

Michael Jepson: This is Michael Jepson. Today is May 12th, 1993. I'm at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fulford where I'm conducting an oral history with Wanda Fulford. As part of the Vanishing Culture Project funded in part by the Florida Humanities Council. Wanda, we usually start these interviews just by asking you to state your full name and your date of birth.

Wanda Fulford: Wanda Fulford and my birthdate is March the 23rd, 1933.

MJ: Where were you born?

WF: Cortez.

MJ: You were born right here in Cortez?

WF: Born right here in Cortez and lived here most all my life, except maybe, about a couple years.

MJ: What was your maiden name?

WF: Jones. Wanda Jones.

MJ: Wanda Jones.

WF: Uh-hm.

MJ: What were your parent's names?

WF: Mr. and Mrs., oh, Elizabeth Jones and James Jones.

MJ: James Jones was your father and he is deceased is that correct?

WF: That's right.

MJ: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

WF: I had my sister, Shirley. Brinn, she is now.

MJ: Shirley Brinn?

WF: Brinn. Uh-huh. B-R-I-N-N. And I have Buck. Buck was just dead now. Buck Jones, my brother. And then, Bobby Jones; which he lives out on 99th Street now. At our old home place. He bought it. That's it. That's all.

MJ: Just the four of you?

WF: There was just the four of us.

MJ: Shirley, Buck and Bobby. Was that Buck's real name or was that a nickname?

WF: Wallace, Wallace.

MJ: Wallace Jones.

WF: They call him "Buck" as a nickname. Wallace Jones was his name.

MJ: Okay. Now, you're married and your husband is Thomas Fulford and you have children and what are their names?

WF: Larry Fulford, Paul Fulford and then there's Terry, Terry Fulford.

MJ: Terry Fulford and her name –

WF: No, Terry Cannon. Cannon she is now.

MJ: That's her married name?

WF: Yes.

MJ: And Larry's married?

WF: Yes.

MJ: And his wife's name is?

WF: Sharon, and she used to be a Jones.

MJ: She was? [laughter]

WF: Uh-huh.

MJ: She really was.

WF: Uh-huh. Sharon used to be a Jones. They have two children. Sada Beth and Jesse Blue.

MJ: And Paul, he was married?

WF: Paul was married but he's divorced now, and he's still single [soul].

MJ: Well let's talk a little bit about your early childhood in Cortez and your parents. What do you remember about your father?

WF: Well, I remember that Daddy he was commercial fisherman and he worked pretty hard, Daddy did. And, he fished most all, well he fished all of his life. That's what he retired from.

MJ: Did you, were you able to spend much time with him as a child when you were growing up? Do you remember spending much time with him?

WF: Well, uh, yes, we did. Cause, [pause] well, no, Daddy was gone fishing most of the time. [pause] Let me get [composed] here. [laughter] He was gone most of the time but he was a hard worker. He fished all the time. But he never, we never did to get to spend that much time with Daddy. We was with Mother most of the time.

MJ: Tell me a little bit about what you did around the house with your mother growing up as children. Did you have tasks and chores that you had to do?

WF: Oh yes. We always had a cow. As long as we were home, us girls always had a cow to milk before we went to school. In the morning, and then sometimes, we'd have to take her out and take her out because there wouldn't be enough grass over here were we kept her at the house.

MJ: You kept her right at the house?

WF: Uh-huh. Over here were we lived, where we moved to down here and we would have to take her out once in a while. We'd take her out here by the old schoolhouse off out here. Take her out, out there to get grass. Then, we come in from school we'd have to go bring her up. We'd bring her home and milk her in the afternoon. Then after we left home, me and my sister, me and my sister's the one's that milked her and took care of her. After we left home, well Mother got rid of the cow. On weekends, we always we were making butter, and we'd sell some of it if we had like too much we would sell that.

MJ: You would?

WF: Uh-huh.

MJ: What would you use to make the butter with?

WF: Cream. The cream that we used to skim off the milk.

MJ: Did you make it in what, an old wooden churn?

WF: Yeah, we had a churn, we had a old churn that we made in. Then mother went and bought one of these here little wood things that you could make like a pound of butter into it. That little wood thing and we'd put the butter into there and smash it in. It would come out just like a pound of butter. We would wrap it in, I think at that at time, all we had was wax paper. What they called wax paper then. We would wrap it in that to sell. We didn't sell too much cause we always used the stuff up ourselves. The cream and things like that.

MJ: How much would you sell that for?

WF: You know, I don't have no idea. I was trying to remember but it was very little, Mike. We didn't get very much for them. But, I do not remember.

MJ: How would you sell it? I mean, would you and your sisters sell it somewhere to neighbors? Or, –?

WF: Just neighbors right here in Cortez, uh-huh. We'd sell it right here in Cortez. And then we also had chickens, and we would sell the eggs. Some of the eggs from them. We raised our own chickens and had fresh eggs all the time. When we wanted a chicken to eat, well, we always had good fresh chickens to eat. The way we'd kill them, we'd take them, tie their feet and put 'em on the clothes line, and [laughter] kerchunk. Cut their heads off with a butcher knife and just let them stay there 'til they bled.

MJ: Was that your job and your sister's job too? Did you do that?

WF: Oh yes, we done that too. Yes, we done that too. And, we always raised our own little turkeys. Mom would always get two turkeys and we'd have one for Thanksgiving and we would have one for Christmas. We'd kill them, and scald them, and pluck them, and everything. And have them.

MJ: So, were the holidays, did you always have a large meal for the holidays?

WF: Oh yes, we always had made. Me and my sister and Mother would get in the kitchen and we'd make the biggest meals. Just like when after we got married. We'd always come home and me and Shirley and Mother would always, all three us would be in the kitchen a-fixin' big meals for everybody. Yeah, we done that. We enjoyed doing it. We really did.

MJ: So, your mother made sure, I mean, she taught you how to cook and she taught you how to do all these things.

WF: That's right. Mother never would, we had to learn from scratch. She never would go out and buy a box of cake mix or anything like that. Me and Shirley always had to learn from scratch and we would do the cooking.

MJ: What type of a person is your mother, would you say?

WF: Well Momma is a, she's a real, I think she is a sweet mother. She always has been. And, she always wanted us children to do right. Just like when we were growing up. We had to go to church. We had to go to church every Sunday. We never could, Momma always believed, she was the type of person that after she joined the church that –. Their church taught this: that you didn't wear makeup, you didn't wear any jewelry, you wasn't allowed to go to movies because they didn't believe in it. But we had, when we were growing up, we had to go to church every Sunday.

MJ: And what church was that?

WF: That was the Church of God here in Cortez.

MJ: I mean, she's very religious.

WF: Yes, Mother is a very religious person. She always has been ever since her and Daddy were married. That I know of.

MJ: Was your father as religious as your mother?

WF: Well, there for a while he was, and I don't think –. Let me tell you something. [laughter] I'll never forget, one night when we was living down here behind in this little house, of course at that time, we didn't have but two rooms to live in. We was living down here behind my Annie and Uncle Bernard's, Bernard Capo's place down here. And the place is still down there, close to the school down here. Daddy and Aaron Bell, that's Walter Bell's daddy, decided they were going to go out and have a good time one night. Well, that's the first time us kids ever knew, or ever saw Daddy like that. But they had went out and had a few drinks and Daddy come home later on that night. And, well, he sat out in the outhouse most of the, the rest of the night. [laughter] And we thought he was going to die. Because us kids had never seen our father like that. [laughter] We did, we thought he was going to die. [laughter] But after that, Daddy never did, we never knew Daddy to take any more drink. And, he said if he got, he talks telling Momma all that night. He says, "If I get over this," he says, "I won't never do it again," and he never did. [laughter] But, we stayed up with Daddy all night long.

Course back there then you had little outhouses. That's what we had when we moved the house. We finally moved the house when Daddy and Momma bought the land down here that the old home place is on now. We moved the house down there and it was only two rooms. We had the kitchen and then there was what Momma has for the living room now. We had two double beds in that living room. That's where Daddy and Mother slept and me and Shirley slept for quite a few. Well, after us kids all growed up and left home.

MJ: Where did the boys sleep?

WF: The boys slept. Buck slept in the kitchen. We had a big couch in the kitchen. We had a huge piano in there, which mother bought. I think she bought it, I'm not sure from Aunt [Lonely] Pringle. She had Aunt [Lonely] Pringle's old piano. We had it in there. And, Buck would sleep in there on the couch, in there. Then later on in years, I think Momma was about forty-nine, or something like that. Bobby Joe come along. It was way later on that Bobby come along. But we kept that. Mike, we kept that little ole place. Like I say, it was only the two rooms and I look back now and say, "How in the world we lived in there?" [laughter] And all we had in there. But, we kept that, me and my sister, kept that little ole place just as clean and spotless as it could be. And, course, we had a outhouse down there too.

MJ: Did you have carpeting on the floors?

WF: Oh no, no carpet. I think we had, what they had, what they called anoleum, anoleum that –

MJ: Linoleum?

WF: Yeah, anoleum that days. Is what we had on the floor. Let's see now, let me get to going here again. [laughter]

MJ: So you had to take of the cooking and you cleaned the house and you had chores. And milking. You had to milk those cows in the morning and afternoon.

WF: That's right.

MJ: What else did you have to do? Did you have to take, whose job was it to take care of the outhouse?

WF: It was our. You know Mother always taught us girls how to work and everything. And [inaudible] we worked. Like when we were growing up we would go if anybody wanted us to clean their house or clean windows, or anything like that; we were always willing to go and do things like that. If they wanted to pay us, well, it was fine and if they didn't it didn't matter to us, really. Back there then. Because everybody was having a sort of a hard time and course wages back there then wasn't like they are today.

MJ: Tell me about your outhouse because that was a, for Cortez, it was kind of a large outhouse.

WF: Yes, well, see, that was the only place that we had to take our baths too. We took baths out there. What we took our baths in, we always kept a number three wash tub out there. That's what we took our baths in.

MJ: Where would you get the water?

WF: We would take it in, take it out of the house.

MJ: Would you heat it? Have someone carry it out there?

WF: Yes. During the winter time we would heat maybe a foot tub, what we called a foot tub. Then, we'd take that. Heat us a foot tub full of hot water and then we'd have to add some cold water to that. That's where we took our baths for quite a few years. [laughter] Like I say, Momma and Daddy didn't build on to the house 'til all of us kids were just gone.

MJ: So, did you all take a bath the same night, the same time?

WF: No, we individually we go into the little outhouse out there and take our baths and everything.

MJ: Did you use the same water.

WF: Me and my sister did now. Yes, we would use the same water. But now Buck, he would always get water up for him.

MJ: And what about washing your clothes? Taking care of your clothes. How did you have to wash your clothes?

WF: We had an old wash pot, which Mother has over there today in the front yard with mums, mums planted in to it.

MJ: Like an old iron pot?

WF: Yes, an old iron wash pot. We would do our clothes in a wash pot. We'd boil them. We'd take Ivory soap. We would grate that. We would grate it up and put that in our clothes while they were boiling. We used to have an old rainwater tank there behind the garage and would use the rain water to rinse the clothes in. Then, we had two number three tubs in a little ole place in the back of the garage there we had built. We called it the washhouse. We had two number three tubs in there and we would get our rainwater out of the rainwater tank by buckets. We didn't have no hose. We would do it by buckets and put the rainwater in the number three tubs, and we would rinse our clothes into that. Sometimes we had washboards too. Sometimes still after we got through boiling the clothes, Mother would always use the washboard too.

MJ: Oh, she would?

WF: Yes. Us girls had to use it too and help her. If the clothes didn't seem that were clean enough, we had to go up and scrub them on that washboard some. To be sure it got all out. That's the way we done our clothes for well, like I say, quite a few years.

MJ: Now, from what you've been describing, do you think that life in Cortez was hard then?

WF: No, Uh-uh, I mean I didn't think it was hard. I enjoyed life when I was growing up and everything. I don't think we had a what you call a "hard life", or anything. We scalloped to help make a living and we sold the scallops.

MJ: Tell a little about scalloping. Where would you get the scallops?

WF: Out here in the kitchen for quite a few years. We had plenty of scallops. There was other different places around that we would go and gather scallops too. But we always done most of our scalloping really right out here in the kitchen. Like I say there was plenty of scallops at that time. We wasn't the only ones that scalloped, there was quite a few that scalloped around here to make a living.

MJ: Where there mostly, were mainly women out doing the scalloping?

WF: No. The men, women and men would be out there when scallop season come. When it's time for scallops to come in. The men and the women would go out there and help. Daddy would go and help us and everything.

MJ: Women and children, the whole family.

WF: Yeah, the whole family would be out there getting scallops.

MJ: How do you get scallops?

WF: At that time we could go out and wait 'til about low-tide and we would go out there and we'd pick most of them up with our hands. Then they learned to fix –. I don't know who invented the glass bottom boxes but we used to if it was –. We got to where we go on high tides when we had the glass bottom boxes. You'd have to use a dip net but we could get plenty of scallops right [a one] with the glass bottom boxes.

MJ: At hightide were you walking on the bottom?

WF: Oh yes.

MJ: And loaded the scallop boxes?

WF: Yes.

MJ: And you would look through it and you could see the bottom.

WF: Yes.

MJ: And you would dip them up with your dip net?

WF: Dip them up, bring them up with the dip net and we always had a number three tub tied around on the back of us, or a number two tub. We always tied that with ropes around our waist. And that tub would follow us.

MJ: Float. Float behind.

WF: Float behind us. When we'd get a dip net full of scallops well we'd always stuff them, dump them into the tubs. When our tubs got so much into it, we'd go to the boats and put them into the boat. I thought life was really wonderful, myself, in Cortez. And that's the way I'll always feel about it. Just like when we moved away. We moved from here, went down to Englewood. We lived there for a while and then we went over to Stump Pass, which Daddy thought he was going down there. He heard that they were catching a lot fish down there, mullet. That's why the only reason we went down there.

MJ: So your mother wasn't too happy with that decision.

WF: No, Mother wasn't happy at all about us moving. It didn't turn out to be what it should have been. Mother said she was coming back to Cortez. We come back to Cortez and this is where we've been ever since we come back.

MJ: Now your mother said that she told your father something. She said that I'm going back to Cortez, when you're ready, –

WF: You can come. I'll come and get you, or something like that. You come, or I'll come and get you.

MJ: Do you remember that time? Or where you [inaudible]?

WF: Um, no, I think I was too young, Mike. I don't remember that. All I remember about that is that Momma telling us that. You know, in a way, I don't really remember when we exactly come back to Cortez. We were very young when we come back here. I do remember now down in Stump Pass we had, when we were living there, me and Shirley had our tonsils out and I think we were six or seven years old when we had our tonsils out and they brought us to, we had to come clear to Sarasota to the hospital there –

MJ: Oh really?

MF: Uh-huh. – to have our tonsils out. It wasn't too long after that, I'd say, that I was probably eight or nine when we come back to Cortez. And we started in to school out here. Is when we come back here.

MJ: You started school and you were going to the old school at the end of 45th Avenue and 119th?

WF: Yes, uh-huh.

MJ: Who were some of the children that you remember growing up with in Cortez?

WF: Oh, I remember the McDonalds. Junie and [Mars] Guthrie, and Dan Taylor, and, oh there's quite a few. Shirley Fulford, [Amona, Genevie], oh there was just a whole, the Robertses. There was the Robertses. Frances and Norma Roberts. There was some Silverthornes, which they didn't live here all the time. They'd come down and stay so long and they'd go back up somewheres else.

MJ: So these were all children that you would play with?

WF: Yes, as a young girl, we would get together and do little things. Like me and Shirley Fulford, and Frances Roberts, we always liked to play marbles back there then. They had marbles and we'd get together over there at my house. Course at that time, the driveway was nothing but dirt and we would play marbles and we had what we called, [lawbrowsers].

MJ: [Lawbrowsers]?

WF: Yeah, we called the biggest marble, oh they were real heavy, [laughter] and we called them a [lawbrower] in the marbles. That's what we would shoot the little marbles with.

MJ: [Lawbrowsers]? [laughter]

WF: Uh-huh, yes.

MJ: So, marbles wasn't just a boy's game?

WF: No! No, because I remember a many a time that me and Shirley Fulford, and Frances Roberts would get together over there at my house, down there, and we would play marbles there in the driveway.

MJ: Were there games that you would play with large groups of children?

WF: We'd play hopscotch. We'd play jump the rope, where you jump the rope. We'd go out sometimes a lot of us would go out to the schoolhouse. At that time, it was a big ole huge cement thing out there in the front that they had laid and we would jump rope on that. Quite a few of the children that I grew up with they stayed around 'til a lot of them got married. Some of them left, some of them didn't, they still stayed here—lived here.

MJ: When you were young, did you go down to the docks? Were you allowed down on the docks?

WF: Well, if Mother and Daddy was down there. That's the only way we was allowed to go down on the docks. When we were real, real young, that's the only way we could go to the docks. But as we grew older, we would go down to the docks.

MJ: Did you have much interest in what was going on down there with the fishing and all of that?

WF: I was interested in it. I would go down and gut mackerel. I have been down there for pigs and gutted mackerels.

MJ: I knew that several of the men had told me that they as boys would gut mackerel but I didn't know whether the girls would go down and gut mackerel.

WF: Well I did! I would go down and gut mackerel, yes. That's where we cleaned down there. We cleaned a many a scallop down there on Pigs Dock, Fulford's Dock Fish House down there.

MJ: That's where you cleaned them once you gutted them.

WF: Yes, and then sometimes we would bring them home too. This was when we cleaned most of the scallops down over at Fulford's, this is when me and Sonny was married. Before that when we were still at home, we'd bring them right there up to the house and clean them there.

MJ: What would you do with all of the shells?

WF: We'd take them and dump them along the water front down here. Then, we would let the fish eat all of the insides out, the guts. We had a sale at that time, they were buying scallop shells.

MJ: Oh they were?

WF: Uh-huh. They'd pay us. What they paid us I couldn't tell you but it wasn't very much a bushel; for a bushel of scallop shells. They used to make dolls out of those scallop shells back there then.

MJ: They did?

WF: Uh-huh. A doll was made out of them. A cute little doll. We would sell them. Gather them up after the fish had eat all the guts and things out of them we would gather them up. I don't remember where we took those but we took them somewhere. Then sometimes the people that bought them would come down here and pick them up.

MJ: So, there were a lot of things that you could do as a child. And children did do, in Cortez, to make a little extra money.

WF: Oh yes! There was plenty that we could to. There was some that wanted to, some didn't. I don't know, I always was a little worker. All of us children were. We enjoyed getting out and going, making a few dollars. Just like me, when I was growing up, I used to do a lot of peoples' hair around here. You know, roll it.

MJ: You did?

WF: Uh-huh. I used to do Miss [Helenga Threese], I used to do her hair. I used to do Grace Guthrie's hair. We done it, what I done it that time, I didn't roll the hair on rollers like they do now. We used, they called it pin curling. You done it with your finger and you'd take a piece of hair, wrap it around your finger and flatten it down and put a bobby pin through it. I used to do, there was a girl down here, Pauline. No I don't remember now, but I used to do her hair too. I done, and I used to give permanents too. I used to give them permanents. Back there then. I could give permanents.

MJ: You'd do that in their home?

WF: Yeah, just go right to their house and give them permanents. I used to give my mother all of her permanents.

MJ: You did?

WF: Uh-huh. Yes.

MJ: When you were children and you'd make a little extra money what would you do with it?

WF: We would take it and we'd go buy something that we really needed. We didn't go out and just buy something that we wanted. We spent it on something like shoes. If we needed a pair of shoes. As far as clothes, for a long, long time, my sister Shirley, she made our clothes and she

made out of our feed sacks. Back there then, we got our feed, the cow's feed in like floral patterns, with little flowers or something into them. Shirley would make us skirt and blouses, is mostly what we had to wear. She would make our clothes out of that. The feed sacks.

MJ: Out of the feed sacks, well that is something.

WF: Uhm. They were real cute little patterns in the feed sacks. We always took, when we were going to school, after we got her in school, we always took Home Economic too. Me and my sister, yes.

MJ: You probably excelled at that cause you had a pretty good teacher at home. You, know at Home Ec.

WF: Oh, yes, yes. Uh-huh, yeah.

MJ: Tell me about Buck. Did he fish with your father then when he was growing up as a young man? Did he fish with your dad?

WF: Buck would go once and a while. Buck didn't go, I don't think, too much with Daddy a fishin' when he was a young man. He just wasn't interested in really fishing. But as he grew older, he become, like he liked to fish. That was his thing. He just liked to fish and he fished with my uncle for quite a few years. He fished with different ones around here.

MJ: When you say your uncle, who do you mean?

WF: My Uncle Bernard, Capo.

MJ: Bernard, Capo.

WF: Uh-huh. Which lived down here in Cortez too.

MJ: What were some of the tasks, or chores, that Buck had around the home? What was he supposed to take care of?

WF: Well, he took care of, Buck would bough the yard.

MJ: Take care of the yard?

WF: He would take of the yard and his job was to take care and feed the chickens. He would feed them a lot when we had the chickens. He'd have to do that.

MJ: Did you eat together as a family? Where the meals, like your supptime, would all sit down at the table and eat together?

WF: Yes. We also are at that time, when we were growing up, our Granddaddy Pearson lived right there in the little house that's still there today. He lived there with us and he would come in

and eat with us too. Granddaddy was a real fun granddaddy, I'll tell you. He was always teasing us children when we were younger. He'd get the biggest kick, my granddaddy chewed tobacco at that time. He'd always get the biggest kick if one of us kids would be barefooted. He'd always like to spit the tobacco between our toes. [laughter] Now, I'm not telling you and it would make us so mad. [laughter] We'd get wrong at that because Granddaddy had spit that tobacco between our toes. Another one he used to pull on us kids. He'd call us up to him. He'd sit out there under the oak and he'd say "Poozer". He had named me "Poozer".

MJ: "Poozer"?

WF: "Poozer". He had named Shirley, "Bow". Buck was "Antly" but he had us all nicknamed. He'd say, "Poozer, come here." "Let me check", he'd see if we had a pocket on our whatever we was wearing. He'd say, "Come here let me see if you got any money in your pocket." For quite a while we couldn't how understand how where in the world that money was coming from. Cause we never felt, had any money in our pockets. [laughter] What he was doing, he would take a quarter, or dime, or a nickel, or even a penny. He would take it out of his pocket, have it in his hand, slip it in our pocket and make us kids that he had –

MJ: Had found some money?

WF: Yeah, had found some money in our pocket. He was always doing something like that. Then sometimes at night, when we'd be in the kitchen a doing something, and it would be way after dark, Granddaddy would sneak around to the back kitchen there. He would take his hat and go down the window on the screen and scare us to death. [laughter] He was always doing something like that. He was a fun granddaddy. He kept us kids a-going all the time.

MJ: Now he was a fisherman too, wasn't he?

WF: Granddaddy Pearson, not as I know of. I don't know what Granddaddy really done. I was trying to think about that yesterday.

MJ: So, he was quite old when he was living in that house when you [inaudible]?

WF: Yes, Granddaddy, see, we wasn't around Granddaddy. Granddaddy was pretty well up in age when he lived in that house down there. He built, had that little house built back there. He lived there 'til he died. That's where he died. In that little house back there.

MJ: He died.

WF: Yeah, he died right in that house.

MJ: Your mother told me that once, that he every once and while would like to cook his own cornbread.

WF: Yes, he would.

MJ: But she said he didn't cook it the same way she did. She called them hoecakes. That he would always like to make rather than.

WF: I don't re, I mean I don't remember none of, I mean, you know, that.

MJ: Let me go back and ask you about fishing because –. Were women discouraged in fishing, or taking a real interest in fishing? Do you think, when you were growing up? Because there weren't very many female fishers in Cortez.

WF: No, we didn't fish back there. Not as I know of. I never did go fishing with Daddy or anything, that I really remember. Until, when I really went fishing is when I met Sonny, and married Sonny. Then, I would go fishing with Sonny quite a bit.

MJ: Do you remember where there any superstitions about having women on boats, or anything like that?

WF: No, I don't Mike. I don't remember that. But, I can imagine that back there then they thought. I think they thought that the women's place was in the house. At home. Is what I really think. I don't know whether, like I say, I really don't remember of any. Now, Mayda fished for quite a few years, Mayda Culvert. Now, she was a fisherman. Whether she done that all of her life, I don't know.

MJ: Well, how did you meet your husband?

WF: Well we just start to going together. We was, we didn't start to going together until later years in high school. I think me and Sonny started to going together when I was, let's see, I think I was about in the tenth grade when I started to going with Sonny. Or, ninth grade. Ninth, or tenth. We started to going together then. Sonny was a real hard worker, he always was.

MJ: Was he fishing while he was going to high school? Do you remember?

WF: Yes, he would get out and go fishing like on the weekends with his uncle Tink. He'd go fishing with him and that's who he'd fish with most of the time. With his uncle Tink when he was growing up and when he went fishing. They would stop, net. Sonny would always be a mending net down on the spreads out there, mending net.

MJ: Would you go down and see him when he was working?

WF: Oh yes, I'd go down and see him. I'd stand out there on the spreads with him while he'd mend net. Talk to him, and things. Then after we got married, I went fishing. Like I said I went fishing with him.

MJ: Did he have a car when he was?

WF: Yes, he had a car. No, I don't know. Yes, he did. He had a car when he was going to school. But not 'til way late, I think it was. I don't, I don't really remember Mike, I don't. [laughter]

MJ: I just wondered what you would do for entertainment. Would you, if you'd go out on dates? If you would go to movies? Or, what would you do?

WF: Oh, I would go to the movie with Sonny. I'd slip off and go with him [laughter] because Momma, and them, didn't believe in going to the movies. [laughter] I would. I'd slip off and go to the movie with him.

MJ: Where would you tell your mother you were going?

WF: I don't really remember. [laughter] I don't. I don't know what I'd tell her. But anyway, a lot of times, if she caught us and caught us in a story, a fib, oh, we'd get the worst whipping. My [land] Momma would whip us. We knew not to story. Because if she ever found it out. Aww, it's too bad for any of us.

MJ: So you had to be sort of secretive at times, when you [inaudible].

WF: That's right, we did. Because she would whip us. And, we got whipped with a belt.

MJ: With a belt?

WF: With a belt. Is what we got whipped with.

MJ: Do you think was your mother, at that time, do you think she was pretty strict? Do you think it was strict at that time?

WF: Yes, Momma was. Momma was very strict. Yes, she really was.

MJ: Was she the main disciplinarian? Or did your father ever, was he supposed to take care of that at times, or was it mainly your mother?

WF: Mother done the most of the whipping in our family.

MJ: She did?

WF: Yes, she did. Now Daddy would whip us once and a while. But, Mother was the one that whipped us the most home. Even the boys.

MJ: Even the boys?

WF: Yes. Momma was the one that whipped them, yes. Because Mother, you know, Mother was very; we couldn't do this, and we couldn't do that. If she found out we done something, like I

say, we would really get a whipping. If my mother ever had a drink, I don't know anything about it today.

MJ: I'll be darn.

WF: Uh-uh. Sure don't.

MJ: Would you go to movies with other couples and did you do things together in high school with other couples and stuff?

WF: Yes, me and Sonny would go out with a couple. We went with a couple quite a bit. After we got married we went with Floyd Capo which lived here. He was raised here and born here. He married [Louanne] which I don't remember her last name. We used to go out and do things with them quite a bit. Go swimming, and have little picnics and things like that.

MJ: Do you remember Cortez as being a very close-knit community when you were growing up? Did you do things with other members of your family? Cousins? Aunts and uncles? Did you have gatherings, regular gatherings and things like that?

WF: We used to have like little gatherings out on the schoolground years ago. Especially at the end of the school year. They would have like a picnic, what they called a picnic. Everybody would cook and they'd take us all to the beach. That's where we'd go and have our little gathering, a lot of time. And, then sometimes we'd have it right out here on the school ground. We would go to the beach at the end of the school year and have a big picnic.

MJ: So, most of the parents were pretty involved in the school?

WF: Yes, at that time. Course, they were always. The people around here they were always interested in their children. About how they were doing in school and how they were getting along in school. The parents would always be interested in knowing.

MJ: Did you have any teachers that you remembered most?

WF: Yes, I remember Miss Pritchard and Miss Lydia Greene.

MJ: Did they live in the community?

WF: I don't think they did. Not when they were teaching. No, they didn't live, not here. I don't believe the teachers did. I don't really, you know, I don't really remember. I don't think they did though. I don't think none of them lived here when they were teaching. I'm trying to think of another one that I knew very well, and I can't think of her name.

MJ: And most of your teachers at that time were females?

WF: Yes. Our teachers were mostly females. We had Mr. Blackburn, Principal, that used to be Principal of the school out here, Mr. Blackburn. And Miss Blackburn, his wife used to teach too,

out here. [pause] When we were going to school out here. I'll never forget, Mike. We had, there was, of course we was still living, we hadn't moved the little house from down there then. McDonalds used to live right there on the corner, which is the place is still there. Judy, one of the girls, one day had got, I don't know what she was fighting about or what we were. Well, we were all sort of wrong at each other. She got tomatoes and did she splatter tomatoes all over the house [laughter]. She was throwing them at us. But you know, back there then when we got mad at each other or anything, the children here in Cortez, our little mad spell would be over in just a little while. And we would be brought back together again. Doing this, being friends again. It didn't last very long.

MJ: I guess adults would get mad at each other, it would last quite a while.

WF: Yeah. [laughter] But it didn't last very long.

MJ: Before I forget it, you were going to tell me a story about when we were talking about some of the livestock that you raised. You told me a story that you remembered your mother said telling you about an old goat, and going to town.

WF: Mother, at that time, now the way I get it when Mother was telling me and Shirley, she's told me and Shirley about this. They used to live out here where 75th is now. Where the gulf course is there. Alright, way back in there, years ago, there used to be a big ole house that was back in there. Course that was all woods at that time. Mother and them lived back there and they used to have a little goat. She told us that one day they were going. I think her, and her twin had took the little goat. They had a little cart at that time that the goat pulled. What kind, I don't know. They had decided they would go take the goat, go for a little ride. The goat decided that it wanted a drink of water. Mother said at that time there was a big huge, they had a huge ditch dug out there. That goat decided it wanted a drink of water and that goat just took them right down into that ditch. [laughter] She said they were a mess. In the water they went and everything.

MJ: Did you have goats?

WF: Yes. When I lived out on 99th Street I had a little goat, her name was [Mitsy]. I got the goat. We were up to Floyd Capo's one day and I always wanted a little goat and that was at Cross City. I brought the goat from there. Bubba says, we called him Bubba as a nickname. He went to somebody's house and got me a little goat, brought it back. Me and Sonny was out there and brought the goat in the back of the car. When we were coming home, but we would stop at red lights or anything like that, people would see that goat in the car and I know that they was a wondering, what in the world was going on. In fact, I had to get it a bottle. We got it a bottle before left out of Cross City, and I even got it a pint of milk, I think. Because the goat was still nursing. After I got it home, the goat took the bottle for quite a while. Then finally weened her off of it. But, I had a little goat out here on 99th Street.

MJ: This was after you got married?

WF: Uh-huh, oh yes, this was all after. Me and Sonny was married at the time when I got the goat. Had the goat.

MJ: You moved. Is that the first house you lived in after you were married? Out on 99th Street?

WF: No, no, uh-uh. That was our first home that we ever built. That out there on 99th.

MJ: Where did you live right after you were married?

WF: After me and Sonny got married, we lived, well, we stayed with his mother for a little while. But we didn't stay with her very long. We moved in a place right there behind Grandmother's. Dorothy Wilson had a home. The place is still there that we lived in. We lived there for a while and then after we –. I don't know why we moved, I was trying to think of that. I don't know why we moved from there but anyway, we went from there down to a place, Silverthorne's. They had like it was, they lived in one side and then they had the other side, it was like apartments. It had a kitchen, and a bath, and had one bedroom and then the front room and like a little hallway. We went there and lived. I don't know how long we lived there. That's when I used to work at the Albion Inn, is when we lived there.

MJ: Tell me about working at the Albion. How did you get the job and what did you do?

WF: I went there as a waitress. I think that's where I first started to waitress. Learn to be a waitress was at the Albion Inn. I did, I waited on the people. I would take the dishes off the table and things like that.

MJ: Who was running the Inn at that time?

WF: The Antillas.

MJ: The Antillas?

WF: Uh-huh. Was running, had the place.

MJ: In about how many people would you be serving in the evening?

WF: Well, there wasn't very, oh I'd say maybe ten or fifteen or something like that. It wasn't very big. The place, they didn't have that many people come in.

MJ: Where they mainly guests, or would they have outsiders? People that weren't staying at the hotel come in?

WF: Well, I think some of the people they would be, they were outsiders the one's that I waited on. That would come there and stay maybe like a week or something like that.

MJ: Most of them were guests at the hotel.

WF: Uh-huh at the hotel that time. At the Inn, Albion Inn when I would work there.

MJ: So, you did that shortly after you got married?

WF: Uh-huh and I worked over here. After that I think I went to work over here for Hoot and Daisy Gibson. Over here. There used to be a little fruit stand place here in Cortez and I worked there too for quite a few years. Helped them. They had a vegetable stand and then got where they had like canned goods and they had a meat department and then later on they turned about half of it into a little restaurant. Then I worked in there too.

MJ: Oh really?

WF: Uh-huh, I used to work in there. I'd make ice cream sodas. They had sort of like a soda fountain place. I used to work in there for them.

MJ: So how old were you then? In your twenties?

WF: I would say I was, Mike, yeah.

MJ: Then, you worked at Tropicana some point in time?

WF: Yes, I worked at Tropicana before me and Sonny got married.

MJ: Oh, you did?

WF: Yes.

MJ: Oh, I see.

WF: I went to work at Tropicana, I worked there. But, I lacked a year and a half of finishing high school. Because I wanted to get out and go to work. I really did. I was ready to go to work and I was tired of school. Which, I should have went on and finished school. I see that now but back there then, I didn't. I wanted to go to work. Get out and go to work. I worked at Tropicana. I sectionized grapefruit, oranges there.

MJ: How big was Tropicana then?

WF: Tropicana was just a little ole tin shed. Well, it wasn't little shed, was it? It was pretty good size. But it was just a shed the time I went there. There was no air-conditioning, nothing like that. It was just all open. Open and we had fans. He had big ole, Mr. Rossi had big fans in there at that time.

MJ: Did you know Mr. Rossi?

WF: No. Not personally, didn't.

MJ: Would you see him on the job while you were there? Would he come in?

WF: Oh yes, he was there every day. He was just as, working just as hard as anybody else.

MJ: He was?

WF: Yes, and he'd go around check us girls to see that we was sectionizing. And the Peelers, now, you had to be a good peeler for him to hire you.

MJ: Really?

WF: Yes, because he didn't want hardly any orange left on them peelings. He would be around just all day long, checking us out. If you couldn't put out so much a day, I think he would get rid of you.

MJ: When you say a sectionizer, what does a Sectionizer do?

WF: We had what they called sectionizing knives. I still have mine from when I used to work there. I still got my sectionizing knife. I still sectionize most of the fruit. I juice it on our trees that we have here now. Very little sectionizing I do, except for the oranges. But, now, I do sectionize quite a few grapefruit. That's given to us. Course we don't have any grapefruit trees.

MJ: That's cutting out part of the fruit?

WF: Yes, it's taking the fruit completely out which is no skin onto it or anything. You just have the grapefruit.

MJ: How did you learn how to do that?

WF: I had to learn on my own to do it. And I learned it at Rossi's where I learned to do it. I got where I was pretty good. Like I say back there then Mr. Rossi, we went by the gallons. You had to do so many gallons per day. Back there, when I worked for him.

MJ: How much would they pay you for them?

WF: I don't know, Mike. But the wages was very good. I don't remember how much we got for the gallon of fruit that time. I do not remember. I also had an aunt that worked there. Maude Culpepper, she was then.

MJ: Were they mostly women that worked there?

WF: Yes, mostly. Now men, Mr. Rossi would have the men. The women done most of sectionizing the fruit and peeling the fruit. I don't think there was hardly any men that done that. The men would work at the other things. Like, the fruit had to be washed. All it had to be washed. I think they had big vats at that time. They would put all the fruit in and wash it. The men would do things like that. They'd combine, pick up our gallons. After we got through getting a gallon of oranges or grapefruit. They'd pick it up and take it to the cooler, or wherever he kept it. Get it right on in the cool.

MJ: Where there a lot of women from Cortez that worked at Tropicana when you did?

WF: Yes, there was, I'm not sure but I think. I can't remember. I don't know if Nancy Lewis was working there at that time, or not. I don't know.

MJ: About how many people were working there?

WF: I know Mother worked there.

MJ: Your mother worked there too?

WF: Mother worked there for a while. I don't know if she remembers it or not. But she did.
[pause]

MJ: How many people would you say worked under that shed? All together.

WF: I'd say they probably be about. There was quite a few of us Mike. I'd say about fifty or maybe a hundred, I don't really. You know I don't really remember that.

MJ: Do you think it was hard work?

WF: No, I enjoyed it myself.

MJ: You did?

WF: Yes, I did. I really enjoyed that.

MJ: How many hours would you work a day?

WF: Oh, we'd put in eight hours a day. Yes.

MJ: What shift would your work? Where there two shifts or was there just one shift?

WF: No, there was just the one shift at that time. Rossi didn't work at night, not then.

MJ: Oh, he didn't?

WF: Uh-uh. Not as I know of he didn't.

MJ: How about weekends?

WF: I don't remember that either. [laughter] I don't think we did. I don't think we worked on Saturdays and Sundays at that time. We worked from Monday 'til Friday and I think that was it. Back there, then.

MJ: How many years did you work?

WF: Well, for Rossi, I would say, I worked maybe with him for about a year. But I just, when I started to work, I didn't just do one thing. I done all kinds of work. I even worked for, I used to work for Margaret Ann's, that used to be up in Bradenton. I even worked there. This is before me and Sonny was married that I worked there. Margaret Ann's, they used to call them. Now, which they are Winn-Dixies now. I think they went from Margaret Ann to Winn-Dixies. I used to work for Margaret Ann. I worked in the meat department. I'd cut up meats. Learned how to cut meats, cut up chickens and all of that. I learned the whole works. I also used to work for a place down here close to the airport. They used to have a government place down there. They made rafts, like for the servicemen. I worked there for, I reckon I worked with them for maybe about a year or year and a half. It was sort of like the way you worked there you worked down like assembly line. I would do so much to the raft then it would go on from me to somebody else. And right on down. When I worked down there.

MJ: You quit school when you had a year, little over a year or less?

WF: I lacked a year and a half finishing high school.

MJ: And you started working at these different jobs?

WF: Yes, I started to working at different jobs.

MJ: How would you get to work?

MF: Mother would have to take us; our parents would have to take us a lot of times. To work. Cause we couldn't drive the cars. We didn't have our license, or anything.

MJ: This was what in the '40s?

WF: We did drive. I think I was driving when I was about twelve years old. I learned to drive the car.

MJ: Who taught you how to drive?

WF: We just learned. We would watch our parents. How they shift. We had a car that had the stick on the floor. The little ole stick shift is what we had. I'd just watch Mother and Daddy how they do that.

MJ: Really?

WF: When I started driving I was very sincere. I mean serious about my driving. I wonder, I really learned. Momma, we'd always beg her to take the car. She'd let us maybe go down to the store or something like that in the car but we was taking a risk cause we didn't have any license. We really did.

MJ: But she'd let you drive it down to the store?

WF: She would, she'd let us drive it there once and a while.

MJ: What store would you drive down to?

WF: It was a store over here in Cortez at the time. The store was there on the corner. The store was right the next where Suzy Guthrie lived.

MJ: Was it Parents grocery?

WF: Yeah, I drove down to Parents groceries. Then there was another one too that used to be there that I remember.

MJ: Browns?

WF: Another grocery store.

MJ: Was it Browns?

WF: I don't, you know, I can't think of the names of the people.

MJ: Sonny's father had a store for a while, didn't he?

WF: That was, I don't remember nothing about that. I don't remember Sonny's dad having a store or anything. I don't remember. We might have been away from here. We might have been away from here at that time. Either down in Englewood or Stump Pass when he had the store. But I don't remember that. None of that.

MJ: After you started working at these different jobs then you were married. In what year did you get married?

WF: We got married in 1952 I think it was, '51, or something like that.

MJ: And, Sonny was fishing all this time?

WF: Yes. Sonny would go fishing night and day. It was just night and day. He would come in maybe rest for a hour or couple hours. It's all according where he wanted to go. Stop a place or go put a root bump in. Or what they call the end root bumps. If he even slept that long but he'd just go, go, go. Just fish, fish, fish.

MJ: He had his own crew?

WF: He started out, Sonny was his crew. Sonny done most of his fishing by his self for years. By his self. Only when I would go with him.

MJ: What would you do when you would go with him?

WF: Sonny was a strong, he was a working guy, he really was. I'm telling you. He still is. He's constantly got to be a doing something—working. When I'd go with Sonny, I'd help him like pull the nets in and get the fish in. If he'd put in a root bump, then tide would go out. I'd try to catch every mullet in that thick net. I thought we oughten to get every fish [laughter] that was in that net. He would tell me. He'd say, "Honey, now you're not gonna get all them fish." I says, "Well, I'm gonna try." [laughter] I would put my boots on. I had an old pair of sloppy boots. I would put my boots on and I would run up and down that net. Along the shoreline after we got it pulled in. I'd run up and down that net trying to get all them fish into that net. [laughter] If I couldn't get them in the net. I'd grab them by my hands and put them in the boat. [laughter] Yes, siree.

MJ: You wanted every one of them. [laughter]

WF: I wanted every —. [laughter] He says you're not going to get every fish. I said this man, I says, "Well I'm gonna try." [laughter]

MJ: Did you enjoy fishing?

WF: Oh yes, I enjoyed it and I still enjoy it. I'd like to go fishing right now.

MJ: You still ride on the boats.

WF: Oh yes, I go out on the boat now. Go bait fishing with him every once and a while. I enjoy that. I think it is so much fun. It's so relaxing to get out there on the boat. Gets your mind away from your home a little while, the chores. But I just like to go and see the different things that are in the nets like: the sharks, if there's any stinger rays, things like that. I like to see all of that going on.

MJ: Did you ever pilot the boat? Were you more or less a crew on the boat?

WF: Oh, I'd drive it once in a while. I have drove the boat but I would mostly like to just go on the boat; is what I'd like to do. Sonny went, this was before we got married, he went to Florida Christian College up here in Tampa for a while and he would bring like a lot of people. Quite a few of the people from up there. Then Irene and Belinda down here, Fulford. They used to go to college up there. They used to bring quite a few of the kids from up there down with them. We would go out on their dad's. They called it the scow. It's a big ole scow. We'd take and go out like down here to a Longboat down there on that, like Jew Fish Island, down there. We'd go down there and have picnics and Sonny would be the one to driving the boats and taking us. But, I don't think Sonny, Sonny had too much fishing in his blood to ever go and do anything else—really.

MJ: You think so?

WF: Yes. I don't think he would have ever done anything else. I really don't.

MJ: He had sort of a tragic accident when he lost his leg.

WF: Yes, he did. It was really a shock to me when I heard it because I just couldn't hear. Well, tell you the truth, when Sonny had his accident; in fact, I was, Paul was working for Bell's down here at the time. He heard it on the radio and I think Paul knew what had already happened to his father but he never mentioned a word to me all the time we were going to St. Pete.

MJ: Oh really?

WF: Uh-uh. He called here to the house and he says, "Mom what are you doing?" I says, "Well, I'm preparing different things, you know, for supper." And he says, "Well, I'm gonna be over there to get you in a few minutes." He says, "Daddy's been in a bad accident on the boat." And I says, "Yeah?" I says, "Well, I'm ready." I says, "I'm ready right now son to go." He says, "Going to take you in, we got to go to St. Pete." So, he come by and got me and he went by the bank and picked Terry up and got her. He went in and got Terry at the bank. Before they could get back out, I didn't want to let them know I was crying so I sort of let my tears out before they got there. All he said, Daddy was in a bad accident on the boat. I still didn't know 'til we got over there how bad it was. Then they told me.

MJ: I bet it was quite a shock.

WF: Yes, it really was, and I still couldn't, I just couldn't get it in my head that Sonny had lost his leg for quite a while, Mike.

MJ: How did he take it?

WF: Sonny? Well, for a while there Sonny wasn't, they kept him so doped and everything. Well, the pain and everything too from the leg. He stayed down a little bit there. But he didn't stay down very long. He was up and cheerful again. I got where, when I'd go over to see him, and I was there every day. Well, every time you visited. One night I went and stayed all night long and I stayed up with him there. He got where he was cheerful and things like that.

MJ: But it took you quite a while too.

WF: It took me quite a while to realize Sonny had lost his leg, yes. Nobody knew it from me though. Not even my children. I told Betty about it. Cause I didn't want to upset the children.

MJ: That you had to portray a sort of a strong image for them?

WF: Strong. I had to realize that a mother had to be strong. What was going on at the time. But I would do my crying at night. By myself, up in my bedroom. Nobody knew. I don't think I've ever told anybody that I cried except Betty. Betty Taylor. Me and Betty are close together, real close together about different things.

MJ: Wanda, why do you think that is? Where you as growing up, do you feel that your mother sort of put that into you to show a strong in the face of diversity? Or something like that, you had to be strong?

WF: Yes, uh-huh.

MJ: Did you ever see your mother cry?

WF: We were taught to be. I reckon we get this from Mother. About being strong. Cause my sister's the same way.

MJ: Is she?

WF: Yes, my sister is a very strong person. Like, if we wanted anything done, we were sort of taught if you want it done, you do it yourself. Just get to work and get it done. That's the way we were sort of taught. My sister is the same way, she's a strong person. She had five boys, Shirley did. They're going up. When they got old enough to do things, listen, my sister she buried them. They learned to wash, they knew how to keep house, they knew how to cook, they knew how to iron.

MJ: This is all her boys?

WF: Yeah. She had five boys, my sister did. They all learned how to do, you know. And, they are that way today. They are strong like my sister. They go right ahead and do it. They don't depend on somebody else to do it, they go and do it thereselves. I'm still that way. If I want something done, if it's something too big that I can't do, I'll go ahead and get it done myself. I enjoy doing it. That's the thing of it. I enjoy that, doing that.

MJ: You are a hard worker.

WF: I like working in the yard and things like that. I want my yard sort of pretty well kept up. [laughter] Like my home.

MJ: It certainly looks, both of them look like it too.

WF: Sonny can tell you that. I've always been that way about my yard too. I want my yard kept up.

MJ: Well, you take meticulous care of both and you are a meticulous cook.

WF: [laughter] Oh, thank you Mike.

MJ: That's a compliment.

WF: I try, I try. You better believe it, I really do. And, I enjoy having people in. When I used to go to church, we'd have a, this is when we lived out on 99th Street. We would have somebody

out on Sundays. It got to be where it was just about every Sunday. I'd fix for different one's at the church. Then invite them out and we'd have a big dinner out there and everything on the patio at that time. Which the patio now, we finally turned it into like a family room. Like this room is here.

MJ: Well you still do quite a bit of entertaining.

WF: Oh, yes, yes, and I like to. I like to have company. But I want to know when I'm going have company cause I'm a person that I want to have plenty of food if I'm going to have a big bunch of people. I want to know in plenty of time so I could sort of thinking and preparing what I'm going to have. I've always been that type of person. Even when I was growing up and not too long after me and Sonny got married. I wanted to know what I was going to fix.

When I worked out here for Jack, I worked for him ten years at Casa Fernandez. That means the house of birds. I worked for him for ten years. Like Betty down there. I told Betty the way I used to do, like on Fridays when we got off from work. I would go and I'd get all of our groceries that we would need for the next following week. All the vegetables, we always had fresh vegetables, plenty of fresh vegetables. Cause I believe in cooking my vegetables. I would go ahead and get the vegetables. I would take plastic bags and I would go ahead and fix every vegetable like I got for that week. I'd go ahead and wash it, cut it up and everything. Course the children were little too at that time and all I had to do and if I had a roast, or anything like that, I'd go ahead and cook the roast. All I had to do is come in, put my stuff in the pots. It was already done. If I made a roast I'd make the gravy.

MJ: You would?

WF: After I'd come back home that evening. I'd go ahead and cook the roast and then I'd make my gravy and while I was making my gravy, I'd cook my vegetables, what I was going to have.

MJ: When you say you worked for Jack, Jack who?

WF: He was a guy from Spain, he come over here and he started out with Driftwood Galleries out here. Which, Driftwood Galleries is still there side of the place. He used to like make driftwood lamps. Then he started in bringing birds; hand carved birds from Spain. He had a big plant over there, Jack did. Nieces, nephews, the way I understood it, all run the plant over there. While he was over here. We would, uh -. But Jack started out with Driftwood Galleries. Then he went from that he built a brand new place, which is still out there now. What is it called now? [laughter] Anyway, the place is still there. I started to work for him in the old place and like I said when he built the new place, we went to that. He handled, it was all hand carved and painted birds from Spain and he had them all shipped over here.

I worked for him for ten years and he got where he went to the merchandise shows and I got into that. He'd want me to go and do that. I didn't, first I didn't think too much about it cause I had to go off and be away for maybe three or four days, or something like that. They'd have these shows, merchandise shows. I would take the birds, his birds, and didn't make a big display for him. People that had shops, and things, would come into the merchandise shows. I attended the

Atlanta shows, Miami shows, Tampa shows, Orlando shows and that's about the only ones I went to. I'd go there and take orders. People that had shops would come in there and place their orders. They'd give you just what they wanted. Types of birds. We had all kinds. He had every kind of birds.

MJ: Really?

WF: Yes.

MJ: So you were doing a lot of traveling then?

WF: Oh yes, uh-huh. Course there was certain times of the month that they had these merchandise shows that we went to.

MJ: How many kids did you have then?

WF: I had all three of the kids then, yes.

MJ: You did?

WF: Oh yes.

MJ: Who would take care of them when you were gone?

WF: They were big enough that they could, then Sonny would be at home. Sonny would be home.

MJ: I wanted to ask you because you said you would prepare these meals. You'd have everything ready for the week. So you'd know, you wanted to plan ahead. But if you were traveling round. Isn't it kind of hectic to be a fisherman's wife because you often don't know what his schedule is going to be?

WF: Yes, it sort of is but I mostly cook anyway. So I mean I did back there then. But, sometimes if Sonny's not here now, I just go out and eat somewhere. But I used to, like I say, when I was working for him I'd go out on Friday and get the vegetables, and things. Go ahead and prepare them for all that week. Just put them in plastic bags and put them in the Frigidaire. And all I had to do when I come in, is just put them in pots and put my seasonings to them, and cook them. I always had a meal on the table for the family. There was meals on the table for the family.

MJ: They always had food.

WF: Just like if somebody dropped in I always tried to have enough fixed that they could have a bite too. Or even if we had to cut down. I'd say, well, you know, we'll have to share. I just cooked so much if so and so is coming. We'll have to cook so much.

MJ: Is it hard being a fisherman's wife?

WF: No, I don't think it is. Uh-uh. No.

MJ: Tell me about some of some of the changes in Cortez that you've seen over the years. What do you think has changed most about it?

WF: What I think changed most. There is a lot of people that has come in to Cortez that don't live here. Just like lot of the things that goes on in Cortez sometimes like the stealing and things that were done. Most of the time, it's nobody that lived here. It was some outsider. Somebody that never lived in Cortez. It's really changing I think because we got so many other different people coming in.

MJ: Do you think it's still a good place to live?

WF: Yes, I like to live here. This is where I want to live 'til I die.

MJ: Really?

WF: Yeah.

MJ: Why?

WF: I enjoy Cortez. I still got a lot of friends here and things here. My children are still right here, most of them. Except Blair, he lives off down just an hour's drive. Where I used to live, down there sort of. But, I got a lot of friends here yet. And I really enjoy living here in Cortez.

MJ: What do you think –

WF: We're almost sort of like family. Lot of us still get along together and some of us don't. Everybody has their different little things.

MJ: Do you see Cortez as being as close-knit as it used to be?

WF: As close?

MJ: Knit. As close a community as it used to be? Close-knit.

WF: Well, Mike, some of us still are and then some of us still aren't. Really, some of the old timers that grewed up here. Maybe it's just cause I don't get out and try to associate with the one's still here. I don't know. I don't know really what it is. The majority of us still, we have little get-togethers here once and a while.

MJ: It's still an enjoyable time to get together?

WF: Yes! It is. It's surely enjoyable the ones that get together yet and everything. We have fun and everything.

MJ: We're running low on tape. I wanted to ask you is there anything that you wanted to say. Is there any particular story that we haven't touched on and we can do this again if you'd like?

WF: No, I've enjoyed saying what I have, and everything.

MJ: What do you think is the future for Cortez?

WF: Well, I hope Cortez stays here just like I am, I mean like [laughter] when I was growing up. I hope it stays here, really. Really, I do.

MJ: You want it to re –

WF: I would, I'd like for it to stay just like it is right now. I really would.

MJ: Remain a little fishing community.

WF: M-hm, a little fishing community is what I'd like. Cause I still enjoy getting out and fishing. I even like to pole fish. I get right off here on my dock here and I fish a lot of times when I haven't got anything to do. I'll cut-off from my work around my home. I love to get out there and fish with a pole. Or anywhere, go with a pole and fish. I like to go with my son-in-law. He goes with, he works for this "Doc", they call him, taking charters out. I love to go out there. I don't care how far they're going, it don't bother me. [laughter] I'm just right on there ready to go out there and go fishing. Hook and line.

MJ: What is it about fishing that you enjoy the most?

WF: That I'm gonna catch a fish. [laughter] We I didn't do this hook and line, Mike, when I was growing up. I just started a hook and line in here not too many years I've been doing it. I'll take that back, I did too. Because we would go out to like fresh water fishing there once and a while with hook and line. I just enjoyed the hook and line fishing. Knowing that I'm going to catch them fish. It was relaxing too. It's very relaxing to get out and do that.

MJ: Why do you suppose that Mayda Culvert was one of the few women that net fished in Cortez?

WF: Mayda, that's what Mayda loved to do. She really loved to fish. Go out there and catch fish. That was, oh, she was just out there everyday she could get out there.

MJ: She was?

WF: Yes. Like catching them trout. She enjoyed that, Mayda; so her life that's kinda like she liked.

MJ: Did the other women think that was strange?

WF: Well I never thought it was really strange, myself. I always figured if a person wanted to be a fisherman, let him be.

MJ: Male or female.

WF: That's right. If they wanted to go and fish every day. Let them do it.

MJ: Hmm.

WF: I mean I went I got the chance and I enjoyed it. I was glad to go.

MJ: Did most women in Cortez, did they enjoy going out on the boats and doing that? Did you see that a lot?

WF: No. You didn't see women going out too much. Now I know Pauline. Jap Adams, he was a fisherman for years until he retired, or just quit. Pauline, his wife, used to go with him. She used to like to go and do that.

MJ: Well, that's good, I'm going to talk to them tomorrow.

WF: Pauline, Jap, yeah, well good. [laughter] Yeah, but she used to, yes sir, she'd get in that boat, go fishing with Jack. Yes siree.

MJ: I'll have to ask her about that.

WF: Na-ha. Yeah.

MJ: Well, Wanda thank you for doing this we really appreciate it.

WF: I've enjoyed doing it. I've been thinking about it for a little while. [laughter] Then you've had a time, Mike, trying to get me to do this. [laughter] We done it now and maybe someday again I might do another one for you. [laughter]

MJ: Okay.

WF: I'll think of more stuff. [laughter]

MJ: I think that'll be great. [laughter]

WF: Yep. [laughter]

MJ: Thanks.

WF: Yep.