

Carrol Malvey
Narrator

Eleanor Hallin
Interviewer

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EH: My name is Eleanor Hallin, I came to Moorhead about forty-three years ago. Before that, I was teaching in Dilworth. I was living with a girl from...that taught in Dilworth by the name of Eleanor Stoltenow. We used to have a visitor that came to see us quite often. He was a local postmaster. His name was Clifford Fitzgerald. Consequently, Eleanor became Mrs. Clifford Fitzgerald. He would often speak of the Malvey Service Station, and he would talk about the two boys, the two brothers, Bob and Carrol. Through the Fitzgerald's, I met Bob and his wife, and today I have Carrol Malvey with me. He is the brother of Bob.

Ah, Carrol, will you tell us a little bit about yourself, where you were born, and a little bit about your childhood, and so forth?

CM: Okay. I was born in Moorhead, went through the Moorhead Public Schools, went through Concordia College. Ah...we were teenagers through the Depression years, you know, and ah...nobody had any money. But everybody was in the same position, so it...I think it maybe drew the families closer together. The kids didn't have regulated entertainment. You'd make up your own themes in your neighborhoods and play your own games. And there was more visiting of families back and forth than there is today.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm.

CM: And when Grandma or Grandpa got too old, they...they moved in with one of the kids in those days. There weren't nursing homes.

EH: Now your father was born in Norway, wasn't he?

CM: Dad was born in Norway, and he came over alone at the age of fourteen. He was a real strong personality, as my mother was. And he worked at various things. He worked in the lumber camps, and he was a carpenter, and he was the...back when they had the fire wagon pulled by a team of horses, he was the lone paid man in the department. They lived right in the fire hall, and he trained the horses. And later on, he was in some police work. He was chief of police, he was sheriff. And then in 1932 he, with my brother and I, started Malvey Service.

EH: Now you're a...I thought it was interesting when you'd mentioned that your father...he was fire chief here in Moorhead. It was a one-man operation.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: And all the others were volunteers?

CM: Right.

EH: And he was paid fifty dollars a month. I thought that was quite interesting.

CM: Right. Yeah.

EH: And then you might go on...Oh, he trained the horses. You mentioned that, didn't you?

CM: Yeah, he trained the horses.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm.

CM: And I guess then...that was before my time, of course.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm.

CM: And in 1932 he...we rented a service station, went into business. And in 1933 we built our own station and became a jobber, wholesaler, and retailer.

EH: Then, before that happened, you were in...you were at Concordia?

CM: Oh, yes.

EH: And ah, you graduated...was it in 1933?

CM: 1934 from college, 1930 from high school.

EH: 1934.

CM: In high school, as I mentioned before, we were...I loved athletics and was active in it. And we had Glenn Hanna as our coach, who was maybe one of the most successful coaches that Moorhead ever had, and then one of the most successful in the State of Minnesota. And he won two state titles while I was in school, and I was lucky enough to play in one of them. And you know, our generation was the Depression kids. And with the...you couldn't get any job. The only job you could get in the summertime would be you could weed onions for ten cents an hour, ten hours a day, and they'd give you that silver dollar at Charlie Peterson's farm. [Chuckles] And you really had it made.

EH: That was when you were in high school, was it?

CM: Yes. You know, and we went from the crystal radio set to what we have today, computers, and from the horse and buggy to the space age. And we've really seen a lot of things in our time. Where if you had appendicitis, it was about fifty-fifty you would die back when I was a teenager, you know. And now we have organ transplants. And so we've...we've seen a lot of changes in my life. In college, I was lucky. [Coughs] That was the Frank Cleve/Louis Benson era. And we won one title in football and one in basketball at that time. And our counterpart at that time was Alex "Sliv" Nemzek, who is, you know, a figure in his own right, here.

EH: Yes.

CM: And he was a personal friend of my dad and myself, and we've spent a lot of time together. I hunted with him...ah, we did business with each other, and...

EH: We...I had...I worked with the Red Cross at Fairmont Foods...I did quite a bit of collecting for Red Cross.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: And I remember Alex Nemzek came up to see me. And he was...he wrote me the nicest letter, too. He was really...had a fine personality.

CM: He was a *strong* personality.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm. I thought so, too.

CM: Real...he was...he was a great one. He...he set quite a record here at MS [Moorhead State] and in municipal government, too.

EH: Another thing that I thought was interesting, when you tell about that your tuition the first...for one semester was seventy-five dollars. What is it now, I wonder?

CM: Oh, I suppose if you...it's around eight thousand dollars, if you have board and room. Without board and room, I suppose it's about fifty-five hundred.

EH: And that's for one semester.

CM: That's it. And back then, if you...if two from a family went, you got a twenty-five dollar discount each semester. [Chuckles]

EH: That's something, too.

CM: So...yeah.

EH: And you graduated in 1934. Then what did you do?

CM: Yeah. I taught school for three years up at Mcintosh, Minnesota. I went out for a hundred and ten dollars a month, and that was the best paying job that any of the Concordia graduates got that year. And many of the kids went out for seventy-five dollars a month. And some of them would get it in warrants, which they had to discount to get the cash. Times were really...pretty short right then.

EH: And that was in 1935 then, I suppose, 1934 and 1935?

CM: Yeah, fall of 1934 until the summer of 1937, I taught. Then my dad passed away, and I came back home, and I went in partnership with my brother in the oil business. And we did business with the same company for...or successor...companies and their successors for forty-three years. We started out with Tidewater, and then Pure Oil bought out Tidewater, and we stayed with Pure. Then Pure was bought out by Union, and we stayed with Union, so we were with one company all our lives.

EH: You also did some business with local people, too, didn't you? Or didn't you have too much?

CM: Oh, yes. We had a...ours wasn't the best location in the world. We were on Seventh Street and Main. But we had that...we had a real good local business. And we weren't dependent on the tourist trade.

EH: Ah, at first you said you rented your property. Then later you...you built on, and...

CM: We rented one year, and then we built the next year in a different location.

EH: And you added as...?

CM: Then in...in the late 1940s, we added on to the building, dressed it up a little.

EH: I thought it was interesting when you told...you said you built your house in 1938, and you dug the basement. Tell us a little bit about that.

CM: We built in 1939. I got married in December of 1938, and in the spring of 1939 we built at 524 South Fifth [Street]. And the basement was dug by a team of horses and a shovel. You know, it's hard to believe. In fact, they'd just opened the street, Fifth Street, past where I built, the year I built. In fact, I got part of the fill for my lawn...was off the street, you know. And used...before that, the cows were pastured out there. [Chuckles] It's hard to believe, but...

EH: Things have changed.

CM: Yeah.

EH: Ah, then you tell about your partnership with your brother and...and your mother, too, I guess, wasn't it?

CM: Yeah, after Dad died, Bob, and I, and my mother shared in the business and the income from it. And...must have got along, we stayed together forty-three years. [Laughs]

EH: Pretty good.

CM: Yeah.

EH: And who managed it?

CM: Well, I'd...I took care of the business end of it. Bob kind of watched over the fuel oil and back room business and...

EH: You did all of the...?

CM: And we both did a little of each, too, so it wasn't exclusively one in managing and one doing something else.

EH: You did most of the bookkeeping though? Did you or...?

CM: I did all the bookkeeping. Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: And what did that...?

CM: All the...all the buying.

EH: All buying. And what are...?

CM: Collect...collecting.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm. Ah, did you have credit or...?

CM: Oh, yes. We did. Maybe sixty-five percent of our business was credit, because it...our business was local. And we...we...we came out alright. We knew the people we were dealing with, and if they didn't pay, we didn't bother them, and they'd eventually pay us. And when we quit in 1975, why...I think we maybe had less than five hundred dollars that we threw away.

EH: Good. That's very good, I think.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: And of course you had other things to contend with. I suppose sales tax, and income tax, and so forth.

CM: In the later years, we had sales...we always had income tax, but sales tax came in later.

EH: And you...did you use anyone to do your final okaying? Did you have any auditors or anything?

CM: I did the tax work for a while, but then I got kind of tired of it. And so I'd take it up to a CPA and have him make out the income tax at the end of the year.

EH: Now what about...? You mentioned that this is a...you had a station, didn't you? And then...then you...?

CM: We had a station and a bulk plant.

EH: And also...is that the same as a jobber?

CM: Well, that...altogether, it's a jobber. Difference is, in a job...if you're a jobber, you buy direct from the oil company. If you're just a station, you buy from a jobber.

EH: Oh, I see.

CM: So you...you eliminate one...you increase your profit by that one step, by being a jobber rather than a dealer.

EH: That's sort of like a wholesaler then, I suppose?

CM: Yes. Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm. Or distributor, they're the same...pretty much?

CM: Mmmm-hmmm. Pretty much. Right.

EH: Now did you deliver to homes? When you talked about...

CM: Fuel...fuel oil. Yes, we had a big fuel oil business. Did real well at it.

EH: And that was successful, hmmm?

CM: Yeah. It's kind of a...you know, we complain about the price of gasoline now. You know, it's...it's really...gasoline was just underpriced for years and years. And mainly because of competition, there's one on every corner you know and we'd cut each other's throat. [Chuckles] But in 1937, after teaching three years, I had enough money to buy a 1937 Plymouth for five hundred and ninety bucks with a license on, see. And gas was selling for twenty-two cents. Well, you buy that car today, it'd cost you thirteen thousand, and you pay, what? About ninety cents today.

EH: At least, yeah.

CM: But for years, gasoline didn't go up with the economy. We bought it for twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four. In fact, when we sold out in 1975, I think the price of gasoline was about forty-nine cents.

EH: It was that low in 1975?

CM: Yeah.

EH: That's only ten years...eleven years ago.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm. Well, the pinch was just coming on, see.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm.

CM: And twenty cents of that increase was made in about six or seven months at that time when the crunch came on.

EH: When I was teaching in Dilworth I think I was getting a hundred and ten [dollars] a month and I think when I quit I was getting a hundred and twenty [dollars]. But what was kind of interesting now, when I think back at it, it was only the married men who had cars. None of the women had cars, and none of the single men. And we...here we were all teaching, and yet when we wanted to come to Fargo, we'd come by railroad, usually, which is a little different from what youngsters or the...or that young people have nowadays.

CM: Yeah. When I was in the eighth grade the basketball team was going to play a tournament game at Ada. And we got a ride by car out to [unclear] and took the train [unclear].

EH: Oh, for goodness.

CM: You know, it's just unbelievable.

EH: Yes, it is.

CM: Yes.

EH: Things are different.

CM: Yeah.

EH: What were some of your problems, now when you speak of help and so forth? Did you have any...? Was that a...?

CM: Oh, it was hard to get good help. It wasn't the most desirable job. Hours were long. When the war came on, and we had government regulations, we...we locked it up on Sunday, and locked it up at six o'clock at night. And never opened up again, in those days, and we did just as well as when we were working seven days a week, fifteen hours a day. [Chuckles]

EH: People learned to come...

CM: They learned to buy it. And we...and we were dependent on local people, and they would...they would fill up on Saturdays and Mondays. And they were real good to us.

EH: Of course, that helps, when you know your people, too.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: What type...? Now your competition you spoke about, there was one on every...one station on every corner.

CM: Just about.

EH: Now do they have...? What do they have now? Are they called...? You said something about super stations. What are super stations?

CM: Well, they're...there are a lot of big truck stops that get the large volume business. And I suppose you can just drive around Moorhead and see, you know, most of the stations have been torn down, or converted into real estate offices, or some other such thing.

EH: So these truckers...truck stops have done...are doing a lot of business, I suppose.

CM: The big stations are doing real well, yes.

EH: Now when you got your supplies, you talked about...do they...how did you get supplies?

CM: Originally, you would call Tulsa, Oklahoma and you'd get a tank car shipped from down there. That'd maybe take you...from the time you ordered it, it'd take two weeks. And then the pipeline went in at West Fargo, and...it'd still take two weeks if we got it by tank car from West Fargo. The railroad was that slow in handling things. But we could pick up the phone and call Transport, Inc. or Dan Dugan[sp?] and we'd have a tanker over there in two hours.

EH: So transport...

CM: So it...so the...so the railroads took themselves out of the gasoline business, because they just didn't...didn't...even when it was just coming from West Fargo, it'd take them a week, ten days to get to you.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm. Of course, that's pretty slow.

CM: Yeah.

EH: Well, what about your fringe benefits? Do you want to talk a little bit about some of your fringe benefits?

CM: [Coughs] There weren't many. [Chuckles] We carried life insurance and health policies for our help and that was about it; couple weeks of vacation, paid vacation a year.

EH: And sick leave?

CM: Whatever they needed. We never...we were like...we never really had anyone that was sick for any long period of time. But nobody was ever docked.

EH: How many employees did you have about? As...?

CM: Three. Usually had three. Plus...plus...

EH: Including yourselves?

CM: Plus Bob and I, yeah.

EH: Plus you and your brother.

CM: Yeah.

EH: Now what about World War II? What happened during World War II that was a problem to you?

CM: Well, you had your rationing, you know. And the good part of it was they regulated your hours. And we cut our hours down and never went back to the...Everybody else...Then I guess we were the only station in the two towns that locked up Sundays permanently. And never hurt us.

EH: And you used...

CM: Shortage of supplies, yes. Ah...ah...had one...and one incident, I couldn't get fuel oil, so I bought a tanker of kerosene, and I delivered it in twenty-five gallon lots to all of my customers to keep them going until I could get more number two fuel oil.

EH: That was a good way of distribution, I think.

CM: [Chuckles] Well, you didn't have much choice. You know, usually you'd take two hundred at a time, but you didn't have the product, so you...you spaced it out. Nobody ever ran out. So it worked alright.

EH: What about...hmmm...you used coupons then, didn't you? Was that what you used from...?

CM: In rationing, yeah, you had gas coupons. You had A, B, and C. And it really wasn't a problem. Everybody had...got gas that needed it.

EH: Of course, they could borrow from their neighbors, too, I suppose.

CM: Ah, yeah, sure. Yeah.

EH: If they...if they needed it.

CM: It's a real lax system. And if somebody...your customer didn't have a coupon, you saw he got the gas.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm. Ah, when you were talking about the price of oil and gas, and about...you were also talking about...really about the Depression, how we suffered through the Depression.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: [Coughs] Excuse me. You mentioned something about your little grandchild was telling you something, and I thought that was kind of interesting. Tell about that little interview you had.

CM: Oh, he was...he's a...my grandson Craig is a sophomore, and he was supposed to interview someone about the Depression, so he picked me. And he came up, and I told him about weeding onions for Charlie Peterson for ten cents an hour, and carrying papers. [Chuckles] And the fact that most of the kids never got outside of Fargo, Moorhead, or Dilworth. You know, transportation wasn't there. We listened to a crystal radio set, and...and how if someone came over and you were going to be real good, you'd have a chicken dinner. That was...that was the top, you know. And anyway, when I got through telling him all about how tough times were [chuckles] he says, "Grandpa, did the things that you went through change or control your thinking about money and how you spend it?" [Chuckles] And I says, "You're right." [Chuckles] "That's also why I could retire, Craig," I said. [Chuckles]

EH: I think that's so true.

CM: Sure. And I thought it was a really good question coming from him.

EH: Yes, I do, too.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: And how old is he?

CM: He'll be sixteen this summer.

EH: That was a very good question, I think. He was certainly *thinking* about it.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: And I think it's so true, because I remember even myself, it was a problem...I hated to ask my dad for money for...for to go to the show. And I remember it was around thirty cents or something like that, and I thought that was quite a bit of money when I was in high school, I remember that.

CM: Yeah. As hard as times were, I never asked my dad or mother for anything that I needed that they didn't give it to me. But I was real careful what I asked for. Ah, one example was when we won the State Title in 1929; we went to a national tournament in Chicago. And my dad gave me...when I got ready to go, he says, "If you can't go like everybody else, stay home." So he gave me a twenty dollar bill. You know, I'd never had one in my life. [Chuckles] We went to Chicago, and I came home, and I brought seventeen dollars back and gave it to him.

EH: [Chuckles]

CM: Because I knew he didn't have...he didn't have another twenty at the time, I know! But...my folks were real good to me, all of us.

EH: Well, I remember when I was ready for college. Of course, it was during the Depression.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: So I said...one day I said to my parents, I said, "You know, I'm going to get a job for...work for my board and room." And my father said, "Oh, that's not going to be very good." And I said, "Yes, I'm going to do that." So we drove down...I went to school at Mayville, and I...We drove down there, and I said...we went to the registrar. And my dad wasn't very cooperative. He said, "You go in and talk to the registrar yourself." And he gave me a name, and I went over to this place. And my mother went in, she...my dad said, "Well, you'd better go in with her and see where she...what kind of people she's getting into." So we went into this home, and we talked, my mother and I and this lady, and she said, "Well, I have a girl that I'm kind of thinking of, but I think I will take you." She said, "So if you want the...you can come and live with us and work for your board and room, so...if you want it." So I said, "Yes." I was all set to go; school was starting in about three weeks.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: So when they brought me down the Sunday before school was to start, the last thing my dad said to me was, "If it gets too tough, don't be afraid to quit." And I thought, oh no, I'm not going to quit. That was one of my best years of my life.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: I really enjoyed that. It was just like being home, see, with those people. So I don't think it hurts for these young people to work a little, too, when they go to school.

CM: No, no.

EH: Now I know you were very active in civic responsibilities.

CM: Yes, from the time...I came back in 1937 to go in business. I was on some...I had some civic job all my...up until the time I quit business. Ah...I was, well, Junior Chamber, Senior Chamber, Lion's Club, Planning Commission, a volunteer fireman for twenty-five years, on HRA board for eleven years, church council two terms, president of the congregation, Trinity, one...one year.

EH: That's Trinity.

CM: Ah, twelve years on the Board of Regents at Concordia College, they were great years associated with Dr. [Joseph] Knutson, and Bill Smaby, and those people. I was Chairman of the Board there for eight years. So I had a...I had a full outside life.

EH: Tell me a little bit about that Concordia...hmmm...that Board of Regents. I suppose it's like a board of directors.

CM: That's right. We had...we set policy, and salaries, and building or not to build, fundraising, tenure, and anything that you would do running any other business.

EH: And where did you...?

CM: We had some great people on that board that...I shouldn't...I don't want to mention names, because I'd...I'd forget some I shouldn't, but there were a lot of great people.

EH: But you had people from all over, didn't you?

CM: We had millionaires and we had people that worked tough for their living just like I did. [Chuckles]

EH: And they were from North Dakota and Minnesota?

CM: North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm.

CM: And one was [Norman M.] Lorentzsen, the president of the Great...the Burlington [Northern].

EH: Yeah, he's a Dilworth's boy.

CM: Yeah.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm. I know...I know him, and I know his sister, too.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: Ah, what about that urban renewal? That was rather interesting, too, I would think.

CM: Yes, it was. [Sighs] We were asked to serve on the board, you know, and the City Council made...made it official that we were going to go ahead, and they voted on it to go ahead and go with urban renewal. And then after they got into it, you know, everybody was pointing fingers that things were wrong, and so on and so forth. But we didn't bring it on, we were just...wished...the job was wished on us to do it. And...at the time that happened, that the business community had grown old. There'd been the same people that had kind of been on Center Avenue all their life. And most of them hadn't...hadn't put any money back into their businesses. You know, a lot of them, about just before urban renewal came in, had sold their businesses to younger people. And here we come in, and these younger people have bought these old businesses. [Chuckles] And tried to get them to move into a new location, and more expensive, and...it was tough on some of them. But they made...most of them made it. Worked out alright. Then....

EH: I guess it's alright. It...it was a good thing it happened. At the time it was a little hard to take.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: But I think it...as it worked out, it was alright.

CM: I...I always said it was something like the senior high. You know, there was a group that was strongly opposed to building the senior high where it was built, you know. And after the thing was built, and it was in actuality, they still were complaining about it three years later. You know, that was kind of silly.

EH: Of course, you always find someone that's not going to be happy.

CM: Yeah.

EH: That's...that's right. Ah, what do you think of...of Moorhead as a place to...of business? Do you think it's a good place for business?

CM: It's a good business town, good place to live. You've got Moorhead State, Concordia, North Dakota State. You've got...you know, you could go something every night if you wanted to, there is some program at one of these places, they're all good institutions. Ah...you have

Medical Center, which is maybe...as close to Rochester as anything you'd find anywhere else. And the education payroll really pumps enough money into the economy to...much better than a big factory would be.

EH: Yes, I'm sure that there...

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: You draw from Fargo, too, of course. Some, I suppose.

CM: Oh, sure.

EH: Yeah, you have your colleges there.

CM: Sure, it...it's a metropolitan area. And that...you have to include Fargo, Moorhead, Dilworth, West Fargo.

EH: Ah, then do...what about...? Hmmm, do you think Moorhead will grow? Or what do you think about that?

CM: Oh, it'll grow. I don't know how fast, but it'll grow.

EH: I think it's grown quite a bit...

CM: Yeah.

EH: ...the last ten years as far as population, hasn't it?

CM: Yeah, see, and my...it's gone from five thousand to thirty thousand in my span of time.

EH: It was about five thousand when...when you were growing up?

CM: Mmmm-hmmm. Right.

EH: That sounds very big.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: Ah, now do you want to tell us a little bit...? First of all, tell us a little bit about your family. You met your wife at Macintosh, did you say?

CM: I met her teaching. I...always said that all I got out of teaching was a...or not all, but the best I got out of teaching was my wife and a car! [Chuckles] I taught three years, and I had enough money to pay cash for a car. Well, I guess that'd be about the same now. You'd have a hard time saving up, teaching school and buying a car in three years. And I married Florence

Morck in Crookston in 1938. And she was a wonderful person. I lost her to cancer in 1984. [Sighs] We had a son and a daughter. Neither one ever gave us any trouble. Yeah, real fortunate there.

My daughter got her doctoral degree in Russian history from [University of California] Berkeley and my son got a doctors degree from University of Iowa, physiology. But he decided he didn't want to work in a laboratory, so he...he's now assistant vice president of American Life and Casualty. It's a good job, and likes it very much. My daughter is director of planning and policies for the Indiana State Higher Education Board, and she likes her work. She lives in Indianapolis. Ah, my son and his wife Janice...Janet...Janice, excuse me. And she's a real capable person, she works for Agsco. And have the two grandsons, Craig, fifteen, and Mike who will be eleven the Fourth of July, he's our firecracker.

EH: This should be a pretty good time for those two to grow up.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm. Yeah, real healthy kids, both of them, we're lucky.

EH: Yes, you are fortunate.

CM: Uh huh.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm.

CM: Then I have...I had two brothers, two sisters. My oldest brother...all...even as hard time...as times were, you know, my dad and mother put five of us through college, which is quite...you know, he didn't really have any money, didn't make any money, big money. And I suppose the best money he made was he was sheriff four years. And then I got into the oil business, and that was very good. [Sighs] But...the oldest brother, Kenny, he was a doctor, a surgeon, belonged to the American College of Surgeons, very successful, he died five years ago.

EH: Where was he located?

CM: He was in Bottineau, North Dakota.

EH: Oh. Mmmm-hmmm.

CM: Up until the 1960s, and then he...he half retired. He took a job in the Health Service at the University of Minnesota. Because he...he wanted to get where he could go to see places and see things, and his wife used to say, "He should back up and take his check," because he wasn't working that hard.

EH: [Chuckles]

CM: My two sisters were in education all their life: Clara in Illinois, and Helen in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

EH: Were you more...mostly Concordia, I suppose, hmmm?

CM: Yeah...

EH: Graduates, mostly Concordia graduates?

CM: Ah, four of us are. Clara graduated MS [Moorhead State].

EH: Mmmm-hmmm.

CM: Though she did take a business course at Concordia first. And then she worked as a secretary for a couple years to make money to go to MS. Eventually, she went on to Columbia [University] and got her master's.

EH: Now...I know that...hmmm...I suppose you're kind of interested in...Or do you want to have...say something more before we close? Have you got anything more that you'd like to add to this before we close it?

CM: No, I think we've pretty well covered it. Yeah.

EH: Would you...would you think that it'd be good for someone to go into oil station work or jobber work at the present time? Or what do you think about that?

CM: I think they're doing real well now. You know, the competition is...there have been so many stations weeded out that your margins are good and...They just don't give credit now, because they...they can't carry it, but your...I don't know, if you had a cash flow enough to...to handle this high priced fuel oil and gasoline [chuckles] maybe you should work...maybe you should have an interest and let someone else work! [Chuckles] And that...

EH: [Chuckles] That might be a good idea. [Chuckles]

CM: And that...yeah, that high priced inventory, you know, where...where we could get by with a thirty, thirty-five thousand dollar inventory, and maybe the same amount on the books...Ah, today, you'd maybe have to have two hundred and fifty thousand then.

EH: That's something...

CM: And it'd probably take this...gets to be a big business. Even small business is big business now, the costs.

EH: That's why it's difficult to start in for...the young people to start in, in business right now.

CM: Yes.

EH: Ah, I do know that you meet some of your friends for coffee in the morning. And...and maybe you want to talk a little bit about your coffee friends. [Chuckles]

CM: [Chuckles]

EH: It's almost time for you to go for coffee, I suppose.

CM: Oh, yeah, we have anywhere from four to a dozen of us, meet every morning at the M & H and drink coffee. Ah, yeah. Oh, I...Lloyd [unclear] and Pete, I played basketball with him in high school. And Cliff Nick[sp?] from...used to be from Dilworth.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm.

CM: Good friend of the Fitzgerald's, who you talked about, who is a friend of mine. And Howard [unclear], who is a retired block man for General Motors. Willie Rupert[sp?], he used to have Rupert's Off Sale, ah...Wally Alderud, who used to be in the gasoline business, a competitor mine, good friends. Ah...oh [unclear] Erling Erickson, he worked for the *Fargo Forum*, Johnny Johnson, who is in real estate, John Kupich[sp?] who is retired, he used to be in business in Fargo. Ed Benedict[sp?], farmer. Yeah, we've got a pretty good cross section there.

EH: Yes, you do. You really...

CM: And it varies from day to day.

EH: That must be interesting conversation.

CM: Yeah. Mmmm...it...[Laughing] You don't learn much, but it's entertaining.

EH: You're solving the problems of the world, I suppose.

CM: [Chuckles] Yeah.

EH: [Chuckles]

CM: But we have a good time.

EH: What...what is it...what's located where your station was now? Is there anything there?

CM: It's going to be...torn down, I believe. It's just been sold again. And ah...it's the [unclear], developer from Fargo. He's going to put up some small shops there, I guess. But the building is vacant right now.

EH: I noticed that in the...in the...

CM: And that...I noticed as we...as I came by this morning, that the shovel was in there getting ready to do some digging.

EH: Always changes.

CM: Yeah.

EH: Ah, you had that location, did you say for how long? From 1930...?

CM: 1933.

EH: Until 1975.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: So that was pretty much a second home almost for you people.

CM: Right. It was a gathering place.

EH: I'm sure. A lot of people would come in.

CM: That was...that was a lot like M & H is now. They'd stop in every day and visit.

EH: Mmmm-hmmm. Which made it very interesting.

CM: Mmmm-hmmm.

EH: I think you did a very...you covered it very well. And unless we have anything more to add to it...?

CM: No, I think that's about it. Yeah.

EH: And I'm sure the Heritage Commission will be happy to have this report for their future use. So thank you so much.

[Shuffling paper noises]

CM: Very good. Thank you.

[End of interview]