

Interview with Mrs. Lucy Anne Cloud (Feb 6, 1894 - Dec 18, 1973)
Wobbly, neighbor of Elmer Smith
in her home at 5821 San Jose Ave.
Richmond, California August 24, 1972
from 9:00am to 1:30 pm #525-4531

Cloud : And she happened to see me first when I was sitting there on side-line. She said, "Oh, I am so glad to see that you are a radical!" I said, "If you didn't know that!" (laughs) Well he was another character that you would have loved to know, Dr. Mickeljohn. He was kicked out from Amherst. He was professor of philosophy and a couple days later that he had passed on, he was ninety-two.. They had a big memorial on him. They didn't know he was dead yet telling what a wonderful man he was (laughs). Go ahead. I won't interrupt you at all.

Tom : No, well that's okay. Maybe I should explain sort of what I'm doing. First when I found out about Elmer Smith I tried to find out those people who knew him around Macalester in the local area and I talked to about four or five people, his old classmates. He graduated there in 1910 and I talked with some of the classmates and they remembered him and they told me some things. And I did work in the library and I read what I could and then I wrote that article that I sent you.. But I didn't know other than this man in Seattle, Herb Edwards, who wrote about his experiences out here. I didn't know too much more about him on the West Coast.

Cloud : Very difficult you know.

Tom : Yah, so I was still interested in finding out more so I contacted through Harvey O'Connor I got those lists, got your name and I got a number of other people's names. So I wanted to come out and I wanted to talk with people basically just to have them tell me what they want to about Elmer Smith and about themselves in connection with him because I am interested very much in the I.W.W. and in people who knew Elmer and people around him and what they were like. This is mostly just for myself and that I may try to write things.

Cloud : Yah, well we were neighbors. We bought the houses together because they had lived in what was known East Centralia, mostly railroad

people but enough of them that wanted Elmer Smith out of there so they formed groups that made life very unpleasant for them. They kept throwing rocks at the house and a bunch of mud and harass the children who were still small. And Elmer got in contact with the man who I mean he was trying a case for a gentleman against Ford Company and he won the case. Something defective in the Ford car that this gentleman had bought. Well he was so grateful because other attorneys had turned him down, didn't want any case against Ford, which was quite understandable, and he said, "Well if you need any assistance well let me know. I got ten thousand dollars out of the case." He said, "I can loan you money or anything you want me to do." So Elmer found these two homes, side by side and he came to our place. We were then in business and living in rented quarters asking if we wanted to buy a house. We did. We had sold a home in Aberdeen and so we bought one and he bought the other with financing by the same man. Well of course then later on Depression hit all of us. We were all flat broke. I think when we left Centralia we had two hundred dollars in cash. No debts, we had paid off everybody but we lost the home. We lost the business building. Laura hung on because - Elmer died before my husband did. My husband was killed in auto accident later on in Portland. Elmer had a partner by the name of Davies in the law practice because when they disbarred him he could only practice in a federal court and so many cases had been started. Elmer was clever lawyer and so Mr. Davies completed the cases and won most of them and that gave Laura help so she could hang on to the home. She didn't keep it much longer but she moved over to Tacoma where her home had been. Her father was very prominent judge, judge Magill and her daughter had moved down there and got married and so they - I lost track of them from then on because I came to California and then I got in contact with the rest of the family in Portland but Laura was in Tacoma, Washington and I was so closely associated with the brothers and the relatives who since then have all passed on. The whole Smith family, even the younger people, youngest of the Smith bunch was sister, only sister and she died of cancer in Santa Cruz about eight or nine years ago and it sounded kind of funny when

you asked about Glenn and Harry..Glenn died in San Francisco. He was found dead in a cheap rooming house. He had got divorced from his wife or she got divorced from him. Harry had been divorced. He had acute case of asthma, emphysema I guess but that's such a long time ago that they died! (laughs) And those are the two brothers that never seemed to have any of these illnesses that the other brothers had. James who was older than Elmer, he died of cancer. Elmer died of cancer and Bill died of cancer. The youngest one and that's Edna Smith's husband. She since then has married and of course lives happy ever after in Gresham, Oregon. That's where I'm going to go. They were here. But Elmer, Laura and the two children, we were the untouchables of the neighborhood. Nobody had much to do with any of us and so we became closely associated like one big family. When Elmer came home from the federal court which he had to try in Tacoma why he stopped by. The doctors had told him when he had acute case of ulcers that he must not drink coffee but he drank it outside so he stopped in, "All right Anne make me a good cup of coffee and where is some of that delicious chocolate cake?" Well I'd have to hide it because I- "There isn't any." Then he said, "I've got a headache." So I said, "All right Elmer, sit here on a chair and I massage your neck" and I did til he went to sleep. Once or twice a week we get together and play cards because that was relaxation for him and he could really be himself. He liked - do you know anything about card games?

Tom : Some, a little bit.

Cloud : Well he loved five hundred. And he loved five hundred neulo where you are guaranteed not to take a trick. And if I had very low cards I had to be his partner. I said, "Well Elmer you mind if I neulo? I don't think I can take a trick here." "Oh, now if you can neulo well let's make it double neulo!" Maybe he'd have half a dozen aces! (laughs) But we had a lot of fun..

Tom : What's neulo?

Cloud : You guarantee not to take a trick and that's means five hundred automatically if you get double neulo it's fifteen hundred. So

we never made it (laughs) we seldom - course if you had a straight family you can take the rest of the cards from another partner and then leave your ace last and of course that you might make it. But Elmer wasn't that kind of a player (laughs). He said, "Well I'll just take one trick." Well that just queered the game. And the boy, you don't want to see him anyway, he's over in - down in Imperial Valley somewhere. I can't remember now, it come to me. He is really up in the higher brackets. He married a very well to do girl and the family lives on one side and he lives on the other. Well at one time he had asked his aunt Dorthy. He said, "What kind of man was my father?" Well I don't know what Dorthy told him but I decided, I had kept one of Elmer's books. I swiped it because I knew that when the children get older I'll pass it on to them. And the rest of the family didn't - as long as Elmer was living they could kind of hang on to his shirt tails and take advantage of everything that they could. Now that's putting it very very boldly but that's the truth. After he was dead why they had no use for Laura and did very little to help her so I felt that I'd take this book and I keep it for them. It was written by Upton Sinclair and dedicated to Elmer. And the boy has it if he hasn't burned it.

Tom : Do you remember the name of it?

Cloud : (pause) I can't tell you. I have to see the list of books.

Tom : Well that's okay.

Cloud : As you get eighty years old your memory goes (laughs). Well anyway we took the car we went over there to where he lived. Bakersfield! He wasn't home they have a summer place somewhere near Clear Lake. It's another lake up there on the hills and they have a pretty good size place so every summer they camp up there so they were gone. But the family across the street took the book. And my husband said, "Well I bet they look in the book and they won't give it to him!" (laughs) Well anyway I wrote him a letter and put in the book about his father what I felt and what everybody that knew him felt. Well I didn't hear from him then until about two years

later at Christmas and he said he was so happy to get the book and he just had neglected to thank for it or make any contact. But I have since then exchanged Christmas cards with him and that's about all..On the other hand the daughter is a feature writer for the Seattle P.I. and has written many amusing little articles. One of them was my father and I can't find it, I just can't find it. I got the clipping from a friend from Olympia and I have a lot of clippings and I know I got it someplace but I haven't had time to just take each and every one of them. I have a scrapbook and then some of them just loose and so when I find it I will be very happy to give it to you. Yah, because you carrying on when I'm pushing daisies.

Tom : Do you know anything about Elmer's family?

Cloud : Elmer's family?

Tom : Yes.

Cloud : Yes, the mother and father are originally from Canada. Mother Smith came under the name Seth Smith, that's a little higher strata and the father was just still Shanti Irish, just common Smith. And Bella that was Mother Smith's first name, Bella. I always called her Mother Smith. Kind of looked down he said, "Yes we after all were Seth Smith and he was Smith." And he turned around and he said, "Yes but you are kind of going to seed." Mother Smith they came to Montana when they emigrated from Canada and from there to Centralia.. They had a little coal mine in Bucoda near Centralia and that was owned by the united family they all did their little digging in there, the brothers and the father and mother..The mother didn't dig. The girl had gotten married so she wasn't there either but that was what they made their livelihood out of, this mine. Elmer then had purchased some land as a homestead. He sold that land and he used that money to try and get those Centralia boys out of Walla Walla, every bit of it. What little he used for their living I don't think he used very much. And Laura felt quite bitter about that in a way. Don't let Laura hear this. She said, "All I got out of that is set of dishes and piano." She played piano quite

well and taught piano at times. She was not a rebel. She was a branch of the old Scotch family, very conservative. And I think that the Smith family, Elmer's side were inherent rebels, every one of them.

Tom : Why do you think they were?

Cloud : Well I mean that they were just natural born rebels. Bill had changed a lot, the youngest brother. When we were in Portland last time to visit them his widow had married a man or has married since then who is a Communist. And before that Bill could see the trend because the people that came over there for meetings, "why they are nothing but Communists" he said. "Why do you want to entertain them for?" And he was very loud, all the Smith brothers were loud. I think that there was only one individual was a little bit louder and that was Pat Nolan and that was a neighbor of ours. You could hear him three blocks away when he came (laughs). He was rebel, he was very very patriotic to I.W.W.. He had a big garden and he used to come there to Elmer's with vegetables. Oh we had gardens both of us. We had chickens. One time I was talking to my chickens. "Now you lay nice big fat eggs for momma or off with the head." And Laura came out and she said, "Who are you talking to?" "My chickens." "Oh for heavens sakes you crazy or something." She was realist and I wasn't. I'm Shanti Irish so I wasn't very realistic. But we had a very close friendly association together. If one needed something the other had it, why we divey it up. And the Depression hit all of us. Now we were perhaps just a little bit better off because we had business and we managed to get some cash, most of it on the cuff (laughs). So I don't know what I can add to it excepting that I thought that the boy was going to be an attorney like his father. He came from school one time, first or second grader. I was working on my rose bed, that was seperating the two properties - bed of roses. And Stuart stopped and he said, "You know Anne, if worst comes to worst I'm gonna have to tell the truth." I said, "What have you done now?" "Oh it isn't what I've done but somebody broke the window in the schoolhouse and if worst comes to worst

I have to tell the truth (laughs)." I say, "I hear your mother is calling you. You'd better go." "She'll call again. When she calls the third time then I know I have to go." (laughs) But he has a very very flourishing business..He's a meteorologist but he don't work for any one gas company or oil company. He has a shop in his trailer and I understand he makes about forty-five, fifty thousand dollars a year out of that. There's incentive for you too! (laughs) Why then when my son, when we lost our, lost the business the house and everything we moved to Portland with our two hundred dollars. But Bob wanted to stay in Centralia, that's my son finish his high school. He was editor of the school paper, belonged to the orchestra, he was a violinist. That's the only place where he could go to school so he wanted to stay. So Laura and I decided that I pay her thirty dollars a month to give him board and room and logings, I mean care laundry whatever he needs. And she agreed to it. He graduated from high school so that kind of ended I didn't see Laura very much after that. She moved to Tacoma and we lost track of each other. But when you see her be sure and say that I send her the best. I understand that she called at our place of business one time in Portland but I wasn't home. I'd gone to Portland. We were about twenty-two miles north of Portland on the highway. Mother Smith was handsome woman. Elmer looked just like her except - both had red hair, Elmer's standing up on end (gestures) and she I guess lived til she was way way past eighty. Dad Smith was very typical old Irishman, generous to a fault, didn't matter too much about making money. He just as soon that he had had money to give rather than go and try to skin someone else. I sold my entire business and everything to Mother and Dad Smith in Portland and I moved to Portland looking for job after my first husband died. I had to, Bob was still in school and I call up Elmer's mother and I said, "Why I have to get my alarm clock." And she said, "Why Anna, we haven't got a clock." I said, "Why you've got the great big grandfather's clock and you've got a couple of alarm clocks." "Yeah, but they don't run, you can't have that clock." That was my clock, I just forgot it! And then I said, "All right I buy another one." So I had some fruit

and the boys were batching at the University of Washington and so I wanted to call express man and have this taken over there and help them with the food. I had about two hundred quarts, home canned fruit. And I said, "I'm sending an express man over there." I called her up to put that fruit in cases and send it. "But we didn't put any fruit up last year!" (laughs) So that just gives a sidelight what she was like. Then I sold the chickens to her. I had a hundred and sixty five laying pullets and the best of the lay. She couldn't stand to have the lights there all day. When the weather got cold they had to pull the curtains down. She turned the lights out. She couldn't have the water dripping in the fountain that I had made for them so she just put a bucket out til the chickens didn't know to do. When the bucket was full they dumped the bucket over and had no water so they quit laying and then they got lousy. She called up again said, "Can you spare a day to come out here and see what's wrong with the chickens? Dad Smith goes around with the basket of eggs try to sell them and he can't sell them." I had no trouble because I had a big sign on the highway. Everyday something new. Well I went out there. I said, "Well Mother Smith you should have the light." "I can't afford it." "Well why don't you let the water drip one by one the chicken want water and he see the little drop he takes it, another drop takes his place." "No no they get the fountain dirty." I said, "That's the reason I disinfect and sterilize it every day, it's got to be and the house has to be cleaned every day." "Oh no I've had chickens all my life. I never need that." "All right, that's the reasons your chickens aren't laying." She says, "I want you to come down here and help Daddy. (Daddy was very hard hearing) Help Dad Smith to get the angle of how to treat the customers and who are good risk and who are not." We lived in a Japanese territory where almost all were Jap farmers. So I went down there. I said, "I take two weeks off between jobs" and at that time I was smoking so I went to the little store that we had. I told Dad Smith, "I'm going to take a pack of cigarettes" and she said, "Well are you paying for them?" (laughs) and Dad Smith blew his top which he seldom did. He said, "for heavens

sakes Bella be your age." So I paid for them. They were fifteen cents a package at that time.

Tom : What was Elmer's father's first name?

Cloud : Tom, yeah, Thomas. I don't know if he had a second name but his first name was Thomas. Then they had cousins, some of them rather prominent citizens. One of them was an employee of Myran Franks. I don't know what happened to him but I understand that he died, he was quite young. And I met the aunts and uncles and but they all died! I don't know what I am hanging here for! (laughs) And now when you go over there I hear Edna say, "Well, aunt so and so passed on." Some of the relatives do live in Pasadena. I don't believe I've ever met any of them but they are Elmer's relatives. Edna will probably tell you more about them. There are a couple of old aunts but they are related to Mrs. Smith not Elmer's family. They live in Berkeley. And both of them are so old. that everytime I call them - I call them to see how they are feeling and then I can tell Edna when I write. "And how you?" "Well who's talking?" "Well this is Anne Cloud." "Who's Anne Cloud?" (laughs) Everytime! And I have been over there. They are very friendly and very very - they recognize me when I go over there but over the telephone, un uh. I think one of them is in the rest home now. She's a couple of marbles short. But Elmer's family was spectacular when Elmer happened to come home and Harry come over. Harry liked his brother Elmer and I think Glenn did too and they had this booming voice of their father. Elmer didn't have it excepting when he talked across the lot to me, hollered but I mean when Harry came you could hear him two blocks away. And Laura said, "Oh my gosh here comes that awful Harry!" (laughs) And Elmer would come home he said, "Come on and stay for lunch. We've got ample, we've got lots of it. We got ample." (Laura laughed about that "ample".) And she said, "We've got one potatoe for three people!" She didn't eat potatoes. And no bother, no nothing. And Elmer invites company, honestly! But he would rather give his potatoe to whoever came and do without it.. Then he'd go over to see - Elmer had given a piece of property to Wobblies next door to his office on Tower Avenue and next to

that was a little lunch wagon run by Mr. Davis, no relative to Davies that was in his law office. And that speciality they were two fighting against - he was musician but couldn't get a job any more so he got his mother to make pies and cook one kind of soup a day. One day it'd be clam chouder and the next day be bean soup and so forth. And the place was just money making right from the beginning. So Elmer Smith would stop there several times a day to eat some of the stuff he wasn't supposed to, particullary the homemade pies that Davis' mother made. And that was his downfall, he wasn't supposed to. Laura was very pains-taking very, very precise in everything she did. And the doctor that operated on Elmer the first time when he had this trouble with ulcers he was put on a gruel diet nothing but oatmeal gruel and perhpas some good cream to put with it. But the gruel had to be cooked by putting rolled ^oats into so many cupfulls of so much water, I think was three quarts of water. Cook it for three hours and then put it through the strainer. The strainer had to be lined with three thicknesses of fine cheesecloth. And that was what he was supposed to live on until the ulcer got cured. He had been operated and he sat up and watched the operation totally conscious but when he had this second seige I said, "Elmer, they've got your blood type. They were good doctors. You didn't live up to the schedule that you were supposed to. Why don't you go and see them?" "I'm not going, I'm not going to face knife again ever." He said, "I die first." And that's just what happened.

Tom : When was the first time you saw Elmer? How did you get to know Elmer Smith?

Cloud : Ah, I went to hear him speak.

Tom : Where?

Cloud : In Centralia. I knew of him but I never have -. I knew of him but I was in Aberdeen. From Aberdeen I had to go to Seattle because I couldn't even go to - I was secretary and I couldn't go to the post office to get my mail without having tail. And I

heard about Elmer Smith in the connection of the Centralia tragedy. And I heard that he was going to speak. So I came with one of the fellows from Equitity Printing Company from Seattle and he was making a speech after they'd turned him loose from the jailhouse. And he was very powerful very very very powerful speech and his wife Laura was singing a Wobbly song. She didn't look anything like she probably does now. She had her hair, it was naturally wavy but she had it pulled real tight like yours with a great big bun here. She had a very good voice. But she made no particular impression on me because I was interested in what Elmer had to say. And he said that the fellows were going to get - oh he had a very sound belief in law and order at that time. He believed that they were going to be innocent and proven innocent they are going to get out. And everytime he went to Walla Walla he told me, he said, "There're going to come out." I said, "I hope you're right, Elmer but I don't believe it." Well he was dead before any of them got out you know that well. That was 1919. And I went over and talked to him a few times, so did my husband, we both went. And I was impressed, very much impressed not only with what he had to say but the way he said it. No fear and he could have been shot that day, the sentiment was that bitter in Centralia even years later when I had to go to Centralia to get a job. I didn't want a job in Centralia but I didn't have much choice. The jobs are not too easy to get when you are off the labor market for a number of years, in my case almost twenty years. One of the storekeepers - I had sang in the (hold your hat) Methodist choir because the money was there and I needed it! (laughs) Why she sent a telegram and she said, "I have made a job for you. It's only part time at \$18.54 for five hours a day selling up in a ladies ready to wear. So I came. I found that the sentiment was still against me, very much. I rented a apartment, sometime I cooked meal for myself I'd take a look at it, "Oh the heck with it" (laughs) I'd push it away and go to restrurant and eat and there were only one or two restrurants that I could comfortably go in. One was a Greek restrurant, a big fat Greek I've forgotten his name and a friend of mine who

had a pool room and lunch counter, Harry Ward. So those two places I could have mine. But they were ready to annihilate you just as quick as not because some of their own got shot in the melee. Have you read about it?

Tom : Yes.

Cloud : Yep, there is a little booklet "Was It Murder?" Have you see that?

Tom : Yes.

Cloud : Yeah. I give away things that I think will do good. I don't keep them. There's a couple of boys that come and take my refuse away, a couple of garbage boys. And I started telling them and I says, "One of these days, maybe you don't see it but we'll have entirely different way to dispose of our garbage. You don't have to be at the tale end of the garbage wagon." "Well how come?" (laughs) So I said, "I'll give you a book you can read it. The year 2000 Equality by Bellamy." (laughs) So he was quite happy but they have transfered him to some other. To that point I usually give them a couple of bucks when they take away an extra piece of rubbish away, like clippings off the shrubs. And one day I had quite a load and I said, "I haven't got any change, in fact I have no cash." And one of them spoke up, I had never seen him before. He said, "When you got friends, who needs cash!" And that's the sentiment I get from the garbage men! (laughs) They wave at me when I'm on the avenue. To me it's a compliment to be so closely associated with that other part of the human family. Well going back to the Smith family, I miss em. I miss em terribly because they are all gone and I always -. One who married again after Elmer's sister died he is the most rank reactionary. He sees red ever anytime you mention anything about Wobblies and and anything else.

Tom : What's his name?

Cloud ; Con Harmon. he lives in Oregon City. Maybe just interesting for you to contact him too! (laughs) Connor is a charming man. He wants me to come and stay with them for awhile but I'm a little bit afraid. We were very good friends but if he's

changed. He married a Catholic woman, a widow and I think that's changed him a lot. I hope he hasn't turned Catholic but stranger things can happen. Sammy Davis turned Jew! (laughs) I was so surprised when I heard that! Edna I think you find her charming hostess and a very loveable woman I mean she's really "salt of the earth". It's too bad she got mixed up with that - oh Ralph is nice. He's a Norwegian, Edna's new husband. The present day Communism does not appeal to me. Does it to you?

Tom : No.

Cloud : Not a part of it. And I didn't know until the last minute when they were here for four days. I knew they were having meetings over there but I thought it was anti war and I didn't want to ask any questions.. I was a little perturbed because they didn't take me in on their confidence on that. They said, "We've got a committee meeting in Oakland. We've got to hit the deadline." And the last day, the last minute they had breakfast she said "Well I guess I should tell you that I've joined the Communist Party last Christmas." I didn't know what to say because I love her so dearly. I didn't want to hurt her feelings and yet I said, "Well, well, well." (laughs) And anyway he's just as nice as he could be and he's quite well off and Edna is better off now than she was when Bill was living because Bill was sick so much. Much of it when they spend the time in Palm Springs and he was in a Palm Springs hospital for six weeks for emphysema and it cost 1300 hundred dollars. And he had to have special equipment anything that he might. He had one of these breathing machines that cost him a pile of money. Maybe they helped him but I think he could have helped himself if he had just played with Edna, curbing his appetite. I've seen Bill eat a whole cake.. Seen that ad on TV, "I ate the whole cake"? That after he had dinner. He said, "Anymore of that cake left?" Edna said, "Oh Bill you just had dinner." "I want that cake." I think that that was something that was created by injections of cortisones, that craving for food. But all the Smith brothers had a healthy appetite excepting Harry and Glenn. Their appetite run to the liquid

refreshments. (laughs) But they were good fellows, good solid Wobblies. They were a lot more Wobblies than the rest of them.

Tom : Could you tell me something about your background? About where you came from?

Cloud : Oh no! The Shanti Irish! (laughs) Well I was born in Illinois and later on my folks moved to old country. Father was associated with the "Appeal To Reason" as an organizer and before I was fourteen I think I had lived, if you call it living, out of suitcase in several different countries until the last eight years. My mother was quite delicate person, she was Swedish and she got a little tired of this moving around although we just had one baby that's me. But mother said, "Now Henry I'm getting so tired of moving." So father didn't say much. He toured around I guess on bicycle and he found this beautiful place. I think it must have been about ten acres as near as I can remember. Good land but only one black cab in on it. They had a fireplace but they didn't have a chimney to let the smoke out so it was all black inside. And I have been told, I don't remember that I actually remembered by myself but I was supposed to have let out an awful scream. "I'm not going into that house, it's black!" But mother took some newspapers and papered the walls so it wouldn't be so black! (laughs) And father began to build on it and by the time that I grew up why I had room of my own and father was avid gardner when he had time. So we had hot beds, hot house and all the rest of it. And then my aunt from Illinois wanted me to come over and she sent passage on a boat by the name of Alsonia, old Cunard boat, it since sank. But I was supposed to go to school in Finland but they only had - father was Catholic Shanti Irish and mother was a convert but not deep down. She didn't have any religion neither did my father. They didn't believe in it. All my other sisters have been baptised excepting - I was baptised in Catholicism. But my younger sister who's the only one living was a baby and a father had a German name, I don't remember now came over and he said, "You have not had the child baptised yet." And mother said, "She's not going to be baptised." He said, "Well I'm going to

baptise the child." Mother said, "Over my dead body." She was on one side of the cradle and the three priests was on the other! And she said, "You even put a hand on my child why you wish you hadn't." Mother was quite firey. And the priest left and she never got baptised. I went to confirmation and that's the last time I was in a church.

(End of first side of tape one.)

I went to school then that was Protestand school close enough to home, three kilometres over the snow drifts. I learned to be pretty good skier in the wintertime. In the summertime of course when there was no school I had to go after cows though sometime Because there was no fences between pastures. You turn the cows loose. We had two and they can go all the way to St. Petersburg across the border into Russia. And in fall of the year they started to go after muchrooms. The blooming cows they come home every day when summer was nice and warm and no mushrooms but after first rains the mushrooms were so plentiful and they keep on growing. And I remember a many dark rainy night, I don't know it comes by instinct you just find the cows and bring them home. They had bells especially one cow, the leading cow had a bell. We never had more than three at the most but most of the time two. You hollered for them, her name was Apple and she heard you call and she would be absolutely still you couldn't hear that bell. You wouldn't believe that but that is true. So finally she didn't hear you any more, you didn't call the second time so she started eating and you could hear the bell! So you just creeping on her and after you got contact with them why you could often bring them home without much trouble. One we had, she was really Red Durham. I don't think that she had ever had a calf and in certain time of the year or month she get on the highway and start pawing the sand and making out like she was a bull! Then she'd start going to the neighborhood where they actually did have male cow, gentlemen cow the southerners call them! And one time she didn't come home. Mother said, "I guess you'll have to go after her. She's probably over at the Springers or some other". There were quite a few English people around there buying the cheap land and

making a nice home. I started after her and I found her not too far from home up on a hillside bellowing and making a lot of noise and so I crept on her and when she saw me why she started running and I got a hold of the tail. I had a new dress on that my mother had made me. We came over the juniper bushes and rocks and there was nothing left of the front of it. But mother had kind of thought that I was gone too long so she met me half way and she said, "Let go of that cow's tail!" I said, "I'm not going to let go until I get her home." And we got her home all right the two of us and mother had her butchered and took the meat over to St. Petersburg. But I only went to school incidentally I had to learn Finnish. I did on the street and I wanted to be just like the rest of the kids which comes naturally to children.. Mother called me in Swedish which was the first language that I learned because father was on the road most of the time and I would answer in Finnish or I wouldn't answer at all! (laughs) She got so provoked but she never did learn. She didn't live long enough to learn Finnish. She died quite young, forty-two. She had a quick pneumonia. I learned to talk Finn but now when I hear them talking it comes back to me. I can write it but it takes time and I can write better Finnish than most of these people talk (laughs) because I learn it you know grammatically. It has helped in a way of making your living.. When I came to Aberdeen from back east I went to work in a department store. I was sixteen and I could talk Finnish, Swedish, English and wee bit Russian. I had had French and German, incidently I speak Spanish today. I think I hated German worst of all. I didn't want to take it but that was one of the - I went to girls school and after I got from the grade school for two years. But it's been a rather exciting life, good life. I look back and I know so many wonderful people it always enriches your life so much. Maybe some of them are a little screwballs but that's right. And I have excepted the philosophy that you like people not because of their faults or their virtues but in spite of them and that's a good philosophy. I don't criticise. I knew a woman

in Centralia, her husband had this lunchcounter and a poolroom and a little on the side selling booze but they never sold me any because I don't drink! Well she was our musician. I had to join the lodge when we first bought business in Centralia because it was expected of us and so I joined a couple of lodges and right away I talked so much that I got pushed into the office of some kind. Well last I got to be the principal, the president of the lodge. So Frankie was a musician but she had had rather unsavory past. So I got a telephone call from one of the solid citizens, Mrs. McCall, Lillian she was our treasurer and secretary. She said, "Mrs. More," that was my name then, "you are new here and I think you would like to know. I understand that you took Mrs. Ward home last night." She lived across the tracks and I took her home in my car like I took everybody else. Kind of considered it was my business to take them home if they didn't drive, a few people drove. And I said, "Why is that?" "Well", she said, "she hasn't got too good a name. They sell liquer and she's been in jail a couple of times threatening neighbor with a butcher knife and whatnot." I said, "You accepted her as a member when she applied didn't you?" "Well yes." "Well didn't you have her investigated, you had me investigated?" And she said, "Yes we did. She played piano so we had to take her in. We didn't have any musician then." I said, "Well there are several now that play piano. Why don't you just refuse her dues?" "Oh well we can't do that. But be kind of careful. Don't get too close to her." So I kind of sounded other people that had been accepting favors from her. I said, "How do you feel about Frankie Ward?" "Well I live on the same side of the tracks as she does so I see her every now and then." "Well what's so wrong about her?" "Well the talk goes that she used to have a house in Hokeum, Washington." "Oh is that all!" (laughs) Anyway later on, years later after my first husband had died and I had this job in Centralia, Frankie called up quite often and said, "Come have dinner with me. We go and have dinner in Harry's place." And it was nice. I did. I'd go and walk right along the mainstreet hand in hand and one supper I was going to ask her. I said, "Is it true what they say about

you?" "Yes! yes. The only regret I have that I didn't save my money." But that wasn't quite so. I used to have to take her deposit bank and she opened this bank deposit box, biggest one all full of securities. She must have saved her money. And she told me the tale that when she married Hank Ward they were the old pioneers of this Centralia town. The old man Ward called the clan together and he said, "Henry has married Frankie, Francis and he has brought himself down to her level. Treat her right or you'll hear from me." And they did, at least as long as the old man was living but she's been dead for years but she was awful good to Bob, my son. When Laura moved away from Centralia Bob still had a year to finish, not a year but six months. She would give him money to go and cut the lawn that was understand that I pay so much and he cut the lawn but I paid him when he cut the lawn she gave him extra money. She had it. She's one of the people that I have known that have her peculiarities, hot tempered. She said once, "How could they expect me to be good? I didn't see anything good!" My mother is supposed to have said when I was born, "Well I expected a boy but I think she'll be useful too." And just as soon as I was big enough I went to a saloon to be a dancing girl. I married a man. He was shot trying to blow the safe!" (laughs) I came home. I sent money to my mother to Marysville, California, had a big brick house. I paid for that house but I was never allowed to come home for fear that the neighbors would see me. But one day I was going through the town so I stopped at my mother's house and she came to the door and said, 'How long are you going to stay? I hope you don't stay overnight.'" And she had a lot of little stories and I got to understand her pretty well. I think basically I think maybe she would have been different.

Tom : Was she at all connected with the I.W.W.?

Cloud : Yes, she was always good for donation. I could always depend on that and when they needed it I said, "Frankie, you've got it, fork it over." And she said, "Can't you sometimes pass my house?" (laughs) and Henry was good, Henry was good. He had this place

and when somebody stops, some boomercook or somebody stop he would always good for ten bucks or a good meal, a week's meal and mostly the Wobblies. So they were very very sympathetic anyway. And they didn't have to depend on their living on Wobblies because very few Wobblies at that time bought liquor. So Frankie had adopted a little girl in Tacoma and named her Francis, so she was little Francis. She became a very accomplished musician, piano. She could read piano music fast she could it faster than she could read it and visa versa I mean she was really good. Well, when she was growing up the prohibition was still on. Someone came to her door while her mother was away and rang the doorbell. She opened the door and handed him a bottle! (laughs) Well whoever was there didn't happen to be a spy but he went over to Hank's place and said, "Tell your little girl not to do that because I understand there's federals in this neighborhood right now." So one day a boomercook happened to come by, that's what he said he was. Do you know what a boomercook is? One that just moves from place to place gets a couple of days work at one restrurant and then gets an armload full of boxcars and goes somewhere else. Nobody hitchhiked them days. Un hun, that was undignified. (laughs) He had one day he asked for, he said, "Can you give me a couple of days work? I'm down and out and I need it so bad." and Hank said, "Oh sure" he said, "I've been thinking of taking couple of days off. I need it so you come on the night shift." He worked one night I think Hank said. The next night before he even got started he got stomach ache and he was writhing on the floor, moaning and he said, "Honestly I don't know what happened to me. If I only had drink of whiskey." So hank said, "Well I can get you a drink of whiskey." So he brought the bottle out, pint bottle I guess and the man said, "Well I've got to go home. I'm no good to work tonight. Can I take this bottle with me? I'd be glad to let my wages go for that." Hank said, "Oh no that's not necessary, you can have it." He went right straight to the federals and the place was raided. Hank and Mr. Rector who was partner on the poolroom side, they each lost twenty-five thousand dollars fine. Well

shortly after that a fellow by the name of Frenchie, I don't know what his name was, he was a taxi driver he owned his own taxi. He was picking up a fare and the fare asked him, he said, "Do you know anyplace where I can find a pint?" Frenchie was a smart guy, I don't know how he ever happened to fall for this gag but he said, "Well I just happened to have a pint, you can have it. Cost you so much." And the man handed him the money and he said, "I'll give you an extra tip for it." Frenchie said, "Well gee that's rather odd because I double priced you already." "Oh" she said, "I need it so bad, it doesn't make any difference." And he jumped out of the car. But Frenchie couldn't turn around fast enough. He said he was suspicious of it but he didn't - But he watched for that guy and he was an expugilist and he beat him within an inch of his life! Now I have never drank. My husband didn't drink but the sheriff of Grays Harbor County where Aberdeen, Washington is had fifty stills all around the neighborhood that he was collecting fifty dollars a month from. They finally caught up with him and he was sent to Walla Walla, well McNeil Island I think, that's the federal prison isn't it, McNeil? But I don't know. I knew several people that had been friends, very good friends but we sort of drifted apart but I heard that one of them ever made real money those that retailed it. They started drinking their own liqueur and that was the downfall. One man, maybe you're not interested in this. But one man and his wife stopped by one time. We were had that funny place we were right between Aberdeen, Portland, Aberdeen I mean we were in Centralia. Here was Portland here was Seattle and here was Aberdeen, here was Raymond and we were right there in the middle [she makes a box with her hands with Raymond in the center]. Anytime all our friends would go by they stop in. I've had as many as nine people sleeping on the living room floor! (laughs) Brought in the straw. And this couple came in and I said, "I am very sorry to hear that you have been trafficking in bootleg whiskey." "Well" she said, "he had to do something. He got hurt on the carpenter work and we just had to do something." And this man spoke up and he said, "As soon as I get twenty-five thousand dollars in the bank, I'm going to buy a farm and that's the end of it." The first thing I heard he had

got some bad liquer and paralyzed him from waist down. Then he lost his eyesight and shortly after that both of them, the woman ended in Bastilicum which was a mental hospital, state operated and he died. He got to drinking more and more and they found him dead in the gutter. But that happened to most all of them that trafficed in liquer. Well I can't see how anybody can sell to these bums without being half drunk themselves. Can you? I think the only place where it halfway worked was in Oregon. You had to have a permit to get liquer. and as long as I lived in Portland during Prohibition I never saw a drunk. A girl and I, I was working at the Procters ready to wear and we two of us went over to a place called Dinty Moore for good Irish stew. And this was in the evening. Well I didn't realize that this girl liked beer and you couldn't get any beer, no wine no whiskey but you couldn't get any beer unless you ordered food. Well we ordered and she didn't even show that she wanted the food. I say, "Aren't you going to eat your stew?" and she said, "I don't want any stew. I wanted that glass of beer." And she ordered one for me. Well I drink beer even now I don't like the taste of it so I poured it in her glass. Then she wanted to sing! And the boy came over and he says, "Can't sing here. This is a respectable place. We sell you beer with the food. Everytime you get something to drink like beer why you have to order food. You had your stew, now you order anything you order sandwich anything you want to (laughs) but you cannot sing!" Well she was a French woman, a really hot tempered one. And she got singing louder and louder some of the bum songs that she had heard over the radio somewhere I don't know. I don't even remember what she was singing but she just hollered and man came out and he said, to the table he said, "You have to get out." Well I just felt like I wanted to go through that floor. I said, "You can stay here as long as you want to but I'm going to get out." So she comes out there just talking loud and started hitchhiking when a streetcar would take us right over to where I was staying, at least me. I say, "What are you doing?" "Oh" she says, "Oh I

never take the streetcar. I always hitchhike." "With these strange people?" "So what. Everybodies strange until you get acquainted." (laughs) So that was my first and last encounter in a bar. When I came to Berkeley I mean San Francisco that's where I lived for quite some time. We used to come to Berkeley because the Wobblies and others they would have places here where they had affairs and speakers and maybe potluck dinners or something like that. And there was only ferries were running then but you had to get a streetcar to go to the ferries and the fare from here was twenty-one cents if you remember or do you?

Tom : No.

Cloud : (laughs) Twenty-one cents to get to the, not terminal but Embarcadero. And it got awful cold standing there on the streetcorner if you missed one of them because it took another hour before you get another one at certain time of night. So there was a little saloon at the corner called Friendly Corner, it was run by a couple of Finns. They had a lot of people who were pretty much on the liquer but they also stocked a cup of coffee. We supped a cup of coffee a couple of times and I said, "I've always wnated to stop in one of these places and get my foot under that brass rail" (laughs) but I never did. Well anyway one night we stopped there and there was a couple. They had sold their beautiful home in Los Angeles. They were both pretty well polluted and she had a crying jag on. And oh she would moan and boo-hoing and he said, one time he would say, "Shut up you making as ass out of yourself." And the next thing you know "Oh honey don't cry, poppa will buy you another one." (laughs) And then she'd get the snapshots out of her purse and she kept looking at them then she'd start crying again. "My beautiful home, will I ever have a beautiful home like this?" This was rather odd. I' never seen anything quite like that and the first thing you know, you know how, have you been in a bar?

Tom : Oh a couple, not too many.

Cloud : The stools are high and they are kind of slippery and the first

thing you know she took a keel-over. They had to pick her up. And then he kind of steadied her for a little while and then he fell over but we left cause it was time for us to go. There were a couple of young men, three four of us gals, that was '37.

Tom : How did you come to be involved with the I.W.W.?

Cloud : Well when it first started! They put out this new paper, "Solidarity". We were then in the Socialist Party. I was in Socialist Party. And the split came between the Socialist Party and the Communists. Well it seemed like the reactionaries had got upper hand in Aberdeen. There were only a few of us I think about twenty-seven that subscribed to the paper. Well I had heard about it at the time that they took these miners from Bisbee, Arizona and dumped them in the desert but at that time I was quite involved in the Socialist doctrine and I thought, "Well they must be anarchist or nihilist or something, some revolutionary group but I think Socialism works better." But when I read the paper I began to see light. So we subscribed to it.

Tom : What year was this?

Cloud : Ah, wait a minute now. It was after the war, no no it wasn't after the war. It was nineteen fifteen, yah. Anyway we got notice to come to the meeting and they were going to decide whether we can stay in the Socialist Party or we be seperated. And here was this tall shoemaker. He had a shoestore and he was also making shoes and he was repairing shoes. His name was Salo and he was the head guy in this movement so he came and whispered to the women. There was a whole bunch of women in front of us. We were at the back seats, twenty-seven of us. And he said, "When I put my hand up, you vote." One of the women called him to come over and asked and said, "We have discussion here we don't know just when we vote." Well the thing was they had the Socialist Party gave them three months dues for nothing to participate in this voting game and I had very good hearing them days, I hadn't had my accident yet. And time came for the voting he made a big speel that he wants unity and the Socialist Party's

been founded by such and such and oh yeah great big speel. "But some individuals are not satisfied with our doctrine they want to disrupt everything". You can understand what it was... "Now we have to put that to vote and see who wins." If we win they are kicked out of the Socialist Party." Yah, he put his hand up like this and all the women put their hand up (laughs and gestures). They were just majority and so we got out but we harassed them a lot. We had to hire the lodge hall from the Finnish. They belonged to some beneficial lodge and we could rent that for our meetings and our doings and then we hold dances to aid the strikers here and there and get some funds for the paper and so forth and so on. So we'd go over there with the tickets when they had something doing inside and tried to sell the tickets! (laughs) The same shoemaker took me by my coat collar and marched me out on the street. Why I was right back after he went into the hall handing out pamphlets! And of course then of course the war scare, the war preparations came and there was this Tom Mooney and Billings case. That was more radical stuff. I don't believe that. I really don't believe that Billings was there at all. And the photograph that was taken reportedly of Tom Mooney being there on some roof top directing the bombing that was so much poppycock, it wasn't so. But they did their twenty-seven years. I don't remember now how long Tom Mooney was in but Billings was in twenty-seven years. He was only seventeen, eighteen when they put him in. When he come out though he was, he exercised and he read and he made himself so alive with everything and he had good contact with outsiders so when he came out he was good looking and healthy. He has since then deteriorated, had a couple of strokes and all that but I don't see Walter very often any more. He married a woman who used to come to see him at the San Quentin. How old were you when you left Berkeley?

Tom : Thirteen.

Cloud : You don't expect to remember too much of that. My son was small after they were convicted and my husband was then working at the

Anderson Middleton in Aberdeen and he called a strike when ever a Mooney strike was on he called a strike. And of course he called it a few times and got back and boss come after him and he come back on the job. But the last time that he called a Mooney strike Mr. Anderson said, "Don't ~~come~~ ^{rule} if ever you go out again don't come back." So that's when I sold the house and we went to Centralia but I had to be in Seattle because this incident was almost a crowning top. Fellow worker Bradshaw came over, Jack Bradshaw he was a good Wobbly from Georgia and he came about supertime and he said, "I don't expect to get home." He had a little shanty on the other side of _____ River, east side we call it - "because they've been tailing me all week and all day today." But he said, "I'm going to try to get away to get all the books and records over to you. And you take over when you hear that I am arrested." I said, "Okay." And he didn't get home. He was arrested on the bridge and he spent two and a half years in Walla Walla. Well I didn't waste any time. I had a couple of boys staying. The logging camps were closed so I gave them beds and they were staying in the upstairs bedrooms, it was two story house that we had and I was making fish mullegin out of salmon head (laughs). Seems odd but it's very good and so I had wood burning stove, the Universal stove, very nice stove when postman came. And he rang the bell and the kitchen was here at this end (gestures) and there was a long hallway and here was another with the glass window. Kitchen had a door with a glass window. I don't know why. And he rang the bell and he had a bundle of thousand Wobbly papers. And he said, "Do these belong here?" I looked at the name, I said, "Yes, I'll take them in." My address but not my name. So he handed them to me and I went straight over to the kitchen and looked back and there was two uniformed policemen at the front door and ringing the bell to beat the band. So I hollered, "Just a minute" and I stuck the papers in the oven and just left the door open about like that (gestures) not too hot an oven, not too much of fire in there anyway. And finally I went, "Yes, what is it you want?" "Where's the papers?" "What papers?" "Well the papers the postman just delivered."

"Oh them papers. Oh there're not my papers." "Well where are they?" I said, "They've gone to a fellow that just took them and went out the alley way, short cut to town." One of them was sent over there looking for the man which wasn't there. And they start systematic going over the house. They tore all the groceries off the shelf. They even dumped the flour out of my flour bin and then there was a trunk that belonged to fellow worker Anderson that worked at the logging camp and he always keep his trunk there. He had it roped. He had leather straps over it, lock pretty good size almost about this long and maybe high as this (gestures) the old fashioned trunk. And the policeman said, "Open that trunk." I said, "Now wait a minute", I said, "I have lot of talent but I'm not a magician. I couldn't open that and put the papers in there and then do it all up again in the short time you gave me." "I want you to open that trunk." I said, "No I won't open it. That is not my business at all. I let the fellows keep their belongings here for safe-keeping but" I said, "I have no key, I have no intention of opening it. But you the law, you open it, I dare you!" Well he didn't, he didn't open it. But boy what they did. I had a little desk, little old fashioned desk and they even had to break the panel to see if they found something in there. Well they found the I.W.W. preamble and they found the preamble of Loyal Loggers and Lumbermen, 4L they call it! (laughs) And first he look at that Wobbly book and he said, (she demonstrates him slamming the book in his hand) "See what I found! Next time I come over here I better find something else!" I said, "I hope to goodness you let me know before you come so I hide it!" The two fellows that had used my bedroom, they happened to come in and their cards - Oh I wouldn't have anybody but one with a card - happened to be upstairs and they had put them on back of a picture on the wall but I think that the policeman had found that trick so they made a very leasurely walk upstairs and they put the card in their shoe and then walked out again. One of them had some liquer, I didn't know, he would have never stopped

there and he began to toss them out of the window to the next yard. Who happened to belong to Mr. Strong who was an alcoholic and he happened to see the first bottle and he was in the seventh heaven! He was collecting (laughs). This man was a long shoreman actually and he had been on the boat and someone had given him these fancy liqueurs from Canada. Well he was saving them (laughs). I said, "Oskar were you going to sell it?" "Well I get my money out of it." "What money? Did you buy them?" "No I didn't buy them but I need money." (laughs) He didn't get any because Mr. Strong got away with them and he was gloriously drunk after that, many many days, ah! Anyway what I had done with the makings I know you are dying with curiosity. I had the boys cut a hole in - every house in Aberdeen had a woodshed because everybody burned wood, wood was cheap. Cut a hole in the floor of the woodshed and we put suitcase and the paper and everything in there. We put the boards back, put the chopping block right in the center of it. Put a lot of sawdust and rubbish and clippings and chopped wood and piled it around there. They passed it many times. They never saw it. I thought that was a clever thing! (laughs) I have laughed about that too many times. But I couldn't go to the post office. Always somebody after me to see what kind of mail I got, what kind of mail I brought home. But I had already informed people in Seattle not to send any mail that they didn't want anybody to get to my house. So I selected another place. And they kept it out of there - but I left within two weeks of it to Seattle. And my husband was on a logging camp. He was an engineer and he was a slacker. He had registered but he never was inducted because he just didn't show up. He almost got into that ship that went to Everett, Washington for free speech fight.. He was in Spokane during the time that they say that he was in Seattle getting his mail under certain name. He was not in Seattle at all but the policeman got up there in the courthouse and swore on a stack of bibles that he watched this man here to collect mail under the name of Billy Ross. They had Billy Ross in jail but they didn't know it, his real name was Max Gatigan! (laughs) So the police at that time weren't too smart.

Tom : Why did you join the I.W.W.?

Cloud : As an old time rebel! What else, what else was there to join after you get out of the Socialist Party?

Tom : Well why did you join the Socialist Party?

Cloud : Why did I? Because my father and mother was in it! (laughs) And I was reared on Karl Marx and Karl Kautsky and Engels and all the rest of it. I was able to debate and had a lot of facts and figures when I was in grade school. And I learned to read when I was four years old and I read newspapers for some of the old timers that couldn't read some of the old timers couldn't read. They come over and call my mother Fruh Fagiert so they said, "Fruh will you let your little girl read to us?" I read! Then they had a religious habit over in Finland where people that couldn't read, couldn't write or read, couldn't write their name even wanted to have Bible explained to them. And they were having these Bible meetings once a year from house to house for different presents. And the people were giving lessons of so many verses of Bible, catechism or whatever it was and they had to be able to read that out of the book. But they had to memorize it, have someone tell them what it was. I wanted to go. I told my mother I wanted to go. They called it Kinger. "I want to go to Kinger." "Why the preacher kicks you out. You just a little girl." "I want to go." So this preacher - I was awful small. I grew very very small. I grew a lot after I got to be sixteen. And I was about this high (gestures) and I said, "I want to read!" (laughs) I was then six years old. And he said, "Can you read?" "Yes I can read." So he picked a catechism questions and answers and that is same in Lutheran and Catholic they have the same catechism. I think that they have changed it later but at that time they had the same.

(End of side two of first tape)

Tom : What year did you join the I.W.W.?

Cloud : Oh I guess it was the same year that we were kicked out of Socialist Party. It was 1915.

Tom : And what was the I.W.W. like then?

Cloud : Same as it is now only much younger men. When they send a call, "Spokane is having a free speech fight. Send fifty men here," they dropped whatever they were doing and they get on - that impressed me about as good as anything. When my very own husband walked off the job, he said, "I've got to go to Spokane." "Why?" "They have a free speech fight." "Okay, go out to Spokane." And honestly they didn't ask somebody to take them, "Who's got a car? What car can we have?" They just watched for the freights. I know a woman from Seattle she married one of the Engles brothers, Mira. She followed from Seattle to Los Angeles and back and every load that went down there. A funny incident happened to me about a year ago. I was over at friends house in Beverly Hills and we were looking over some old papers and here was a picture of Oakland Tribune and a photograph of men most of them in workclothes. The gang that was herded onto the cars and taken to Mohave Desert and dumped from Bisbee and that was preparatory to go to the Arizona wherever they congregated to form the group that was going to demonstrate and here was my husband! Before I knew him yeah. It seems like when you are born rebel and I certainly must have been, why you can't tell why you just belong! And somebody don't have to hide behind me and say, "Well now join our - " Nobody ever did. Father comes home from his trips and he asks me he says, "Did you happened read where Karl Kautsky says so and so?" "Yes, father." And then he would really take you in hand and he explained if you didn't know then you asked, "Well why can't Mr..Lutch?" - There was a name of Baron Lutch that had a great big estate not far from my home and he had feudal slaves I mean the farmers like these sharecroppers living in these little shanties which were you couldn't call them a home but there they were. And most of the year they had to work for him and do his farmwork and I think one or two days a month they could work for themselves. Well they got to thinking I think that they had a few Socialist speakers put the bee on them because they got to thinking "Well this is wrong, we're going on strike" and they did. My little mother

got on the soapbox or stump rather and she began to speak. "Stay in them cabins. You have more than earned them." She didn't get any further. The sheriff or equilivent of a sheriff came and yanked her off. I don't think my mother ever weighed a hundred pounds wringing wet. She got right back on the stump! Well when you come from a home like that you either go to the extreme reactionary you get discusted. But our subject were talked at the dinner table and we were never quiet alone just the family. My aunt Fanny was there, my uncle Karl and some of the neighbors and some of the friends. Somebody come to the door that happened close to mealtime and my mother said, "Have you had your lunch? Have you had breakfast? Well you better stay to supper." There was always enough food but not always enough money. But anyway when you hear this discussed back and forth and you have a receptive mind why the idea sticks. How did you become to think?

Tom : Yeah it's probably some of the same ways.

Cloud : Yeah and yet my two sisters who are now dead, one died two years ago. She was manager of a large store, combine and the other was working for the same store, keeper as the head guy until they died and she is now retired and only one out of four girls became radical, Wobbly me. One other, Sally, Sally was a Communist. She lived in Lapland. Do you know where Lapland is? Well I correspond with her widower, August. I think he must be Laplander because he doesn't resemble Finn in any way at all. I haven't seen him except in pictures. Anyway he's rather a charming man. He started writing to me after my sister Sally died and every once and awhile I get a letter from him and he told me in his last letter that he has had an operation on cancer, took his voice box away. They give him such excellent care now that is two years ago that every six months they send an ambulance after him and take him to the next big town and he get the private room and all the beautiful care and now he has another appointment six weeks from now. "I don't know why they have to take such good care of me. I'm getting to be an old man and ready to go!" But I think he made a nice husband for my poor little Sally sister. My sister died

of heart attack. She had emphysema and heart attack but the others are so reactionary that during the war, Finnish war that is, they associated with the German officers and Finnish officers. They wouldn't have any truck with the common trash. And so my sister wrote to me after I got in contact with them. I lost complete contact with, see my mother died. My father had to flee for his life. They had quite a big bounty on him but because he had been in Russia as a young man, as a soldier of fortune, he knew the language he knew the layout so he went to Moscow got over the border and then he married a Russian woman. They had two daughters I understand but I don't know anything. My father died in '32 my sisters have found out. My sister wrote and said, "Francie" this is the first thing after all the years I didn't know about then and they didn't know about me. I tried to get a hold of them tried to get in touch with them. I had no avenue I didn't know who to write to. See when I did write and when they were still all together my stepmother destroyed the letters. She was quite mean. Father had gone to Russia and then he came across the border when Russia took over part of Finland. And I knew about that place because I knew the country pretty well from books. Well she didn't let the kids have them letters so I lost track of them completely and it pained me rather. I wasn't financially able to help them much. I was still pretty young and married a poor man myself but I would have helped some. But then father took a last leave of his frau and they went to Moscow and he was in that English speaking paper that they printed with Bill Haywood and someone else, I can't remember the other fellow's name now. It's funny you've probably have read about him anyway. And finally the sisters got letter, news someway that father died of heart attack. I can't get through my mind. I think he was liquidated. John Reed, he was quite dissoluted I understand with the way the revolution turned over there and that's putting it mildly. I'm pretty much disgusted with them now! Everytime I hear about it ~~down~~. Some of the people that come from Ukrania and are born and reared there they don't even

want to hear about it. It's going to have to go through the same stages that this country's has gone. The higher peak of technocracy and then maybe they - I got that idea and I didn't believe it from a fellow by the name of Pete Lassigh an old time Wobbly in Seattle. He and I got into terrible fight in '27. We lived in Centralia and Sunday afternoon quite rainy and when Pete came over he expected apple pie and I had called him. He was in town, I said, "We got apple pie and soup. Come on over." So he came over and we played cards and then got to talking about Russia and revolution, we always did. And I was sold on the idea. I thought then the they had really amounted to something. In fact my first husband and I were ready to shake the dust of our heels and move over there! But he says, "Oh you crazy, they haven't got a real -" he was from Serbia, "They haven't got a real revolution you know that." "No I don't know. I think it's the beginning of a real, true worker's revolution." How little I knew. Then I got a letter from my very good friend from Detroit, Michigan. She did just that. She sold everything she and her husband and moved over there with they little baby and they didn't have much money. They had want they got out of their belongings but not much. She wrote and say that well she was still very much sold on the idea becoming one of the Bolsheviks but she said, "You'd better prepare if you think about coming over you'd better prepare that you got plenty of money otherwise you get a dog's treatment." And they put her, she was a dress designer and they put her to work in a logging camp up in the swamps and yet she could sit down and write and say, "It's rough now but someday it's going to be better." She said, "One of the things I grieve mostly is that my little girl has not had a drop of milk, no milk, tea." And she said, "I would like to have some seed. There is no use sending anything because they steal it." Well, when you haven't got anything like some of the Russian wear, normal to steal. They take where it is. "So if you can send me some Spinach seed, I'd appreciate it. No use sending anything else. But be sure if you do send anything, any pamphlets or any booklets be sure to wrap them up in the People's World.

(laughs) I might get them then." So I sent her some, it was larger envelope than this. And I put very thin batting of cotton and I got a package of seed and I distributed them in the different places so that they lay flat put another batting on it and put it in the envelope. Six months later I got it back, the letter. It had been open on two sides like this and taken black thread and cast over and the other side was, one side was my address and every empty space they had Russian but my knowledge of Russian didn't include reading it. I couldn't read the Russian characters excepting very few. And I had Russian translator. "We in the Soviet Russia" oh I don't know whether Soviet Russia or Bolshevik State I don't remember, "do not allow any seed in this country." and a blah, blah, blah here and a blah blah here (laughs). After that I lost all contact. I wrote to Segrid but I never got an answer.

Tom : What kind of things did you do connected with the I.W.W.?

Cloud : What kind of what?

Tom : What kind of things did you do working with the I.W.W.?

Cloud : What kind of what?

Tom : Did you participate in meetings?

Cloud : Oh my yes! (laughs) Oh yes. I tell you something. Last picnic we had in Elmhurst gardens, a Wobbly picnic that was the best grandest outdoor picnic the very very last one. This was in '39 yah, '39. I don't know July or August. They had a big dance pavilion. I always loved to dance, always but I was having to peddle the papers, the I.W.W. papers, the "Industrial Worker". I had a big armload full of them. They had a lot of people there three hundred I think. And somebody came and said, "Do you want to dance?" I said, "Yes, but I've got all these papers." He said, "I didn't recognize you until I saw all those papers." He said, "I never remember seeing you but what you had something to sell or money to ask for." (laughs) Well it became apparent that we could not function in any way under the name I.W.W.. It just became - they wrecked the Aberdeen Wobbly hall completely.

Demolished the piano and all the books were burned on the street. And prior to that thirteen of them got arrested out of a meeting and I had just managed to miss that meeting. I was that my little boy was ill and his daddy wasn't home so I couldn't go. One of the men - somebody was always staying at the house and said, "I'll take care of the baby. You want to go if you have to." I said, "No his fever is too high, I'd better stay with him." Well Mrs. Benson who now lives in Olympia, Washington she got arrested all the rest of them were men. There were very few women that would go to meetings in the evening unless there was some where they could have coffee and something to eat (laughs). That was different they all congregated but just a plain meeting I doubt that. The men carried the cards and they were in the good paying jobs. Women would work in taking care of other people's houses, married women and by the time they got home they didn't much feel like going to meetings. I worked too but to me it was a matter of duty. I couldn't see meeting going on I would either be a recording secretary or I make a lot of noise. And many times we would come to an argument I held my ground because I didn't see things the same way as somebody else did. Some fellow here in Sacramento was going to put me out of a meeting here in Oakland. And he said, I took opposite side in some issue I can't even remember what it was and he got up, his name is Sam Oberman, he said, "Point of information. Are we allowed non members to participate in our business meeting and furthermore make so much noise!" (laughs) So fellow worker Mechanary from San Francisco little fellow little Irishman. He paid for whole lifetime dues as long as he live. I don't know how much he figured he life span was but he had a life membership. He got up and he said, "What's a matter with you fellow worker! This girl can stay here as long as I stay here!" And of course my husband, my Jack said, "Let's get the heck out pf here." I said, "No. He has right to question people fdr information." Well the incident was forgotten and we never become enemies or anything like that but I was visiting them, he's an old man, quite old. He lives in

Sacramento and I was there last year ago last Easter. I had a nice Easter dinner invitation but I got telephone from him and he said, "My wife wants you to come and spend an Easter with us. We're alone, we're getting old and we want you to come." The people came here after me to take me up to Berkeley hills for Easter dinner. I said, "I'm sorry but I can't do it. I got to go to Sacramento." "Why you want to go to Sacramento for?" Well I told them. "Oh for heavens sakes you can go there anytime. Come on and go to dinner with us." "Um un." He didn't have much of a dinner and his wife was blind and he is deaf and I had a nice time (laughs). And so I never got another dinner invitation from my Communists friends! (laughs) But anyway while I was there a delegate from Santa Rosa come over to collect dues, fellow by the name of Nelson, what's the first name now, Eugene, Eugene Nelson. He's a secretary over there. I got letter from him day before yesterday for Wobbly gathering going to the convention. I've got it out there in my desk. I sent ten dollars for postage (laughs). But he came over and I didn't know him. I knew of him but not him personally. He's a very presentable young man, very nice person to meet too, I got his address. Well anyway Sam says something about how I had taken part in - he introduced me he said, "You know Anne Cloud?" "No I heard of her but I don't know." He started to tell all the wonderful things that I had done with flourish. And I said, "Well, one time you didn't feel quite that way. You was going to put me out of the meeting!" (laughs) "Me? I should say not! What are you talking." I said, "Don't you remember?" "No I don't remember no such thing." He couldn't remember or else he made out like he didn't but I give you that pamphlet you can look at it. Maybe you got it? (tape shut off while she looks for it but can't find it. Then she talks about the coming Wobbly convention) Here's the last Worker that came.

Tom : Yeah, I subscribe.

Cloud : Oh you subscribe to it! I don't know how my subscription is because whenever I find ^{that I've} an extra dollar why I send it to them,

five dollars or ten dollars if I have anything left over. My income is very small. It's a hundred and fifty dollars but I own the house. I have no debts and my needs are very few. I've got more clothes than I can ever wear in my lifetime. Everything! Don't everybody, don't give me anything! My neighbor comes home the day before yesterday and brings me a chicken! (laughs) I said, "I don't need food. I've got more than I can ever begin to eat." Another comes from San Pablo brings me pears, tomatoes cucumbers and I've got them in the garden and I can't even eat all of them. So I find somebody who needs them. I can't find them I don't know what I did with them. I've got so many letters and envelopes, big envelopes I guess this isn't one of them. I write to the Congressman I think it is wasted labor but I get a kick out of it! (laughs) ^{I even sent a penny to Mr. Nixon's campaign fund! (laughs)} We got cards, we got funding cards. "Please contribute what you can" and then of course the regular thing. "I contribute a hundred dollars, the next one fifty dollars the next one twenty-five and the fourth one whatever you can afford. Be generous." So I send it back with a penny! This is all that is left out of my magnificent Social Security, a hundred and fifty dollars and there's a breakdown of my outgo and here is my income. I am still sixty-two dollars in the rear! (laughs) Course he don't get it. Somebody gets it and I get it out of my system.

Tom : Have you seen this. This is the Centralia - [I show her my copy of The Centralia Conspiracy by Ralph Chaplin]

Cloud : Oh yes. I had several copies but I was very glad to have them because I have given everything away because to me it isn't going to change me one way or the other and at my age you don't keep too many mementos. I gave the book that was written by Harvey O'Connor to Edna, the Revolution in Seattle. He dedicated it to me. He was here and I appreciated it and I read it I knew something about it although we lived in Centralia at the time. But first ^{hand} information was for four days it was just like dead, nothing but nothing was moving and I think it must have been something to see.

Tom : Well, could you tell me a little bit more about Elmer Smith?
What do you remember most about him?

Cloud : I remember his red hair and he was like a little teddy bear when he was dancing in a square dance. And there was a little old maid, Miss Young and when they started every third dance was a square dance. And when they squared danced a man got up there who was calling. The little old maid had her eye peeled for Elmer and he couldn't hide, she was right there! (laughs) And he took it in a good spirit. And then he liked the cards for relaxation. He wasn't much of a fixer when it came anything needed to be fixed at home he couldn't do it. He was never much on that. But if a neighbor needed help or a ride, he had this model T Ford. It always had flat tires. A lot of times he'd come limping home with all tires flat just on the rim. I don't know if his wife remembered those things nearly as well as I do. She was not a Wobbly. She was in sympathy with him as a wife would be but in the background. I don't believe she ever quite accepted his psychology because it meant poverty to them. They could have been well off. He was a very brilliant legal mind and it often happens in the family the woman resents the way we're all going to other direction. And it sometimes meant very acute circumstances. I remember particullary one time she took butter plate (gestures) - I had dropped in for a few minutes in the morning and she did that (scrapes butter dish). I said, "Laura, those are flowers. You can't get them off." She said, "I've got to get every smidgen of it because that's the last pound of butter I'll get for some time." And those were the circumstances that make allowances for her or anyone like her for the simple reason that she was concerned about the children. When my boy outgrew, my boy was older than her boy, when my boy outgrew his clothing they were handed down to Stuart and Laura was very clever seamstress and she made things for the little girl that wasn't so - but the food. She tried to grow a garden but she comes from a rich home that wasn't necessary to have a garden. So it was I think Elmer helped on that, he'd get a hoe

and go out there and hoe the weeds. But mostly he would just go out and pick the strawberries (laughs). One time, Elmer had a wonderful sense of humor. Laura and I went overboard to subscribing some current magazines half and half and oh it was just too tempting we could not let it go by. And we signed a contract so much every month and the man was to collect. I think Better Homes and Gardens and Cosomopolitan, Saturday Evening Post and one other. There were four magazines. Was there a McCalls at that time? No I don't think so. It was a small magazine. But anyway in a few days later he comes to collect and in the meantime Laura and I after looking over the contract that we so gleefully signed but it was only Cosmopolitan that came large number of months. The others dropped. One came six months and one eight months and we were supposed to get it for three years for so much a month. We both of us got very indigent, said, "We don't want anything like that. Take your magazines and go out." And he said, "Oh no you signed the contract. See where your name is right here." So both of us say, "Well what must we do?" I say, "We will have to wait til Elmer comes home. We ask him the legal aspects here." So when he came home Laura said, "you ask him." So I said, "Elmer" (we hadn't dare to tell anybody what we had done) I said, "Elmer we have got ourselves into a bit of a mess here." I said, "What are our legal rights" and explained what we'd done. "Well" he said, "after all you signed, you didn't take the trouble to read it so I guess you'll have to pay it. I don't know how you're going to do it but that's up to you. You just can't go ahead and sign your name, maybe that will be lesson to you." And he walked off. But I saw a little funny smile on his face. I say, "I don't think he's telling the truth at all." So I confronted him that evening again. I said, "Just what is it that we must do, cause we don't want the magazines and we don't want to pay for something we don't get." And he said, "The law is that you do not have to pay for any printed matter unless it's paid for and comes through the United States mail. But you have to leave the magazines unopened on the porch where the mailman tosses them.

Don't read them. Don't open it. Don't undo them." So we undid them and then put them right backwards before - (laughs) And the man came back again, he was so threatening, he said, "We'll just see what we going to do to you. Your neighbors are going to know what deadbeats you are and really." And we let him rave on and finally Laura said, "Well just for your information my husband who's an attorney has a different opinion. He says no mail need to be paid that comes through the United States Postal Service unless it's paid for in advance. Now you know that maybe you didn't know this before but that's true. Nor any other merchandise need to paid that comes unasked." So we didn't have to pay for it but he got a big - he lectured he didn't let you forget that for a long time! (laughs) He did that in the most humorous way! Well I took it from him where I wouldn't take it from anyone else because he had the other side that was so benevolent and so understanding and good and he can kick the heck out of you and you didn't mind! And another time that sticks in my mind very well. We had heard in the paper, read in the paper that some of the strawberry ranches between Centralia and Elma had signs on the highway, "Berries". How you picked the berries and they were so much per pound if you picked them yourself or something of that sort. And we didn't have enough to put up so Mother Smith said (they were living in Centralia then) "Why don't you go with me. We'll go with Elmer. He has to go to Tacoma and he'll take us down and when we see the sign we drop off and we pick the berries and then when he comes back why he picks us up and brings us home." "Oh sure, we'll do that." And we thought it'd be just three four hours and then maybe he'd come back. Well anyway we didn't take any lunch and we asked the farmer can we pick berries? And taking it for granted, we didn't see the sign there and he said, "Oh yes hurry, hurry up hurry up." And the land was slanting like this and we were put at the upper end going head down. And I said, "Well do we have to pick it this way? Can't we go to the other end?" The owner he had some pickers at the other end. "Oh no you start from here." I couldn't see the wisdom of it but I thought, "Well we don't take us very long to pick our berries.

We pick a couple of cartons, crates." Then came lunchtime. They asked us to come to lunch. Well we had a little watery soup and I told the farmer I said, "I think we've got all we want now I'd like to pay for my berries and my partner pays for hers." "Oh they're my berries. They go to market. You just picking them. I pay you a cent per pound for picking; them." "Oh no no we don't go out picking berries for money. We just wanted to pick berries and pay then for the berries and not for picking." "No can't have them." "Can't we have them if we just pay the regular retail price?" "No." I said, "Well then we won't pick." "All right go ahead." and he said, "We get a lot of - see those pickers. The other pickers went on strike." I said, "What the! Are we scabing on the poor berry pickers?" (laughs) He said, "Call them whatever you will but get off my property." So we both had to get off and sit by the roadside! Well it took til almost suppertime before Elmer came back. There we sat (laughs). Elmer's mother got just as big a kick out of it as I did.. She said, (laughs) "Let's not tell anybody (laughs). Let's just stop and buy some berries." (laughs) I said, "Oh I think the whole Smith clan will get a lot of fun out of this." and they did. A couple of scabs (laughs). Well Elmer he really get a bang out of it. He said, "Where's the berries?" His mother said, "Well they really didn't have so many berries so we just waited for you to come and pick us up." He said, "Something funny here. They've got lot of berries there. I can see the berry fields of about fifty acres of berries." "Well they didn't want us to pick berries." Finally I said, "What's the use, let's tell him." And he just howeled that's all. He stopped the car and he just held his belly (laughs). He was kind of fat then and laugh and laugh and laugh. Well he could get a kick out of something like that. But he could be serious. Boy when he come back from Walla Walla when it looked like they'd never going to come out in his lifetime. He was so sad and so downfallen and so on. He came over he said, "I don't know where you get your information but I was so sure that I could get an interview with governor", what was the name of the governor then? I can't

remember now. But he never did get but one interview with the governor and the governor just put his foot down, "They are not going to get out." At first he seemed to have shown a little leniency but I think the pressure was on him then from the lumber companies. Had he wanted to course there was no evidence that these fellows did the shooting. In fact there were people who came out afterwards that were in the jury and say that they're sorry but they always felt that that was a made up case. But here was a National Guard going around the courthouse in Montaseno with bayonets and what they scared the cheezers out of a lot of the jurymen but they brought verdict of second degree murder which does not give that kind of sentence.

Tom : Why wasn't Elmer a member of the I.W.W.?

Cloud : Because he was an attorney and no. They didn't have any local, they had lumberman and they had other shop workers. They each had their number lot but only the working people were allowed. Not the professionals. I don't know of any instance where professionals - You can donate money but you had no particular voice in the industrial unionism. I don't know that he ever expressed the wish. I think that at heart he was a better Wobbly than lot of the Wobblies that I have known. And I've known some stinkers! When times were pretty good they were, "hold the fort, we are coming" but let the screws tighten up and you couldn't see any. They disappear like rats. A lot of them. And that's true. I remember one instance when a bunch got arrested there from the Wobbly hall. One of them was a one armed, Miller.. He only had one arm and he had a terrible cold. I remember when I went to meeting. And I heard that they were on a bare concrete and at that time I was under suspicion. I thought, "well if they put me in the jailhouse why that's too bad." But I called one of the fellow workers I said, "Are they allowing any visitors over there to see the jail?" "Yeah you can go. They put you in." You go there and they say, 'Oh you like to see your friends? All right step right in.'" So I went there. I bought some woolen underwear for Miller because I thought it would be a little warmer for

him. And I brought some tobacco, he was a pipe smoker. And on the way, you walked because they didn't have but one street-car in Aberdeen then. All the streets were way up from the tidelands on wood plank streets. I saw this boy who always was, "me and the other Wobblies, me and the other Wobblies." I don't think he was all quite there but he was a dues payer worker at the logging camp, I've forgotten his name now. And he said, "Where are you going with the bundle?" I said, "I'm going over to the jailhouse and I know that you are just dying to go with me. You are just the fellow that is not afraid to go." "Who me? No I've got to go down to I I I have to do." I said, "No you're going with me. I wouldn't dare to go without you but you are my protector." Boy he was behind me way behind but he came! (laughs) When I got to the jail the first person I met was Captain Smith. And he said, "What are you doing here?" I said, "I want to see a fellow by the name of Miller." I've forgotten his first name. "What do you want to see him for?" I said, "Well he's a friend of mine." "Well of all kinds of friends you keep. What's a matter with you?" I had lived in the policeman's house before I was married. I worked in their store. I didn't know anything about him. He was a police on the bridge to open the bridge and close the bridge when the log jam went by. Nice couple nice old couple. They treated me like one of their own child and that's where I met him, Captain Smith and he said, "Well what you got in the bindle?" I said, "Miller has an awful bad cold and I thought that maybe woolen underwear would help him." "Well", but you can't stay." I said, "I can't stay anyway because I've got my own home to take care of." He was very nice. He let me talk to Miller for a little while. But I turned around and I couldn't see the fellow worker! He had beat it (laughs) and I have never seen him since. He must see me before I saw him.

(End of side one of tape two)

Odd memories to remember but they had their place. Jenny poor Jenny that got into jail, was bailed out when the Wobbly hall was destroyed..

Tom : Who was Jenny?

Cloud : Jenny Benson that lives in Olympia. She lost her husband about a year ago. She's semi invalid herself but she still has the Wobbly ideas. She and I had quite a lot in common in this that she would go for instance, we'd go into the back room of a bar where they had a game going on. I happened to know a couple of gamblers very well because they had rented a room in my house. Two of the nicest kind of fellows, both of them Wobblies but they didn't like too much hard work! Every once and awhile the police tell them, "you'd better get out to the logging camp for awhile. You're getting too well known here and then come back later." It was supposed to have been illegal but they played usually back room with a big round table. Well miners had gone on strike in Butte and they needed money very bad. They sent a letter asking for donations. Well we didn't have much money to donate but we would always throw a party or a dance or put on some dramatics try a little Shakespeare or something and we did! We were just bold enough and dumb enough to put on a play, As You Like It or this business of being earnest! Honestly, it's funny we didn't put on Romeo or Juliet but we never tried that. So anyway we had this big dance going on, a lot of entertainment a lot of prizes everybody turned out but they had to give for prize. It was quite moneymaker. So I said, "Jenny, what do you say we go to Matson's bar? They got a big game going on I heard from Anderson the gambler." "Yah, we go!" We had a lot of a dance tickets. None of the guys were dancers. They didn't care anything about dancing, especially payday. So the first person that I talked to was Anderson, he was big Dane. I said, "Hi Andy." I don't know what his first name was but his last name was Anderson, I always call him Andy. "Yeah, what do you want? You want to get in the game?" "No I've got bigger game than that. Now let's see how many are there of you here?" I said, "The tickets are two dollars apiece and everyone of you are gonna buy them." "Oh go away now don't bother - this is very important now come back some other time." He said, "I'll give you some money but

don't bother these fellows now." I say, "We're going to stay right here until everybody buys tickets! Or I'm goint to go over and see Smith!" "You wouldn't." "Oh yes I would." And they all forked over some of; them gave as much as five dollars just to get rid of us. (laughs) And we made good that time. We sent them five hundred dollars, the Butte miners. And there were a lot of people in Deer Lodge, Montana is that federal penitentiary?

Tom : I don't know.

Cloud : Well maybe state, I'm not sure. But there were some class war prisoners there and one of them took a notion to send some of their handiwork to the - oh yeah I forgot to tell you that when we couldn't be known no longer known as the I.W.W. or any part of it why we started a sewing circle. But we gathered about once a week or maybe once a month maybe once two weeks at each others homes and we make these plans. And we had a president and the treasures and so forth and so on. And then when the plans were materializing then the fellows took over and we had these money making schemes and anyway where was I at?

Tom : Something about Montana?

Cloud : Yah well we sent yah Deer Lodge Montana sent these. We had send some money at Christmas time. At that time I don't think that people usually sent prisoners much money but we as a group we send them something that they could buy over there. We didn't send any butter or bread or candy or anything like that but they could buy tobacco. But then we found out that there were a lot of them that made - I've got a string of beads there that I got from one of the fellow workers there. And could we sell these? And we could take the percentage for the sewing circle and they would get some of the money themselves for the material they could buy more material. Some of them did very fine bead work. I think that this fellow that sent me the necklace was an Indian because the work very much resembles Indian work. So I wrote a letter and said we'd be very happy to do that. While every one

of us was just as capable but it seemed like "you do it, you do it, you do it, you take over you do it, you see what you can do, I make a motion that so and so take over." Well when you're fall guy you're fall guy. So anyway I got a shipment almost every month then and we sold them and sent them quite a bit of money. We accepted forty percent and they got sixty. And they were people that some of their work was so lovely that a lot of people bought them. Bead work mostly and some were silver and some were copper. I've got a pin that's made out of copper. Those activities became well they started as temporary and I understand that they have carried on into their Benevolent that the Finns have carried on the same idea. Benevolent Lodges they have sewing circles and they gather together in different houses and raise money but they don't oh they do quite a lot of charitable work and scholarships and all that but most of it has been going to pay for the properties til they got to the point where they could burn their mortgage, it's all theirs now. That's the Finnish lot. The Communist faction however has come down to no activity that I know of in their hall so I think that they are just about to loose their hall. Such Communist activities that they have seem to be centralizing in Oakland and they are mostly all English speaking. And the older people that are emigrant background why they are dying fast and the young people are not interested in they have been much more interested in Americanizing their mode of living. See what I mean? We want to be like the rest of the Americans. We are the Americans. We were born here and very few of them in this part of America learn to talk their native tongue no matter what it is. Finnish is very hard language to change into anything else very hard. They can't learn the double connsants for instance s-m-o-k-e. It becaomes "moke", a drink becomes "rink" and Finnish language has characters that only have one sound and only one it doesn't change in any particular space or postion. So when they learn to speak English some of them have learned pretty well, some of them with a bad accent. So the older folks are a little ashamed of that and they keep together til there is none of them left. Younger people get assimilated into

the business world hardly any in ordinary hard labor what I call well maybe men maybe the male population but the women they want to go to college they want to become a professionals and do and they are brilliant people.

Tom : Did Elmer Smith ever talk about college or about his earlier life before he came out West?

Cloud : "ho?"

Tom : Elmer.

Cloud : No I don't remember if he ever mentioned it was in a prefunctionary manner. He dwelt more or less on his before he went to law school he taught Sunday school so did Laura they both Sunday school. Besides he taught regular school but on Sundays he was Sunday school teacher.

Tom : This in Centralia?

Cloud : Yah and probably somewhere else that I don't know but in Centralia I think that's how they met and Laura said, "How come I ask you I said that?" Well Elmer had been to Walla Walla several days, came back and I happened to be over Laura's when he came back. We were planning a picnic at the Deep Lake and Elmer came. He threw his hat on the bench up near the wall and he went into bedroom didn't say hello just went into bedroom. He'd been gone four days. Well my first husband was an Irishman, a very affectionate very very warm hearted and I think in his way he wasn't demonstrative person but I think that Laura was not a person that would demonstrate in any way at all. I said, "Laura, throw your arms around your man and kiss him. He's been gone for." And Elmer said, "Uh might as well kiss that stove." And went into bedroom and changed. I was quite surprised and felt pretty sad but then came the part that the children began to grow up. Little Virginia wanted to become a Rainbow Girl.

Tom : What's that?

Cloud : It's the same - you know what a Malay is?

Tom : No.

Cloud : They belong to the Elks Order that they are the junior grades and she knew that Elmer wouldn't stand for it. It's very patriotic. Stuart didn't seem to express any ideas but Laura let Virginia go let her sneak through the window so that Elmer wouldn't see her cause he would have stopped it. And she had to have a special kind of a dress. Or maybe it was Girl Scouts at that time also rainbow but I think that was Girl Scout because she made the girl a uniform and dressed the girl in the children's bedroom in the uniform and then helped her out through the window. And Elmer happened to see her go out past the window on the outside and he stopped her and the little girl threw a wingding there was such screaming going on. So I said, "Laura, is it necessary?" "Well she wants to be like the other girls of her own age. She wants to belong to a group. And the people keep making fun of her because her father. Why and it just kind of trying to reach a balance somewhere." I can understand that. Maybe it was too harsh from both sides. But Elmer said that "They are not going to dress in Scout uniform either one of them as long as they're my children." I don't think that Stuart ever was interested in anything like that but Virginia wanted to be like this, she was older of the two and I don't think they went very long. I think they just about stopped by the time that Elmer got sick. But that was the attitude that was accepted in the family and it became apparent to those who were so close as we two were. We were in and out of each other's houses, not to become a pest or anything like that but. There're not good parents either one of them as I understand. Laura would come over either to return a cup of sugar or just say hello by your leave. And I say, "Why don't you sit down a minute, Laura?" "Oh I can't, I can't they would kill each other." And they did! They would have! They started scraping and one chased the other with a pair of sissors, a butcher knife and the next thing she said, "Oh I've got some cookies here away and I know they'll find them if I don't get -" Well to me I could have a box of candy sitting on the table all day long and my youngster wouldn't even think of

taking it unless I said it was all right. Or he could take it and I wouldn't say anything. I have see him take a whole box and take it out and divide it up with the kids. "Well" he said, "is it all right?" I said, "Yes it was but you could have asked me because I might have wanted some myself." "Well you don't need candy." I don't I don't ever eat candy. And he said, "Well I was over at Bamford and Mrs. Bamford had some candy but she didn't let James take any of them. I just wondered if you mind?" I said, "Well I fell that you are part of the family, part of this you have obligations as well as priviledges. Well you wanted candy, your candy as well as mine. But you have to show the obligations. Now you go and start hoeing the strawberries over there!" (laughs) And if he borrowed money might have been just a nickel, I said, "Now remember this is borrowed. You borrowed now you told me you want to borrow this okay you borrow it but you get money pay give me back what you borrow. If I give it to you that's yours but if you borrow it's mine!" Well now he has two children of his own and I was there several times and I said, "You know Bob you are accepting the same philosophy that I had with you." And he said, "Yes I know it. It worked pretty good didn't it?" (laughs) Well Elmer was an exception of many thousands of people that I know, had known.

Tom : What was so different about him? Why was he exceptional?

Cloud : He was exceptional with his adhering to the poor that needed help. I tell you one particular thing about Elmer that you don't see in many people. He was an attorney. When times got tough the people that work on the railroad lost their jobs. They took the terminal waytto Tacoma and most of the people that were working were railroaders and then became the bankrupcy they couldn't sell the houses they couldn't give them away. And if they had any outside work there was the bill collector putting the kybosh on them expecially if they was still on the railroad. Three times the bill collector you were automatically out. So Elmer would put them through bankruptcy. But it took fifty dollars to sign the

fee, the first fee to the court. He footed that bill. He knew I think in the inside of him that he would never collect them. Well came time for him to go to Tacoma no Portland for the operation it was going to cost so much and he wrote fifty letters, polite letters. He is now facing a matter of life and death and he does not want to leave his family in debt for his hospital bills and his doctor bills so he wish that they would - I saw one of the letters, he showed me. He wished that they would see whatever they can afford and send to him. He wished that they could send him whatever they can afford on the bill that they owe and the putting them through bankruptcy. He said, "You know, all these are good ^{men} they're honest men. They just happened to have bad luck. And I know I'm gonna collect money. I'm gonna get money." I said, "I hope so Elmer but I don't think so." He never got one answer and he found an excuse for that. He said, "They were ashamed to say that they didn't have any." So he borrowed money from his mother. His mother was quite frugal and happened to have some money ^{left} from the mines so she let him have it. Laura was in Tacoma while the second seige of his illness came and they spent their time in hospital for two weeks. She stayed in the hotel close by. They were not in Tacoma they were in Pullayup. This quack by the name of Kosanski was not a doctor wasn't anybody excepting moneymaker. Why Elmer and Laura ever went to him in first place is a - I can't understand it. But he did and he gave some painkiller that seemed to help Elmer temporarilly and then of course came this terrific hemoraging and he was rushed over there to Pullayup to Kosanski hospital, sanitorium whatever you call it. He live two weeks after that. And mother Smith was with him and she called doctor when she noticed that he was hemoraging quite profusely. She said, "You know my son is having a terrible hemorage. Now a doctor in Portland has his blood type and the blood available. All you have to do is to call and they send an airplane over with it." And Kosanski said, "Yes I know but I don't believe in blood transfusions." So very shortly after that he died. Laura didn't get there. Laura had gone home to rest cause she had been

up day and night with him. It was four o'clock in the morning when we got telephone call from Frank Tracy, he was a North Pacific brakeman. He couldn't talk. I knew it then he said, "This is Frank." And that's all. Well I guessed the rest of it (her voice breaks). I said, "Elmer's dead." He said, "Yes" and he hung up. Later on why Marie his wife called up and gave me the details that Frank had told. I think that was one of the saddest days that I have ever known. We loved Elmer as a human being and man. He helped when help was needed. He could laugh when he felt like crying. He was for the underdog when now sometimes I don't think it is deserved. Sometimes the underdog doesn't deserve it because he wouldn't help himself as long as somebody is out there to pull them out. But Elmer couldn't see it that way. He said, "They just had had bad background. They hadn't seen anything different." If they were caught plifering something he said, "Well you can't blame him because they never saw anything good. Or somewhere in their background maybe they had horsethief!" (laughs) I mean he could see things where the rest of us couldn't. And Mother Smith didn't want any religious hymns at the funeral. No sermon, no nothing. And she just about blew her top because they played, the organist decided to play "Beautiful Island of Nowhere". Oh she was, she could really resort to profanity if she had to, she was mad! She said, "At least my son could of had that respect and they had to go ahead and play that." But I sometimes feel that every once and awhile somewhat like that is born like Dr. Mickeljohn. He was pretty much the same way. They kicked him out of Amerherst for his radical ideas and he came closer to - he was subscribing to the People's World! (laughs) Sometimes he had visitors there that hadn't had a meal for several days. But his boys just took over where he left off. One is a quite well known surgeon. He was on the faculty of U.C. hospital but I don't know where he is now. I asked him one time, I said, "Gorden what are you going to specialize. when you get to be a bona fide doctor?" He said, "I'm not going to specialize. I'm going to be general practioner."

He said, "That's what the world needs." He said, "Specialists they go to medical school, they can't quite make the grade and then they become specialists!" (laughs) Well I don't know what Elmer actually started out to be. What was his major in where was it, Macalester?

Tom : He took general courses and a lot of the people who went to school with him became ministers. But he went to law school after Macalester.

Cloud : Yes I know that.

Tom : And I guess all along wanted to be a lawyer.

Cloud : Then it's possible. He never mentioned it that we know of and in fact he never spouted off much on law. Later years when we got to know him better why he made fun of it after having so many disappointments about the Centralia case and so much double talk and run around he began to see. But at first when he gave them advice, "The hall is your home and you have right to defend your home from anyone to enter, against anyone entering" and he believed in it! He believed in it implicitly that that was the right advice but he began to see different in a way. He said, "Maybe I just played God where I didn't need to." Whether he said that publically I don't know but he and I had discussion and I said, "How did you feel that you had right to give that advice?" He said, "I thought then that I did but now I'm beginning to wonder because I didn't understand the circumstances. I believed in law, better of the law. I'm beginning not to believe now." Especially when he was disbarred. For what? For taking the law too literally. See what I mean? As him getting to be a rebel, if that's what you call it, why I think it came gradually by dissolutionment. He began to see that some of his idols had feet of clay and they didn't just measure up. And when he got to know some of the local attorneys from Centralia I think that belief was pretty well fortified. They were stinkers. One of them who participated in this, I don't know if it comes out in that pamphlet or not I forgot now, can't even remember his

name but he was one of the attorneys and a fellow by the name of Captain Coll, you've heard of him? Have you ever heard anything what became of him?

Tom : No.

Cloud : I met him and he was very much interested to delve into. He had been a commander of the American Legion Post in Opium, Washington and that's when he first became acquainted with the case. So he wanted to delve into the insides of it and he spent quite a lot of time over at Elmers. Well he said when he first went into a - golly just can almost remember the name of the attorney - he went to the main attorneys office on Tower Avenue in Centralia. and the fellow was washing his hands, washing his hands and oh he was just glad having a fellow American Legionaire and everything was going smooth and he began to ask questions and more pertinent and what we - Mr. ~~so~~ and so came to answer so he said, "Excuse me but I have to wash my hands." and half a dozen times he went and washed his hands. Because he had taken part of the cutting of Wesley Everet. and so you know what? I think we that gonna face the same kind of time in this country if this pair of, I hope to call them names, if they get elected the Vice President "Spiral" comes out and says that when they get elected there's going to be new era. They going to look into this mornings paper. and I think that's ominous. They're gonna start raiding all the liberal institutions and shut down any school that has had any, what do you call them, race riots. I was talking to one of the girls that works there near the campus on Santa Ladies ready to wear she called me up. She said, "I've always voted Democrat but I would have voted for Humphrey but I can't vote for" and she started telling me why. I said, "All right you tell me why if you don't want to vote for McGovern?" "Well why does he promise thousand dollars to everybody when he can't deliver it? (laughs) Why does he do this? Why did he kick that man", well what was the name - Elkton?

Tom : Eagleton.

Cloud : "Why did he first he his thousand he just changes his mind too often?" "Well then who are you going to vote for?" "Well I guess I'll have to vote for Nixon." I said, "Why bother vote at jall? Because you don't vote for McGovern why that's a vote for Nixon. You don't have to take time off from your job." And she said, "Would you vote for McGovern?" I said, "Why yes if I vote at all why that's I don't want Nixon in there." "Well don't you think that he has done just about as good as anybody?" I said, "Well what paper is it you are taking now?" "Tribune." I said, "Well yes you go ahead anyway you want to." "Well why do you say that?" I said, "Because I don't think we have choice. We have no choice. We either vote for McGovern or you don't vote, one or the other." And that's the answer I get from everybody and I've been using my telephone to call up these nitwits. Well like I say Elmer becme a febel, a revolutionary or a well I don't know I guess that's the best way I can say it. By just gradually getting bad picture of the status quo and accepting new ideas and see new lights and of course then by his work he came in contact with pretty smart I.W.W's. That could explain it a lot better than I could. Though I think I've made a few Wobolies.

Tom : Do you think he ever regretted what he did?

Cloud : I thought of that one time when they dumped my flour over the kitchen floor and that's the only time I was raided. I hear that everybody who takes controversy literature including this (points to I.W.W. newspaper) has her or his name at the post office and they are dispatched to the White House, Pentagon and that comes from the postman who was in the postal department until he quit, went into ministry. And he said, "Now I can tell you." I don't even know his name but he lived on Van Fleet and San Louis somewhere in that neighborhood and he was visiting my Communist friend (laughs) my Communist friend. My friends laugh I say "my Communist friend". They say, "Don't say that!" (laughs) And I tell her myself. "Come on now you Communist" and her daughter is a Trotskyite. Then I have friends who are. I have a friend who comes from Irac and he is anarchist, oh boy he's an anarchist. (She talks more about her friends and then the tape ends.)