her up here and buried her. She's buried. Mother and Father are buried and Kit and Clyde. I think there's eight graves there. Kit and Clyde bought two graves. They're buried there. Then there's an empty grave. Then Lou. But they never put a head stone.
- K. For Rose?
- M. Frank was going to do that. They never had enough money to do it. I think Frank was going to do that. Somebody, one of Birdy's children told me that Frank was going to put the headstones on them. Of course, they've been dead a long time.

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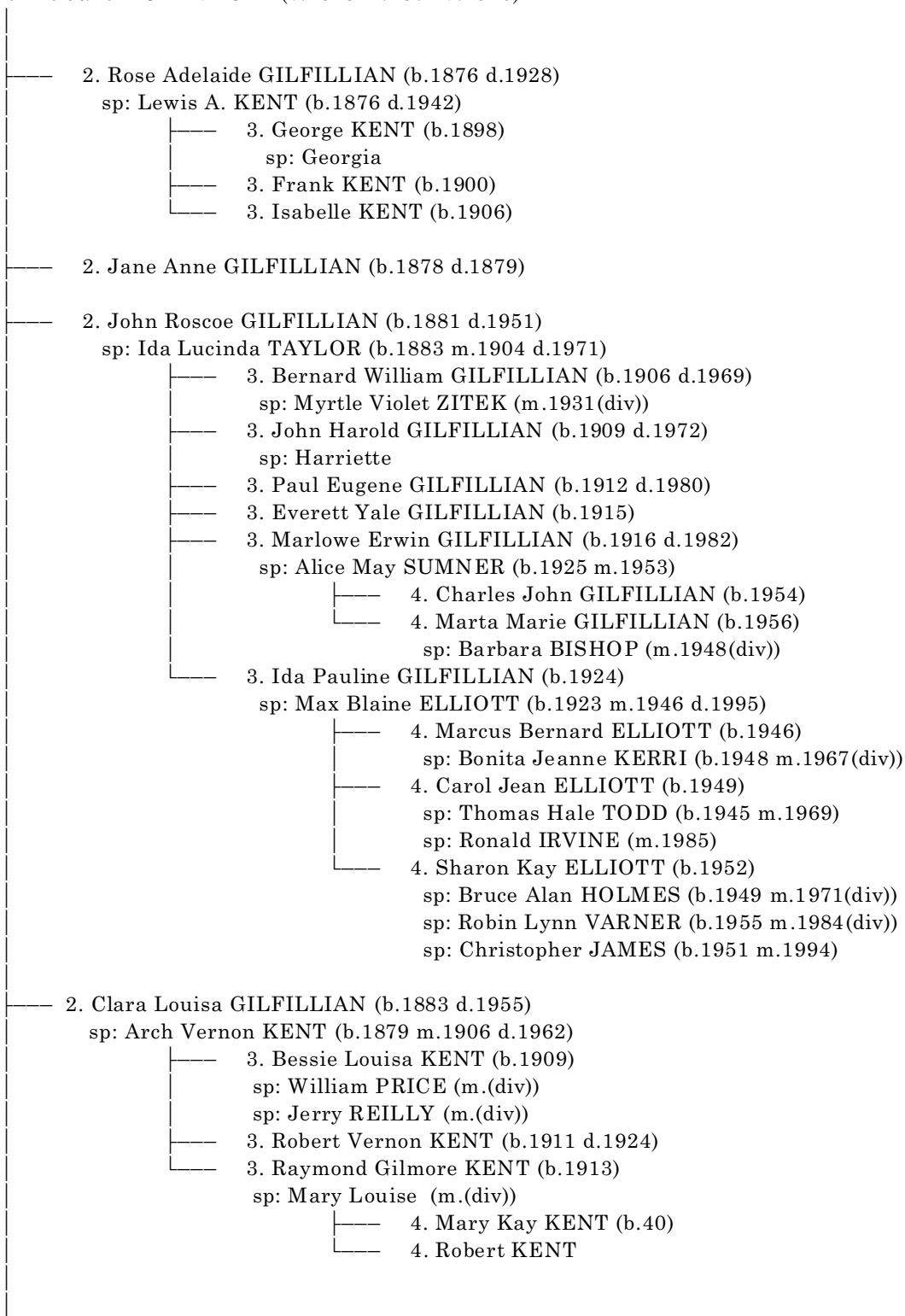
¹² Following pages show what I have of a family tree of four generations starting with William Albert Gilfillian and Katherine Jane McDermott.. I apologize for omissions and errors.

Descendants of William Albert GILFILLIAN

Inserted into text by George Snyder

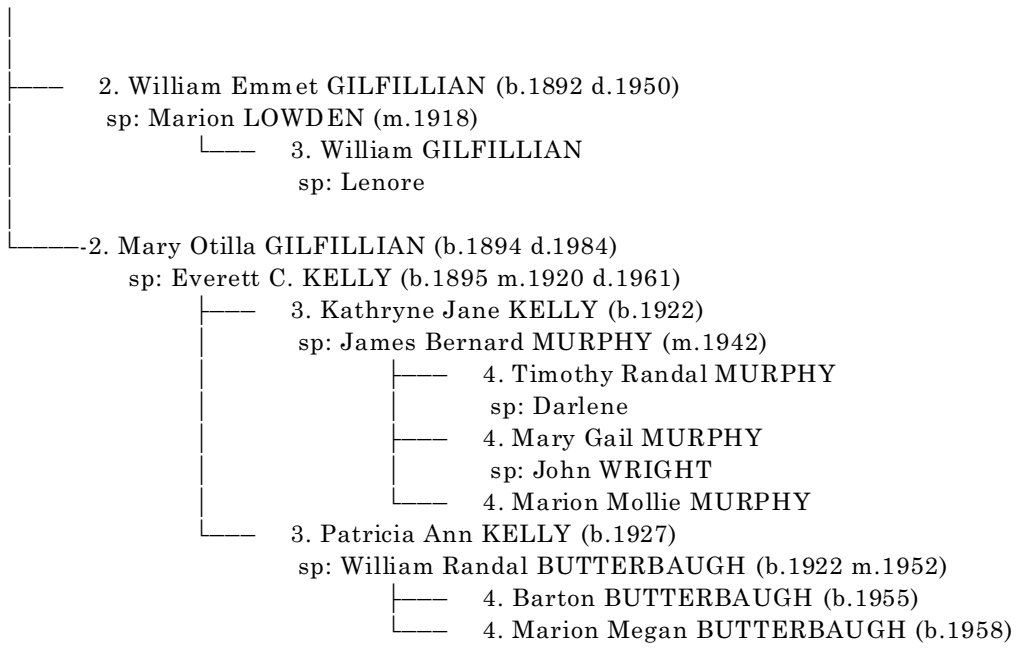
1. William Albert GILFILLIAN (b.1853 d.1921)

sp: Katherine Jane MCDERMOTT (b.1823 m.1872 d.1920)



2. Kathryn Isabelle GILFILLIAN (b.1885 d.1941)
sp: Clyde W. MCMILLAN (b.1883 m.1912 d.1961)
└── 3. Donald Francis MCMILLAN (b.1913)
 sp: Sara Lee
 ├── 4. Mickey MCMILLAN
 ├── 4. Hal MCMILLAN
 └── 4. Patty MCMILLAN

2. Bessie Ellen GILFILLIAN (b.1890 d.1976)
sp: George L SNYDER (b.1893 d.1935)
├── 3. Richard Vernon SNYDER (b.1911)
 sp: Carlene Mae CRAIG (b.1911 m.1933 d.1996)
 ├── 4. Jeannine Eleanor SNYDER (b.1940)
 sp: Ralph GRADEN
 └── 4. Diane Martha SNYDER (b.1943)
 sp: John MASURA
├── 3. James Kenneth SNYDER (b.1915)
 sp: Frances Louise BUTTERWORTH (b.1916 m.1936 d.2004)
 ├── 4. James Keith SNYDER (b.1937)
 sp: Sally Ann SHERMAN (b.1942)
 ├── 4. George LeRoy SNYDER (b.1939)
 sp: Diana Kae HAGGARD
 sp: Lenore Jeannette SOULES (b.1943 m.1971)
 ├── 4. Bess Anne SNYDER (b.1941)
 ├── 4. Thomas Andrew SNYDER (b.1944)
 sp: Linda Delores OLSON (b.1946)
 ├── 4. William Henry SNYDER (b.1946)
 sp: Melinda (m.1972)
 ├── 4. Joseph Mark SNYDER (b.1951)
 sp: Linda Louise WISER (b.1950)
 ├── 4. Richard Vernon SNYDER (b.1954 d.1974)
 ├── 4. Rose Marie SNYDER (b.1958)
 sp: Tom E TUCKER (b.1955 m.1980)
 └── 4. Agnes Louise SNYDER (b.1962 d.1979)
├── 3. Kathryne Rose SNYDER (b.1917 d.1995)
├── 3. Harriette Louise SNYDER (b.1922 d.2003)
 sp: Merritt George HINELINE (m.1946 d.1969)
 ├── 4. JoBess HINELINE (b.1948)
 sp: Dean Perrin TAYLOR (m.1972)
 └── 4. Kathryne Suzanne HINELINE (b.1951)
├── 3. Mary Ellen SNYDER (b.1924)
 sp: Robert Lee COMBS (m.1946)
 ├── 4. Mary Linda COMBS (b.1947)
 ├── 4. Carlene Frances COMBS (b.1952)
 ├── 4. Margaret Jane COMBS (b.1955)
 └── 4. Roberta Lee COMBS (b.1966)



- continuation of interview -

- H. What did Isabelle do?
- M. She kept house for people. Up here too, I think.
- H. Never married?
- M. No, George - I got startled one night, Patty Kay was here, one of Girdie's daughters called me and told me about Isabelle. I was under the impression that this child was Frank's daughter, illegitimate daughter from a girl that Bessie use to go to high school with in Sparta. This Harvey girl, Girdie's daughter said to me, "Oh, that was Isabelle's daughter." I said, "Oh!" Kay said, "You looked so startled, Mother." I said, "I heard something that I can't believe!" I still can't fully believe it. Because Bessie told me that when this girl was going with Frank she couldn't understand why she was going with him. She was afraid she would get in trouble. Then she said she did get pregnant. The baby was born with club feet. She was going to adopt the child out. Frank said, "No, I'll take the baby." That's what I heard. He spent hundreds and hundreds of dollars on these feet and got her pretty well straightened out. Isabelle said she walks a little forward but otherwise she has a very fine job with some big company. She's a secretary. She comes in every weekend and takes - looks after Isabelle, then she has visiting nurses that come.
- K. Then she lives with Frank.
- M. They don't live together.
- K. But, I mean, she was raised by Frank and Isabelle.
- M. Frank raised her. Now, after all these years, I've heard that story, then she comes out and says that this is Isabelle's daughter and Frank raised her.
- H. Who said this?
- K. One of Girdie's - - a friend of Mother's.
- M. I just can't believe it, you know. It's been engraved in me so long from the other. And Isabelle, I never mentioned it to her, the poor soul. Whether she did or didn't it can't be a bother.
- H. It makes very little difference in this day and age.
- M. I always admired Frank. If it was his child and he took it or if it was her child and he raised it, I still think he deserves a lot of credit. Because he had money that he could do it. He was a wild Indian, but I still think he didn't have any raising.
- H. About what time was this daughter born?
- M. When Bessie graduated from high school, -----

- H. ----- the same age as Bessie Kent then. And Bessie Kent was older than Dick wasn't she? Dick was born in 1911. I think she was four years older, wasn't she? So it was about 1908, I mean 1907.
- M. ----- silent. Went his own way. He was just fundamentally a good person.
- K. That's George.
- M. Then Frank was high-strung, smaller.
- K. He took after his mother.
- M. And Isabelle had a terrible life. I don't care what she did, she had a terrible life. Her mother would never let her date with anyone. She never had a date in her life. Until after her mother died, maybe she had a date then. If she had a child, she had to. It was just like slapping her in the face with something.
- H. Anyone who had to live with Rose had a difficult life. Rose as a mother, she was difficult as a daughter.
- M. I've come to the conclusion, perhaps she couldn't help it. She had a jealous streak in her. Jealousy is a terrible thing.
- H. Very bright. She could do anything.
- M. Mother said she was the most capable person, daughter that she had.
- K. Mother always said she could do anything.
- M. _____ linen box pleated skirt better than mother said she could do it herself. If she wanted.
- K. Mother's two comments to me always were, "I just hope you're not like your Aunt Rose," and the other one was, "Well, Aunt Mollie turned out all right."
- M. I was the laziest. I wouldn't hang up a thing. When I came home from teaching school, I hung up everything even to an apron and your mother almost dropped over dead.
- K. There was nobody to pick up after you. If you don't hang them up you have to wash and iron them all over again. I found that out.
- M. _____ and the heroine was Otilia. She wanted to call me Otilia. Mother said no, but we'll call her middle name Otilia. I could bless her the rest of my life.
- K. Rose had fancy ideas.
- M. Oh, yes. John had how many children? I'll have to count.

M. And they stopped.

H. Just a year ago?

K. They were here last summer.

M. _____ in Riverside not very _____ about an hours drive. He's retired. He's a lot like John. He makes me think of John, the way he moves his hands, the way he laughs. *(Note: Refers to Yale Gilfillian, son of John Gilfillian.)*

H. They all came down to mother's funeral last year. *(Note: Bess Snyder died in 1976)*

M. They were always _____.

H. That bakery did a lot of different things for the family.

M. _____. Alice's mother died. So they went up to the funeral there just a couple of days ago. *(Note Alice Gilfillian 's mother died Sept. 19, 1977. Therefore this interview was conducted in late September, 1977)*

K. What did John do when he was growing up?

M. He worked for the Rock Island.

K. I mean your brother John. He was afraid of your father.

M. He went on the farm with Ida. When he had the nervous breakdown. Then he was a mail carrier.

K. He worked and lived in Chilicothe.

M. If Father left him alone. Father thought that was a disgrace. You should be home on the farm. Parents sometimes think our kids oughta do _____, but they don't. He had a chance to become postmaster in Chilicothe. But Father made such a fuss about carrying mail. He had to carry mail to get to be a postmaster. So, your Father came and your mother worried terrible. He said, "John, you come with me and I'll give you a job in the bakery." Bess knew John, and Bess knew her husband. She knew John eventually would want to tell George how to run his business. And she knew her husband wouldn't want to be told. And she was smart enough to know. She was afraid it wouldn't work. But she couldn't stop it, so they moved to Coldwater.

H. That was when I was quite young. I think Pauline was about four or five, maybe.

M. Maybe it was a blessing for John, because he got out from under Father. As long as he lived in Chilicothe _____.

- H. It seems to me that they moved to Coldwater after I was born. They moved to Coldwater quite a bit afterwards. It was probably during the early part of the depression. They owned a pop factory in there. So after they were first married what did John do?
- M. They went out on the farm.
- H. It was always a constant strain, because his father always found fault with everything.
- M. Then he went into the pop factory. He'd done all right, if he let the fellows do the work in the pop factory, which they wouldn't do while he was gone. So he didn't make a success of that.
- H. Somewhere he had business training. He didn't graduate from high school, did he?
- M. No, he went to Brown's Business College.
- H. In place of high school.
- M. I don't think John was dumb, but he was too
- H. Indecisive.
- M. And he let too many people use him for social things.
- H. And that's where his energies went. You said he was a very gentle person.
- M. Very gentle. Much more gentle than Will.
- H. Who stood up to his father.
- K. Then he did the job as the mailman.
- M. Yes.
- K. I know they moved to Michigan after I was up. And I don't remember Grandfather, so Grandfather was dead before they moved to Michigan. (*Note: the John Gilfillian family moved to Coldwater, Michigan in August, 1928.*)
- M. Maybe so.
- H. The boys can amplify that. The boys, Bernard is dead, and John is dead, and Paul no one knows.¹³

¹³ The children of John Gilfillan and Ida Taylor: Bernard, John, Paul, Yale, Marlow, Pauline.

- M. He's in Alaska. He's quit drinking, _____ told me. He looks like a man about 75 years old. He has a job. _____ He hasn't drank anything for over two years. His daughter is up there. The daughter that _____. She's the one that, when we came to Ida's funeral, I stayed in the motel with Pauline and her. There were three beds. I woke up at two o'clock in the morning and I saw a light in the bed. I sat up and said, "What's that light doing over there." At two o'clock in the morning she was there smoking a cigarette. I thought we all could get burned up. I said, "Put that cigarette out and don't smoke again while your in bed." She had no use for me and I had no use for her so we were mutual. So I said to John, "That crazy girl was smoking in bed the other night. I woke up. Why she could have fallen asleep you know! That's the way a lot of this _____." He said she's _____ too. So that's where Yale tells me that Paul's up there. And Pauline told me he quit drinking too. But he looks like an old man.
- H. He was the most handsome and tall and well built and all the girls were crazy about him when he was in high school. He graduated from Coldwater and it was the depression. That affected those boys a lot. But Bernard went to work for the railroad and so did John Jr. What was it the Rock Island?
- M. But Bernard didn't stay with it. John stayed with it until he died.
- H. Bernard became some kind of a salesman of different kinds.
- M. He lived in California.
- H. He married Myrtle. No children.
- M. Myrtle . . . I don't know what Myrtle's last name was.
- K. Where was she from?
- M. Chicago.
- H. 'cause Mother came up for the wedding and had the skin cancer removed and she wouldn't let me come to the wedding. I just thought that was terrible. That was the most romantic thing, a wedding. I had never been to a wedding.
- K. I didn't give a hoot, I guess.
- M. Did she come down to have them take the skin cancer off?
- H. Uh huh.

- K. She went to Peoria. She went to the wedding. Your husband, they were saying at the table, "What's that on your chin?"
She says, "It's a little sore."
He said, "Have you had it long?"
She said, "It kinda heals up then it comes back again."
He said, "You'd better come down and let me see that."
- H. I remember Dad came. They averaged 50 mph back in those days. He brought Kathryn and me, Mary Ellen must of stayed with Aunt Leona. We were going over gravel roads and things like that. I don't know how old I was, but it was after Rose's funeral several years. He missed Mother.
- K. He wouldn't stay home.
- M. You know, these fellows are funny. I came up to visit you people and took the girls and Louie. We had a dog, Topsy. She was just a dog. Pat had always wanted a dog. They went out and somebody was going to give this dog away. So they got Topsy. Poor Topsy was just kind of dumb but she was a nice old dog. So, I think the men in the family had beat this dog. Because she would come to me and she'd come to Pat but she kind of shied away from men. That just burned Everett up because he loved dogs. When I was up there he got a big bathrobe and laid it on the floor and how he got Topsy to come upstairs with him, but he had Topsy up there. And Topsy would sleep on that rug. He couldn't stay alone either.
- K. He had to have the dog at least with him.
- M. The girls said, it was a good thing Father died first. She said, we'd had a _____ problem.
- H. Well, there are just some people that are family people and it's a good thing since we got children to raise in this world. Now, John Jr. married Harriette What was her name?
- M. She lives not far from Yale.
- H. She's from Chicago.
- M. She took John's death much better than I thought she would. She's learned a lot in her life. I think of the daughter that they had so much trouble with. You learn, you know, the hard way, you get to be pretty charitable.
- K. How many children did they have?
- M. They had this son, John.
- H. He was the youngest.

- M. Then they had the daughter that married the attorney. She got a divorce from him and married this other guy.
- K. What was her name?
- H. There was Beth.
- M. And then there's Susan.
- H. And John.
- M. Susan made a terrible mistake of her life. But to me she was much more human than Mary Beth.
- H. That was it, Mary Beth. Now Mary Beth had how many children?
- M. Just a boy. And Susan had a son and a daughter, I think they had four children, if I'm not mistaken. He brought them to John's funeral.
- K. Who did she marry?
- M. She married a Polish fellow. I don't know what his name was.
- K. What's the mistake she made?
- M. She left him and was living with this one and that one.
- K. After she had the four children, she left her husband.
- M. I think he drank some. But he appeared to be a very nice man and his children, they certainly were well raised.
- H. Who raised them?
- M. He did and his mother, because she was running around. Now she's remarried and she has the children. The mother died. He couldn't keep the children.
- K. How old would the children be now?
- M. The girl, when I saw her, when John died, was about 16 or 17. She was the oldest. I think he was still crazy about her. She married this fellow and has settled down. She drove John nearly crazy. He was letting in all the guys. Poor thing. He had just a terrible life there for awhile. Harriette saw the other side of life. She was more charitable and more understanding.
- K. What happened to the son?
- M. The son married a girl. A nice girl and they have two boys.

- K. Do they live here in Chicago?
- M. He taught in Nebraska, at Crayton at one time.
- K. Oh, he's a teacher.
- M. A professor.
- H. Where's Crayton?
- M. Crayton University. That's where Barb _____ . But he left by the time Barb got there. I had Barb look him up. He had gone to some other university. He married a Catholic girl. But he wasn't Catholic.
- H. There was sometime when he had a nervous breakdown.
- M. Did he? But he was a nice fellow. A very sensible boy.
- H. I knew him. During the war I went and stayed there one week. When I came to Chicago for some treatments. Meat rationing and all that. I just thought they were nice to me. I really enjoyed it. My mother always felt that Harriette was a difficult person to live with. I don't know whether John was.
- M. I think Harriette was. I think one thing was maybe she was spoiled. Her folks. I don't know that they were tremendously wealthy, but they had money.
- H. They lived in Arlington Heights. John raised his family in Arlington Heights.
- M. But Harriette has changed a lot.
- K. Well, you do when you get older, sometimes. Sometimes you're _____ more so.
- H. She's still living. Is she in Kansas City?
- M. Myrtle has retired. No, she's moved back here to Yale's.
- H. Yale in Riverside?
- K. Myrtle?
- M. No, not Myrtle, Harriette. Of course, she has a sister here. There's nobody out there in Kansas City anymore. Because Susan was a waitress at some private club for quite a while before she got married. She married this fellow. Harriette says he really is a very nice _____, very good to the children, but very firm.
- H. Sometimes it just takes the right marriage to work things out. It needs the right person.
- K. Bernard and Myrtle are both dead.

- M. No, Myrtle is retired and lives in a retirement settlement out there in Riverside, California. I get a letter from her about once a year. She has this, I suppose it's maybe like a trailer on a lot.
- K. A mobile home.
- M. And she has beautiful flowers.
- K. She finally can have her garden.
- M. She has her garden. She's retired and she does ceramics and she does painting. Of course, she was always busy and does a lot of cooking. She's still cooking. You know she was great on cooking.
- H. At one time, you know, they lived with John and Ida.
- M. Yes.
- H. During a difficult time in their life.
- M. They were down with me for a while until Bernard and Myrtle found a place to live.
- K. Well, Myrtle worked.
- M. Yes.
- K. Bernard, after he got out in California settled down. Well, when Mother and I were out there I'm trying to think when did Bernard die?
- H. Not too long ago.
- M. No.
- K. Mother and I were out there last time was '67, and I think he was there. They lived in a small house and she had some gardens, but she was working. Bernard was selling paint. He seemed to be doing real well and had been in the job for a long time. Before that he was taking a job here and a job there. But he had been in this paint business for quite a long time.
- M. I don't know why they ever got married. I really don't.
- H. They had a big wedding.
- M. Because Myrtle was definitely one type of person.
- K. And Bernard was definitely the other.

- M. The other type. Bernard wasn't practical and Myrtle was so practical that it was almost straight laced.
- H. She had a miscarriage and then she couldn't have children after that.
- M. Bernard was the typical salesman type. We went out there to see Pat and Bill when they lived in Plaster City, that company town. We met then in Los Angeles or San Diego, I don't know which one.
- K. Los Angeles is the only place I've know them to live.
- M. Bernard was always quite a fellow. All the stories he told me would go in one ear and out the other. Now, John was more stable.
- K. John was very stable.
- M. He used to come to Peoria a lot. He would always take me out to dinner when he'd come. He met some boy he went to high school with. He was terrific manager at Caterpillar at _____ Junction we were there for dinner one night. He said, "Meet my wife." You know John he was always such a tease. I said, "John, you know he knows darn well I'm not your wife, I'd be more your mother." This fellow laughed and said, "I didn't believe him." I said, "I'm his Aunt."
But John was mighty nice. He was just broken hearted with Susan. Poor Susan had paid the price. Because when John died, that poor girl, oh I never saw anybody that had so much grief. She went down to the funeral home and just sat there. I think she had so many regrets that she just couldn't control herself.
- K. Well, when you realize there's no way you can make up 'cause the person is gone.
- M. She knew she _____ her father. He traveled all over up here in Chicago. From one _____ to another _____ trying to find her. They never knew where she was.
- K. _____ Paul.
- H. Then Paul left Coldwater, but what did he ever do? At one time he worked for Dad in the bakery.
- M. I know one thing he did. He went to stay with Will and Marian. He charged a lot of clothes to Will. He was going to Junior College and Will set out to pay the tuition. There's a Junior College in _____. You can go to college, you're smart and you got a lot of things going for you. But you'll have to work and buy your clothes. And we'll feed you. He went down and bought all these clothes and charged it to Will. There was nothing Will could do but pay it. So then he went around and told the merchants not to give him any credit. That he wouldn't pay the bill. Then he wouldn't stay in school. Then he left.
- K. His first wife, what was her name?

- H. Was this before the war?
- K. Before World War II.
- H. Because the daughter and the wife came to live in Coldwater with Uncle John during that time. Keith was about their age.
- M. He left that wife and married some girl from Coldwater.
- H. That was much later. He came back and married a childhood sweetheart.
- K. Who had been married and divorced.
- M. That was in middle years.
- K. They went to California.
- M. Then they went and lived in Fresno.
- K. I know when Mother and I were out there in California - I think Marian had some idea of how to locate the wife. They weren't listed or anything. Somehow or the other we ended up talking to the wife, but Paul wasn't there. They changed their (name), you know, they'd run into debt and they just skip and then they wouldn't pay any telephone bill and wouldn't give their right names.
- M. Bill _____ lived in Fresno. That was Marian's _____. Well, Bill was very like his father. You paid your bills and you did this and you lived the way you should live. He'd get notices can calls that he owed a bill that would be Paul's. That just burned him up. Finally, I don't know what he did, but he would have nothing to do with Paul.
- H. Paul was definitely the black sheep of that family.
- K. It was sort of insinuated to me that Paul had some stories about he was during World War II. This, that and the other thing.
- H. I don't know if he was ever in the service or not.
- K. That was a period in which no one had anywhere to fall. Somebody who seemed to know, I remember, said that he very definitely was out of circulation that he was in jail or prison or something. I don't know whether that was true or not. He had no pictures. If I knew Paul, he'd be showing the pictures of him in a uniform and all this. He always had stories how he was on this secret thing and one thing and another. He had all these big stories of how he worked in the movies and he knew John Wayne. He worked on a ranch. I don't know how much of it was true and how much wasn't, cause you could never tell.

- M. _____ John and Yale came to the funeral and they stayed in the _____ And who walked in but Paul with a typical western outfit, boots and a hat and everything with a _____. Yale could hardly keep his face straight. John said to Yale, "Don't tell him that Uncle _____ died because I don't want to be seen with him." So they never told him.
He said, "What are you doing down here?"
John said, "On business, I'm afraid."
So I didn't know _____ after the funeral. He came to my house one time and I had a girl working for me.
He said, "I'm Paul Gilfillian."
And she was a rough _____ and she said, "Well, what in the hell does that make me?" When I heard that, I thought I had two nuts here. So I got rid of her pretty fast.
- K. To me, he's what they say, the typical high school cock of the wall _____. The big man on campus in high school and he never grew out of it.
- M. He never grew up.
- K. He just stuck right there. And the world just wouldn't fit him into that spot. He kept trying to put him into that spot.
- M. I think you are right, he never grew up.
- K. He never grew any further.
- H. He only had this one daughter, I think.
- M. Yeah, I think so.
- H. I mean, that we know about.
- M. She's divorced.
- K. She's up in Alaska too, then. Are they living together?
- M. I don't know whether she's with him or not, or him with her.
- K. You said he's quit drinking?
- M. Yale married the beauty parlor operator. What's her name?
- H. Yeah, she's a nice person. They have how many children?
- M. They have a boy and a girl. The girl is divorced from her husband now. And she had one little girl. Which upset Yale to no end.
- K. Because of the divorce?

- M. He said to her, "You know you'll take advice from me now."
She said, "I should have taken that advice years ago."
He said, "Yes, I think so."
- H. But Yale had migraines and he went up to Mayo's. Did they end up cutting a nerve or something? I think so. That took care of that, but he had them for years. They really incapacitated him. But he was a yardmaster. He didn't make a lot of money. You would have thought that, because it was a very strenuous job. It took a great deal of ability and under stress, you would thought it'd be a higher paying job. They always lived in an apartment. I don't know if they ever had a house.
- M. They had a house.
- K. He's retired now.
- M. The girl is a nurse. She's a graduate nurse. She has one little girl. I think Yale's wife takes care of her while she works.
- K. Well, she doesn't live with them though.
- M. I think she does now.
- K. What about the boy? What happened to him?
- M. The boy, he finished college. He was a Navy pilot in the World War.
- K. World War II? Couldn't have been Two.
- M. Must have been Two.
- H. Maybe Korean or Vietnam.
- M. Anyhow, he went up to North Dakota and he married some girl up there and they have one little girl. He's a very nice young man. Yale said, "We don't have very much trouble with the son." They just got back from there when Alice told them that her mother died. Poor Alice.
- K. Then you got Marlowe that married Alice. He had a rough time.
- H. He had a first wife. Divorced from his first wife.
- M. Yes, she was terrible.
- K. Where was she from?
- M. Coldwater. She was a Catholic girl, but she certainly _____. Even the priest told Marlowe before his father told him not to marry her.

- H. So, Marlowe was in the Second World War and out in the Pacific.
- K. He had a real rough war.
- H. When he came back, I guess they sent him back.
- K. I think he was blown up or something, wasn't he?
- M. He was lost for a while.
- H. I never heard all of the story.
- M. He was lost for a while out there in the wilds of someplace. Then they sent him back home, but he's never been right.
- H. He spent time in a facility near Ann Arbor that was for veterans to help him. Many had emotional problems.
- K. He had ulcers to the point where they did the surgery.
- M. _____ stomach.
- H. He quit working as a truck driver.
- K. Car carrier. He retired from there.
- H. He lost most of his stomach, didn't he?
- K. Yeah. He recovered from surgery and was doing real good when I saw him. Then he got a job as a carrier for J.C. Penney, wasn't it? Trucker for J.C. Penney?
- H. Or for Gambles? That was it. That was easier for him, I guess. Then he was custodian for a school, wasn't he? There in Coldwater?
- M. Now he's working for some boys he went to school with. Who have some kind of business. I think he's a janitor or custodian or whatever you want to call it. But he insists on drinking beer and he's not suppose to drink beer. Of course, that affects his nervous system. Yale says you can talk about a whole hour with him, then he gets radical. He's just so radical. Yale says you can't talk sense to him.
- K. Well, they had two children.
- M. They were nice children. That girl is studying to be a nurse.
- K. The boy is being a minister, isn't he?
- M. Well, he isn't a minister, he's working for some restaurant group. They are doing quite well. They were nice children.

- K. They didn't have any problem with their children. Yale says, "I don't know how Alice stands it because you can't visit with him because anything that you mention, if it irritates him, he goes off on a tangent." He says it is a mental thing. How long it's going to be. But he insists on drinking this beer and the beer just doesn't help that situation.
- H. The son's now with a restaurant chain or something. They were up in Grand Rapids, because we sent them a wedding present, Mother and I.
- M. Well, I sent them a wedding present, but I never heard from them.
- K. The boy got married didn't he?
- M. Yes. I think the girl works.
- K. That's young Marlowe.
- M. I don't know what the girl's name is.
- K. Not Sandra I've met them several times.
- H. I have too. Now Pauline's in Alaska. What's her husband's name?
- K. Max.
- H. They came to JoBess' wedding. Max, his job up there was any building that was built for the county, which is a big area. So anyway, he had to take somebody's check to a contractor, because it hadn't gotten in the mail and the contractor needed the money. They were married, I think on a Friday or Saturday. Anyway, he went out when he wasn't suppose to be working and he drove 70 miles to take that check and drove 70 miles back and came to the wedding early in the afternoon.
- M. I don't think Max is such a bad fellow.
- K. Oh, Max is all right.
- H. Very much respected up there.
- K. He does good work. He works hard.
- M. Well, now you know what they have? They have a radio and TV store.
- H. Oh, they do? She worked as a secretary in a school.
- K. They both have retired from their jobs. Then they went back to work. They came down here and spent a year, wasn't it? In the north or south.

- H. He could have worked. They wanted him to work on the pipeline as kind of a construction boss because of his construction background. He didn't know whether he wanted to go back and do that or not. They just decided they were going to take some time out in their life. They had their family raised.
- M. I don't know how many children they had.
- K. A boy. The boy and his wife came to the wedding.
- H. And two daughters, I think.
- K. One daughter they had problems with, I think.
- H. She had a child out of wedlock. I don't think she married the father of the child.
- K. Didn't one daughter come to the wedding?
- H. Uh huh. One daughter came.
- K. And the boy and his wife came.
- M. Is the boy married again?
- K. No, he's not divorced.
- H. He came down and went to school in Texas.
- M. He married a doctor's daughter.
- H. And he was going to become a doctor.
- M. They got a divorce.
- K. Oh, then he's married again, in Alaska.
- H. The son's back up in Alaska?
- K. Well, he was there for the wedding. He and his wife were there for the wedding. Or was it a daughter and her husband?
- H. I don't know, but they have two daughters, anyway. But they have the most interesting homestead. They have to work to support the homestead. That's the way it is in Alaska because you can't make a living off a farm without doing something else part of the year. It's eight miles back over, those particular farms had to build their own road out. You wear out a car every year. The next day we went out there for dinner. We don't see how they got out in the winter time. But in the winter time when it snows it freezes over. It stays frozen.

- K. It's easier to travel in the winter time.
- H. But how they do it in the spring muds, I'll never know. Or in the thaws or in the fall, because it's really a very rough road. They had an Indian and a helper build a log cabin for them. They're right across from Anchorage. They've talked about building a causeway and then they'll only be 11 miles from Anchorage and it would be right on the road to Fairbanks. Their land would be very much in demand. If that ever happened, they'd leave and go into some other quiet place, because they're use to it. They have a lake on their piece of property.
- K. He shoots the bears.
- H. It's become a very valuable piece of property.
- M. Well, they've stopped now twice when they've been down. I thought he was very interesting to talk to.
- K. What was he doing in the summer I saw him in, I think it was '75. They came down, 'cause I took Mother to see them. While they were here they were collecting antiques and taking them back up with them. They said it would more than pay all the expenses of the trip and everything because those types of things weren't up there at all and they were quite in demand.
- H. They had a very hard time when they first went to Alaska. After he failed as a contractor here because the State of Michigan didn't pay his bills on time, somebody else who was building for him trusted them, wanted it this way and it wasn't in writing and he had to pay for it out of his own pocket. But when he went up there he sold World Book Encyclopedias and she worked as a secretary.
- M. There was a girl that wasn't a good student but she could hold down a good job.
- H. And that was kind of a war time forced marriage.
- M. Yes, I know. I don't know if John and Ida were very happy.
- K. Max, at first, use to give a very poor opinion, because he use to sound too much like Paul, all hot air.
- H. But he wasn't.
- K. But he's got drive that Paul doesn't have and he makes things happen, you know, and he does things. Evidently they really like each other. You can tell after people visit you whether they're putting up with the marriage or so forth. But they really like each other.
- M. I think so. They were very, you know, you were comfortable with them.

- H. And Pauline, you sit down and talk with her and she's just as open and talks about things like we do. She certainly is a nice woman. Clara Louisa, Aunt Louie, was married to Arch Kent. About when? ¹⁴
- M. They were married on Christmas, the 25th of December, but when I don't know.
- K. In Chilicothe?
- M. No, I think it was in Peoria, by the Justice of the Peace or something. Bess and I never spent such a miserable Christmas in our life. Father couldn't stand him. Louie was the type of person who would milk cows and do a lot of work out in the outside and Father appreciated that and she's quick and she got the work done.
- H. How old were you?
- M. _____ Well, she taught school a couple of years before she _____
.
- H. But how old were you?
- M. I imagine I was in the 7th grade.
- K. About 13?
- M. And Father was mad at such going on. _____ was worse. Bess and I went upstairs and stayed upstairs. Mother laid on the couch.
- K. And Father ranted.
- M. Oh, ranted and raved and he ranted and he raved.
I said to Bess, "I'll never forgive Louie for getting married on Christmas."
She said, "I didn't either."
We got to talking one time and I said, "The worse Christmas I ever had was when Louie got married."
She said, "Wasn't that terrible!"
- K. Well, Mother would hate the ranting and raving. It just hurt her when people would.
- M. It just tore me apart. Poor Mother just laid on the couch exhausted from it all. I thought, my, why all this?
- H. Your Christmas didn't amount to much anyway. All you had was one little gift, no Christmas tree, no Christmas traditions.

¹⁴ Discussion changes to Mollie's sister here.

- M. I didn't even know what Christmas really meant. Because I was never trained in any religion. Nobody ever talked to me because Mother was too busy. I was the tail end, she was exhausted.
- H. Mother talked about, that she would take these things, liquid medicine that women would take.
- M. Oh, _____ vegetable compound, yes.
- H. But they would have a lot of alcohol or opium in those days.
- K. Mother told me about the time your mother had the tapeworm and she had to take all, what was it?
- M. All those terrible pills.
- K. First of all she took opium to put the thing to sleep. Then she took kerosene. Then she took not castor oil, but the other one that's worse.
- M. Is anything worse?
- K. Yeah, there's something, Croton oil. You take just a drop of it. I mean you can kill someone with it real easy. Because the whole system goes into convulsion type of expelling. And that was the way you did it. You took one thing to put it to sleep. I think it was kerosene.
- M. She was just out.
- K. Then your stool had to be examined to be sure they got the head. But she got it from when they made up the sausage, she'd taste the pork to see if she got it seasoned right.
- M. That's right.
- H. But she always told you girls never to take this medicine they had for women because you worked down your strength.
- M. She did. I don't blame Mother, because I know she couldn't do anything. She never could sit. I read to my children of course. We talked about Christ. Nobody ever mentioned Christ to me. I never knew anything about it until _____
- K. You don't realize it. There's so many people that have no conception of a religion at all.
- M. I think that's one of the worse things that Everett was never raised.
- K. His father was Catholic though.

- M. And he was gone all the time taking care of sick people. He wouldn't let him join any other church. Billy Sunday had a big thing, you know a revival. Boys went to the revival. They were all going up and getting a board. He said he was getting on and a big hand stopped him and said, "Son, come with me." He turned around, it was his father. He said, "I decided then that Father didn't think much of Billy Sunday. Of course, we _____ in him as a joke. It's terrible! You know he'd start and he'd take his coat and then he'd take his vest off and then he'd take his tie off and then he'd take his shirt off. He'd get so excited it's a wonder he didn't die of a heart attack.
- K. Mother said when she and George were in Coldwater; Charlie, George, and she, and Grandfather went, I think it was to Battle Creek. This was some time later. It would be some time near World War I. Because it was before she got so sick from having me. Might have been in 1915 or 16. No, I bet it wasn't either. I bet it was in the 20's some time. No it couldn't have been. They went in the horse and buggy. It was a long trip. It would take them quite a few hours to get there. Anyway, they got there and he was older and he started ranting, Billy Sunday did, about religion and so forth. He kept going on and on and on. She said, after a while Billy's Sunday's wife just got up and handed him his coat and his hat and said, "That's all Billy," and he came off the stage. It must have been, I don't know how early, cars were a thing. But they got on the wrong road. Charlie and George between them were real stubborn about asking anybody for help. It ended up they were going in the wrong direction. They never got home until, I don't know what hour in the morning. Mother always said, you know, to point out because she liked it. Because I'd get mixed up when she'd travel with me sometimes. I might be hesitant about which direction. I'd just pull into a filling station and go in and ask. She'd say, "You're so different from your father." Then she told me about Billy Sunday. Grandfather, Uncle Charlie, and Daddy; those three men all knew their own mind and knew exactly how to get there. That was it.
- H. We were talking about Louie and Arch got married.
- M. Now, Bessie was their oldest daughter.
- H. What kind of life did they have together?
- K. Hard. Don't you remember that far?
- H. Yeah, I do.
- M. Not very good.
- H. As soon as they were married, where did they go to live? Did he just work for someone? Did they go to Heartscrabble?
- K. They didn't get Heartscrabble until after your father and mother died, did they?
- H. They might have worked it.

- M. No. I think maybe they did move up there. They went up to Wisconsin and bought a place. And lost it. They should have taken Father with them to pick out land because he was smarter than Arch was. But he would rant and rave too much. So that's the trouble with people when they rant and rave they drive people away. Then I know they were poor in _____ and they went out on the farm. John left the farm.
- K. Out on the homestead.
- M. John and Arch didn't do right. Arch was a good farmer. I have to give him credit for that. He was better than John as a farmer. Of course, Louie was a typical farmer's wife. She worked like a dog, you know. She'd milk the cows and feed the pigs and all that sort of thing. So anyhow, they lived there and then Father decided he was going to back out on the farm, when I was a junior in high school. So I think they went up to Heartscrabble and rented that farm.
- H. From her father then. And it wasn't very good land. It was hilly.
- M. I guess maybe they went to the Truett farm and rented the Truett farm, the Banker's farm.
- H. That was across from
- M. Up there in Heartscrabble. Well, it was on Yankee Street. That's where Robert died.
- K. He had, what was it, dyptheria?
- M. Ruptured appendix
- K. Oh, that's right. He was a boy of about 10 or something, wasn't he when he died?
- H. Twelve or somewhere in there.
- M. They called the doctor up in _____ lake. Instead of coming to see him, he sent him some medicine, which was a laxative.
- K. Oh, Lord.

- M. So then they called Dr. Harry Thomas and it was muddy, terrible and he couldn't get out. So he said, "I think we ought to send him to the hospital."
 I suppose he had a hunch something was _____ because the pain was kind of gone. So they put him in a wagon. They couldn't use a car. They took him down to where the roads were gravel in a wagon. Then they brought him to St. Francis. Harry Thomas called Collins in, who was a surgeon. Louie wanted everything examined on him. Harry said to Everett, "It sounds like it's ruptured and he's got a pair of knives." He said, "Oh, no Collins wouldn't operate if he had a pair of knives." Everett said, "I don't give a damn if he would operate or wouldn't operate, I think that's what he's got."
 If Everett believed something, he believed it. So Collins operated. Everett said when they opened him it went swish under pressure. He just very quietly turned to Harry Collins and said, "He has appendicitis." When Everett came home he said, "You know, there wasn't any chance they could do anything for him."
 As they walked out of the operating room, Harry Thomas said to him, "You know you're just like your father, when you think something you just won't change your mind." Everett said, "When you're right, you can't change your mind."
- K. How old was he?
- M. About 12 years old. Robert was like Bessie. They were smart. Raymond was smart but he was _____ in the wrong field. Bessie never knew it, when he went to school in _____, Illinois, a professor said to him, "You know what you should be? You should be an accountant." He had a wonderful mathematic mind. Louie had a marvelous mathematic mind. Bessie had a marvelous mathematic mind. Raymond had no personality.
- K. Wasn't he trying to be in sales?
- M. He was trying to be an agriculturist.
- H. He got his degree from the University of Illinois.
- K. He was married to Mary Louise. He came back from World War II and got a divorce and married this other woman. But he had two children by Mary Louise.
- H. Daughter and a son, wasn't it?¹⁵
- M. They never hear from Robert, I don't think.
- K. And the son was Robert.
- M. And then the girl divorced the fellow she married.

¹⁵ Mary Kay Kent and Robert Kent.

* * * * *
End of side #2 of tape #1
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- H. _____ Bessie Kent.
- M. And she married William Price.
- K. He was a salesman.
- H. She was 47 and that was her first marriage.
- M. He lived eight years.
- H. They were married eight years.
- K. Then he died of cancer. Then about two years later, wasn't it, she married Terry Reilly.
- M. He was a diamond of them all. I think that's what you'd have to call him.
- H. I had dinner at your house, Mother and I evidently, and they were there. I don't know what the occasion was.
- M. I looked a little scant at him had he, I think, looked a little scant at me. But after I got to know him, and after Bessie kind of shined up the diamond in the rough, he was a pretty nice fellow. I think she was happier with him than she was with any of them, because he loved ballet, he loved opera. He had very fine likes.
- K. He wasn't a beer and football on TV.
- M. No. I think Bessie did a lot for him because she brought him out of that inferiority that he had gotten from his first wife. He didn't know how to dress and Bessie said to him, "You're hard to fit. We'll take you down and you'll get a tailored suit. Once she got him all _____ he came out of that inferiority complex. He had two sons by his first wife. One son married a Puerto Rican girl. Very nice girl, but he had a little _____. He always thought people were kind of picking, I guess. Well, they finally got a divorce. They had a boy and a girl, but the other son was a very nice boy. They were transferred from a bank in Chicago out to Los Angeles. He has a good banking job in Los Angeles. They have no family. She lost every pregnancy. Bessie was really fond of this Puerto Rican girl. She was red headed. She had a boy and a girl. But she finally couldn't live with him, his mental condition.
- H. Then he died from a heart attack.
- M. Right out in the yard.

- H. It was soon after I was here. Because I had spoken to her about, - - I felt, he acted much like Merritt did. It wasn't very long after that, that he just died. They thought about getting him to a heart specialist, you know.
- M. He had gone to college. He had two or three years of college. I met his folks at the funeral when we came down. He had a sister who was a nun. They were very fine, down to earth people. Very good people. I thought they were very nice. Bessie said he was kind of the black sheep of the family. He didn't seem to succeed as well as the others.
- H. He worked for the institution for the state. So he had a retirement income. Then when he died, she continued to
- M. Until she married the second time.
- K. Third time. Her third husband, she married about another two to three years later, wasn't it?
- M. They weren't married only about two years. She was retired when she married him.
- K. What was his name? He was retired, too.
- H. He was quite a bit older, I think, than she.
- M. She was over 65.
- H. His first wife had died of cancer and of all things he didn't want to have a second wife die of cancer.
- M. But he was a very selfish person. When she was in the hospital he came up and would stay about ten minutes about.
- H. A very nervous person.
- M. Oh, terrible. And when you'd talk to him he'd tell you how much he was suffering.
- K. From her being in the hospital.
- M. All he was going through. I thought, My God, but what is this girl going through?
- H. You said you like to talk about her because she's such a nice person and you were telling about her helping her mother, but that didn't get on tape because the tape ran out.
- M. She was so good to me. She called me every night to see if I was all right. If she was going out in the evening, she'd call me early.
- H. This is when you lived in Peoria.

- M. When I had the fire, I went over there and stayed until I got my balance and came back. My spark plugs exploded. The second time in Peoria that they ever exploded.
- K. In the car?
- M. No, in the house.
- H. Not spark plugs.
- M. Fuses. I heard this noise. I thought it was two cars that had hit out in front. There wasn't any cars out there when I went to look to see what happened. Then I opened the basement door. The flames were shooting. I called the fire department. In no time they were there and everybody else was there with them. It didn't do too much of a damage. My air conditioner, it damaged that. It wasn't any good anyhow, so I got a new air conditioner.
- H. It was pretty much confined to the basement?
- M. Yeah, only I had the smoke damage. I made them re-paint my house and clean my furniture, because I paid insurance on this.
- H. The only fire you ever had. You said, Bessie and Raymond had fine mathematical minds.
- M. The best.
- H. And it was a shame that Raymond took agricultural instead of an accountant.
- M. Because he didn't have a strong personality.
- K. Well, he ended up working for the company.
- M. He was a supervisor for Caterpillar. He had a pretty good job. He started in just as a workman there, but he was too smart. They picked him up for a supervisor.
- H. He graduated from college in the middle of the depression.
- K. Wasn't he in the Air Force? Or was he in the Army?
- M. No, in the Army. He was a captain in the Army. He was a little wild while he was in the Army. Because your Mother had somebody that was in camp. He said, "You know what? There's a fellow that came up by where you live, Mrs. Snyder. He was my captain. He's captain _____." He said, "He and a lot of those lieutenants and captains sure have the gals." Bess never said a thing. She found _____. Then she got a divorce. But his wife was running around with a fellow, too.
- K. Mary Louise? I know that Aunt Louie thought a lot of Mary Louise.

- M. But Bessie went to see the children one time. She was getting something out of the closet and there was some men's clothes there. She just said to the children, "Oh, your mother has never gotten rid of _____ ."
- K. Well, this was after she was divorced then.
- M. They said, "Oh, that's the man's who comes and visits here." Bessie didn't say anything.
- K. Well, she was divorced. She didn't run around until after she was divorced.
- M. Well, no, I think, this was when he was still in the service.
- K. Well, the reason I didn't think so, because everybody was taking Mary Louise's part against Raymond.
- M. Oh, yes, but as Bessie said, "I found out something that other people didn't know." But anyhow, she got married again and she died of cancer. They had two children. Robert who is married. Donald stood up for them at the wedding. Bessie use to send him money and send the daughter money. He never admitted he ever got any money. He never came to see her. He never came to see Raymond. I don't know where he is. He graduated a college graduate. But he just dropped out of that _____.
- K. Where did he graduate from college?
- M. Out in California someplace. And the girl graduated from high school and she married her high school sweetheart. They had two children but they didn't get along. He was a _____, so they got a divorce and then she married this man. They live up in Seattle or _____ up in that lumber. He's a lumber man. He works as a lumberjack. They have one child. She had two boys, I guess, by her first husband. One of them is graduating from high school. Raymond and them went out to his graduation.
- K. She keeps in touch more than Robert does.
- M. Oh, yes. Robert don't.
- K. The daughter
- M. I can't think of her name.¹⁶
- H. I remember she came and she was the age of Keith and LeRoy and Jennine. So she must be close to 40 now. You were telling about Bessie helping her parents. Her father never wanted her to marry.
- M. Arch never wanted her to date. And I can tell you why. He was quite a rounder, Arch was. Your mother and I both know that.

¹⁶ Mary Kay Kent, born May 15, 1940.

- H. I think Mother's told me. He thought men were like that and he didn't want his daughter dating.
- M. I used to see him then. I went out with him one time. He was _____. He wanted me to go up in the woods. I said, "I will not go any place." I went home. Father always stuck up for him. Finally, I said to him, "Stick up for him no more." She couldn't hardly believe it what we found out afterwards. Bess had the same experience. When we got together one time, I said to her, "I don't think much of Arch." She said, "I didn't either." When she was teaching school, he came in her room. _____ but that just turned me against him. Poor Bessie. They were so religious. I couldn't tell Bessie. I never mentioned it. She said to me, "Father is so straight laced _____." John was a straight laced young man. To me he was just always a gentleman.
- H. He had high standards. I always felt he lived a very ridged life. If he married someone else, how different he might have been.
- M. Oh, he just lived terrible. You know, John came down to the funeral, of course. John never said much to Clyde, but when he went home, Will wrote Clyde a letter. He didn't come to the funeral. John wrote him a letter. Will just said that he was sorry that he knew _____. But John's letter was just beautiful. He had the capability of expressing his sympathy in such a way, I just treasured that.
- H. I had Uncle John give me away at my wedding. I always thought after my father died, it just seemed that he was the one.
- M. Yale is like him.
- H. Like John.
- M. He loves to come and visit with me because I talk with him.
- H. There's so many people that never get into the right kind of job to reach their potential.
- K. I always thought that John would have made a good minister.
- M. Yes, he loved people.
- K. And he didn't seem to find fault with people.
- M. Oh, no.
- K. He accepted them more or less as they were. Ida couldn't accept her boys as they were. They were all _____.

- M. She just couldn't believe. She just had all the faith in the world in those boys and they were all wilder than _____. Now I can see. I talk to Yale and I think, well, you drank plenty.
- H. She always told me that she and dad, even though she never interfered. They backed each other up and settled it outside of the children's hearing. Because she said that was the ruination of those boys. Ida couldn't believe any wrong with them. They didn't work together raising and discipline of the boys. She always reminded me, when I was raising my children, back up Merritt in raising those children. Didn't do to have divided parents. You said Bessie bought Arch, their parents, their clothes
- M. I think she paid for their refrigerator. I don't think anybody else had any money. She was just so good to them. The thing that I always admired, was that Louie always appreciated it. My kids, you know, they loved to go visit Louie. Because she'd laugh. Pat had long hair and she got it in the fly paper. Louie just laughed about it and she cried. But they never wanted to go to Aunt Kitty's because Aunt Kitty was a lot sterner than Aunt Louie. She'd make them work.
- H. Yes, I know. Aunt Kitty and I seemed some how we got along well together for some reason. There were hired men there and things were happening. I didn't mind. I was used to working. Evidently, I was a different type of personality that I thought a lot of Aunt Kitty. I didn't know about all the others.
- M. Poor Kitty.
- H. How she use to plan her day.
- M. And if she couldn't get it done, she was frustrated. She planned more than any human being could ever do.
- H. Well, she'd take a long time to sit down and plan out.
- M. Oh, yes.
- H. But I recognize those symptoms now, because after Merritt died and I was having such a time to adjust to living again. I had to plan things and write them out. I remember Kathryn was going to take me traveling and to get everything wound up so that all my finances and everything would be taken care of. Decision making was difficult.
- M. The hardest thing really for me after Everett died, after the grief and the shock and everything, was finances to take care of. To go down and have to talk to a lawyer and going to the bank. You see, he did all of it. I didn't do any of it.
- H. It's hard when you're not mentally or physically at your best to make decisions in your life.

- M. I had a nice lawyer. He was very kind. He didn't push me. I said to him, "You know, you're just going to have to talk to an awful dumb individual." Because I didn't know anything about money.
He said, "We'll get along." So we did.
- H. Now we're going to talk about Kitty who married Clyde McMillen in 1912. But before that she had a long standing romance for five years with ...
- M. George Jones, who was a nephew of Mrs. _____. He had a sister, Lydia, who was a friend of your mother's, so that complicated things, too.
- H. What was the complication?
- M. He was a nephew of Mrs. _____ who caused a scandal. But George was a handsome young man. But with a very bad disposition. A very critical person. But anyhow, they went together and he worked over on the Santa Fe, in the office. That was very proper and always well groomed. I think his mother had died, see, and she was a sister to this Mrs. _____ that caused the trouble. But they lived next door. Well, they went together for a long, long time. Then Kitty for some reason decided she was going to take some religion. _____. He was an Episcopalian. She had gotten very friendly with an Episcopalian priest in Chilicothe. She said to Mother she thought she'd take instructions in the Episcopal church.
So poor Mother, still Catholic, said to her, "Why don't you take instructions in my religion? Which I haven't kept up, but will someday, if God's willing. If I have time to." She said, "Well, maybe I should."
So she went up and I use to go with her to Father Hayden. She'd go up in the evening and take these instructions. So she decided to join the Catholic church. He would have no part of anybody _____
- H. He was involved in becoming a Mason wasn't he? Of course, they didn't believe in having anything to do with Catholics.
- K. Not at that time.
- M. Now that's all talk, too. But anyhow, after that she almost went into a nervous breakdown when she broke up with him. But she stuck to her religion and they broke up. I don't know what ever happened to him. _____ Uncle Wilson. If the Catholic religion didn't do anything else, it saved her from George Jones. Because he had a terrible disposition.
- H. I know Mother spoke about they went together for five years.

- M. Then she went to teach school in _____ a little town. It was a two teacher school. A nice little small town. She taught, I think, the first grades and he taught the upper grades and that's where they met. Then his mother was very anti-Catholic. So, that set another problem. Mother said, "Kitty, why do you get yourself involved in somebody that don't like your religion? If you're going to keep your religion, why don't you go and at least date the Catholic boys."
- Clyde wasn't so bitter, but his mother was. I suppose she had been raised to be bitter. I mean, you know, people are to be pitied. But bigotry was terrible on both sides. So anyhow, Clyde and Kitty got married by Father Hayden and I stood up for them, I was the witness in the parish house. Before they were married, Clyde's mother made him promise faithfully that he'd never join the Catholic church and Clyde being a very dutiful son promised.
- He told me later, "I regretted it, the longest day I live."
- But he promised her and he felt he had to live to that promise, which I don't think anybody should be required to live to a promise that's forced on you. But anyhow, Donald was raised a Catholic and Clyde never interfered at all. He took her to church. He went to church once in a while, I guess. He took her to church, but when she would get into these spells, he's take her to church and she wouldn't get out. He'd go in and talk to Father Spaulding. He was very conscientious.
- He said, "Clyde, you can't do anything about that. She's not well. So, just take her home and when she gets better she'll be all right." He went through this time and time and time again.
- H. About every seven years she'd go into this depression.
- M. So Donald was raised and still is and his wife is a convert. Not until after they were married. And their children are all Catholics.
- H. Back in Aunt Kitty's early life, did she get kicked by a horse?
- M. She fell on the rocks, she was thrown from a horse. Of course, Mother always said she never was the same.
- K. Well, that's what Mother said. Mother said that before that she was all right.
- M. Of course, I can't remember.
- K. No, but Mother said before that Kitty was all right and it was only after she had that fall.
- M. I suppose she had brain damage.
- K. I imagine so.
- H. Of all the people who shouldn't have gone, she went and worked in a mental institution. What was the name of that?

- M. Well, she taught school in Chilicothe. She taught seventh grade. She had some of the worse kids. You talk about kids now. They were just the big bruisers, you know, big bully's. They wouldn't do anything you wanted. Vivian was in her room, Everett's sister. And Vivian said they really would try to _____ anybody. She had a nervous breakdown. That was her first big breakdown.
- H. Was that her first teaching job?
- M. No, she taught in the country school and got along fine. She just had too much discipline. Then she wasn't well and I suppose breaking up with George didn't help matters.
- K. So, she already had a breakdown before she married Clyde.
- M. Oh, yes.
- H. This was before. So, she had this breakdown after teaching seventh grade. After she recovered from the breakdown, is that when she went to . . .
- M. _____ to this little town and taught school.
- H. When did she work at the institution?
- M. I think it was between the time that she had the nervous breakdown and then went back to teach school in _____. And of all places to go to _____ Aunt Annie knew this Dr. _____ who was head of _____ the mental institution. We went down and I was about 14, I guess. Some woman dashed down the steps and threw her arms around me. Of course, she scared me to death!
She said, "Oh, my lost daughter!"
Then some nurse came and got her. Then I think she got this job in _____ which discipline wasn't so _____. I think she was a good teacher but she had to teach people who wanted to learn. She was trying to teach them poetry and to appreciate poetry.
- H. This is the seventh grade.
- K. She was probably teaching better off with her first, second, and third.
- M. That's what she was teaching in _____. Then they got married and they went off for _____. That's where Donald was born. Then they moved on to our farm or farmstead. That's when Clyde was attacked by a bull. They could never have any more children. That did something to the testicles or something. Well, she felt - everything seemed to affect her so. She could never get over that hump and accept it, that was your life's course and you'd just had to take it. Then she had a breakdown when she found out she could never have any more children.
- H. The seven years had rolled around too, all this.

- M. Yes, I suppose. She said to Aunt Louisa, "If I ever have to go through that again, I'll commit suicide. I cannot go through it again."
- H. That depression.
- M. She had one when Mother died and we were so worried about her because we thought maybe she would just go haywire. So, we asked Dr. Thomas. He said, "She'll either jerk out of it, you know, come out of it and be all right, or she'll get worse. You can only wait and see." She came out of it. Well, she got along pretty well for the next seven years. Then they brought her down to Everett. Everett didn't like that, of course. So he took her in and talked to her. He said she's smart, she's _____ she's just a step ahead of you every time if she can get ahead of you. So, then he called Clyde and Donald in and he said, "I'm sorry that I have to tell you this, but she is a potential suicide. My advice to you is to put her in a mental institution for treatment." They said, "How can we take her?" He said, "Plain clothes her, take her and force her." Well, they just couldn't make their mind up to do it. So, they didn't take her. One day she came to Peoria. She bought some arsenic.
- K. Rat poison.
- M. I suppose she told them she was going to kill bugs or something, you know on the farm. They weren't so strict then.
- H. That was in the spring of '41.
- M. _____.
I said, "Well, how are you?" She said, "I'm fine, I'm just fine." She sounded like the old Kitty, see. When Everett came home I said, "Kitty called up and she's just fine." He said, "Beware!" I said, "What do you mean, beware?" He said, "I don't like it. She's _____." Did you know what she did? She called me to throw me off that she was fine. But the next morning, right after _____ Clyde called me and said Kitty's dead. She had ironed curtains and she had taken them and laid on those curtains. She never done that, you know, if she was herself, after she ironed them. So then they found her and she was dead. Then they called the undertaker. I had known the undertaker. I went to school with him. I was up there with Clyde and Donald. He called me and said, "I want to talk to you." He said, "Did you know your sister committed suicide?" He said, "She cut her throat and was just burned terrible." And he said, "This poor man is just fit to be tied." And he said, "I had to tell somebody, but I thought I'd tell you." I never thought I could take things, but I guess I took them. I said, "Well, what do you think I should do?"

He said, "I think you ought to talk to them, to Donald."

Donald was terribly _____. They always felt so guilty that they didn't do what Everett told them to do.

K. Well, if she was bound on it, she could have committed suicide anyway. Of course, they might have been able to help her. But suicides often times will try four, five, or six times.

M. In this day and age they might have done x-rays and brain scans and might have found that there was a pressure someplace.

But anyhow, I went out and Tony said to me, "I'd like to talk to you."

So then he talked to me. I didn't tell him _____.

I said, "It's not your fault Clyde."

I said, "You lived through a terrible, terrible _____."

He did say she wouldn't talk to anybody. She was going to take care of Kay when Pat was born.

John called me and said, "You can't let Kay go out there. She's in one of these breakdowns and you don't know what she might do."

Well, there I was going to have this baby. Of course, Everett's mother wouldn't take care of her. So we got some woman to take care of her. Because I was afraid to take her out there. I was afraid she might hurt her.

K. She was buried in a Catholic cemetery. They never published it as suicide, did they?

M. Nobody outside of the family knew that she committed suicide, unless somebody else _____.

H. Now, the priest knew.

M. Well, Donald had gone to confession. It worried him because he wondered if we should have had her buried from the church, because they were rather strict.

Father Spaulding said to me, "No, she didn't commit suicide."

Then I was very silent towards him and I didn't say anything. I didn't say she did or she didn't.

Then it worried me and I worried and I worried until finally Everett said, "If you don't go to some priest and talk to him, I'll go to this priest because you're going to have a nervous breakdown yourself crying over it."

I was president of St. Ceceilia's _____ school.

One day I said to Father John, "I have to talk to you or my husband's going to be mad at me." He couldn't imagine _____ I told him.

He said, "Were you there?"

I said, "No."

He said, "Did you see the burned throat?"

I said, "No."

He said, "You don't know that she committed suicide."

K. Even if she did she was of unsound mind.

M. They've changed that you know. Poor Donald and I, we had some _____

- H. Donald had heard about the burned throat. Had Clyde?
- M. Yes.
- H. Clyde's dead now, isn't he?
- M. Yes. Clyde had cancer. He always had stomach _____. I think he always had. Maybe he had cancer for a long time. He was so thin. You know, he was a very smart man and very much of a gentleman, but he was so quiet that people really didn't appreciate him.
- H. They didn't get a chance to know him.
- M. No. He use to come and talk to me. The woman he married was a good enough woman, but she was very possessive. She had a grandson that was an only child. Her son's son, Father Collins. Well, what did he do, he went to Illinois to school. He was very musical. He got interested in the _____ and he joined the Catholic church. Well, you would have thought he committed somebody's murder, that he was going to the penitentiary. It drove Clyde crazy. Of course, Clyde had been softened to Catholicism. When his son, he loved dearly, was one. He had very much sympathy.
- K. He had contact with the priest and they had been helpful.
- M. Yes. So, he come to talk to me.
I said, "Don't be too hard on her." Her folks before her were bitter. They were very bitter against Catholicism. Because I went to school with a sister of hers. That was before I was ever a Catholic.
So I said, "Don't be too hard on her."
But then he not only joined the Catholic church, but didn't he become a priest! Well! That was just the worst thing that she could take.
I said, "She'll just have to live with it."
I don't know how she's going to. So, Father Collins would come and see her and bring another priest with him and visit with her. It was his grandmother. Honest to God, she wasn't so bitter. They were pretty nice young men. So that kind of quieted down. Then she got sick. Of course, Hazel, that was Clyde's sister, was pretty Anti, - too. Father Collins came to see his grandmother when she was dying. He went in and nobody else was around. And he stayed a long, long time.
When he came out, he only made the remark, "Grandmother is gone. She's in heaven."
Well, Hazel rode home with me and she said to me, "Do you suppose he converted her?"
I said, "I have no idea. It's none of my business."
- K. So Clyde's second wife died.

- M. His wife died. I think she was buried from a Protestant church. I think Father _____ . I swear he did. So then Clyde wasn't well. That was before she died. Clyde died before she did. She wasn't able to take care of him. So Donald came back and flew him out to California. They put him in a hospital close to where they lived. Sara Lee was a nurse and she use to go up and take care of him and was very good to him.
I remember Donald said to me, "I was with him when he died and he said to _____."
I suppose Clyde would have gone into the church with Kitty and he always felt that that would save her.
- K. It would have taken away one stress point.
- M. So they brought him back and buried him.
- K. With Kitty. He wife was still alive.
- M. His wife's first husband had died. She was buried with him. She didn't live very much longer. But I can remember I was always getting in where people were so Anti and I will just not fight religion. I think it's the silliest thing I ever heard of.
- K. It's purely a personal thing. If you could help somebody, they want to know or something like that. But you can't force religion no more than you can force people to accept people because they're black, green or purple or white.
- M. You have to have a certain amount of sympathy in your makeup to accept people. You can't drive that into people. I always admired Clyde. I think they thought that was a funny combination, Clyde and I, because I was suppose to be the _____ family.
- K. And he was the strong silent type.
- H. We were talking about Donald married Sara Lee.
- M. She was a nurse. Sara Lee had a hard life. Her mother and father had separated. Her father was very _____ individual. They met on a bus. Donald was someplace and he was going back to the university. She was a nurse up at Berkley and they rode together on the bus and met each other. They visited all the way up from _____ I think. That's how their romance began.
- H. He must have been working on his Masters then out there in Berkley.
- M. Uh huh. Then he went to Davis and got his Doctors degree.
- H. In Agriculture.

- M. He never told his sons that he had a Doctors degree.
Some professor called up one night and said, "Is Dr. McMillen there?"
Hal said, "No Dr. McMillen lives here."
When he hanged up the phone Hal said, -- he was just a boy 14 or so -- "Some guy called here wanted to know if a Dr. McMillen lived here."
Donald said, "What did you tell him?"
I said to him, "No Dr. McMillen lives here."
Sara Lee said, "I told you the children would find out someday. That somebody would want you and they'd call and they'd call you doctor."
So then he had to tell the kids he had a Doctors degree.
- K. How many children did he have?
- M. He had two boys. Micky is the oldest.
- K. Micky's where?
- M. Out at Stanford at the research. Hal is a hospital manager, lives out in Washington. Has a hospital in some small town near Washington, D. C.
- K. Near Virginia then, or Baltimore, I mean Maryland.
- M. Someplace in there. He married a girl up in Minnesota about three years ago. She left him. Donald was just broken hearted about the whole thing, but you know he just can be broken hearted but it doesn't do any good.
- H. Now, Micky is a son doing research at Stanford then?
- M. He married a girl who went to St. Mary's when he was going to Notre Dame. He graduated from Notre Dame. Then they got married. I went to their wedding up in, I think, Northern California. Then he was in the service in Washington doing research. It bothered him terribly because he was doing research on ammunition. He didn't want to research the various kinds of _____. It bothered him to think of war and try to make better bullets. Then he got out of the Army and went back to Stanford. That's where he graduated and where he took a lot of his other degrees. He's a nice young man but he's a typical research man. They are a certain type of person, I think.
- K. Well, he might take after Clyde.
- M. They are perfectionists to begin with. They have to be.
I asked about Donald, I said to Micky, "How's Donald's _____?"
"Well, now if you want to know their health or _____."
All I wanted to know was how they were.
Kay was with me and she said to me afterwards, "We didn't find out much, did we?"
"No, we didn't find out very much."
His wife is a very nice young lady. She has a beautiful voice.

K. Did they have any children?

M. One little girl. She's a little girl but she's a grown up girl because she meets just adult people. That's the trouble. It's kind of sad, I think. Children don't get to be children. Then Patty is the girl. She graduated from St. Mary's. She didn't want to go to a Catholic school so she went to Santa Barbara. She wanted to get into Santa Barbara and she got in with some girls that Patty didn't like some of the things they were doing.

So her father said, "Well, do you want to change colleges?"

So she went to St. Mary's. She met this young man at Notre Dame. Then she didn't, then she wanted him. But he was crazy about her. He was going to be a dentist. His father and mother were school teachers. I don't think they had much but they were sacrificing to send him to Notre Dame. He was going to be a dentist. When he broke up with Patty, he gave up the dentistry. Well, he finished Notre Dame and he works for United Airlines in the office. He used to meet Donald and have lunch with him. Donald was very fond of him. Poor Sara Lee had an idea that her daughter should marry somebody that had money for some reason, I don't know. Some of these mothers have funny ideas. I never thought my girls should marry money. I just thought they should marry a good guy that wasn't lazy and would work. But Sara Lee had that idea. Patty was a very attractive girl and very capable girl. She could sew. She could cook. She could do a lot of things. But anyhow, this boy kept after her. She finally married him. They didn't have any children and they adopted a little boy. His mother flew this little ten day old baby over to Honolulu, where they were living and he was working for the United Airlines so that they could adopt this baby. The year after they adopted him, she got pregnant. Now she's got two little boys. The one that was adopted has a very nice disposition. But the little boy of her own is a little devil. You know, over active. He's not still a minute. So, they have two little boys, but I went to this wedding of Hal's. I was very proud of Hal. He is a very kind person. In Minnesota. I went in and, of course, there was a bunch of college kids there. All this long hair and mustaches. That just throws me off. I saw a young man over there, very well groomed.

I thought, there's a nice young man, so I said to Donald, "Who's that nice young man standing over there?"

He said, "That's my son-in-law."

I said, "Oh. He just stands out. The other kids were kind of sloppy."

He said, "Go tell my wife that."

I looked at him, I said, "Why?"

He said, "I'm very fond of him. I think he's a very fine young man. Sara Lee has never quite _____ . I don't know what's wrong with her."

So I ended up going to tell her what I thought of this young man. When I met him, I wasn't a bit discouraged. He is a very fine young person. I thought _____ . It's like the fellow _____ going to marry. He is the nicest young man. I mean he just stands out. He's always well groomed. His hair isn't real long.

K. I don't mind having long hair, it's taking care of yourself.

M. Yes, if they don't get this sloppy stuff.

K. _____ went overseas.

- M. No, we didn't talk much about his. Of course, he wasn't home much. He came home. There was a big celebration when they came home. Mother didn't go down to meet him. She said she'd wait until he came up to the house. So, he came up to the house. He didn't stay very long. I guess he went back to the managing of that farm. Then he got married soon after. I don't know whether he went to _____ I think after he was married. Because there wasn't any place to live on that farm. He had a cabin that he lived in but there wasn't any house. He had a cave that he kept his food in.
- K. For cooling.
- M. He boarded over at a neighbors.
- K. Was it up in the mountains or down flat or up in the hills?
- K. No, it was, you go up a lot of mountains and then there's that flat plateau. It was 640 acres ranch.
- K. So, it was quite high.
- M. Yes. And I taught school not to far from him.
- K. Then he left there?
- M. Then he left and I was left up there alone. Then I came back to San Francisco. Then I came home and taught school in Chilicothe.
- K. That was when he went overseas that he left you. Then he came back to that same ranch. Did it have a name? Do you remember?
- M. No, I don't think so. He raised quite a bit of cattle and as I remember he had a very high pedigree bull. It almost killed him. It got him in a stall and squeezed him, crushed him to death. He finally he was agile enough that he could get over to a wall. So then he left and went to _____, California where he was a farm advisor for _____ county.
- K. That's when he got his government job as farm advisor. Was that for California or Washington, Federal?
- M. California. It's south of San Francisco.
- K. I know, it's in the valley there. The San _____ valley was more or less was what he was over.
- M. So, he worked there. He had a radio program every morning, an agriculture program. That's what he went down to do, the day he had the _____.
- K. He did that all these years.

- M. Then they went to different small towns at night and he'd give lectures. For a person who never talked much he did a lot of talking.
- K. But only in the line of duty.
- M. Business.
- K. I visited out there and he didn't talk much, but he had a sense of humor. He felt like he was talking to you when he was just sitting there. He didn't just _____ off quiet in a corner. You never felt like he was shutting you out but he just didn't say much. Well, Mother was the same way. She never felt like she was shutting you out, she just listened. That was the way with Will. He married Marion and they have two children. The boy and the girl. All those years. That was a long time he was in. He must have been close to retirement when he died.
- M. Yes, but they didn't have any pension money.
- K. No pension money. State employee and no pension plan?

* * * * *

End of tape #2, side A

* * * * *

- M. I suppose she could get it. Could she get it now?
- K. I imagine so at her age.
- M. She could get what I get anyhow. I think Marion has a hard time. She had her house and she had her car.
- K. She had a student usually or a nurse or somebody or a couple of nurses or a couple of teachers and they had room and boarding privileges. She always seemed to have nice people.
- M. Yes, she did.
- K. I was there several times after he died when I was out in California. When I came back from Okinawa I stopped and saw her again.
- M. But she never had any pension, but now they have a pension. I don't think
- K. I doubt it, because they always take so much out of your pay for that.
- M. I almost died when I heard that.
- K. Well, maybe he put aside enough for annuities or something like that. She seemed to be getting along all right.

- M. I don't think he ever made an awful big salary.
- K. No, he probably wouldn't. Well, Bill, their son Bill, trained as an engineer, wasn't it?
- M. Engineer of highway. They built bridges and did the work _____.
- K. He married ...
- M. I can't think of her name.
- K. And they have two children.
- M. Lenore is her first name but I don't know what her last name is.
- K. Lenore. We have a Lenore in our family. They had the two children and Billy was their boy. He is a spastic, a birth injury.
- M. There were three children that had the same infection.
- K. Oh, it was an infection, not a birth injury.
- M. No.
- K. He was all right when he was born.
- M. He was fine until he was two years old.
- K. Oh, at two years old.
- M. Then during the war, three children in Fresno got this disease. One died, one came out of it without anything, but Billy.
- K. It was a nerve damage. I wonder if it was _____.
- M. I think it was because Kay had a friend that went out there in the service and they had a little boy and he had it. They called it _____. But he got better but there was always some brain damage.
- K. That's even more of a tragedy if they have a boy damaged that way.
- M. Will, you know, invented something to keep the bricks from falling on the ground.
- K. Some kind of support.
- M. He was like Father. They were kind of like inventors. He could have took a patent on that and made, I don't know how much money. Because they use it now on the brick. But he didn't. So he gave it to humanity.

- K. He was interested in helping the agricultural field. As long as he had enough money to take care of his family, he was all right.
- M. Of course, they went to college. That junior college there. It was a bad experience.
- K. I can't remember their daughter's name, right at the moment. I can see her face, but I can't remember her name. The daughter of William or Billy, I mean Bill. Will was your brother, Bill was his son, and Billy is Bill's son. Well, Bill's daughter you say, was younger than Billy, and she married and you heard she had twin sons.
- M. Last time I heard she had two sons, whether she has any more children, I don't know.
- K. I met her when I was out in California and she was a very nice young lady.
- M. I think he was a teacher someplace.
- K. See, Mother and I were there in '67. It was the last that Mother was out there. We saw Billy and his sister. I don't think she had married yet. But she was engaged, I think or just married. The girl that I can't remember her name.
- M. I can't remember her name.
- K. Then, Will had Bill and he also had a daughter. You think it's Susan, but we're not sure. She married a Fred Canton, who's Mormon.
- M. She's more of a Mormon than he is.
- K. Well, that's what you get when you convert. We're both converts, you might say. Anyway, I visited them with Mother back in '65. They had quite a few children and he's an airline pilot. They lived in this house that they just more or less got. They were planting trees and all this.
- M. They had acreage.
- K. Yeah. When Mother and I were there in '67, I don't think we got to see them.
- M. Had they gone to Salt Lake City, when?
- K. I think they had already gone to Salt Lake City.
- M. Up in Utah.
- K. Someplace. They had left. But we saw them in '65. I'm sure we didn't see them in '67. No, it wasn't '65, it was after the war that we saw them. I did take a trip down there because Mother came out and visited me. That was back in '58. Mother was 65 so it was '55 that Mother was out there. I think I drove her then to see them but I know we saw . . . Oh, it's hard to remember exactly when you did things. But Mother and I one time visited in their home. The Carlton home because I know I had a time trying to find it.

- M. They didn't live too far. They say isn't wasn't too far from Fresno.
- K. Yeah, but the Carlton's lived down around Los Angeles.
- M. Oh, yeah, that's right.
- K. And that's a dilly trying to find things. They were way out because they had a little acreage, too. I know we visited Donald and his wife. They had their new home when Mother and I visited. But when I had visited earlier, now wait a minute I had visited Donald one time when they were out and had quite a bit of acreage. They had lime trees, papaya trees and magnolia and sort of a house on a slope, acreage. When Mother and I visited, I think it was when I was stationed out there. But when Mother and I visited in '67, they had their modern home.
- M. In Pasadena. Now they're down in Newport.
- K. Can't keep up with people these days. That's Donald, Kitty's son.
- M. Well, now let's see.
- K. That's about all. Bill's daughter is in Salt Lake City area or he's in Utah. Is he still flying, do you know?
- M. I bet he's retired by now.
- K. Well, I would think so. Well, they still fly, you know, he was a pilot.
- M. I don't know, but he had studied for the real estate. He passed the board, that real estate test.
- K. I'm trying to think, if I'm 60 this year, she must be 50, because I wasn't 10 years older. Fred would be older.
- M. He was as old as Kay, I think. Kay's 55 like Harriette.
- K. Well, I bet he is retired and living in Utah.
- M. She turned 50 _____
- K. And he's older than she is. So I imagine if she's close to 60, he be retired. Well, that's about all we know, except Will died with an _____ on duty. Marion is living out there in the same house in _____.
- M. Yes, she was. That's where I visited her.
- K. And Bill died with cancer.
- M. Cancer of the lung. He was _____

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- M. I was born on that farm North of Chilicothe, 83 years ago in December. I went to a country school until I was in the third grade. Then we moved to town and I went to the town school in Chilicothe until I was in a Junior in high school. Then we moved back to the farm. Then when I was Senior we moved back to town. Then I lived in town until we moved to California. Then we lived in Berkley for two years. We had a house in Berkley.
- K. You went to school.
- M. I went to the university and Will was with us. Then when Will went to Davis when he had to go for a year, we moved into a little apartment.
- K. In Berkley.
- M. Mother and I because we didn't have much money so we didn't need all that space so we moved into this apartment. Then after Will graduated from the University of California we moved to San Jose and lived in a little house. I went to San Jose State College. It was a three year course, I think, because I had credits from the University of California, it only took me two years to finish. I graduated from there then I taught school in California in the mountains, up on Mt. Shasta. Will was near there. I stayed where they use to have the stagecoach stop and leave us. It was a German _____.
- K. You still had stagecoaches?!
- M. They didn't but then that's where they stayed and they fed them. This was a German family. She was a marvelous cook. Of course, I was suppose to be a very sloppy person.
- She would say to me, "I never had anybody keep their room as straight as you do."
I thought, if my folks would ever hear that, they would die. So I learned then to take care of things. Because I always had someone to pick up after me.
- K. And to take care of your clothes
- M. I knew they wouldn't last if I didn't. So then I taught one year in the mountains. I had one student in every grade.
- K. How many grades?
- M. Eight grades.
- K. So you had eight students?
- M. That's all I had.
- K. You should have done a good job of teaching.

- M. Oh, I tell you it was terrible. They had no competition, you know. Just one to a grade. Then I came back and taught school in Chilicothe two years, first grade.
- K. Well, Will had gone to war and your father had come back.
- M. Yep, my father had come back.
- K. So, your family moved right back to Chilicothe.
- M. The whole family moved back to the old homestead in Chilicothe.
- K. That was when the banker saw to it that your school in _____. Second grade was it?
- M. First grade. I taught two years. Then Mr. _____ president of the school board had a boy that was going into first grade. He called me out and wanted to see me and said, "Won't you teach here another year?" I said, "No, Doctors got his degree now and he's going to start practicing in Peoria medicines. He's rented an office." So we were married June 3rd.
- K. So when did you have your thyroid operation?
- M. I had that between the two years I taught in Chilicothe.
- K. One summer?
- M. Yes.
- K. Oh, I see. So you taught a year after you had the thyroid then you were married the following year.
- M. 1920. Mother died six months after.
- K. Oh, that's too bad. I was about three years old.
- M. I remember you were just a little thing.
- K. Did Mother bring me out to the funeral?
- M. Yes.
- K. It was Rose's funeral that she left us at home, I think.
- M. So November isn't a very good month for me because I lost Everett in November then I lost Mother. I always thought they were my two best friends. Mother got pneumonia.

- K. I don't know, I think it's worst to lose them in the spring when everything's blooming and coming forth. Well, of course, I lost my mother in the spring. Well, I lost Daddy all winter.
- M. He lasted quite awhile for being as bad as he was.
- K. Well, I don't think he gave up. I mean, you know, let loose until after Mother's birthday. You haven't told any stories about when you were growing up. Didn't you do anything that you remember?
- M. Oh, I watched the comet.
- K. Haley's comet?
- M. Uh huh. One night Everett, I and some of the kids. The next day I had chicken pox.
- K. Did you blame it on the comet?
- M. I don't know. But I remember I came down the stairs and Mother said, "You're all broken out!" I had chicken pox.
- K. Did Everett's family live near you?
- M. He lived down the street about four blocks.
- K. Oh, in Chilicothe.
- M. He was in my class. He was an ornery kid in school.
- K. You said previously that you and Will were ornery kids.
- M. We sure were.
- K. Did you do anything to earn a reputation?
- M. Yes, Louie could tell you, if she were alive.
- K. Well, you're going to have to do it.

- M. Louie and John stayed with Fosses when Mother and Father _____ out to Nebraska to funerals. So, we went to wade in the tanks for the horses to drink, but they wouldn't drink water in it, you know you waded in it. We'd waded in it. We were so dumb because then the horses wouldn't drink .
 _____ would say, "Now you kids have been wading in there."
 We'd say, "Oh, no, we wouldn't wade in there."
 He said, "You did too, because the horses won't drink."
 They'd have to empty that tank and wash it out. Louie use to do the baking, of course, and the cooking.
 She'd say to us, "Now fill up the wood box."
 Will would say to me, "We're not going to fill up the wood box."
 _____ fill up the wood box. She had a little piece of a big stick and she came after us. So, boy we filled the wood box. Oh, I think we were just aggravating. Or we'd be sent out to wash our feet at the cistern at the back porch. We'd pump the water but we'd keep our feet away from it.
- K. So they wouldn't get washed.
- M. Mother would hear the water running and she'd naturally think, and she'd say, "Why do these sheets get so dirty?" That's how ornery we were.
- K. Had to go though all the work, but wouldn't bother getting washed. Did you ever steal eggs?
- M. No, I use to have to hunt the eggs. One time I was hunting eggs and there was a bull in the pasture. It started after me and I ran up on a hay stack, rather a straw stack. Father came out and said, "Oh, he won't hurt you. Come on down."
 I said, "I'm not coming down until that bull goes away."
 He went hunting that straw stack, you know. So I just sat up there with my eggs. Father was so disgusted with me. Finally the bull walked off and went into another pasture. So I came down with the eggs.
 Of course, Father said, "He wouldn't hurt you."
 But I was scared of him.
- K. I think you were wise to be scared of him because too many people have been injured.
- M. I never got into as much trouble as Will because he use to work for Father, see, and he sometimes wouldn't do it. Then he'd get in trouble.
- K. Get thrashed, huh. Did you ever get a spanking?
- M. I think I did. I can't remember. They'd kind of push me aside and I'd crawl under the bed and I'd think, "I'll just stay here and they'll miss me and they'll wonder where I've gone."
 Well, I'd stay under it, you know, just about three minutes and I'd think it was an hour. I'd come out and nobody would pay any attention to me.
- K. They didn't even know you were gone.

- M. When Annie and Eleanor would come out in the summer. Aunt _____ and _____ would come out, she'd help Mother. They would can fruit and they'd butcher. They would take a lot of that back, because they were very poor. They'd run away from me because I was the youngest. I'd sit on that step out of the kitchen and cry because everybody ran away from me. They'd say, "I don't run away from her." _____ help any.
- K. She couldn't stop and play with you. Who did you play with besides Will?
- M. That was about all. There wasn't any children. One time Aunt Kitty and Rose took me down to the creek.
Mother said to them, "Now don't let her fall into the creek."
I was only about three or four. I fell into the creek, of course. They didn't watch me and I went into the creek. So they took all my clothes off and hung them on trees in the sun and let them dry and let me run around naked. Of course, I don't remember. Rose told me about it. So, I was a nudist at one time.
- K. Did you ever slide on the hay in the barn?
- M. Oh, yes.
- K. From what I remember, that was bad for the hay.
- M. Yes, it was bad for the hay. I remember one time Eleanor McKinley was up there. I think she really broke her wrist. She was scared of her mother, to tell her that she hurt her wrist. So we pretended. It was her right. So she and I ate with our left hand. She had to and I did it because it was a game. Mother would say, "Would you quit doing that, girls, and eat with your right hand?" But she never found out. I guess that was just a fracture.
- K. Just a _____. They do heal often at times. What did you do in the winter time?
- M. Went to school. Walk a mile. It would snow, you know, it would freeze on top. It was so much fun to walk on top of it.
- K. As long as you don't go through it.
- M. Every now and then you'd go down.
So, Mother said to them, "Now, watch Mollie that she doesn't get in the snow. And don't walk on top of the snow."
Well, I'd walk on top of the snow and I'd go down.
My mother would say, "We have to get her out."
Will would say, "Just let her stay there." Of course, he'd come and they'd pull me out.
- K. Then you'd get to school and you'd be all wet.

- M. Another thing they had a coal mine up north of us. Sam _____ use to haul the coal from there to Chilicothe.
- K. That was that family that was so poor.
- M. Yes. So, she'd say, "Now don't ride in the coal wagons because you'll get all dirty." It'd be so cold, you know. He'd come along and stop and say. "Come on, get in. You're freezing to death." So, we'd get in. Then we couldn't understand why Mother knew we got in the coal. I'll be darned. He'd always sing, "Mollie, I and the Baby." I couldn't stand that song. He'd always be singing it to me every time we'd get in the coal wagons. He was a nice man though. We did a lot of things. Of course, in the summer we could cut across. Go through the fields and get to school and it wasn't quite as far but when you had to go down that lane, go around the bend.
- K. All around big curves and back up. I remember seeing it. That was the same school you all taught in, wasn't it?
- M. They taught. Your Mother taught in it and Louie taught in it. I never taught in it. Will and I had our picture taken on it the last time he was home. _____ He died shortly after that. He was bad then.
- K. You never ate green apples?
- M. I suppose we did. I never picked _____

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- H. We're going to talk about Bessie.¹⁷
- M. Well, Bessie was the even tempered girl.
- K. Quiet.
- M. Quiet. She was Mother's stand-by. You know, Mother could depend on her. She couldn't depend on _____ and Kitty was just too nicey nice. She was always kind of _____.
- K. She was a quite a bit older than Bessie, wasn't she?
- M. Yes, I think she was.
- K. Mother was born in 1890. How much older was Kitty? Two, three, four years older?

¹⁷ Mollie's Sister, mother of Harriette and Kathryne

- M. I think so.
- K. That would make quite a difference in age gap there.
- M. You see, Kitty changed. She was trying to reform us all. Bessie and Kit got along.
- K. Bessie got along with everybody.
- M. Yeah, but she wasn't too well. They thought she was going to have TB. She evidently didn't have it.
- K. Her chest was always clear in the x-rays.
- M. She was very quiet in high school.
- K. She started out quiet. She didn't talk until she was three.
- M. No, she was very quiet in high school. _____. They use to say, "If Bessie Gilfillian smiled it was going to storm." Because she would never smile. She was always very serious. Of course, she was valedictorian of her class. But she wasn't a very good mixer. She never made many friends in school. She was inclined to be a little much like a loner, like Will was.
- K. Well, she had enough personalities at home to take care of her needs for affection.
- M. Will and I were so ornery. It's pathetic how ornery kids are sometimes. And she's the one Mother had take care of us on the steps at home. And every time poor Uncle Jim - good ol' soul - would say Amen or something, the two of us would _____. Of course, we didn't have any religious training. We just thought it was funny. That's why I mean every child should have some religious training. Then Bessie went to high school. She finished high school. Got her certificate to teach school. Then she taught, was it second or third grade or fourth grade?
- H. She taught out in the country.
- M. She taught out in the country for two years.
- H. Then she taught second grade. She had 16 year old boys in that second grade. She was a new teacher so they gave her the hardest group of children.
- M. But she was an excellent teacher.
- K. Was she able to keep discipline in the classroom?
- M. Yes, she did. I think she was so quiet.
- K. They didn't seem to get a rattle, so they gave up.

- M. No. And she wouldn't get riled up about things. She wasn't going to be a missionary and try and save their souls. She was just going to teach them arithmetic and reading and writing. Now, see Kitty wanted them to learn poetry. And those fellows didn't want to learn poetry. Kitty was very much that type of person. Bess was more practical. She knew they were demons and she wasn't going to try to reform them.
- H. She said what she really had in that room was nice little second graders and then these big boys.
- M. Then George came to live and work for Charlie. He met Bess.¹⁸
- H. She was walking home from teaching country school, wasn't it?
- M. I think so.
- H. She speaks about when she left from home, your mother always saw that two people had nice lunches. Fried chicken and things like that. When she taught in the country school, some of these children, they were lucky to have lard on their bread. She talked about one family that lived in a cave and the father would get drunk and beat them up. But the two little kids were really smart.
- M. When I went to school, they use to come to school with nails in their hair for hairpins.
- K. Oh, the girls.
- M. These girls. Oh, it'd be just terrible for them. Then I got lice from them. I had this long hair. _____.
When I came home scratching my head, Mother said, "What are you doing?"
I said, "Oh, my head just scratches."
She looked at my head. So she washed it in kerosene. _____.
- K. That burned.
- H. Then they had to comb it with a fine tooth comb.
- M. Uh huh. When I told my girls that, they almost died. "Mother!" But anyhow, then they were married and they went over to _____. George worked for a bakery there. Then they came back to Peoria.
- K. Chilicothe, wasn't it?
- M. Chilicothe, I mean.
- K. He worked for his brother, wasn't it?
- M. With Jay, didn't he?

¹⁸ George Snyder, Bessie's future husband.

- K. No, I think Charlie.
- M. Was it Charlie, I don't know.
- K. Well, anyway I think she kept house for Charlie.
- M. Yes, she did.
- K. Because Charlie had gotten a divorce from his wife.
- M. Charlie, you know, people were kind of down on Charlie. But Bess got along with Charlie just fine.
- K. Mother said Charlie was the best person ever to her.
- M. She said he just treated her like a queen.
- K. She always stuck up for Charlie.
- M. She always did.
- K. She said _____ two kids.
- M. Dick, Jimmy wasn't born.
- K. Dick was born over in Keakook, wasn't he?
- M. Yes. He was the cutest little boy. When they came back, I use to take him out for walks. He was the best little fellow. And he was the cutest little boy. Oh, I just loved him. I thought he was just the cutest thing I ever saw. They lived in a house. We lived on the corner. The two old lady _____ lived next door then Bess and George lived in a house on the other side. Up on fourth street. Finally, Dick got to know where his grandmother lived when he went out to play. So he'd come down. Then Mother would take him by the hand because she'd know Bess would be worrying about him. Take him by the hand and take him back. She'd say, "You can come and see me, but you have to let your mother know that you're with me." He went along with them.
- K. He always had a very even temperament.
- M. Bess never jumped to conclusions. She can always _____
- K. I think he took after Mother's disposition.
- M. Dick.
- K. Dick did. Very smart and intelligent. Thinks things through all the way before he does them.

- H. But when he went to kindergarten he didn't know how to play with other children. Because he had always been around adults.
- M. From there, where did they go?
- K. Well, I think they went to Coldwater.
- H. Wait a minute. Where was Jimmy born?
- K. Jimmy was born in Chilicothe.
- M. Keithsburg. I think maybe Jay gave up his business. Then they went to Keithsburg and Jimmy was born in Keithsburg.
- H. There was sometime when Dad went traveling around and worked in different bakeries so he could learn the baking trade better. I think that was early in their marriage. She speaks about the old German woman that was so kind to her.
- K. That was up in Keakook. They had a German baker there that Daddy worked for in Keakook. That was on the Mississippi. The German, of course, they never gave any secrets away. Their recipes and all were secrets. Daddy was bound and determined he was going to learn. So he'd see one thing one time and he'd see another thing another time and each time he got it he wrote it down, what he saw. He got quite a few of the recipes that he used in his own bake shop from that way. The man wouldn't teach him. He'd do the measuring and the mixing and Daddy worked as a helper.
- H. I don't remember how many bakers he worked for over a short period of time with the purpose in mind of doing that. Then his family
- K went back to Coldwater.
- M. You were born in Coldwater.
- K. I was born in Coldwater in 1917, in December.
- H. They opened the bakery in 1916. Then they were affected by the flour and sugar rationing of the First World War. He hadn't been in business long enough to have very much of a quota. Then they also had the flu.
- K. That was after I was born.
- H. Aunt Leona can tell us about those years.
- M. Yes. Aunt Leona and your Mother were very good friends.

- K. Mother always considered her a sister. I mean a real sister. Aunt Leona always did, too. In fact, I think Aunt Leona's relationship with Mother was a better relationship that what she had with her own sisters because they were _____. She was closer to Mother. They were so close in age - six months. Both of them had taught school.
- H. They had the same philosophy.
- K. They had the same way of looking at people.
- M. She was very quiet and Leona was a very quiet person. Not pushy or anything like that. I always thought she was a very nice person.
- K. Excellent teacher.
- M. But I can remember when your father died, I came up to the funeral. I went in. I thought I'd get dressed up. People were going to come in all, you know. So I went in I _____. So I got dressed up. I put on a little rouge and lip stick. I came out and Ellen said, "You know, I just can't think much of people who wear lip stick and rouge _____."
- H. This is in January of 1935. People didn't wear it then.
- M. I thought I must look awful. My husband was so embarrassed.
- K. That was Frank.
- M. He knew I was embarrassed.
So finally, I got up and I went out and I said to Bess, "I must look awful."
She said, "No, you don't Mollie. You look all right."
I said, "Ellen said ..."
She said, "Oh, don't pay any attention to Ellen."
- K. Dolly was just married. I think Dolly had an awful lot of intelligence. Dolly and Charlie were both very smart. But it just drove them because they didn't have any education really. Or outlet. She got married when she was 16 the first time. Divorced she married an old minister or something, wasn't it? Then she got a divorce. Then she married again and he died. She had two boys there. Then she married Herb. She always seemed to be driven by her own personality. I would be inclined to think of her more in terms of Rose. She was good hearted. But she would just scold somebody with her tongue.
- H. This was Ella. Wasn't it Ella that told you that?
- K. Ella said that. But I don't think Ella was as intelligent, but she had, should I say, the Snyder's directness. She said something, she said it.
- H. Mother said the Snyder's were awfully good to her. She always hoped we wouldn't inherit some of the bluntness and unnecessary comments.

- M. _____ I thought, I sure feel sorry for her husband.
- H. I don't remember your coming to the funeral. ¹⁹
- M. It was cold and _____ snow.
- H. What was the date in January that he died?
- K. The last day in January.
- M. Boy, was it cold!
- K. He wasn't suppose to live until Christmas. He went through Christmas and Mother's birthday. Then he really took to the bed. All the month of January he was bed fast. If I remember right he died the last day of January.
- H. I think so, too.
- K. He would've been 43 in April.
- H. You came to Coldwater one other time, didn't you?
- M. Yes. They lived in that little house over by Traits.
- H. That was before my time. You never come since they bought the house in '22.
- K. Yes. She had Louie and Kitty and her two girls all came.
- H. I thought so. What year was that?
- M. That's the time _____. That we'd be sitting around the table and just laughing and having the best time.
- K. His sisters were always fun.
- M. He said to your mother after we left, "I never saw sisters who had such a good time."
- H. Yes, because his sisters would fight over when they were putting on a dinner together. Over this and that.
- K. Whether they needed more salt or more pepper.
- H. Everything was an argument.
- K. Which dish to put it in. It was just Ella and Dolly. Leona didn't fight about anything.

¹⁹ George Snyder's funeral.

- M. We came from all different types of lives. For instance when I got my first fur coat, I would never wear it if I was going to see Kit or _____. They didn't have one and I didn't want to put my fur coat on. I was always conscience that they didn't have as much as I do. I always felt sorry for them. I never felt I was any better then they were.
- H. It was unusual that with the father, the way he was, the mother had to really perform a lot of emotional security there.²⁰
- K. To make it so that you children all got along.
- M. She must have been -- we always thought she was just absolutely the most marvelous person. You never asked one of her children. We all thought she _____.
- H. Mother always thought that was the mother's job. Her job was to raise those children. She told about when she was teaching school, that she paid room and board. But when she got married her mother gave that money to her.
- M. Yes. She said to me, "You can either put so much money away in the bank or you can pay me board and room and I'll put it in the bank and when you marry I'll give it to you." It's a good thing I did because a young doctor didn't have anything but expenses.
- K. A young baker didn't either.
- M. Many times we'd say, "Well, we'd like to see that money, but we just don't have that money." I think it cost a quarter then. Now they pay three or four dollars to _____.
- H. It use to be office calls were two dollars in those days. Maybe when you first started out it was only a dollar.
- M. It was two dollars when we started out.
- K. Daddy died in 1935, and Mother died in '76. They had a hard time through the depression. He got his business into one bakery and then he went to see what was wrong. He thought he had a reoccurrence of his hernia. They opened him up and closed him. He had cancer too far in advance. They said he had three months at the most.
- M. I remember we came up to see him before he died. That was another time Kit, Louie, and I came up to see him before died.
- H. Did you know then, that he was going to die?
- K. Oh, yes. The whole family knew.
- H. But he didn't know until a notice came from the insurance and he opened the mail. Mrs. Seely brought the mail into him or something.

²⁰ Harriette is talking about William Albert Gilfillan, Mollie's father.

- K. He knew by fall.
- H. Sometime in the fall. He broke the news to me.
- M. When I saw him, they sat me right up next to George. He was so thin and he couldn't eat. Do you think I could eat? I tried to eat, but I could hardly keep the food down. Because he so enjoyed food when he was well

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Gap in tape

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- M Mother and I were going to the bank. I wanted Mother to put on a nice dress and hat. She said, "Oh, no, this house dress and sunbonnet is good enough. I can transact my business with Mr. Mead. It'll be all right."
- K. Now, this was after grandfather Gilfillian took off, or while they were still together.
- M. When I was about 14.
 So I went down with her and Mr. Mead was very nice and said to Mother, "Go out in my private office."
 We went in and, of course it was a beautiful office.
 I thought, "Oh, Mother should be dressed up."
 Finally, Mother said to Mr. Mead, "My daughter doesn't think I'm dressed exactly the way I should be to come down to talk to the President of the bank."
 He put his hand on my shoulder and he said to me, "You know your mother is the finest lady in Chilicothe and she's perfectly well dressed. She's still a lady with a sunbonnet and a house dress."
 If there had been something I could have crawled under, I would have crawled under it.
 When I left, I remember he said to me, "Don't ever think that your mother isn't a lady."
 He said, "I don't care who it is. She's the finest lady in Chilicothe."
 Oh! Did I feel like a nickel.
- K. With four cents left over.
- M. He was very fond of Mother. I think he realized Mother had a husband that was kind of hard to live with. _____. I always said, if I was going to write a novel I think I would have had him secretly in love with our mother, thinking he was.
- H. When did you move to town? How old were you when you moved to town?

- M. I went into second or third grade at first. Then we moved out again when I was a junior in high school. That's when Everett use to come out and see me.
Father came in one night and said, "Who's here?"
Mother said, "Dr. Kelly's son's out to see Mollie."
He said, "Hell, he can't tie a horse up. He doesn't know how to tie a horse up properly."
Oh, I was so mad.
- H. Then you moved back into town.
- M. Then we moved back into town when I was going to finish my senior year. That's when all the trouble started.²¹
- H. Mother told about that Mrs. Donahue tried to get Uncle John Jr. interested. He wouldn't have anything to do. But her your father was 50 years old.
- K. A married man.
- M. Not a bad age, I suppose.
- H. Here he had still all this energy left.
- K. Retired.
- H. He didn't have any skills about leisure living. He couldn't read. So anyway, she definitely pursued him. I know it ended in the headlines in the Peoria paper. I've forgotten some of the details of it all.
- M. Bess was there and Will came home from college. They found them in the barn with John. Father put up a fight, of course, you naturally would. But the disposition he had. John, well I guess, kind of beat him up. They put him in jail because they couldn't _____, see. They were afraid he'd hurt Mother. Who did they call at the jail? To have the doctor take care of him?
- K. Everett?
- M. Dr. P.H. Kelly.
- K. Oh! Everett's father.
- H. Everett wasn't a doctor yet.
- ?? Of course, the purpose of all this was, when they found him in the barn, but they had to find him doing something with her in order for the farm could be signed over _____.

²¹ This starts the tale of William Albert Gilfillan being caught by his family with another woman.

- H. That's right. Because he had been giving money to her and so to protect your mother they had to catch him in the act and have proof.
- M. She scratched your mother. Your mother gave her some good swats.
- K. You mean Bessie was along?
- M. Your mother.
- K. Was along with John and Will?
- M. Yes.
- K. Found them in the barn?
- M. No, she waited outside.
- K. Oh.
- M. She got scratched by her. I was in the house. They wouldn't let me go.²² I didn't know. This was all secret with John, see. I didn't know anything about it. John followed her and that was the night they went to the barn. They found out they were followed other places. So they were a little more careful this time. They didn't know they were being followed. I think Mother, maybe went out and _____ and help Bess see. You know, hold her. I wasn't going to go to school the next day. But I went. Mother said, "You have to go. You just dare not to. You have to face it. The sooner you face it the better off you are." So I went. From that time I had the most inferiority complex I've ever had. I've always had it.
- K. You were a little afraid people would talk about you.
- M. Yeah, you know, a little town.
- K. Yeah, they were talking.
- M. They were talking. They did a lot of talking. So I said to Everett the next time he came out to see me, I said, "You don't want to go out with me."
I said, "Honey, I'm not any good."
He said, "What do you mean, you're not any good?"
He said, "You had nothing to do with it. It was your father's mistake, not yours."
He said, "I'm going with you. Do you want to go with me or not?"
- H. How did your girl friends treat you?

²² Mollie was the youngest and would have been protected by the rest of the family as much as possible.

M. Pretty bad. They had a luncheon and they wouldn't ask me to the luncheon. They had a progressive luncheon.

Mary _____ called me up and said, "I'm going to give something at the luncheon." I forgot what it was but it was what she said. She said, "I want you to come."

I couldn't come because the Whittaker twins they wouldn't let me come. _____ wouldn't let me come. _____ wouldn't let me come. So then they were going to have a dinner, but they asked Will to come.

Will said, "No. Not they way you treated my sister. He's my father, too."

So, I went to college. Went out to California and came back. We went to a alumni banquet. The Whittaker twins were there. They had been married. They came back for the alumni banquet. Everett went over to talk to them. I was talking to somebody else.

He came over and said, "The Whittaker twins want to see you."

I said, "They can walk over _____"

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End of tape 2 side B

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Beginning of tape 3

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K. _____ discussed at home and Mother said, "We can't have anybody that bad in here."

M. _____

H. Well, there were many fathers that had similar things happen to them. But if they were discrete it was all right and if they weren't it was too bad. It would have stayed a discrete thing except for the financial - to protect the finances of the family they had to do this. They must have had some of the family must have had some kind of a lawyer that told them.

M. Barns of Lincoln. The same fellow who had the case of Rose.²³

H. Who was the lawyer for Rose. That was statutory rape. They ended up with two farms in the family.

M. .She got a farm and Daddy got a farm. He was a brother to Mrs. _____.

?? He was quite a bit older than her.

M. She was 16

?? And how old was he?

M. 24 or 25.

²³ Rose was Mollie's oldest sister. This talks about when she was raped.

- H. He was wealthy.
- M. They were wealthy farmers up by Lincoln.
- H. Why didn't he marry Rose?
- M. He didn't want to marry her.
- H. He just seduced her.
- M. He just wanted to use her. Mother knew that and fought it. That, you know, you don't indict teenagers.
- H. You weren't even born then?
- M. No. All I heard was what I use to listen in the key hole. I wasn't suppose to know it, see.
- H. Then you and Mother discussed it as the years went by when you were adults.
- M. We discussed Louie getting married on Christmas and we had such a terrible Christmas. Father stormed all day. Kicked the chairs. We went upstairs and stayed in our bedrooms. I've never forgive Mother for doing that either.
- H. Will was the best friend of the son of Mrs. Donahue.
- M. John. John Donahue was a good friend of Will's. That was a son of hers. She had a very fine husband. Very nice man. But she just wasn't any good. She had been doing this for a long time.
- K. Did he divorce her?
- H. How much money did she get from your father. Did they ever figure that out?
- M. I don't think she ever got more than at the most a thousand dollars.
- ?? That was a lot of money _____
- M. It was a terrible time for me.
- ?? I say, she was really the worst _____ of the family.
- H. When she told me about it last summer, I just couldn't conceive of being able to survive such a thing in that day and age because it must have been right around 1912.
- M. I graduated in 1913.
- K. So it was the year before you graduated? Then your mother went out to....

- M. Then we went to California.
- H. But, in the meantime, you had arranged that everything was made over into her name. So he didn't have anything. Did he bum around the country or something?
- M. He went over to this streeter, this Salvation Army. Then this Mr. _____ a minister from Peoria, use to go over and talk to these men in the streeter some way, I don't know. He took up talking to Father. He said, "You better go home to your wife." He said, "She won't have me." He had heard of mother, see, in Chilicothe and he said, "Oh, I think _____." So I think he talked to John. John said, "Oh, I think there could be a reconciliation." Anyhow he went back. When I was going to graduate from normal, from San Jose Normal, about two weeks before I was to graduate, he came home _____
- ?? To California.
- M. San Jose.
- H. How did he get the money, I wonder, to go all the way out there?
- M. I don't know. Maybe he worked someplace and got some money. But, anyhow, he came.
- ?? Wasn't that the second time he was in California?
- M. He never went out the first time.
- ?? No, I know you went out by yourself. But was that the only time he came to California?
- M. Then we had some neighbors little _____ lady with two daughters who taught school. I went to school with one of them. At Normal she taught. She thought she would have to have us for dinner. Mother and I didn't feel like going to dinner. When Father came home _____. Mother had said he was running his farm and he raised cattle. She never told the neighbors they had separated. So we had to go over to dinner. Boy, I tell you Father was dressed up and good for them. But, the trouble was he couldn't talk very well without slipping. So he had to be pretty careful when he talked. Oh, Mrs. _____ thought he was something. I was just in misery – just absolute misery because I wasn't old enough to know to be able to put my best foot forward because I was hurting inside, see. But we got through the evening.
- H. You said he didn't bring much money out.

- M. Oh, no. Then Rose wrote to us when we were in Berkley and said they didn't have anything to eat but sorghum molasses and bread. Wondered if Mother could send them some money. Well, we didn't have very much money. So Will and I talked it over. We sent her \$100.00 which was quite a bit for us to send. The next letter we got she bought a big Buick car. We looked at each other and said, "Saps." That's the stunt she'd pull, you know. Here we were struggling. Will was washing dishes for the Professors Club. To pay _____ school.
- H. You had a severe goiter problem. Probably your doctor said you wouldn't live long if you didn't have an operation.
- M. So when I went to Dr. Moffet in San Francisco, he examined me, that time my pulse was 150. My eyes never closed when I went to sleep. If you came into my room when I was asleep my eyes would be open because the lids couldn't come down. They popped up, see.
- ?? If you go back now and you think she had this goiter condition and thyroid condition then all this emotional upheaval at this age, you can understand how it was so doubly traumatic to her.
- H. You taught after you graduated?
- M. I went back and taught in _____
- H. You didn't teach out there in California?
- M. I taught one year in California when Will was on a farm. He went and joined the Air Corps and leave me out in California. The only one I had was Aunt Louisa. So then when I got through teaching I went down to San Francisco and stayed with Aunt Louisa and she was just wonderful to me.
Then I said to her, "Mother wrote and said she'd like to have me come home and teach because Will was in the service."
That was pretty upsetting to Mother because she thought maybe she'd never see him again, see.
So Aunt Louisa said, "I think you better go home to Kate."
So I came home and I applied for the first grade. I was a first grade teacher. I had a specialty – first grade teacher and first grade certificate. Because California had the highest rating on teachers. So I went and I applied. But Mr. Bumgardner, who was superintendent, had a girlfriend in Chicago he wanted a job for. So he didn't think much of me. Mother went down to her friend, Mr. Mead.
And said to Mr. Mead, "I've never asked you for a favor."
He said, "No, you never have, Mrs. Gilfillian."
She said, "I'm going to ask you for a favor."
He said, "What is it?"
She said, "Will has gone into the Air Corps, First World War, and I'd like to have Mollie stay home and teach in the Chilicothe school. She'd teach them."
He was president of the school board. Mr. Bumgardner was never very fond of me. I got the job. I taught two years. It was between my first year and second year that I was operated on _____

K. How about having a goiter operation in the summer and going back to school?

M. My gracious! I didn't think I was going to have any voice for awhile. It was terrible. The longer I talked, you know, the longer _____ then it came. But, it never did come back. Will came back to see us. He had married. I was out with Aunt Kitty in the kitchen.
 He said, "Who's talking out there?"
 Mother or somebody said, "That's Mollie."
 He said, "That's not Mollie. That's not her voice."
 So he came into the kitchen.
 He said, "Say something."
 So I talked and he said, "It is your voice. What happened?"
 I never knew until I went to _____ up here.
 He said to me, "You got a cold!"
 I said, "No, I don't have a cold."
 He said, "Your hoarse."
 He looked down my throat and said, "You only have one vocal chord. The other one has been damaged."
 I said, "That happened when I had thyroid."
 He said, "How bad was it?"
 "Oh, down into the sternum bone and it was on both sides." I said, "My pulse was 150

?? My father was an intern.

H. He arranged for all the procedures to have that done. Then your doctor wouldn't charge you anything.

M. I had my dander up. There was a nurse that was sweet on Everett. She was sick with an infection on her face. The nurse on my floor came in and told me that she _____ I wrote to Anna, I said, "Send me a dozen roses and put on the card 'From someone who would like to be more than a friend.'"
 The roses came and Everett walked in and said, "Who in the hell sent you those roses?"
 I said, "I don't know. Here's the card."
 He never went to the other gal's room because he thought the guy would come. So, after we were married I told him.

K. Entrapment.

M. He said, "Oh, I never had any interest in _____."
 I said, "I didn't know that. I thought you were quite interested in her."
 So, instead of one bouquet, they came in four vases. I had two or three of them. How ever could I pay for them on a teachers salary. _____. So, Anna worked for Mr. _____ in Peoria and she told him what happened.
 He said, "Any girl who has that much spunk to her," he said, "I have a wholesale friend in the florist business in Chicago and I'm going to have her sent several baskets."
 I never had to pay for those. So I was lucky.

- H. Then your doctor, when you came to settle your bill
- M. I said, "I want to know how much I owe."
He said, "I trust your good will."
He said, "You will soon be a doctor's wife."
Then he said, "I wouldn't charge you _____ is a nice person."
Of course, I had to pay my hospital bill. So I borrowed money from Father because I wanted to be sure that I had enough money. I had enough money for my hospital bill but I wasn't sure about _____.
So when I came home I said, "Here's your money."
He said, "That's the quickest I've ever been paid back for a loan."
- H. How much money was that? Can you remember?
- M. I think then it was maybe \$250.00.
- K. For a goiter operation.
- M. Now it would cost a \$1,000.00.
- K. How long were you in the hospital?
- M. Not too long. I think I was operated on one day and I was able to go home early the next week.
- K. I can tell you right now that your hospital bill for room alone would be well over \$1,000.00. Then you would have the operating room, the anesthesia, the intern, all the lab work, the medications. You'd be lucky to get a goiter operation for under \$5,000.00.
- M. The only other person who had ever been operated on for thyroid and goiter was Mrs. _____ a young woman who had been married into the _____. She died on the table. Mother could never bring herself to say to me, 'have an operation' because she thought, if she dies.
- K. It was very dangerous. They didn't know too much about the thyroid at the time. You must have had an excellent surgeon.
- M. Father thought I was lazy. Because I'd go to school and I'd come home and I'd be completely exhausted and I'd have to go to bed.
He'd say, "She's awful lazy."
Mother said, "She isn't lazy, she sick with that goiter."
Everett and I talked it over and we said to them, "I'm going to be operated on."
Because I was just getting worse and worse.
- K. The doctor in San Francisco told you, you couldn't live too long.
- M. He said to Mother, "She won't live too long."

- K. It puts too much strain on the heart.
- H. Now you're 83.
- M. Almost 83.
- K. Mother, you know, when she had her first episode of falling she wouldn't let her do anything. She came out to Texas to see me.
 I said, "What's this I hear about you falling?"
 She said, "Well, I woke up on the floor. I can't understand why."
 I said, "Is there anytime you feel bad?"
 Her pulse seemed to be steady and everything.
 She said, "Every once in awhile I get this fluttery feeling inside and I just feel so weak."
 I said, "The next time that happens, let me know."
 So, we were fixing dinner and so forth and we got it on the table and we sat down.
 I said, "Aren't you hungry, Mother?"
 She said, "Ah"
 I said, "Do you have that fluttery feeling?"
 She said, "Yes."
 I said, "Well, let me help you. If you fall on the floor, I can't pick you up. So let me help you."
 I got her into bed and I went to the phone.
 She said, "What are you doing?"
 I said, "I'm calling the _____ to find out who's the best _____ in San Antonio."
 She said "Uh"
 I said, "That's what I'm doing, Mother."
 I could over run her. She said I was a nurse so I must know. She wouldn't go to a doctor if Harriette, who lived with her, said she had to. No, Katy had to say that she needed to go. Well, the doctor examined her. And he was good. He did a scan of the thyroid because we told him that you had a goiter and you had thyroid problems and that came from Illinois and Michigan. So it turned out that she had narrowing of the vein to the brain on the right and narrowing to the heart on the right. He told her that whenever she felt this fluttery sensation she was to lay down immediately. Because all it meant was that the brain was not getting enough blood or the heart. If she could lay flat that would get her resurgence of blood to carrying oxygen and she was just getting oxygen starvation. But also when he scanned her he found that her thyroid she had thyroid tissue just like you described all over. He had it reviewed by specialists in thyroid. He said, "I can't tell for sure whether it's cancerous or not."
 But her thyroid output was normal. And he said, at her age and with this narrowing and so forth, he would just let it go. All we had to do was check to be sure ever so often that her thyroid was performing. She never had a bit of difficulty. She never had to take medication for it.
- M. I still take thyroid. I have a nodule here but its calcified. So they x-rayed me and I had a little thyroid. And I had to take thyroid.
- K. You didn't after your surgery, though.

- M. No.
- K. I don't think they had the thyroid medications for you to take for a long time.
- M. This doctor I go to has a chart on thyroid. I said, "You can't take me off of thyroid. I have no thyroid."
- K. Now, we are going to talk about Will. What was he like as a boy?²⁴
- M. He was a reader. He read a lot. He tried to play football but he was too light a person to play high school football. He did some running. When he was a little boy he had a teacher that had him try to paint. He did pretty good on it. But he didn't keep it up.
- K. He had at least, his hands could draw lines. He had the eye-hand skill.
- M. He was an active child. But, I remember on 4th of July he would say to Mother, "Mother, I'm not going. I'll just fix the dinner and you folks can take it in." Because I don't _____." He said, "If you're going to stay home, just take out some chicken. I'll stay home with you." He didn't care for crowds. He liked to hunt. He liked to swim. He liked to go into the woods.
- K. He was more of a loner. I understand from previous . . . what you said that he stood up to his father.
- M. Oh, yes. He wasn't like John. Father told John to do something, he did it. Regardless of how dangerous it was or how scared he was. But Will wouldn't do it. He wouldn't run down that long lane and open the gate for Father. He said, "Father is made of iron." And he didn't get punished. You see, when they meet one of their own kind, they know it I guess. He was kind of a ornery little fellow. When he got into that high school.
- K. Was he going to school when you moved into town?

²⁴ Will was next to the youngest in the family. Mollie was the youngest.

M. He went to the country school until 7th grade then we moved to town. Mother was going to put us all back a grade because she thought we didn't know as much as the city kids.

He said, "I'm not going back. I'm just as smart as those kids."

So he went on to 7th grade. Then 8th grade, then went to high school. He had very good grades. But the principal of the high school was kind of sweet on some aunt of a girl who was raised by this aunt. So they concocted if she'd take more credits, you know, but didn't get as high grades. That they'd make that the basis of giving valedictory. Mrs. Cary. an English teacher was very much opposed to it.

So she called Will in and she said, "Why don't you take a couple of long subjects?"

He said, "I don't care if _____ gets to be valedictorian. I'm not going to take two more subjects just to try and beat her. If they want to be crooked, let them be crooked."

So he was _____ He had far higher grades than she had. But she had more credits. So then he went to _____, a small college in Wisconsin.

Our neighbor had a son and he went to _____. So that's where Will went.

Then he was there two years. He belonged to some club. They didn't have fraternities.

They had clubs. _____ pictures. They could get the trophies from

different departments. This one club that Gaylord _____ belonged to said Will

was quiet. I mean he didn't talk so they didn't vote him in. The other club did. That was

the first time in fifteen years that the one Gaylord _____ was in lost the

chemistry trophy. Will would take the chemistry and was very good at it. He got the

trophy.

I said to Gaylord _____, "Why didn't you tell us he was smart? He never talked much."

Gaylord said, "Well, you don't talk maybe sometimes when you're smart."

He was a good student, but he had trouble at home. So he decided he was going to study medicine. Then he decided he would go to California University and study.

K. Aunt Louisa was out there.

M. Study Agriculture. So he graduated from _____ in Agriculture.

K. Which one?

M. At Berkley.

K. Is that the University of California? I never know which California University.

M. They got so many.

K. But it was Berkley. Did he stay with Aunt Louisa while he was out there?

M. No, that's when we were there.

K. You moved out. Is San Jose near there?

- M. No, we went to Berkley. See, I went to the University too. I had that thyroid. They wouldn't let me take over six units or something. I would have been there ten years trying to get my _____. So after he graduated then we went to San Jose. I finished at the San Jose State Teachers College.
- K. Then he got through the university.
- M. He graduated from the University of California.
- K. Did he go to San Jose with you?
- M. No, he had a job up at Davis.
- K. That's in Northern California.
- M. That's where the Agriculture College is.
- K. Oh, in the research department.
- M. After he was up there for awhile, he got this managing of 640 acre ranch for some wealthy San Francisco people. He came down there. Then I think they were married.
- K. He went to war first.
- M. Yes. Then I taught school, see.
- K. Now he managed the ranch then went to war.
- M. He didn't have to go because he was managing the ranch. But everybody was calling him slacky. He joined the Air Corp. He never flew a plane as long as he went across.
- K. Where did he train?
- M. He was in Texas.
- K. In San Antonio? Probably at Randolph. Then he probably went to
- M. Overseas to France ...

* * * * *

Pause in tape

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- K. I just got through saying that Will arrived just in time for the end of the war.
- M. They were built funny.

K. Well, they were what they knew at the time. If I remember right, he told me that the day he reported to his squadron, or whatever, that was the day the war _____.

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End of transcript
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This document retranscribed in May 2006 by

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