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Interview with Mary Massaro by Donna Carbone

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Okay Mary. We'll start off with where you were born. I was born in Krebs, Oklahoma. In Krebs, Oklahoma. And what year? 1907. And what was your father's name. His name was Pasco DiGiacomo. DiGiacomo. DiGiacoma. Say honey, it don't go like they spell over here, Donna. It was DeJacimo. Okay. They just go by DeJacimo. It starts with G where ours started with a J. So it's DeJacimo. What did your father do for a living, Mary? Well he mined, honey. He did mining. He was a coal miner. Un huh. He was a coal miner. And now your mother's maiden name? Berardi. And her first name. ----- Can you spell that honey? Is it Primethena? Well I don't know. Wait let me see. Okay. I can't spell it myself but I've got it written down. Where's my story. Prembertine. Okay. Good enough.

Now were your folks from Italy? Yes. They came from Italy. Don't ask me the year. There was six children in our family. How many boys? There were two boys and four girls and they've all passed away except three girls. One of my sisters is in a nursing home back in Cleveland, Ohio and the other sister lives in Macalister, Oklahoma and me here. Those are the only three that are left. My parents are all gone.

I went to school up to the eighth grade. Catholic school. In Krebs over there when we had the Nuns there and then if we wanted to go to high school we'd go to Macaliser which was three miles away which I didn't go. What else did I do. Did you start working at a early age, Mary? Well I did start working, Donna, at home very much. Just when they had the canning factory there in town just during the canning season and that wasn't for very long. Okay.

Okay now. When did you come to Lafayette? Huh, you really want to know? In July 11, 1929. Now were you married then, Mary? Yeah, I married in Oklahoma and then we came over here. Okay now, what was your husband's name? Joe. Joe Massaro? Joe Massaro. And what did Joe do? Joe was a miner. He was a miner here. Then when you came into Lafayette he started in the mines? He started in the mines, yes, cause see he started in the mines even before he was married over here. He came to Oklahoma at the age --- from Italy at the age of 16. Okay. And he went right to work. In the mines. Un huh and then when they slowed down he came to Colorado, you know, and we met. Course I had met him once before, you know, and he came there to visit his Aunt and we decided to get married and then we came here. I'm still here Donna in the same house. Fifty nine years. In this house here on 314 East Emma. 314 East Emma, now to me that's a record. Course a lot of people have been born and raised here, you know. But in the same house, that's amazing. In the same house, that's what I always say. You and this house have seen a lot of changes. Yes, I have. Yes, I have. Like I told you, honey, on the phone, it was more convenient in them days for us, course we were younger and we could do more then than we do now. We went to town, Donna.

We never had mail delivery, but you had the post office there, you had the grocery stores there and we had more than one. Right off hand I don't know how many. We had the dry good, we had the bank and everything was all the conveniences. If you wanted to go to town and get your mail, alright you did and if you didn't you didn't have to but the grocery man would come and get your order, you know, and they'd deliver your groceries. Now there's nothing like that any more. No, that's right. It makes me sick to go down town. That's true, Mary. I think even you can live next door and not know your neighbor. That's happening, Donna. I think, well I know this one over here, for sure, and they over here and the neighbors next door. The other ones, Donna, you can just see them come and go. Come and go. That's all because they're younger people and they're working during the day, you know. But now, we have more convenience now, you know, we got this big shopping area. Yeah, oh yeah. But in a way, as far as shopping centers go. But if you want to go to the bank, you go at one end of town, you go to the drug store, it's in the middle of town, you go to the post office, it's at the end of town. The City Hall is down there too. See. That's what I mean. Yes, it was all centralized. Yes. Centrally located. Yes. And it had to be because there weren't that many cars. You know. No, there wasn't. People walked more. You know, Donna, now like for me, I'm not talking about myself cause if I want to go anyplace, the girls will take me. But some of the seniors down there don't have no way even to get their groceries. It's one good thing the city does, is provide for transportation as far as Sax, you know, once a week. That's true. That's true. Which is good for a lot of them. Yes. Because a lot of them, their children are out of town. Yes. That's true. That's true and there would be no way for them to ---. There would be no way for them to go.

Now Mary. You met in Krebs. You met Joe in Krebs and were married there? Yes, yes. Okay and how many children did you and Joe have.? We had three. Three. All girls? All three girls. All three girls, okay. Do they, all three, live here in town? Yes, yes, yes. Want to give their names. Vicky, Patty and Joey. Okay, alright.

Okay, now we'll get into Lafayette. When you first got here and you moved into this house. Paved streets. Were the streets paved? No, my god, no. Joe didn't even see the paved streets. He was in the hospital and that's when he died, you know. They were paving them at the time. At the time. But they hadn't got to our street. Now did you sidewalks? What kind of sidewalks? Yeah, we had sidewalks. There were ---. Yeah, but we had to put them in ourselves, you know. Okay.

What mine did Joe start work at? Mary, do you recall? You know I don't know honey. I really don't know where he first started. That's okay. What kind of jobs did he do? Did he work up on top or did he work down in the mines? Down in the mine, honey. He dug for the coal and everything. Dangerous work. Yes, and he lost, well he was running one of these coal cutting machines, I think, and he got his foot caught in there, you know, and they had to amputate. That was on the fourth of June, no

it was on the eighth of June, Vicky's Birthday, 1942. Was there miner's compensation? Did the company pay for that? Well for awhile, honey, but we never got no settlement because after Joe got his leg he was more able to move around and do things, you know, which he didn't get. They gave him, you know, they gave him some compensation. How much it was, Donna, I don't remember. Yeah, yeah.

Now Mary, were there any strikes around here at that time? Like the Simpson Mine when it went out on strike. No, I wasn't here. Wasn't around on any of that. I wasn't here then.

Okay now. You mentioned some stores in town. Businesses. Can you remember any of the names of the businesses? Oh, yeah. There was Alderson's Dry Goods, and then there was Davis's, there was Ham, Ham Roberts, there was Scholes and then there was Sam Lucock, he had a man's store there, you know and Charlie Scholes. How about any blacksmith places, any livery, meat markets? Can you remember anything like that? Well that's what I mean about Ham. There was even the company store. Okay. The company store was there too. That was still there. Mr. Moon used to work at the company store at the time. Okay. As a butcher? Bill Moon. And that was before his own business then? Yes, yes, yes.

Okay, let's see, what else. Dances. Were there a lot of dances or anything like that at the Union Halls? Well they use to have dances but I didn't go, honey, because we didn't ever dance. I didn't dance and Joe didn't dance.

Mary, you're an Italian. Was there a lot of Italians that lived in this area at that time? There was quite a few. There was a few of 'em, honey. You could just about name them. Some of the people, when I cam to Colorado, honey, there was just one lady in Welby that I know. Just one. I had never met Joe's aunts or his relations or anything, the ones he had around here. Never, none and I thought boy if I see that lady it's just like seeing my mother, you know. Why sure. She was just like her. Sure it was. And I told her when I first came, she asked me if I was going to like it, I says I don't know. That was the first time I had ever been away from home, honey. Gosh. How old were you when you were married, Mary? 21. 21. 21, honey and I'll be 81 next month. Oh, boy.

Well you know my dad mentions that there was French town, you know, each place. A lot of Chechs lived in one area and a lot of Greeks lived in another. I wondered if there was a little community of Italians. Mostly Louisville, huh? In Louisville, honey, yes, but not in Lafayette. The only Italian I think I had down here was Ann Forte, that's Joe's aunt and Mrs. James up on the hill that I knew real well. Well the DeNovellis' was here and there was Mrs. Nuoci. Now those I remember. If there were any more I don't know. Don't remember. Well I don't remember from yesterday.

How about some doctors? Can you remember some of the doctors? Oh, yes. I remember Dr. Porter. He was our family doctor. He was the mine doctor too, you know. Now mine doctor. Did he go into the mines if someone was

hurt or did he just work on the miners? That I don't know, Donna. I don't know but I know he made house calls and everything and he was paid through the mine. Oh, Okay. That's probably it then. Kind of like the Kaiser Plan now. Yes. If you couldn't go to the office, they would make visits. It's not like now. You either go or you could die. That's right and probably they were a little bit more lenient as far as payment. If you couldn't make a payment. Oh my god yes, Donna, if you ----- I think I'd be out of my house. I had to have toe surgery and that run up to hundreds of dollars and I had to have a cataract removed and that was higher too, you know. After you get old, honey, it just seems like it is one thing after another. Oh well sure. That's true, Mary.

Now in the grocery stores. The way I understand it with the miners. They would charge all summer. They would charge --. Now with us Donna we would just charge for two weeks cause I don't believe in letting my bills run long. My mother used to say if you can't pay your bills when they're small you sure as the devil ain't going to pay them when you got more. That's right. And so I just try to keep it up every two months.

Now did you raise a garden, Mary? I didn't but Joe did. Oh yes, honey, we raised a garden. We had a garden, we had rabbits, chickens. You know, we had our own eggs. We had everything. Did you do a lot of canning. Oh my god yes, honey, everything I could get my hands on. But then in the winter time we butchered a hog, you know. We bought it and had them butcher it for us. We rendered our own lard, you know, and made our sausage and everything. Oh yeah, it was just like old times and all that's gone. Yes, yes.. Now Mary, how did you keep the sausage? I have heard that they put it in ----. We put it in crocks. My mother had one of these old open kettles outside, you know, and we used to do our washing on the board and we use to heat our water in that crock. Now that was outside? That just stayed outside? Outside. Oh a great big one, honey. And that's where we rendered our lard. And you put a fire under it? You put a fire under it. Naturally, honey. How did you keep it up? Was it on a chain or something? No, no. You just set it on bricks, honey. Oh, okay, okay. It was set on bricks. It was there for good. For good. Oh you better believe it honey. And we had an oven, my mother baked bread too, and that was outside. An oven? Yeah, and oh, a great big oven. First she used to heat it, honey, with wood, you know. Now was it a metal oven or a brick oven? No, it was a brick oven. Mary, that's amazing. And they put fire in it, you know, and then while the bread was raising and everything and then when it was ready to go in, well then she had something made like a broom with corn shucks, you know, and she wiped all of those ashes out of that oven. She just put, she had a wood platter, a wooden paddle with a long, long handle and she'd put her loaf of bread on that and pop it in the oven. Donna, that was the best bread you ever put in your mouth. Oh I can imagine. I can imagine. And the loaves were like this. My gosh. Can you imagine how hard that was? Yes. Honey, they worked. They worked, Donna. My gosh. When I was at the school, you know, I used to make all those rolls and things over there. I didn't think I could make that

much bread in one day. You did that, you made the rolls and -----.
Let's go ahead and finish off on this with the garden and that because the schools is something I really want to get into. Cause I know you've spent alot of years. Oh boy, honey, yes.

Okay, now you heated your water for your washing and everything in that crock? Outside, and outside. In the winter? In the winter and everything, honey. That's something, Mary. Yes, it is, honey, yes it is. When it was real cold, why then we washed inside, you know, but our water was outside. Was outside.

And so when you put your sauage up---We cooked it in that kettle, honey, that big outside kettle and then we put it in a crock, either 3 or 5 gallon crock and we covered it with lard, you know, and sealed it real good and we had it all winter long. And it never went bad on you? It never done nothing, honey. That's amazing. Mother and them never had a cellar even then at the time, you know, we just kept it in the shanty that we had outside there and our canning she used to do, we had to crawl under the house to put it in and take it out. My gosh. So it wasn't no fun, Donna.

Okay, now, let's get into -- let's talk about the wine because I've heard great things about this wine. Yeah we made wine, honey. Joe made wine every summer. He either got a ton of grapes or a half ton of grapes. Your're kidding? No, I'm not kidding. Oh my gosh. The grapes came from California to someplace in Colorado, no we got them from Denver, it came to Denver, you know, then you had to put your order in before time. Well, then we, my uncle had a truck farm, or Joe's uncle had a truck farm there in Welby and he brought the grape over here and he made his wine. We never had no compressor, you just stomped it with your feet. You just got in there with -----. With a washtub, honey. And you stomped them things with your feet. It was good wine. Well I've heard it was. Yeah, it was good wine, Donna. We had enough for all winter long. Well I didn't, cause I didn't even drink it, I just got to where I couldn't drink it. My dad made blackberry wine. Ooh, that sounds good. Blackberry wine sounds good. Yes, with wild blackberries. But he didn't made too much of it, like Joe did. You know, Joe wasn't too much to go to the beer joints and anything. Now he went to Clemens because there were certain men that went, certain friends of his. It was more of a socializing place. That's right, just to play cards. Right, just to chit chat. That's all. Like I said, we had our own wine, we made that, we made our own brew. We did everything, Donna. Well you were self sufficient. Well yeah, well we try to be. And now it's all together different. Yes, it is. It has changed. All together. Life is easier, you know, some of the things are much easier than what they were. Yes, yes. But you wonder a---. We carried our own coal and wood in. See that coal we had the coal mine, the hard coal and you would keep it outside. It wouldn't crumble up like the coal you got around here. The soft coal. Yeah, that's right. Now, Mary, there was just coal? There wasn't gas or anything? No, no, no. If anybody had it, I don't know about it. No, I don't think so either. I don't know. That came later. And for your sewage, did you have outdoor ----? We had outdoor toilets. That was fun. I had that over here for years too, till the city made us put one inside. But what a convenience, Donna, and the streets and everthing like that. It's just the inconvenience to get from one place

to another, if you have to walk. That's all.

Now Mary, after Joe's accident, then he didn't go back in the mines, did he? No, he never did go back to the mines. What did he do then? Well then, honey, one time he worked for the Thompson Pipe and Steel. What he did there I don't know, but he worked there for awhile and then he got laid off and then I thought, well he had his leg and everything, I though, well it's time for me to see what I can do. He would be home when Vicky and Patty came home from school, course I didn't have Joey until after he lost his leg. I thought if the kids want to have lunch at school, it's alright cause then it was just, what was it, 20¢ or 25¢, I don't know. Yeah, um um. But they never did like the school lunches and he'd come home and he'd have something fixed for them, you know. He'd do what he could around the house, while I was at school and first I started working for Mrs. B. Mrs. Blankenship? Mrs. Blankenship for 50¢ an hour and I was there, oh more than one night till 3 O'clock in the morning. I worked night shift, nothing extra just 50¢ a week and I thought well, that's better than nothing. We were getting that little compensation, you know, like I said, we have our own chickens, we had our own rabbit, we had our own pigs, and our own sauage, everything, you know what I mean. So then when he, no honey, then he went to the pool hall. He took the pool hall. Okay. He took the pool hall. Now Mary is that the one on Simpson? Next to Sportsmans. Okay, up on 287? Yes, yes. Next to Sportsmans. Next to Sportsman. Then he had that Donna, for I don't know how long. My gosh. Well until the war started and all the young boys went, you know, that's all he had over there was the young kids that was going to school, you know. But it helped something, cause the rent wasn't high we was just paying \$15 a month and he thought, well that's better than nothing. Then when the boys all went, he had to close the pool hall. That's when I decided to see what I could do. I went to Blankenships. And that was 50¢ a week? 50¢ a week, no 50¢ an hour. 50¢ an hour. An hour, an hour. My goodness. 50¢ an hour and I worked there I don't know how long, until Lizzie DeNovellis says to me one day, she was working to the school, in the cafeteria and she says Mary, before I tell Mae Newbill that I'm going to leave, she said Miss James told me you wanted to work. I says, "Okay". I says, "But I don't know who I should go see". She said, "Lizzie told you to go see Logan Ross or one of the board members". You know, the school board members. That was before we reorganized. Right. Well I went to Logan Ross cause I knew him better than any of 'em and he says, "Gee whiz Mary, if you want to work at the school before why didn't you tell me". I says, I don't know. Joe didn't want me to go to work. Well you know at that time, not a lot of people worked. I know it honey and you know us old people, I mean, us Italians we never had, we had, my mother had an idea. It was not for the women to work. The men had to make the living. I think that wasn't just Italians that was --, I wish they'd come back to that. Oh no you don't, Donna, you'd get bored. You'd get bored at home. So I says well I'm goin' to go whether I want to or not, I'll work the night shift. I went and then this opening came at the school and Logan told me to go to school and see just how they were doing, you know, for two days, this was on a Thursday. I saw Logan on a Wednesday, this was on

Thursday and he told me to go to school and see what they were doin' for two days, Thursday and Friday and then I could start on Monday. I did, and I started part time, you know. Now where was this at, Mary? Here in Lafayette. At the high school? At the old school, the grade school, the one that burned down. Oh, the old grade school and do you have any idea what year this was, about? No, I don't. Okay, but it was before they went into the RE--- Oh yes, yes because one of my great grandsons were at school over here. I think he was in the second grade when they---- when they consolidated second grade when they consolidated, honey. So you worked up--and Mr. Houser, was Mr. Houser there? Mr. Houser was there, Mr. Angevine was there, everybody was there. Do you remember any of the teachers? Any of the teachers? Oh yes, there was Mrs. LaRue, she was Vicky's first teacher, there was Miss Bittner, there was Miss Kelly, who else was there. Miss White? She was Miss Domenico, what was her name? Miss Honey. That's right. Oh honey, -- Miss Sleppy. It was just like I had one big happy family, honey. I remember those names. I remember some of 'em. Mr. Houser. I haven't heard them for years. Thelma Driver was secretary for Mr. Houser at the time. How many grades? Do you remember how many grades went there, Mary? Did it go up to ---? I don't know Donna, was it the seventh or the eighth? It seems like, I think your right, I think it was the eighth because I think you started ninth grade in high school. I think so, at that time Donna, yes you did. Yes you did. Yeah. So they had from first grade through the eighth. Yes, yes, yes. Now you did the cooking right in that building? Right in the building, oh yes honey, we did everything from right there. The baking? We bought everything. We did everything from scratch. Nothing was sent over like they do now? It was all -----? What they do now, I don't know how they get these cut fries or whatever it is, you know, Donna. Yeah, I don't know. We used to get chocolate milk till they quit and at one time I says to 'em, I have to have chocolate milk for my kids. I says cause they just allowed it once a week and then they thought, no, the kids weren't eating. I says the kids will eat if they like what you got, if they don't, they won't eat it. They won't eat it. That's right, Mary. So they started giving us chocolate milk again. Well it went along that way, you know. Then after we had, what year did we consolidate? That I don't remember. Oh boy, and I should because Woody was telling it in his interview. I don't remember, Mary what year we did consolidate. Well anyway we did. We peeled our potatoes by hand, we made our bread by hand, we made everything by hand. When we went up to, over here to the elementary up here, we had a bread machine, we had a potato peeler, we had a -- and I didn't know, honey, how to use a dam one of 'em, Donna. I thought, I says to Grace Garcia one time, I ain't goin' use this dam, I started the machine one day and I had flour all over the place. I says, clean it up Grace, I'm goin' make bread by hand. I imagine that was a big shock. Boy, it was. Sure it's just like down there, you know, when they bring in a computer when you've never seen one before. Yes, and you know that potato peeler, I didn't like that either. You had to dig out all the eyes. I'd just as soon peel my potatoes from the beginning. You know. To me that was a waste of time. So when one of the teachers came in, I think his name was John Bellamo, yes he was, he was teaching the retarded kids. He was an awful nice guy and he says Mary, how do you like all this new equip-

ment? I says I don't like it a darn bit, John. He says, you know you got to move with progress. I says I don't like this guy progress. I learned to do it the hard way and that's the way I am. That's the way you wanted to continue to do it. But then one of the ladies from the RE2 District came, you know, and she showed us how to use 'em. She wasn't that good at it either, honey. Because I don't think she every did it before either. She just read the book is all. That's all. That was her job, you know. That's right. Like I said, I was there, I went to work there the year before Joey was born. That would be ---? Let's see, Joey was born in '45. I'd say in '44 and '45. Cause at the end of '44 I told Mae Newbill I wasn't going back and she says, "what for." I says because I'm pregnant and she says "no you ain't" and I says oh yes I am. I said, you wait and see. Well she says I don't believe it but I says I'm not coming back. Then Joey was born in July of '45 and then I didn't go back until '52, I think it was. And then were you back up at the elementary school, Mary, did you go back to the Lafayette Elementary School or where did you go then? Yes I did, honey. Yes I did, I went back to Lafayette Elementary School because yes, all my girls graduated up here. All three of 'em. So then when did you retire from the school district? I retire, honey, I think it was in 1970, November. November 2, I think of 1970 and I got my retirement check in '72 but I got paid from the school district all that time on sick leave. Cause when I got sick and I was working Donna, I didn't take my sick leave so it sure came in handy. You bet, that's right. It sure came in handy. People don't do that now days. They take it immediately. I know. Well honey, I'd just think, well Joe's home, you know, with the kids and everything so what did I have to go home for. You knew everything was okay, that's right. Joey was gettin' to where she ---, Patty and Vicky got married and Joey was old enough to go --- because Joe died when Joey was in the tenth grade, I think, and I thought well she can take care of herself now. That's right, yeah. I worked since, well I worked for 25 years. The year of '43 and '44 they didn't count it then. They didn't have this PERA. The PERA, that's right. Yes. And I had two months and I don't know how many days to go before I had in my 20 years. Then I, you know, well gee whiz I'm ready to retire and I don't have my 20 years in. I wonder if they'd give me my retirement. So I talked to one of the ladies from the school and she said, she came to the hospital to see me after I had back surgery, and she says "Mary don't worry, if there is any way possible you could come to the school. If you could just sit down and put in those two months she says, "I could take over for you". Because you know Donna, when they, when I had to retire, they wouldn't take the word of Dr. Gordon or the doctor, I don't remember the doctor's name that performed the surgery. I had to go to one of their doctors, one of the PERA doctors in Denver. Now if they told me I was disabled, I would get my retirement, if not, I wouldn't. Well they did, Well thank goodness for that. They did. And that's how I got my retirement and I quit, what year was it that I quit, I don't even remember. Well I was there for 20 years. My gosh. Well in '70 like I told you, honey, I never did get to go back. I mean in November of 1970. You've see a lot

of changes? Oh honey, yes, yes I did. And there were a lot of good ones because you know, if you want a spool of thread why you can go down over here. That's true. Or if you want to buy a dress or something you can go ----, otherwise you have to go all over the country.

Mary, did you see a lot of changes as far as the education went? That I don't really know. You didn't really see that? No, for myself honey, I think they have too much recreation goin' on now. When we went to school, when my girls went to school it was Reading, Writing and 'rithmetic, you know. And you stayed in school, you know, now they're in school half a day, out a half day. Yes, they're out more than they're in, I think, honey. That's true.

Mary, what was the depression like for you and Joe? Like I said, Donna, you know we tried to save as much as we could but it didn't make that much ----- . In having your chickens and everything. Yes, and our eggs and our, my canning and everything, you know. The only thing we usually had to go for was flour or sugar or something like that.

Now do you remember the old mill, the elevator? Yes, I remember that. And that was on the corner there where Emma ----. Right on the corner there, yes. And now, what did that carry like? Grain? It carried like grain, I don't know if it had flour or not, honey. I don't know. I don't know. But it had grain, chicken feed, you know and all kind of things like that. Now it burned down, didn't it Mary? Yes.

Do you remember the Pickle Factory that was up here? No, no. I remember Lee Baker talking about the pickle factory.

Let's see what else I need here, Mary. Transportation. Did you have a car? Yeah Joe had a car. Do you remember what year it was? I don't know what year it was, honey. What make it was? It was one of the new cars, you know, it was one of the very few cars, you know, that was around. You had to crank it to get it started? No, no. When we got married, he had a Model T and then when the kids started comin', you know, we had to get this Ford, was it 1927 or, no, cause we married and yes, he had that honey. We had that when we got married. He had that Model T.

Now being Italian, I know you have some certain traditions, like during Christmas and things like that, do you have anything that you still carry over. Do you still have a certain dish that a, a family dish that you prepare that's a favorite? Oh yes, honey, we make our pizzelles, which we didn't make very many at home because my mother never had no iron and we have our spaghetti, just like the old way, which my kids don't like it unless it's mine. You make your own noodles? No, not any more. I used to. Used to. I used to, honey. Used to cut 'em and everything by hand. Then after the kids got married and went off, Larry says to me, one time, Mom we're going to get you a pasta machine. I says, No, I don't need it, I says there is nobody here. I says what am I going to make pasta for? Oh, we'll come and eat it. I says no you won't because I ain't goin' make it. No, not any more. I can't even cook any more, honey. Oh, I bet ----. Honey, I don't bake any more. Donna, what's the use of bakin' for one. That's true, Mary, that's true. I think

everybody, you know-----. You just get away from them things and you cook for one it doesn't even taste good. No, no but you sure keep your place up nice. Now when you moved here you didn't have paving. No, no we didn't have paving. No indoor facilities. Nothing.

Was the plant, the electrical plant up at Waneka Lake, what they call Waneka Lake now, was the plant up there then? I don't know. The big plant. I don't think so, honey. That was gone by then. That was a good thing, we could water when we wanted. We paid a dollar a month, we paid every three months, you know. Oh honey, there's been a lot of changes, Donna. That's true and the water was good. Oh, you better believe it. Now we've got good water but you pay for it, which is all-right. You pay for convenience, Donna. Yes, that's true, Mary. Life has been made a lot easier. Yes, yes, yes. It's just harder for Seniors, like I said, to get around. People that don't have anyone, you know.

Now Blanche asked me to asked you, Did you go to St. Ida's Catholic Church when you were young? Yes. Can you tell me a little bit about that? Where was that Catholic Church? It's where it is now, honey. Oh, okay. It's just an older building. That was there when I came and Father Roberts was here at the time. We had many different priests after Father Roberts, don't tell me to name 'em, cause I don't remember all of 'em. But it was the same place as a ---. Yes, it was the same -- not where it is now, Donna. Oh, no, where was it Mary? You know where Louise Mathena lives? Where Jesse James used to live? Oh, where in the heck is it? Oh, okay. Off of the main highway, going that way, where Henning-Howe had a mortuary for awhile. Yes. Oh, okay. Yes, that was our church. On Cannon. I think it is. It was right across the street from Louise Mathena. Yes, okay. But now we've got a new building. I never realized that that was the -----. Yes. The Catholic Church. Now it's called the Immaculate Conception. Were there, now let's see, there was the Catholic Church, what other churches were in town? When you came. Can you remember the other churches? Was the a --- I think there was the Methodist. The Congregational? And there was the Baptist. No, the Congregational, I don't remember. See that's where the old library used to be, so that must have been ---. No, I wasn't here then, honey, no I wasn't here then.

Now Mary, do you know, if any of this land around here is on the original homestead of the Miller family? Do you have any idea where that was? That I don't know, honey. I don't either. I'm mixed up on that. Oh, no, no, honey, that I don't know.

KKK. Klu Klux Klan. Were they goin' at all? Not that I know of, honey. Okay, okay. I think that's back further.

Did you belong to any organizations or clubs? Any lodges? No, only to the church. The Alta Society and to the school, the parents and teachers. What was it? PTA? PTA, that's what it was and now it's PTO. That's right. No, other than that honey, I didn't get involved. Well you didn't have a lot of time. No, I didn't, honey, no, I didn't. Now that you've got the time, probably, you can't do it. I don't know about you but I'm not a club person. I don't like to get into too much of that. Well, you know, I don't care for it too much either, Donna,

because, you know, there's certain groups they stay to one side and you stay to the other. That's right, that's right. It's best just to stay out of them. I'm a funny person, Donna. I'm just set in my ways, honey, and nobody's ----. I don't say that I'm right all the time, no. But that's okay. You have your own feelings and your own ideas and that's fine. I like to give my opinions whether they're right or whether they're wrong. That's okay. There's nothing wrong with that.

Newspapers. Were there any newspapers when you first came? Can you remember of any? Yes, honey. I think we had the Lafayette Leader clear down town and there was just one paper folded. Just one page. And Donna I think we had more news, Lafayette News in that thing than we do right now. You don't have Lafayette News in this one. You're telling me and I told them that. It's all over there. I told that reporter one time, I didn't know she was a reporter, she was on the van one day when we were going to lunch.

Okay, we'll start with you have been blessed with good health. Yes. But you've kept busy. Yes, I did, Donna, yes I did. I think that's important. Not as much activity in my house like I used to be, honey. No, I don't care how I keep house anymore. Are you kidding? I could eat off this floor. No, oh honey, I got ceramic boxes over there, crochet, I got yarn, I got crochet all over the place, Donna. You'd die if you'd see ---. No, I don't honey but if someone says, Mary, let's go, I'm ready. Just shut the door and I go because when I come back it's just like I left it. You've had a deep faith in God. Oh, very much. I think that's important. I try to get to church at least once a week. Then if there's a funeral or something or somebody I know, then I'll attend or something special, I will. I've been faithful to donate to my church whenever I could, you know, honey.

I notice throughout the interview, when you're talking on your job at the school, you call them "my kids". My kids. My kids. Oh, my kids. Donna, I never knew them by name. They were all honey. I always remember, one time, Mr. Overturf coming through the line and he says to me, "this looks pretty good today". I says "oh thank you honey" and I looked up and he says "why nobody every called me honey" and I looked up and it was Mr. Overturf, I could have died, Donna. You know though, that probably meant a lot. Some of those kids maybe didn't get called honey. That's right, honey. They were all honey to me, even you, see Donna. I went to Ohio one time and my sister was by me, she says "Mary, why do you call everybody honey". I says because I don't know their names and when I do I don't even remember them. I think that's good. That's one thing I really noticed. That's better than calling them something else. That's right, that's right and I think it's nice, especially when you work with kids. Make a point to be kind to them. Oh that's right Donna, cause wherever I go now, the kids that went to school when they were little and I was there, they recognize me. Sure they do. And now, I don't know them. We went to Colorado Springs one time, one one of our trips with the Seniors and our last stop was in Colorado Springs over the night. Well, they wanted to go in for a drink, some of 'em did, and I think I was the only one in there that took a coke. But that's alright, I took a coke and there was some little kid, some little spanish kid up at the counter over

there and he kept looking at me and looking at me and I thought, well who is he looking at and I looked in the back and I didn't see anybody. You know, well there was the crew that was with us on the bus and I thought well I don't know what he is looking at but anyway when we went out in the hall to get our keys to go to our rooms, well this kid comes out and he says to me, you're Mary aren't you? Which it didn't phase me a bit. I says, yes I am, cause I had my name card. He said, you're from Lafayette and I says yes. Then he said, you live on Emma Street? I said yes. You cooked at the school? I said yes. He said, then you should remember me. I says, well honey I don't. Well he said, I'm John Bluecorn's son. I remember Grace mentioned about Bluecorn. He said we lived on Emma Street and we lived way at the end of the street. Right, yeah. He said, you've been feeding me every since I was a little boy. He told me who he was. His name was John somebody. Martinez or something like that. I don't know. He was so glad to see me Donna, he kissed me on the forehead, he had tears in his eyes. Well sure, my gosh. And I thought, oh how nice this little kid way over here and he remembers me. That's right, so you made an impression. I did. And a good impression. I did and how he remembered me, Donna, I don't know. You know, you meet them wherever you go. Don't you know me, don't you remember me?

Well I'll tell you what Mary, I'm really thankful that you allowed me to do this. Oh, well yes, honey. See, there's a lot of things that came out in here because we have never had any kind of crock outside. Oh, no our baking oven was outside. See all of that, we've not had any of that. And when I went back home to visit, those old things were still there. Were still there, my gosh. But now, I just got my sister and she lives in Macalister, you know, my mother is gone, my dad is gone, my brother is gone and she, well she just retired and it's different now, honey. Now when I go home, I'm ready to come back in a day or so. Well sure, well of course, you've been here a long time. I've been here a long time and my family is here. That's right, that's right.

Anything you want, any words of wisdom you want to leave, you have to keep them clean now, you know? Like what, like what? Anything. Well yes, honey, I enjoy living in Lafayette but like I said, we had more convenience in them days than we have now. Now it's a chore for a lot of us to get from the drug store up there, the bank further up and the city hall down here and the post office in between. That's inconvenient to a lot of them but not to me, honey. Like I said, I try to live a good life and everything and I've been thankful for my health and all this Donna, you know, cause you don't get to the age of 81 without some complications. That's right, that's right. But I've been healthy up to the last couple of few years or so. That's good. As long as I can navigate I'm alright and stay home, stay in my own home. Oh, you bet, you bet. That's it, honey. That's the most important. Cause I have two sisters that was in the nursing home and a sister-in-law and I just dread them, I don't know why.

Okay, we're going to start up a little bit here with Sara Brillhart. You were here living in Lafayette when Sara was here. Yes, yes, yes honey. Tell me about it. Well, honey, she was a very sweet little lady. You know, I always did love her. Was her name, her name was Joelder. That was her sister, Mary.. Mary, well anyway, I knew him too but I know -----. Her husband's name was Percy. Percy, that's right. Yes, I remember him too. Well, didn't he do something for the city one time? Wasn't he a ----? What he did Mary, was he was a check weighman for the miners. Well maybe that's it but I thought--. He lost a leg too, in the mine. Yes, I remember he had lost his leg. I remember people telling me about it. I met her through Liza Pierson, you know, cause Liza and Burt always used to take her shopping, you know. They took her down to the center one day, you know, and she had the best time down there. Oh, she's a wonderful lady. She is, she is but I haven't seen her now for quite a while. She lived in her own home for I don't know how long, Mary, and then she's living with some friends in Golden. Oh, she's in Golden now? She's in Golden and last month, the 21st of September she was 106 years old. Yes, I remember Lizzie Brown telling me. That's amazing. Well you remember the Luheres next door? Yes. She died at the age of 101. She died in a nursing home.

Well we've seen a lot of changes. Oh yes, honey, and in a way I enjoy them and in another way, I don't. But you've had a good family. Yes, honey. Oh, a wonderful family. I've had a good home and I live in a nice town but I think if I leave from Lafayette, from Emma St. over here and go someplace else it wouldn't be home to me, Donna. Oh, no. Well you like to me I'll be here when you're 106 years old. God, no. I'll be too old to come too. You better believe it. You better believe it.

Thanks Mary, thank you so much. Oh, honey, you're more than welcome. It was good talking to you, Donna. Okay.