

**Gladys Westrum
Narrator**

**Beatrice Rystad
Interviewer**

**February 15, 1985
Heritage Education Commission Oral History Project
Moorhead State University Recording Studio
Moorhead, Minnesota**

BR: Oh, Gladys...

GW: Hello, Bea.

BR: Did you have a good day for Valentine's Day?

GW: Yes, I did. My grandsons...two grandsons, and my son, and daughter-in-law came home for a visit over the weekend.

BR: Good. That's always a pleasure, I know.

GW: It is.

BR: This interview is with Gladys Westrum, a resident of Clay County since 1907. This interview was held at the Moorhead State University Recording Studio on February 15, 1985. The interviewer is Bea Risted, representing the Heritage Commission.

Where did you live, Gladys?

GW: I lived in Moorhead. I was born and raised in Moorhead. Went through grade school, high school, and college, and that was the first that I went away from Moorhead. So I lived here about the first twenty years of my life.

BR: How old are you then?

GW: Now I am going to be sixty-eight next month. I mean, seventy-eight, I'm sorry! [Chuckles]

BR: [Chuckles] Well, the time goes fast sometimes, doesn't it?

GW: It does.

BR: Now did you work when you were first married or at any time during your marriage?

GW: No, and I can't really say I worked out, because I had a family, and needed to stay home and take care of them. I did do some things at home, like I did...took in children, and did babysitting, and I remember I also used to do some demonstrating at stores over the weekend, but as for holding down a job, I had my job right at home.

BR: And what was your husband's work?

GW: My husband worked in a store, was a clerk in a store.

BR: And oh, and you came from a family of what size? How many brothers and sisters did you have?

GW: Well, we were eight in the family. There were four girls and four boys. But we had a sister that died in infancy, and a sister that died when she was in seventh grade. But the six of us all grew to womanhood and manhood and were married and had children.

BR: What was your mother's life like?

GW: Well, I wouldn't say she had a hard life. She didn't have an easy life, but there weren't any really hard things so she was depressed or that...she was a very lovely person, well-liked by everybody, very much interested in helping other people as much as she could. Of course, she had all she could do at home. She...my father was a clerk in a grocery store, and of course the income wasn't very big, but we always had plenty to eat. And one good thing was my mother was a dressmaker, so she had attended NDSU [North Dakota State University] and had taken up dressmaking. So when she was a girl, she used to go out and sew for people. So she was a real good dressmaker. So we never lacked good clothing.

BR: She would go to the other people's home, for the home...?

GW: That's what they used to do. And stay for a week and sew.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: And then...that was before she was married.

BR: Hmmm. Do you know...did she have any yearnings or things that she would like to have done that she didn't do?

GW: Well, I don't know if she did. She...I know she would...wanted us all to get an education. She wanted to see that we all could go on to school, even though we didn't have any money. So we could go on school here in town. We all attended MS [Moorhead State] College and got an education.

BR: And she did...and that came about.

GW: Yes. That came about.

BR: So that was a goal accomplished.

GW: Mmmm-hmmm. That came about.

BR: What do you think would surprise her if she were to come back here today?

GW: Lots of things would surprise her. One of them, I think, would be what lovely homes we all had. And all are married, and have good husbands, and have lovely families, and all of the things we have that make life so much easier than what she had it.

BR: Could you describe a typical day in your home as you remember it as a child? What would be a typical day?

GW: Well, we lived in a small house, I remember that. And hmmm, we'd have our breakfast, of course, and then go on to school. And...and come home, and after school, I can't remember that we had much to do. I suppose it was because there wasn't much work to do in the house. My mother would...I remember one thing. Many times we'd have to come home, and what we hated to do was do the dishes, because she had a sewing project she had to get done, or else she was going to Ladies Aid or something, and there would be the dishes in the...on the table. I can't even say on the sink, because we never had a sink, in a dishpan on the table. I remember that's one thing we didn't like.

But, hmmm, we'd always play after school, and we were always home, all of us, for meals, dinner...we had dinner at noon and supper. And after supper I can see us sitting around the table doing our homework. And my dad would always read. He took the *Saturday Evening Post* and it was almost his Bible. He'd read it from cover to cover, and one of us would stand there and comb his hair. He had beautiful, black, curly hair and we'd comb that, and if he had penny, he'd give it to us for doing it. And I can...I think that's about all. We'd go up to bed and...

BR: Your mother was always home though when you came home from school.

GW: Always home, except if she was at Ladies Aid, you know, or that, she never...did any outside.

BR: She never missed that.

GW: Never missed that, no.

BR: Did she have something for you to eat when you got home? Homemade rolls or something?

GW: Usually there always was...or bread, we could smell it baking, or...she was a very good cook. We always had good food.

BR: Well, now that...now we're going to have you as a homemaker now, yourself.

GW: Okay.

BR: Could you share a day...one of...[what] a day of your life was like when you were a homemaker yourself?

GW: Well, I had five children, too. And they were all small at the same time. I think when my youngest was born, the oldest one was only seven years old. So I didn't have a lot of time to go outside the home and do anything.

BR: Well, before your children were born, what was a day like?

GW: Well, then after I quit teaching...you mean, after I was married?

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: I had it very easy.

BR: [Coughs]

GW: We lived in a small house, and I could get my work done in a half an hour. I'm sure we only had three rooms. And I really can't remember what I did all day, because there wasn't volunteer work then. It was in a small town.

BR: Did you read?

GW: Oh, I love to read. So I suppose I read.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: Maybe I went and visited the neighbors and...because I really can't...I belonged to a couple...you know, like you do in a small town, you belong to the Ladies Aid, and the Garden Club, and the Book Club.

BR: Then when you had all five children, what was a day like then?

GW: Well, that was a hectic day, to get them all up in the morning, or the baby would start it, and get the baby ready and the others. I remember that I always had...one was a year and a half when I'd have the other one, so still liked to be quite close to me. I remember always when I nursed the babies and that, that I'd had two or three sitting on the davenport, listening to me read. We read a lot to the children. I really had a good life though. The children were all good. I never

had a colicky baby or...and...hmmm...took care of them. In a small town, you...you get along real well with help, and...

BR: Well, now, the children are all gone. What's your day like now?

GW: Well, when they were all gone, I was wondering how it was going to be. But I didn't have to wonder very long, because people soon find out if you're not working, or not having...being tied down, and they can find plenty of things to do. It was still work with the Camp Fire, even though I didn't have anyone it, just to keep on working. And then the school needed volunteers for ears and eyes inspection, so I kept at that. I can't remember a day when I wasn't going someplace.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: And they all left within two, three years of each other. So...

BR: It...you didn't have that empty nest feeling then?

GW: Never had it. Never had a chance to get bored with not having anything to do.

BR: Well, then what holidays were especially important to your own...your family of origin, and then also your own family? Did you carry on those same specialty...?

GW: I believe we did. Christmas at our house, even though it was small, we always had relatives in at Christmas time. I think that was surely our biggest holiday. And even after we got married, we had...then we had a bigger house after we had the children, so we always had the relatives at our house. So that is one tradition we've had. And I remember it was a tradition that it was hard for the children to...to not keep up, because they always wanted to come home for Christmas, and after the children...their children got bigger, some of them, when they got into high school and that, they'd like to stay home. So I had a hard time convincing some of them that it was better they stayed home, and didn't all come home for Christmas, but start their own. And I see that they all have the same traditions as what we had when we were growing up.

BR: Were there any other holidays that were kind of important?

GW: Well, of course, Easter was, too. And I remember Easter, especially, because my mother, being a dressmaker, that's one thing we had was all...had new outfits on Easter Sunday, I remember that. I remember once, someone in church told me that we were the best dressed children in the church. I didn't believe it.

BR: [Chuckles]

GW: I maybe did then, but later I found out he was just...

BR: That was a compliment to your mother.

GW: Because it was a compliment to my mother.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: She could make anything.

BR: Then who kept the money records in your family?

GW: When I was growing up, you mean?

BR: Well, both. Ah, when you were growing up...

GW: Well, when I was growing up, there weren't any records to be kept, because my dad worked at a grocery store, and I'm sure we never had a grocery bill. I mean, we had one, but I'm sure it was taken right out of his salary. And then our clothing was all being made, except the things you have to buy. And I suppose there was some for insurance or that, but *I* never heard *anything* about money when I was growing up.

BR: So that wasn't talked about in front of the children?

GW: Not talked about at all. No. Not talked about.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: Oh, it was wonderful when we'd get a nickel to spend or even pennies then, we were glad to run to the little corner store and buy penny candy.

BR: Right now in your own family...and now in your family, hmmm, who kept the records?

GW: Well, that's the same. My husband took care of all the money in our family.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: The same thing. He worked at a store, and I never saw his check, so I think it was...the groceries and everything. And in a small town, everything we bought at that store, our meat, our...we had a milk delivery, but aside from that, our clothing and everything. So I never saw any money there either, except I got what I needed. But it was always to just ask for it. There never was any allowance given to me, like later on.

BR: Right now if you were going to buy a big overstuffed chair, or some furniture, or some big item in your family, how did you make those decisions?

GW: Well, I'll tell you, when we first were married, we went to the wholesale house at...where my...of my husband's employer. And we bought *everything* we needed there, even down to

dishes and everything. And as long as we lived in that town, in that little town, we never bought another piece of furniture. But, after we moved here, and had a larger house, then we'd have to...I think we had to charge and pay so much a month on it. I'm sure we did.

BR: And did you talk it over? Or did one of you make the decision or...?

GW: No, we'd always made the decision together.

BR: Together.

GW: I can't remember going...

BR: Well, what was that small town you lived in when you were first married?

GW: It was up near Bemidji, Clearbrook, Minnesota.

BR: Clearbrook.

GW: Mmmm-hmmm.

BR: How long did you live there?

GW: Well, I went there to teach in 1930, and I got married in 1932, and we left there in 1944. So I was there twelve years.

BR: And then you moved directly to Moorhead?

GW: Right to Moorhead.

BR: And you've been here ever since.

GW: So I've been here ever since. So except for those years I was teaching and married, I have never been away from Moorhead.

BR: Alright. Now did you give your children an allowance when they were growing up?

GW: I don't believe we did. No, I'm sure we didn't.

BR: Why didn't you? Do you know?

GW: Well, I guess...because we didn't have it!

BR: You just never had it yourself.

GW: Just never had it myself, and no, I don't think we thought of giving them an allowance. I know we didn't ever give them allowance.

BR: Alright, then what did they do? Come and ask you for things they needed?

GW: Well, all of them, as soon as they were old enough, started babysitting, the girls did. And the boys would have other jobs. So really, I can't remember. Of course, we had to buy essentials, and clothes, and like that for them. But when I look back at it now, I sometimes wonder how they had money to go to the show, which they didn't go very often when they were kids, but...

BR: Well, did they ask you for it then, probably, hmmm?

GW: Yeah, probably. But I don't know if I had it to give to them, because we really didn't have much.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. During this time when the children were still at home, how much time did you have for volunteer work? Did you do much of that?

GW: Not while they were small, but as soon as they got up into school age and that, then I did a lot of volunteer work. I'd help with the Camp Fire and Boy Scouts, both of them, and there was a lot of church activities that I...you know, we'd have. And I'd take part in such...

BR: Were you active in the Ladies Aid then?

GW: Was active in the Ladies Aid, and we at that time also had a Missionary Society, so there was always two days a week that...

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: And then there were church suppers, and bazaars, and things like that, and always took part in that.

BR: Were bazaars popular then? You don't see much of those anymore now, so...

GW: No. But they were then; they raised money through a bazaar. Mmmm-hmmm.

BR: Did they have quilting bees?

GW: Yes, they had quilting.

BR: Did you help with that?

GW: Well, I never could even hold a needle. My mother was a dressmaker, and I never learned how to sew.

BR: [Chuckles]

GW: I couldn't do *one thing* with a needle. To this day, I still don't. But, ah...I could do the other things. I could help piece, and press, and things like that. And I'm still doing it.

BR: Did you belong to any clubs at that time, like PTA or...?

GW: Oh, PTA, yes, I belonged to PTA.

BR: Any other club you belonged to?

GW: Well, let's see...

BR: That...where...housewives belonged to?

GW: I can't remember. It seems though I was going someplace all the time. We had foster children, and we had to go to a sort of like a club there once a month.

BR: How many years did you have foster children?

GW: We had four of them. After our children got older and into high school, they wanted us to still have little babies to take care of. And we weren't about to start another family, so we started having foster children, would take little babies as they left the hospital.

BR: How long did you have the baby?

GW: You can only have them a year. I mean, I don't think we had any of them over nine months, except one boy that we had until he was about four or five years old. That little boy couldn't speak at all, he couldn't utter a word, and they didn't know what was wrong with him, because they couldn't find anything...any reason why he shouldn't. But they thought he...and he was just getting so he was real friendly with us...and...it was hard to see him go.

BR: How long a time...a span of years was it did you have these children from outside the home?

GW: I think it was maybe about six, eight years altogether.

BR: Mmmm.

GW: Not any longer than that. Our children were in high school at the time, I remember that. And they...

BR: Did they enjoy them?

GW: *Enjoy it!* They were the ones who wanted it, really.

BR: Yeah.

GW: So they took just as good care of them. I remember one Sunday when...well, I used to teach Sunday School, and hadn't gotten the one little girl ready before I was ready to go. And my son was a junior in high school, came into church carrying the baby, had dressed them and everything, carried them right up in front where we were sitting, and brought her along to church.

BR: Then what kind of activities or hobbies did you do? And are you still doing some of them?

GW: Well, let's see. When we were living in Clearbrook, we were active with the teachers, because I had taught there, and some of them roomed at our house. So in the winter we always did a lot of tobogganing, and skiing, and that. The teachers bought a toboggan themselves, or we all did, and so every Sunday was occupied with that. And then we used to play bridge at night sometimes. And there was a garden club I belonged to up there. But after I got...moved to Moorhead, there was really no club that I belonged to, not like a book club or anything like that.

BR: Did you do handwork, like cross-stitch or anything like that?

GW: No. No, I didn't.

BR: You didn't.

GW: Didn't like that.

BR: What did you teach in Clearbrook?

GW: I was a third and fourth grade teacher, elementary.

BR: Elementary. Mmmm-hmmm. Did you ever work outside the home then?

GW: Not...except that...as I say, when the children were growing up, then I sometimes went on Friday and Saturday...or Saturday and Sunday...ah, Friday and Saturday to demonstrating. And that...you've seen that in the stores, in the markets like they have it. And I did that for about two years. And then I remember for two, three years, maybe even four, I did telephoning, not Nielsen ratings but what's the other one that...? Forgotten the name of it now. And used to call, "Are you listening to this program?" You know, and...

BR: Oh.

GW: I did that for years. In fact, I had the job of being the kind of supervisor for the area here.

BR: That'd be surveys?

GW: Surveys, that's it. Surveys. Mmmm-hmmm.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: Because I could stay home and do that, and do it while the children were in school.

BR: Did you have...ever have any help like maid? Or what kind of help did you have? Did your children help with the chores around the house?

GW: My children were very good to help. The only time I'd ever have any help was maybe during housecleaning or...that's all I can think of...is of somebody'd come and help me with a little of the cleaning.

BR: How would you get that help then? Is that some woman who...that would do...?

GW: Oh, I'd know some woman, and she would come. Mmmm-hmmm. Hire her.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. Do you remember what they earned an hour at that time?

GW: Not very much. I'm sure I never paid over a dollar a day for anyone to come.

BR: For a whole day's work?

GW: For a whole day's work.

BR: It's quite different today.

GW: I guess it is.

BR: Ah, what did you do for fun and entertainment then? You did mention the tobogganing. Did you...did your family go to shows or did you go to concerts or those kinds of things?

GW: Well, we never went to many shows together. I can't remember...unless there was a good show for kids that we'd take them to, but not too many shows. We'd go to concerts. We'd go to a lot of concerts. And hmmm, we played a lot of games at home. We'd like to play games around the table.

BR: You didn't have TV?

GW: No TV until they were in high school, and I am thankful for that.

BR: Now did some of their friends have TVs before they did?

GW: There was a neighbor down the block that had a TV. And after school there was some program on, I can't remember what it was now, but they were there every night until...and this

lady was so kind, she invited them in. She'd have all the kids in the block there sitting on her living room floor watching that program; it was some kid's program.

BR: Well then did they come and bring pressure on you to get one? [Chuckles]

GW: Well, I'll tell you, they knew that we didn't have any money to get it. But my son, who had a paper route, he bought our first TV, and we had it for at least ten, fifteen years. It was a real good one. And the reason he bought it was because his cousin was playing in the World Series; he was a Giants catcher. And so he bought a TV, and that's when we got it. I can't remember the year, but he was about a senior in high school.

BR: Were Sundays any different than any other day at your house?

GW: Well, they were different in that I wouldn't let them...I was brought up not to do any work. You prepared the meals and that was all. But we never threw in a load of clothes to wash, or...of course, we didn't have the washer either, but I mean, nothing at all. In fact, and my mother was so strict, she wouldn't even let us use a scissors to cut paper dolls or anything on Sunday. But in our family, it wasn't that. But I would never allow them to go to a show on Sunday until they got bigger, you know, older, I thought. And...

BR: What about your dinners? Did you have...?

GW: We had Sunday dinner. And all...

BR: Linen cloth and all that?

GW: Always had a white tablecloth, and had it in the dining room, and always had a big meal on Sunday. And I never knew how many we were going to be, because in my home, my mother always brought somebody home from church for Sunday dinner. And I don't know, my kids just followed that example, and so every once in a while, we'd have somebody extra, one or two extra for dinner. They knew they didn't have to ask, they just...

BR: Now was your big dinner at noon then?

GW: Yes, at noon. Right as soon as we got home from church. I'd get the potatoes peeled and everything before I went to church, and the roast in, or whatever it was. And we'd come home and...it seems to me that for a few years at least, the Sunday School met after church services. So I had about an hour there before they came home from church. So...

BR: Oh, so the children stayed later?

GW: They stayed later.

BR: That gave you that time.

GW: Time. Mmmm-hmmm.

BR: That's different than today.

GW: Yes. Mmmm-hmmm.

BR: Hmmm. How do the meal patterns of the early 1930s differ from the meal patterns of today?

GW: Well, there's not much...yet...hardly any comparison, because of the food that we have now. The way it was prepared...I mean, we started from scratch with everything. And now everything comes packaged if we want to use it. That...and so...it was a lot of difference in preparing the meal.

BR: Well then everybody...did everybody sit down at meals at the same time?

GW: Everybody sat down at the same time.

BR: You got up for breakfast?

GW: Yeah, every...

BR: Did you get up and make the meals for breakfast?

GW: I shouldn't...I was hoping you wouldn't ask me that question. [Chuckles]

BR: [Chuckles]

GW: Because that's one thing I didn't do. My husband always got up and went down to the store, and then he'd have breakfast someplace. So I never got up until I heard the children stirring. And...even after they got bigger, I stayed in bed until they were gone. Then I didn't have to hear all that fuss in the morning when they were getting...after they got bigger and were more vocal in telling each other off and that.

BR: Well, are there a lot of foods...?

GW: But I should say, too, we were lucky. Even after the children were in high school, even in high school and going to college, we could have our dinner still at noon, because my husband could come home and have his dinner, and we lived in a neighborhood where they could walk to high school, to junior high, and to grade school. So we never had to change our eating habits. And we...to this day, we still have our big meal at noon and...And I was glad, because when the boys got into athletics and that and the girls in their activities, there never was a...everybody home at the same time at supper. So I was glad that we could have our dinners at noon.

BR: So at...they'd have their good, full meal then.

GW: That's right. Mmmm-hmmm.

BR: Well, now are there foods available today that you wouldn't even have thought of back then in the 1930s?

GW: Oh, yes. There are.

BR: What are some of them?

GW: We were just talking about it today that...I was telling about the good broccoli dish we had yesterday. And Peter, my youngest son, was home and he said, "We never had that at that time, so I don't know." You know, I mean, he never learned to like it. And that's true. We never heard of broccoli.

BR: Did he like it today...yesterday?

GW: Yeah, he liked it. Yeah, he liked it. And another thing, in the winter, we never had any...lettuce, we never had lettuce during the winter, or celery or any of those things.

BR: Tomatoes, I suppose.

GW: Tomatoes, not...

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: So there's an entirely different menu you can have now than what you had when we were growing up and when we raised our children. And especially in a small town, you never got those things. Maybe in a bigger town you got lettuce during the winter, but we never did.

BR: Well now, you evidently didn't go grocery shopping then. Your husband did all that.

GW: Never have. And he still does it, for which I am very thankful. I mean...

BR: That's an unusual...

GW: Yeah. I have never gone grocery shopping unless I run into a store for something, you know, like that, but I have never taken a list and gone into the store.

BR: Well, how have you seen the stores change now? Even the format of the...where they put their produce and so on, how have that changed since the early 1930s?

GW: Well, you can imagine...

BR: [Unclear] and so on.

GW: ...imagine what a change it is for me. In a one-room store where they had *everything*, you know. Groceries in one part, one...by one counter and that, so...And then to come...the way it is now, where the...huge shopping centers, a cart, and even in the old, before, they used to take our order, and then I used to shop then when they used to write down our order, and then the grocery man picked it up and put it in a bag for us. And now...

BR: Oh, they...you just gave them what you wanted and they went to look for them.

GW: We told them. They told them and they wrote it down on a paper, on a book. They had an order book.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: They don't have order books now, do they?

BR: No.

GW: I never thought of that. And they wrote it. And then you just waited while they went and put everything on the counter and then put it in a bag and then you paid for it, from the same person.

BR: Did you ever have it delivered? Did they have a lot of deliveries from grocery stores at that time?

GW: There were delivery services, because my dad had a delivery service when he was working in the store. And he had horses. Horses pulled it. But I can't remember that we ever used it.

BR: Were there a lot of bulk foods then, like potatoes in a barrel and all that?

GW: Yes. Barrel. That's...rice.

BR: And rice.

GW: And apricots, I can remember seeing bins of apricots, and dried apples...I mean dried apricots, and dried apples, so things like that.

BR: So you would help your...but you didn't help yourself, they helped you.

GW: No, you didn't. They did it.

BR: The clerks did that.

GW: They [unclear] it. Well now, you see, you walk up and down the aisles, and you don't know what to choose, because there's such a variety. And all in such order, you know, where to find the frozen foods, and where to find the other.

BR: Decision making is more important, isn't it? [Chuckles]

GW: That's right. That's right.

BR: You got what...you took what you could get at that time, I imagine, hmmm?

GW: That's right.

BR: Hmmm, did they have a lot of frozen foods at that time, in the 1930s?

GW: Not any frozen foods that I can remember. They never had a freezer to freeze them. The milk was the only thing that was in the...

BR: The refrigerator.

GW: Of the refrigerator.

BR: Well, then, how much of your own food then did you grow or produce?

GW: We never did have a garden.

BR: You never had a garden.

GW: No. I remember when I was a child, ah, my grandparents lived...we called it out in the country, but it's very much in town right now, because it was only five blocks, it only on Fifteenth Street North. And they had a garden, and I remember we used to get potatoes, and carrots, and things from them during the summer. But after we got married, neither Lloyd nor I ever cared to have a garden, so we bought...still bought all our commodities.

BR: Well, how was the food kept fresh then? Did you have a refrigerator or an icebox?

GW: Not...not when I was first married. I didn't have...but then I got an icebox, and the iceman came around so many times a week. And we kept our...it wasn't very large, so you know you could only keep your milk, and your butter, and your eggs in there. I really don't know how we kept them...Well, you put everything in the cellar, that's right.

BR: You'd have a cellar.

GW: Not everything, but you did your...Mmmm-hmmm. In the first house we did.

BR: Hold on. Did you have lettuce? Some of the raw vegetables that would have to be refrigerated?

GW: I guess we didn't...yeah.

BR: Did you have as many...? That was probably only in the summer then.

GW: I don't think we bought...you never bought more than what you could use up. I mean, of course, a head of lettuce and that, but in the summer.

BR: So you had to shop more often then?

GW: That's right. More often. Ah...and then...but then I did get a refrigerator while I still lived in Clearbrook, I think the last couple years I was there, and that was a...

BR: Well, what time was that now, back in the nineteen...?

GW: That was in the 1940s.

BR: 1940s.

GW: 1940...about 1940 when I got a refrigerator.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. Did that seem like a luxury?

GW: Oh, that surely was. I was about the only one in town that had one. Because they weren't that popular, you know. And we had taken ours. We had come up to Moorhead to visit and carried it home with us in our car.

BR: Well now what long-term storage did you have? For example, how did you keep your potatoes? Or did you just buy some every...?

GW: Well, you always put them in your cellar.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. Did you have a regular bin, an open bin?

GW: Must have...yeah, just put them down in the cellar and...kept them there.

BR: Yeah. And then you didn't have a garden, so you didn't have to worry about keeping those vegetables.

GW: Keeping...no. Ah, we had a basement then after...In the first places we lived in Clearbrook, we had a cellar, but then we moved into a bigger house that had a nice basement, and no problem then to keep our vegetables...I mean, our potatoes.

BR: Did you have one little corner with a closed door or something that would...?

GW: Yeah.

BR: You kept cool?

GW: Lloyd's folks lived on a farm, so we really didn't have to have many...I mean, we'd get...when we were out of potatoes, they'd just bring us in some. They brought us the cream that we wanted, and brought us the eggs. I guess that's why I don't know too much about storage.

BR: Yeah.

GW: Because that's the way it was.

BR: Was it common for people to buy the cream from the farmers rather than the store?

GW: Yes. Yes, it was then.

BR: And that wasn't pasteurized then, was it?

GW: Not pasteurized, but it was in a bottle. It was in a bottle, you know. I mean, but when I was a kid, we just got it in a pail. We'd go to our neighbors who had a cow and we'd just get a pail full of milk. But in Clearbrook we had...

BR: And that wasn't pasteurized?

GW: No, not pasteurized.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: Ten cents a quart.

BR: Ten cents a quart!

GW: A quart, and delivered to the house.

BR: [Chuckles] Well, how has the time changed as far as the time to prepare foods changed? Can you see from the time when you had your children and now that they're all gone?

GW: I certainly can, because by the time you had bathed the little ones in the morning, and gotten the house straightened up, then you had to start dinner, to get your dinner ready by twelve o'clock. Now you can come from a meeting about eleven thirty and you're all ready to sit down at twelve because the food is so quick to prepare. I mean, everything can be ready for you, and you don't spend nearly as much time preparing it.

BR: So you're...you use more convenience foods now then?

GW: That's right. Mmmm-hmmm.

BR: It's made quite a bit of difference. Ah, what was your source of water when you first started homemaking? And now...and has that been much different at all?

GW: Yes. When I first started homemaking, we had a well. Lived in a small town, and we had a well, and had to pump the water. And then...

BR: For everything?

GW: For everything, yes.

BR: And no...well, did you have running taps in the house?

GW: No, we just had a pail under the pump. Well, had the pump in the house.

BR: Was that a summerhouse?

GW: Yes. Right.

BR: They called it a summerhouse?

GW: Yeah, it looked like a summerhouse, but ours wasn't even...because that had to be our kitchen, too.

BR: Oh.

GW: This little house, the first one we lived in. You took what you got when you...you know, in a big...in a small town, they don't have a lot of houses for rent to choose from.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: You're just lucky if someone moves and you can get anything. But...and it was so cold that if we left any water in the pail at night with the dipper in, you could lift up with the dipper and it'd still hold the pail in morning. It was...every night the water froze in the winter, because there was no basement under part of the house and...But then we didn't live there very long. And then we got running water. So I've always had running water except those...first year I was married.

BR: Well, how did you know if that well was good water? Did they have...? Did they test it?

GW: Not that I know of.

BR: You just...

GW: Nobody ever got sick, so we just thought it was okay.

BR: You just assumed it was okay?

GW: Just assumed it was okay.

BR: Yeah.

GW: Everybody had a well, so...we never thought anything of it, you know.

BR: But when you came to Moorhead, of course, you had the running water then, didn't you?

GW: Yes. And I still did when I lived in Clearbrook, too.

BR: Yeah. Well, let's take a look at your clothing, and the table linens, and so on. Did you purchase most of your...? Now when you were young, you didn't purchase any of your clothing.

GW: Not at all. No.

BR: But now after you got married, well, did that change?

GW: Well, then that changed, because if I was going to have anything, I had to buy it. I never could sew anything, and...

BR: Was that kind of a hard thing to do? Did the clothes seem expensive then when you had to buy them?

GW: Yeah, they did. I didn't want to pay that much for them, after you're used to always having your clothes made and never even thought of how much they cost. But of course I got a little bit used to that when I went teaching first and saw...then, of course, I had to buy clothes. And after I got married, then for all the children, we bought the clothes. We were real lucky. I had a sister that had girls a little bit older, and so they used a lot of hand-me-downs.

BR: Did...hmmm...did you have a hard time getting fitted when you had to buy them ready-made? Now when your mother was sewing, she would fit them to you, and they would be just right for you. Did you find that a problem when you started buying your own?

GW: No, not really. I mean, I guess I was just kind of easy to fit, or maybe I wasn't so particular. That maybe was it.

BR: [Chuckles] When you purchased them, how did you do it? Did you use a catalog, or did you go to the store?

GW: Well, when we lived in Clearbrook, we sent for a lot of things. But we also came to Moorhead. That isn't so far, hundred and fifty miles or so, so and then we'd do our shopping, I mean. And the kids got a lot of clothes for gifts, you know. So...but we did use a catalog.

BR: What catalog was popular at that time?

GW: Montgomery Ward.

BR: Montgomery Ward's.

GW: Mmmm-hmmm. That's what we used mostly.

BR: So you had made-overs and hand-me-downs. Did you do that with your children? You had four boys and...

GW: No, I had two...three boys and two girls.

BR: Three boys and two girls.

GW: Mmmm-hmmm.

BR: Then you could pass some of the clothes down.

GW: Clothes on. Mmmm-hmmm. They had...clothing really wasn't a problem, as I think of it, because we really did get a lot of real nice clothes. I mean, the aunts and the uncles always gave them on their birthdays, gave them nice dresses. And our girls, I remember, had birthdays, both of them in August, so I remember from the time...from the very beginning that we always went and shopped for school clothes in August, and that was their birthday present, and they were satisfied. That was just fine to get a couple new dresses and some sweaters. And so clothing really wasn't a problem.

BR: Did they have many rummage sales at that time?

GW: I can't ever remember a rummage sale until I moved back here, you know, and...in a small town, at least, I never heard of any.

BR: They probably just handed them down to neighbors and friends rather than sell them.

GW: I think so. They just...I think so, too. They just gave them. They never thought of making any money on them. And maybe they weren't worth anything, you know, after their children wore them.

BR: They wore them 'til they...really...

GW: They did wear the clothes longer.

BR: Now did you have special clothes you kept for Sunday?

GW: Oh, yes.

BR: Their Sunday best.

GW: Sunday best.

BR: And then when they got home they had to change them?

GW: Changed right away and get into their other clothes.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: It's always been...when we were kids...and our own children did that, too. Even after coming home from school, if they were going to go outside and play, they'd take off if they had their...because then they always wore dresses, the girls did, and get into something else.

BR: How did you keep the clothes clean now? Did you have a washing machine?

GW: I've always had a washing machine.

BR: Now what kind? Did you have a wringer type at first?

GW: Yeah. I had a wringer type. In fact, it was hard for me to get to the other because I never thought they would get so clean. I always thought so. I've only had a conventional, I'd think, about five years.

BR: Well now what model of...back there, what was a popular washing machine, the wringer type? Was the Maytag...?

GW: Maytag is what I did have. Mmmm-hmmm.

BR: Yeah, they were...they've been in for years.

GW: That's right. Maytag.

BR: And then they...Well, then, what made you finally get an, oh, automatic?

GW: Well, I...let's see, now, why did I? Oh, something happened to my...my good old faithful, and my children just wouldn't hear of it. They said, "You've just *got* to get an automatic! You've just *got to!*" I couldn't believe that you could go down and put your clothes in and then go upstairs again. I wanted to be down there until they were ready to come out. And I had a hard time adjusting to an automatic. Not the running of it, but I mean getting used to it.

BR: Well, before that then, how did you dry your clothes?

GW: I hung them out all the time in the summer.

BR: Outside. What about winter?

GW: And in the winter...in fact, I used to have one of these racks, and used to put them on there, and just stick them outside the door and freeze them, and then take them in. I don't know what that did to them, but anyway, that's what we were supposed to do, and that's the way I did it. But, when I had a basement in my house, then I used to dry them on lines in the basement, until I got a dryer.

BR: So did you find then that you spent a lot less time after you got your electric washer?
[Chuckles]

GW: I did after I got used to it. But I still thought that you could...when you washed clothes, you washed clothes all morning, and you didn't just go and start anything else. So...I got used to it, and now it is easy.

BR: So you had...did you have a day then, like Monday was for baking, and Tuesday was for something else, like that little nursery rhyme?

GW: Yeah.

BR: Did you do...have that type...?

GW: I really didn't follow that, except that I always cleaned on Friday, and baked on Saturday. But I can't remember always washing on Monday.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: But I tried to at the first of the week, but it wasn't as...it wasn't religious for me to keep that schedule.

BR: Did you think of wash day as a...?

GW: Drudge.

BR: ...kind of a blue day?

GW: Yes.

BR: Did the children seem to mind? Did...?

GW: Well, they never liked to come home. I mean, they'd always be glad they could go right away after eating and get back again because...

BR: You probably didn't have as much food baked and...

GW: That's right. And in the winter I had to melt ice, put it in a boiler, and then boil the clothes, and so you can see why it was so hard to get used to a conventional or a real automatic.
[Chuckles]

BR: I should think it would have been an easy thing to give up. [Chuckles]

GW: Yeah. [Chuckles]

BR: How has ironing of clothes changed?

GW: I've always liked to iron. That was one thing. Even when I was young, I just loved to iron men's white shirts and that. And so I...that was no problem with ironing. And then it came so you don't iron at all now except just a little bit, you know.

BR: Does that make a difference on the clothes you buy? Like for instance, if it doesn't have cotton and polyester or permanent press, do you think twice about buying it?

GW: Well, I don't know if I do or not, but I sure noticed the difference now, I got some material, and someone made up some aprons for me that came from...the material came from the East, Indonesia. And I was so surprised when I washed them, and thought they would just look nice, you know, afterwards. And I have to iron them. So it does make a difference in the material.

BR: And now if you were to go and buy that again, would you choose that, or would you avoid it?

GW: I certainly would. I'd choose the...with the polyester...or you know, the...and especially in tablecloths and that. What a change there! We used to have those big white tablecloths; took you half an hour to iron them or more.

BR: Now did you do a lot of mending then of the clothes, the children...like darning the socks when they got...?

GW: I'm sorry to say I never did. When we lived here, my mother always took care of it. And when she passed away, my aunt took all my darning and did it for me.

BR: So she'd come and help you out?

GW: I'd send my boy with it.

BR: Oh.

GW: He'd take a big basket and go up there.

BR: You'd pile them up and then send them over.

GW: Pile them up, and he'd go up, go over there.

BR: Well, you were lucky!

GW: I was lucky! Nobody believed me, but I always said that I was allergic to a needle. I mean, I'd get pins and needles in my fingers. And I really believe that I did when I'd take up a needle, so I didn't have to sew. To this day, I don't sew.

BR: Have you noticed the difference in the acceptable clothes that people wear to church now? Did you...? You said you always dressed up. Now do you see a difference today?

GW: They come with almost anything. Sometimes...I'd feel embarrassed if I went up to Communion with washed out pants like some of the girls even wear, and on their feet, the shoes they wear. Our children always dressed up for church. And always...even now, when I visit them, they're always...they are very conscientious about being well-dressed when they go to church.

BR: Why does it bother you, do you think?

GW: I suppose it's because...

BR: Is that a sort of reverence or a respect?

GW: I suppose, I don't know.

BR: Or how...what did you...?

GW: I still can't go to church in slacks, in the church part. I can go out there to anything else, but I don't know. It isn't...I know it isn't wrong. It isn't wrong for anybody else to do, but I can't do it.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. So that's part of your whole background.

GW: That's...that's my background.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. How do you think the amount of time spent on housekeeping has changed?

GW: Well...

BR: Do you...did you used to houseclean twice a year and that?

GW: When we were being...when we were being brought up, then housecleaning was a big chore. The rugs came out, and we'd have to beat them after school. We'd have to go out and beat the rugs, and everything went out, twice a year. But after I got married, I really did do better cleaning or more thorough cleaning all the time after I got married, but not on a yearly basis like

that. I mean, every week I cleaned real good. But I suppose it was because I had so much time. I had to do something.

BR: [Chuckles]

GW: Because I remember I used to go over the whole house every week, real thorough. But, as the children came and that, it got...I got more slack...or slacker in it and...

BR: Well, did you give each child a job?

GW: They all had their...

BR: For instance, they each cleaned their own room and that sort of thing?

GW: Mmmm-hmmm. They have always taken care of their beds and that. And I remember when the girls were in high school, and even in college, they...we've always lived close to the places, so it was no problem. And they've always had their Saturday chores. One had the kitchen and the stairways to clean and like that. So they've always been good to help, all of them, even the boys.

BR: What was the job you hated to do the most in housecleaning? [Chuckles]

GW: Well, I hate to dust. That's one thing I hated.

BR: Do you still have...mind it?

GW: I still put it off as long as I can. I don't know why, but I still do, even if I have Endust and everything else.

BR: Well, we talked about a little bit on what you considered weekly chores, or monthly chores, and so on. Did you have something...like baking, was that a weekly chore?

GW: Always on Saturdays, and I still do.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: Even though I haven't anybody to eat it all, I still bake on Saturday, and find somebody to give it to. It's just right in me, I've just got to. It isn't Saturday unless I bake.

BR: Well, do you feel like you've wasted your day then if you don't?

GW: You know, if I don't, yeah! There's nothing to do. So...

BR: [Chuckles] Ah, were there any special daily chores you always did? Did they always make their beds and...?

GW: Besides dishes and...

BR: And the dishes and...

GW: And the children, I think, always...I can't remember that I had to go beg they make their beds.

BR: Now and you lived through the Depression of the 1930s.

GW: That's right.

BR: What were some of the problems that you remember about the 1930s and the Depression?

GW: Well, there was a lack of money. Was it in the Depression that we had stamps? No, that was in war, wasn't it?

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: In the Depression...I don't think that we suffered too much ourselves, because we never had so much in the first place, that we didn't miss anything. There was a shortage of...

BR: There were shortages of foods.

GW: Foods, yes.

BR: Sometimes.

GW: But there wasn't much to spend, but everybody else was in the same boat, so...really never noticed it so much. I saw a lot of people that really were hurting.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: But it really didn't affect...

BR: If everybody is in the same boat pretty much, it's a lot easier, isn't it?

GW: That's easier, yes. Uh huh.

BR: Yeah. Then you were talking about stamps. What were just some of the homemaking problems that we had during the World War II that you remember?

GW: Well, we had rationing, you know, stamps, had to have stamps for gas. And we were lucky, I would say, because we didn't do much driving, so it didn't bother us there. But five children, and Lloyd, and I, and everybody got a ration book, so we had more stamps than what we could

use. We were helping everybody else with it, and especially in sugar. Sugar was so scarce, you remember that? And coffee.

BR: Coffee.

GW: But we never had to suffer with rationing. Prices were high, but...

BR: Well, with clothing then, do you remember anything about rationing in the clothing?

GW: Well, silk stockings.

BR: What about stockings?

GW: That's right.

BR: Yeah.

GW: Stand in line to get stockings, but...I guess that wasn't too big a problem with me because...

BR: Did you mind doing that? Did you...remember standing in line even to go to the shows?

GW: Oh, yes. I remember standing in line there. But, hmmm...I remember...I can't remember standing in long lines like some did for stockings and that. But I imagine...no, I really can't remember ever standing really in a line to get a pair of socks.

BR: So the World War II didn't seem to change a lot in your lifestyle.

GW: Didn't have much...no. No, and we didn't have any of our immediate family that went into the war, so we weren't that close to it.

BR: Your children weren't that age then?

GW: They weren't old enough then and...my husband was too old.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. Well, did you go down and help bandage...?

GW: Roll bandages, yes, I did.

BR: Roll bandages at the church.

GW: I did that.

BR: And ever write letters to boys overseas?

GW: I don't remember that I wrote letters. I remember that I wrote...

BR: Or send packages?

GW: Send packages, we did, but I don't remember writing letters.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. What about floods? Did we have...hmmm...many floods here?

GW: I've never been in a flood area. When I was a child, we lived on a...well, now it'd be a block about from the Red River. We lived on the north side. But it's all been filled in now. It couldn't...there was a big ravine there that went down to the river. And the river sometimes would come up on that ravine quite a ways, but never flood stage.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. So that was never one of your problems.

GW: Never one of our problems.

BR: Now did you have a telephone back there?

GW: Yes.

BR: What about your first home, did you have...?

GW: When I...at...in my own...when I was married? Without...?

BR: Yeah, no, when you were a young girl, did you have a telephone?

GW: No. We never had a phone.

BR: Not in the country, had one of the crank staffs?

GW: No, we didn't. *But* we lived across the street from people who had a telephone. And their telephone was in the hall, and in the summer we could always hear it ring. Oh, we used to think that was fun. And then if anybody wanted us, they'd call...we'd run over there and answer it. I don't remember how old we were when we got a telephone, but it sure was wonderful.

BR: But you still had one when you were still at home then?

GW: That was when we were still at home.

BR: And then you've always had a telephone then ever since you've been married.

GW: And we've always. Mmmm-hmmm. We never had a crank one, but Lloyd's folks lived on the farm, so I'm familiar with the cranked one where they had about fifteen, twenty people on the line.

BR: Well, what other technological developments do you think has affected the role of the homemaker?

GW: Well...

BR: Such as some of the electric appliances now?

GW: Yeah. Electric appliances certainly have made it easier for the homemaker.

BR: Do you have one especially that you wouldn't want to be without, that you didn't have?

GW: I don't think I could get along without my beaters, my...

BR: Your electric mixer?

GW: My electric mixer.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: And the toaster. I'd hate to get along without a toaster.

BR: How did you toast? Did you do that in oven? How did you do that before?

GW: No, we had one of those that you put the slices in and hold it over the stove in that.

BR: Oh, the stove.

GW: Yeah. Mmmm-hmmm. We had one of those.

BR: Yeah.

GW: But there's others, too, I mean...it's even nice to have the...I don't have a dishwasher, but it's nice to have a bread knife...you know, electric knife. And can opener. All of them are...are helpful. We could live without them, I'm sure, but...

BR: Do you still mix up your own bread then?

GW: Always.

BR: See, we have the bread...dough mix.

GW: No, I don't use that dough. I make bread. Every week. Mmmm-hmmm.

BR: What about transportation? Did your family always have a car?

GW: We never had a car as long as we were kids.

BR: How did you get around then?

GW: Well, we walked. We walked to church, we walked every place we went. Of course, Moorhead wasn't so big then. We lived on the north side in about the Fourth Avenue. And church, our church, the thing we went to all the time was on Sixth...on Second Avenue and Sixth Street South, so it wasn't...wasn't even a mile. We always walked, from the time we were small. And when we went, we went on a lot of picnics and that when we were small. And our mother and dad used to take us, and we walked over to Island Park. You know where Island Park is.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: We always walked. Never thought of anything else but walking. I had an uncle that had a car, so if we ever went out of town, we rode with them. They had a big car. After we were married, we had a car.

BR: And what about hmmm...the heating systems? Now did you have a coal furnace?

GW: We...we had a coal stove.

BR: You had a coal stove.

GW: Stove in our living room.

BR: And that was it, the heater, too?

GW: With isinglass. That's...yeah.

BR: Oh, that was the heater, and the baker, and...?

GW: Well, it didn't bake.

BR: No, it was the heater.

GW: But I mean a great big beautiful one, all nickel plated and that. And with a...what do you call it on top, so that the heat would go up into the...a register up above it, so...

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: And then afterwards we...when we enlarged our house, of course, we got a furnace right away.

BR: Did that seem to take more time? You had to stoke it, or put the coal in, and...?

GW: My dad took care of it all the time, so...but there was work with a...

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: Because you have to empty the ashes, and you have to bring in the coal, and keep water on it.

BR: So that would be part of your daily chores then, wouldn't it?

GW: That's...would be daily chores. But after I was married, we always had a furnace. Now we have water...hot water heat, so it's very comfortable.

BR: Well, now we're kind of coming to the end of this. And can you look back and think about, hmmm, oh, some of your frustrations as a homemaker? Were there ever things that you would think, well, why in the world don't they invent this and this, and so...to make it easier? Do you remember any frustrations particularly?

GW: No, I...I must have been pretty easygoing or something, because I can't remember frustrations. Hmmm. Let me see. Maybe frustrated when I wanted to go someplace, and didn't have someone who could take care of the children, or that and I had to forego something. That maybe was a frustration, because it isn't easy always in a small town to get somebody to come in.

BR: Well, what did you used to pay the babysitter at that time?

GW: Never over a quarter.

BR: An hour?

GW: Oh, not an hour. Just a quarter to come.

BR: For the whole time?

GW: We never were gone...yeah, we...never was days, it was just to come while I went to Ladies Aid, or maybe we'd go...oh, we never had anybody come in the evening. We were, as I said, lucky because Lloyd's folks could come in and stay with the children if necessary. But we had girls take care of the children a lot. But a quarter, that's all they ever got.

BR: That was a lot. [Chuckles]

GW: When I think of it now, I shudder.

BR: Alright. Now what about women...were there some of the mothers who worked outside the home at that time?

GW: Very few.

BR: What did they think about them, if they did? Were they kind of...?

GW: Well, I think...I think if it was necessary, it was okay. But anybody who was just working outside the home to earn money, I thought...I mean, it wouldn't be necessary. I thought it was *more* important to be a homemaker, I mean, to take care of your children and that, than to...

BR: So they sort of took a critical view in a way.

GW: I think so. I think so. I think they did. Different thing if it was necessary, if there was a widow or something like that, that had to.

BR: Now you never had to in your family.

GW: Never had to. No. Not any of our family ever had to work.

BR: What was your impression of such women as Eleanor Roosevelt and Amelia Earhart?

GW: Never thought much about them. I thought what they did, was they accomplished...I admired Eleanor Roosevelt, and also Amelia Earhart for her bravery and that, but...never gave it much thought about being the first woman to do this or that. I mean...I can't believe that I did.

BR: You didn't have any desire to go out and try doing what they did?

GW: No. I didn't. No, I certainly didn't.

BR: And a lot of the wives probably never thought about it that way either.

GW: I don't think so. I don't think so. We were content.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: We must not have been...our aspirations weren't very high.

BR: In what way do you think the radio, and TV, and the movies have impacted on our roles as homemakers?

GW: I think it's made a great impact.

BR: In what ways?

GW: Well, there isn't that togetherness in the family. I mean before, we'd talk to each other, you know, and we were closer together. It seems like now there's so many good programs that each one wants to listen to that you don't have time to sit and listen to somebody talking. And another

thing, if you get company, that TV is going, and some of them don't care to turn off the TV. You can't visit with anyone with the TV going, and some of the programs aren't what you want your children to watch. I'm just glad my children are old enough and away from home, so I don't have that problem of...But I would think it'd be real hard for young mothers to try and regulate the programs that their children are going to see, because it seems like no matter what you turn on, if nothing else, there's something in the commercial that's suggestive or...

BR: So you're saying there's less communications then?

GW: That's what I believe.

BR: Because they're watching something else rather than...hmmm...taking active part in games. You said that you were playing games and things.

GW: Games...and that's right.

BR: And now you watch instead of play together.

GW: Mmmm-hmmm. When I think of all the things we talked about when our children were home, you know, to each other and that. And now you see little children sitting in front of a TV for *hours*. They aren't talking at all to their parents or to anyone else.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. Do you think the children came home from school and shared with their parents some of the happenings?

GW: Oh, I think they did more than now. Well, I don't know about now, because I don't have any. But our kids always came home with *something* to say about something that had happened or that.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. Well, if you had it to do over again, what would you change?

GW: I wonder what I'd change?

BR: Would there be some things you wish you had back there?

GW: I...I...sure of that, I would wish I'd had a little more money. I could have done a little better, I think. And I think...I wish I had been more...especially when I was teaching school, I thought I had to go by what I'd learned at college, and go by the book so.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: I wish I had talked more instead of trying to say what the book said. I would just love to...I don't want to go back to teaching now; I'm too old for that. But if I had the chance to teach those years over again, it'd be entirely different.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: I think...

BR: You'd be more spontaneous and trust more in your own thinking.

GW: More spontaneous. That's right. I don't know why I thought I had to do it just the way the book said, you know, and try and remember the words of the book, when I could have talked it just as well myself.

BR: Well, do you think there was more conformity? People wanted to do the "right thing"?

GW: I think that.

BR: Quotations. [Chuckles]

GW: That's it. Quote. I think so. Because now...or maybe it's just cause we're older. Maybe the young feel the same way as we did then, but I don't know. But when...I am older now, I don't want to remember everything that it says in a book, I want to say what I think myself!

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. More freedom of choice.

GW: More freedom choice and...

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. What would you wish for your granddaughters then? Now do you have granddaughters now?

GW: Mmmm-hmmm. I have...

BR: What would you wish for them as homemakers now when they...get there?

GW: Well, I wish, first of all, that they...when they marry, they marry somebody that's faithful, and someone they love, and that loves them, and that it's a marriage that lasts. That's what I hope, first of all.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: And I hope that they have a family, and they can bring them up to be lovely children, and I hope that they all stay true to the religion that they have been brought up in, I mean, are faithful to their religion, to their...

BR: And do you think it's harder in today's world now then to...ah...on families, the pressures from outside to remain together and...?

GW: I do. I think that, because you see it all the time that...

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: And especially with...hmmm...leaving the...not the leaving the church, but I mean being not so conscientious about attending church and that for a few years. You know, children, after they get out of...get confirmed, and get out on their own, don't seem to have any responsibility towards the church. And I would like my...so far, they all have, and I'm just hoping that that's...they all will continue.

BR: Mmmm-hmmm.

GW: I think.

BR: Well, Gladys, this has been a very interesting discussion. And I do thank you for coming today and sharing a part of your life with us.

GW: Well, I'm glad that you'd take the time to ask me. [Chuckles]

BR: And thank you again, Gladys.

GW: You're welcome.

[End of interview]