

Interview with Sally Wilson Frame

April 4, 2011

Conducted in the Frame home, Kinsley, Kansas

Interviewers: Joan Weaver and Rosetta Graff, Kinsley Library

Joan: Sally, what is your full name?

Sally: Sally Josena Wilson Frame.

Joan: Where do you currently reside?

Sally: On a farm outside of Kinsley, 1244 Highway 56.

Joan: When and where were you born?

Sally: I was born in Kinsley, in a little house on Kinsley Avenue.

Joan: Do you want to give us the year and the date?

Sally: On January 11, 1937.

Joan: What were the names of your parents?

Sally: Josena Benton Wilson and Jerome K. Wilson.

Joan: And Benton was her maiden name?

Sally: Yes.

Joan: And what were the two sets of grandparents called?

Sally: G.E. and Penelope (Nell) Wilson were my father's parents, and Lewis and Josena Benton were my mother's. My grandmother was Nell to everybody. She wanted me to name one of my daughters Penelope, but I nixed that. I named a doll Penelope.

Joan: Okay, did you have brothers and sisters?

Sally: Yes, I had a brother, Kermit Lewis Wilson. He died in '58. He was in the coast guard and he had peritonitis. So I lost him pretty young.

Joan: Was he your only sibling?

Sally: Yes.

Joan: What did your father do?

Sally: He was a lawyer. And my grandpa was a lawyer, and my husband and my son.

Joan: So what brought your first people to Edwards County?

Sally: Well, my Grandpa G.E. came to Edwards County according to his autobiography. He had an uncle that ended up here, I don't know how, so he came out with him. Grandpa came out and did some insurance, and then he read for the law. That's what they used to do, "read for the law". He became a lawyer.

Joan: Does that mean like home schooling yourself?

Sally: Exactly. And then you passed some sort of a test or something like that.

Joan: What Abraham Lincoln did.

Sally: Yes, just like Abraham Lincoln! That was my grandpa. He would have liked Abraham Lincoln by the way. If Abraham Lincoln had lived and hadn't been assassinated, Grandpa would have been alive during his time. Isn't that amazing! You think how close generations are. My God, my grandpa could have been alive at the same time as Abraham Lincoln!

Joan: And the other side of the family, how did they get up here to Edwards County?

Sally: They didn't, they lived at Oberlin. Mother and Daddy met at Washburn in college. But no, they were farmers forever. Then during the Depression my Grandpa Benton lost all his money. He had some cattle going to Chicago, in '29, and it fell before they made it to Chicago, so they had to cut back on their living. I didn't know this. They had a little old farmhouse that had a wood burning stove. I thought it was so cool! I just thought it was great to go to Grandma and Grandpa Benton's house, but I guess it wasn't so cool.

Anyway, my other grandpa (*Wilson*) that lived in Kinsley, they were fine. I know they were the only ones that had a car. My folks didn't have a car. My grandpa had a car, and we thought that was cool. But everybody was hurting during the depression. Nobody knew anything. I can remember the stories during the Depression, but I don't remember it because I was very young.

Joan: Do you remember anything about WWII?

Sally: Well, I was going to say that I can remember when my dad joined the navy. He was 42 when he went in, right after Pearl Harbor. I do not remember Pearl Harbor. I remember him being gone, and I remember him coming back once because my grandpa was sick. I took my Daddy in his uniform to show and tell. I thought that was so cool! I can remember when Roosevelt died, we cried. And I remember when the war was over, we marched around the old Methodist Church with little flags. I also remember right after the war my cousin came back from the East, and he had bubblegum! I thought that was so cool because we didn't have bubblegum during the war. I chewed that until it was black, I'm afraid. I saved it at night and went on chewing it. I don't know if that's interesting or not.

Joan: Did your father enlist?

Sally: Yes, he enlisted.

Joan: I guess I didn't ask, your brother was older than you? So there were two little kids, but he enlisted?

Sally: Yes. He thought he ought to go, so he went. Yes, he was in shore patrol over there. I know he was stationed at Honolulu. This was right after Pearl Harbor. That's when he went. I can remember Rex Strate, and I know there were two or three other young 18 or 19 year olds were at the hospital there. I get emotional, because Daddy just kind of befriended them. So Rex from then on would do anything for Daddy. But he was the "old man". I can remember he'd say he'd go and take care of drunk sailors. But he was older, and so he'd go into a bar and there'd be some fight or something. They'd say, "What are you going to do about it, old man?" And he'd say, "Well, just give me awhile." So he'd go back to the base and pick up two of the biggest sailors he could find. He'd go back and have the big sailors take care of it. My Daddy wasn't a dummy.

Joan: So there were Kinsley kids who were at Pearl Harbor.

Sally: They might have joined after the war started. Ray Gaskell and Rex Strate...

Joan: You said they were in the hospital.

Sally: They were in the Pacific Theater. I know Rex was there, and I cannot remember but I know there were two or three local boys that were there and Daddy befriended them while they were there. I don't know how badly they were wounded. I'm not absolutely positive they were. I know they were there, and Daddy took care of them. I don't know if they were wounded or stationed there, but they were there. So I think they must have had to have been wounded.

Joan: We'd love to interview Rex if we could ever get him back here.

Sally: Yes, and Ray Gaskell. We've lost all of these guys. I know after the war when I started becoming aware, I would read about WWII, and I'd think it was like history was alive right here. We named our son after Ray. It just amazed me, because I didn't really realize because I was so young that WWII didn't mean a lot to me. I can remember soldiers and the troop trains going through town. I bet you can't remember those, can you? I do remember that. We waved at them! And I was too young to flirt, or I would have flirted. Rosetta doesn't believe that. She doesn't think I was ever too young to flirt, do you?

Joan: And you remember the shortage of bubblegum. Was there any other way it affected your life?

Sally: I remember the shortage of bubblegum.

Joan: While your father was away, your mother took care of you in your same home?

Sally: Yes, in the same home. She did work for the newspaper; I think it was because she had to do something. She went around and got ads and worked in the newspaper office and just loved it. That was the only time she ever worked out of the house. What was the name of the newspaper? I think it was still the *Mercury* back then, or the *Graphic*? What would it have been during the war? She worked while Daddy was there, but after school I would go down to the *Graphic*. It was in that building close to where Rexall's was on Main Street.

Rosetta: That was the *Mercury*.

Sally: Well, that's where she worked.

Rosetta: I think at that time, it was where Evelina Craig had her store (119 E. Sixth St.).

Sally: That's right! That's where it was. I thought that was cool.

Rosetta: And she worked for the Kinsley *Mercury*.

Sally: Yes, she worked for the Kinsley *Mercury*. But really the war was kind of vague. I know Allen remembers much more. He was enough older that it was so much more. He remembers so many more things than I do. One story I do remember after the war, the first time I saw a holocaust picture. I remember just being stunned with that. I don't know what they would have shown today.

Joan: Do you mean at the movies?

Sally: No, it was on the T.V., so it must have been in the early fifties or something. That's the first time I became aware of the horror of things going on. I just didn't know. Some people might have, but I didn't.

Rosetta: So your dad was always in the Pacific Theater?

Sally: Yes, he was in Honolulu the whole time he was serving. I can't think of anything else, there's Daddy, show and tell and bubblegum.

Joan: You were in elementary school?

Sally: Yes.

Joan: Did the school do anything to support the war that you remember?

Sally: I cannot remember. I kind of think they thought the children didn't need to know. I don't think that's right, but you know, at the time we were pretty well protected. I think. I know I asked my mother once because there were these Japanese concentration camps that we had a couple of. That's not what they called them, but that's what they were. There was one out in Western Kansas (*actually Colorado*) somewhere, and I said, "Mom," because she was very liberal, "What did you think about those?" And she said, "Sally, honestly at the time I didn't think about it. I was worried about your daddy, and I was taking care of you kids. I just wasn't aware." To be honest, she just wasn't aware of it. Now, everybody is kind of, oh dear, that probably wasn't the right American thing to do. But I didn't know anything about those things until after the war either. There's a lot of that stuff that we just didn't know.

Joan: Which school did you go to?

Sally: It was Southside. The country kids went to the Northside. And all the cute boys went to the Northside! And oh gosh, I can't think of anything else during the war. Maybe I'll think of it later on, but I was a little oblivious. I do remember when Roosevelt died; we were the only Democrats in town, I think.

Joan: Do you remember all the parties the other people were having?

Sally: Yes! I can remember we'd have little votes in grade school. Bruce Voran and I were the only ones who voted Democrat. There were only two Democratic votes!

Joan: Was your family catholic?

Sally: My family was sort of nothing. They were affiliated with the Episcopal Church, and I was baptized in the Episcopal church, but we were very non-churchy. I always consider myself a Christian agnostic, because I think the Bible was great. I can't go the whole way. My son said, "Mom, you're a Christian agnostic." And I said that was a good way to put it. I believe in the Bible, but not the whole thing.

Joan: Okay, do you want to leave elementary school and go to the high school? What were some of your activities? How big was your class and what year did you graduate?

Sally: We had one of the biggest classes. There were almost 50 kids in our class.

Joan: What year was the graduating class?

Sally: '55. To me it was like being in Mayberry, U.S.A. It was just fun. The boys were cute at that time, although some of them didn't turn out to be cute. But I'm not mentioning any names. I can remember we all wore these petticoats. Did you wear them? I mean petticoats! They went out as big as you could get, and when you'd go to the movies you'd have to sit there and hold your petticoats down to see the movie. I can remember Diane Miller (*Anderson*) always had the biggest petticoats, always bigger than my petticoats. I just think that was so funny that you had to hold the dang things down to see the movie. They had wire in them, and sometimes the wires would get sprung so your petticoats were all weird looking. And bobby socks, we did wear socks. We never wore jeans or stuff to school except maybe on Friday. In the summer, we swam and we'd go skinny dipping in the river.

Rosetta: Just girls?

Sally: Just girls!

Joan: Wanted to clarify that.

Sally: Well, the boys did to, but separately. Yes, unless we heard them, and then we'd screech and yell and run get our towels. It was really a pretty innocent time for us, or for me. I'm speaking for me. Growing up was pretty innocent and happy.

Joan: What activities were you in?

Sally: Well, they didn't care if girls were in sports. They were not interested in girls. I can remember, we had gym, and we had to wear these stupid little bloomer things. Our coach, I don't know if he's still alive or not, but the coach could care less about the girls' sports, so it was a study hall for us unless we wanted to bounce a ball around. He was usually doing something, and it was a free hour as far as we were concerned. I wasn't that sporty. I loved swimming and dancing, but I wasn't that sporty, wasn't into ballgames. Some of my friends

said they would have loved to have played basketball. They would have loved to have done that stuff. But they just didn't.

Joan: Were you in the band?

Sally: Yes, I played the flute. It was so-so. The first time I figured out what a flute sounded like was I heard James Galway. He's a flutist, and I thought, "My God, that's how it's supposed to sound." It was a lot of fun. We were in band and I was in...we were in everything at the time.

Joan: And marching band?

Sally: And (*Harlo*) McCall was our band leader, and we'd go out every morning before school. We'd go out on the football field, did you do this too Rosetta? and do our little shapes and maneuvers that we were going to do for the game. We would practice on those. I played flute, and then during marching band I played piccolo which was really fun because it was so tiny. It was bitter cold, and I could just pick that up with my sleeve. I could keep warm, and all these guys had to carry all these big things. But I had the piccolo, and I could just hide it and keep warm. I could play that even less well than I could the flute. But I was a good dancer!

Rosetta: Did you take dance under Mrs. Draut?

Sally: Yes, I took dancing from the time I was in kindergarten until I was in high school. Tap, toe dance, ballet...anything you could think of, I did it. I wasn't good at gymnastics that she taught some of the people. I could never do that, but I could tap and toe dance and do ballet. I was everything from a snowflake to a line dancer to a can-can dancer. So yes, I was in all the high school plays. We used to have a music club here, and they'd have a program during the year. There were two or three organizations that had plays. One time they put on *Li'l Abner*. Does anyone remember that?

Joan: I've heard people talking about it.

Sally: We did *Li'l Abner* and I did some sort of dance, I don't remember. Uncle Albert or Injun Joe or whatever it was, he'd come out with his little knock knees and be really, really funny. But everybody in town was in these things.

Joan: And these were held at the high school auditorium?

Sally: Yes. They had the all-school play, a junior play, a senior play, and then they had things that they did for State forensics. They had one-act plays, and I was in all those. Miss Losey did most all those.

Joan: What was the city of Kinsley like while you were...

Sally: We had everything. We had two clothing stores. We had the Al's Clothing Store, M&M's and Ehler's. Well, we had three. M&M and Ehler's kind of went together and then separated. Then we had a shoe store; they sold shoes in Ehler's. Then two, three or four grocery stores. A little one and then we had Mammel's and Weidenheimer's and I can't remember what the others were. Of course, we had two drug stores, Rexall's and Copp's. It

seemed like we had everything. We had a lumberyard, a paint store, we had a...well, Al and I kind of went over that. Then all the business men had their offices upstairs over the things downstairs. My Grandpa's office was upstairs, all the lawyers and the doctors. I honestly don't know how people got up those stairs, to get to the doctor especially! Those stairs were just straight up.

Joan: Of course, maybe back at that time if you couldn't get up the stairs they made house calls.

Sally: Oh yes. I remember when I was sick, which I wasn't very often, Dr. Unruh (who was a sweet old guy) came to the house lots of times. We had Unruh and Schnoebelen, those were the two main doctors. I don't remember if there were any other doctors in town. We had a chiropractor, Dr. Gere.

Rosetta: Dentists?

Sally: Iserman and Rigor. Dr. Rigor is who I went to.

Joan: An eye doctor?

Sally: I don't remember an eye doctor. I don't think we did. I don't remember one. I did get glasses, but I don't remember where I got the glasses. I wore glasses from the sixth or seventh grade, I wore them pretty often. Surely I had to go to an eye doctor. Do you remember?

Rosetta: No, I went to Larned. But I don't know whether we had one.

Sally: I don't know where I went. And we had Chevrolet and Ford.

Rosetta: Dodge.

Sally: Was there a Dodge here too? When we finally got a car, it was an Oldsmobile. I remember my dad had a little fishing car that we called the "Whoopie." It was like a little '47 Ford Coupe. It was a little tiny car. I hit 18 before anybody else in my class because I was born in January, so I could drive. So one or two of us would get in the front with me, and then the rest would sit...well, the trunk lid would open up and they would sit in the back. Terribly unsafe! But we'd go all over town. There were no rules, no seatbelts. Oh Lord. And nobody got hurt. Now my brother had a few wrecks, but I never had a wreck. I never got a ticket until I was 65. And that little whippersnapper! And I absolutely did not deserve it. I told him, "You realize I'm 65 years old! And this is my first ticket!" He said, "I'm sorry, ma'am, but you were going faster than you should have been."

Joan: And I need my quota.

Sally: Oh yes.

Joan: And for entertainment, you had the Palace Theater.

Sally: Oh yes. We went to the movies every Saturday and every Sunday night we'd go to MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship). I went to church every Sunday. The secret was that all

my friends and all the cute boys went to MYF, that's why we were there. And then we'd go to the movie afterward.

Joan: So you went Saturday and Sunday?

Sally: Yes.

Joan: And was it a different movie?

Sally: Oh yes.

Joan: They changed movies!

Sally: Now when I was little, we'd go to the matinee. They had matinees, with cowboys and everything. Two movies in the afternoon. Did they still have them when you were...?

Joan: Two movies in the afternoon and then something different at night?

Sally: I think so.

Joan: And then another something different on Sunday?

Sally: I think so. Now, did they have it during the week? They had movies most of the time. I can remember, I hit 12 and I can't remember the guy that ran the theater (*Huston Sterret*). But he knew what everybody's birthday was, so when you were 12 you paid 25 cents, you did not pay the dime. I went to movie with a little boyfriend, George Tew, and he paid for the movie and he had to pay full price for me!

Joan: We haven't had anybody talk about MYF before. What were you activities in the Methodist Youth Group?

Sally: Usually it was kind of interesting. We would talk about what people should do in different situations. And I was kind of outspoken. We talked about ethics, Christian ethics. I really did like MYF. One reason was that I could tell them my opinions on everything. And I always had them. I told them when people were getting carried away a little bit and stuff. But no, it was pretty good, and I did go to the Sunday School quite a bit too because it was the same group of people. I was baptized in the Episcopal church, but there weren't that many kids in the Episcopal church. I guess the one story about churches and stuff, I can remember was that the Episcopal church is kind of like the Catholic church. You go and take lessons before you become a member. I won't mention the name, but this lady was teaching the Episcopal Church, everybody in town knows who she was, but she was teaching one day. She was talking about heaven and hell. And I said, "You know, my grandpa doesn't go to church. Is he going to hell?" And she said, "He probably will if he doesn't go to church." And I was fairly sweet back then. I got up and I went back home madder than hell. I said to my mother, "Mother, I'm never going back. She said this!" And she said, "That's okay, honey. You don't have to." I can remember just being... I think I told the lady, "If Grandpa's going to hell, then I am too." I was really mad.

Joan: And after your outburst...

Sally: But I can remember that, one of the first times I was really outspoken.

Joan: Now why was your mother this liberal? Was your father also? Where did this come from?

Sally: I honestly don't know why. They were just better people than some of the others. They were just more socially conscious than some people. I don't know because we never used the "N" word. We never used any of those kind of words. My uncle came and said something with the "N" word, and she told him, "We do not use that word in this house." We just didn't, we just never did that. And I can remember during the McCarthy era, it was kind of a balance between my folks. I can vaguely remember that, but I can remember my mother saying, "Jerry, maybe you should keep your mouth shut sometimes." Because he was calling them S.O.B's and you know, that was very un-American, what they were doing. At other times, with language and stuff, my mother would set her foot down. I've had other people ask, "How did you grow up in Kinsley, being like that?" Of course, most of the people I knew were pretty nice. Even if they were Republicans!

Joan: Now, I'm trying to remember, your mother grew up in Oberlin in a farm family.

Sally: And they were Republicans. But mother...

Joan: And your mother and dad met?

Sally: In college, at Washburn College, when he was going to law school there. He was eight years older than her.

Rosetta: Washburn had been a hot bed of liberals.

Sally: I don't know. My folks and me were just sort of independent thinkers.

Joan: Well, it's a Kansas thing too.

Sally: I don't know, but Daddy liked the unions. I just grew up that way. I grew up because my folks were like that. My folks, I don't know how they did it. Grandpa Wilson was fairly liberal. He loved Teddy Roosevelt.

Joan: And where did they come from?

Sally: Grandpa came from Ohio.

Joan: They were just moving across there.

Sally: Yes. And my Grandpa Wilson lived within 50 or 60 miles from where Allen's great-grandfather lived. Then they just moved out to Ohio, and then he came on to Kansas, but they probably never knew each other. You know how they migrated like that. But my grandpa loved Teddy Roosevelt. Then when FDR came in, he became an FDR guy. I think he just, I don't know why.

Joan: Teddy Roosevelt was a sort of a free thinker. You couldn't pigeon hole him either.

Sally: I think of these things, and I should have asked my folks.

Joan: It would be interesting to try to figure out where the...

Sally: Yes, now there weren't very many Democrats. Now there are, now there are Democrats in Edwards county. But really at the time there were very few. I know Daddy ran for county attorney one time. He ran on the Democratic ticket and got it. But most of the time you didn't get it if you had the DEM by your name.

Joan: No, people had to know you. Because you're a city girl, you remember always having electricity and telephone.

Sally: Yes. I can remember visiting my good friend Judy Copp when I went out to her house. Now, they did not have it, and I thought that was cool. Then they got it not long afterwards, and my grandparents, I can remember that. You know, we always had electricity and refrigerator and stuff like that. But my grandmother, I think she had a refrigerator, but she also had an icebox. Maybe she didn't trust the refrigerator, so I can remember the iceman coming. You know, the guy that... the icehouse burned down you know. It was out on the highway going out of town in that great big vacant lot. There was a ice house, and the guy would come around and we'd chip ice off and put salt on it in the summer and thought that was cool. So she had both.

Joan: When did you get television?

Sally: Gosh, I think that was... It was really snowy when we got it, but I think I was maybe a senior in high school. That's when I first saw that about the Holocaust. So it was very late, and then when I was in college, the only T.V. was down in the lounge. But I never watched T.V. until after I got married and had babies. We just didn't watch it. I thought it was so cool!

Joan: But no time for that. Can you talk any about the law business?

Sally: Okay, I can remember, we couldn't talk about the law business. My grandpa and my dad, and it goes down to my husband and my son, but you did not talk about law things. You know, not all lawyers talk. But they just didn't discuss it, so my mother couldn't gossip. She wasn't a gossip in the first place, but if she said something about somebody, they wouldn't know if she got it from Daddy. So she just didn't gossip, and I'm the same way. You just don't talk about people, or they'll think you're getting it from your husband or something. So we just never did it. But I do remember one time going up to my Grandpa, up above his building. He was up there at his big old desk, and this guy came in with a hatchet and I just happened to be there. I said, "Hi." And grandpa said to just wait over there a moment, Sally. And the guy said, "My wife just tried to kill me with this hatchet." I do remember that! And I said, "Goodbye, Grandpa." I don't know if Grandpa said, "Sally, why don't you leave." But that was about the only time. I don't know who he was, but he had it in his hand and said, "My wife just tried to kill me with this hatchet." That was about the only business I ever learned.

Joan: Now this question comes because I wasn't from here or anything. Sometimes the lawyers are the upper-crust of the community. Were you?

Sally: I found that out later. I never felt that way, and I did have one of my best friends say she felt like she was poor, and this other friend was middle class and I was upper class. I never,

ever thought of it that way, probably because I was raised that way. It didn't make any difference. I think other people knew it. Yes, I did, because we did have a car and when we'd go places my dad was always taking me and the other girls different places you know. I guess they didn't have as much money, but I went to one of my best friends houses, and her folks had an ice box. I guess it was a rented house. But her mother was lovely, and I just never thought that way. I just thought it was a different house and that was great. I don't know why, I just never, ever classified people that way. Everybody else I guess did, but I didn't. And I guess because one of my best friends said, "No Sally, you never acted snotty." She said another person in my class did. She does not like her to this day. But yes, I think it was.

Joan: Was there much of a social class system here?

Sally: I wouldn't think you could in a town this size because there weren't that many people. If you wanted to have friends, you just had friends. And I don't think there was. It would be interesting to have somebody from another point of view say, "Oh yes, there was." But I never thought there was. It never entered my mind that somebody didn't have as much money as we did. And we didn't have that much money until later on. But yes, I do think there must have been some, but I was not aware of it. The older I get, the more I realize how much I wasn't aware of.

Joan: I was just thinking too, when you were talking about your grandfather's and father's office being upstairs above the store. My grandfather had an insurance office on the main street of a big town in Michigan. I could go there and be up in the office and watch parades and things. Did you do that?

Sally: Yes! It was very cool. My friends and I would always go up there and Grandpa or Daddy had candy when we'd go in to say hi to them (*107 E. Sixth*). That was fun. Yes, I can remember that. Then they moved downstairs. After Grandpa died, my dad moved downstairs to an office down there by the theater (*221 E. Sixth St.*). He was in that office for a long time. Then Allen moved over there to where he is now (*500 S. Marsh*).

Joan: Where the college is?

Sally: Ray Batt, another lawyer in town, it was his old office. It is right on the corner of Fifth and Marsh, you know, north (*500 S. Marsh*)

Rosetta: Where the barbershop is (*221 E. Sixth St.*).

Sally: Yes.

Rosetta: You said there was no social class, but what about the Mexicans in your class.

Sally: Okay, there were no blacks in our class. And there was Rosalie; she married Pete Castaneda.

Rosetta: Was she a Perez?

Sally: Rosalie Perez, yes. We always said hi to them, but we didn't really socialize. It was nothing I wasn't aware of. There were a couple in our class, but I wasn't aware of it. I had my

own little clique, like everybody does. It would be interesting to know how they perceived me. I really would be, but she'd be too bashful. I really would be interested because that doesn't mean...I ignored a lot of other people! Because you have your own little world. And when you go to class reunions, you know, you see these other people, and you think, "Oh, they were in my class." and you feel so snotty. You really do. I think I smiled at almost everybody, but you really had your own little group.

Joan: This is a question we've never asked before, you've come up with lots of them. I'm thinking about my experience, but were you classes in high school tracked, so that one group was going to college and one group was not? Because they were in my high school, and that separated a class.

Sally: No, it was mixed.

Joan: Everybody took the same English class? Except if maybe you were in the shop classes, that would separate you, or something like that.

Sally: Yes, except I don't know if the boys even went to college. Of course, I would have loved to have taken shop. But the girls didn't do that. I took one a few years ago. Bill Inman had one, and I had more fun. I came home and said, "I want a lathe! I want this, Allen." I would have just loved to have done that, but no. Everybody took the same Latin classes.

Joan: So you were in classes with all the kids? And once you stepped out of the class, then you'd go to your clique.

Sally: Yes, and after school. Now, I did not work in high school. And to this day, I'm sorry. My mother and I discussed this. Most of my friends did work at the drug store or something. I don't know exactly why I didn't.

Joan: And the boys at the filling stations.

Sally: Or they were farmers and were working on the farm. I just never did.

Joan: You probably had enough money that Dad took care of it.

Sally: My mother and I both said that was a big mistake. Both of my girls worked and my boys. The girls worked at Julies and at Fox's. I felt a little left out after school at times because they'd have to go to work. It made me feel kind of jealous, because I thought, "Crap." So I would go home and sew.

Joan: Did you have a car?

Sally: No, I never had a car. I got a car about five years ago. My husband Allen and Mark had got me a cute little pickup with blue trim on it. Mark wanted to borrow it for a date that night and he hit a deer. And he really hit a deer that time, my boys said, "Oh we missed a deer, and that's why we went off the road, Mom." There were a lot of deer in my sons' history. I can tell you that. But this time there were some blood and guts on it. So Mark thought, "This works." Glenn wasn't quite as charming, he didn't dent it. He'd just break the car. But no, I didn't have a car. I could borrow the folks' car once in a while. But not too often. Mostly you just

went with your boyfriend or you walked. You walked to and from the movie. The lunchroom was up at Northside, so I usually went home for lunch. But all the country kids went to Northside, you know. You'd either catch a ride or you walked. You didn't think anything of it. The only kids that had cars were county guys because they had to get in and out of town. But I can't remember particularly and kids having cars. We just didn't have cars. I didn't have one in college. I walked everywhere, and boy did I have good legs in college! Going up and down those hills at Lawrence.

Joan: So your parents were college graduates.

Sally: My parents, and Al's parents.

Joan: So there was no question about what you were doing after high school.

Sally: No. And I don't know why I said I was going to K.U. because my folks went to Washburn. So you know, to this day I don't know why I went to K.U. We didn't have any attachments there. I'm glad I did, because Allen was there!

Joan: That's why, you just didn't know it yet.

Sally: And Helen (*Owen*) and Judy Copp and Helen and myself and Ruth (*Bernatzki*), I think, went to K.U. And quite a few went to Hays.

Joan: A few went to K State, I'd think, because they were agricultural.

Sally: Yes, they must have. But that's another time when you're in your own little world. I got up to college, and I don't know, I was kind of a homebody. I'd become a mama's girl. When I'd go stay all the night with people, I'd kind of rather have them come stay at my house. But the minute I got to college, I never got homesick.

Joan: It was too much fun!

Sally: It was too much fun.

Joan: You were living in the dorm?

Sally: Living at North College.

Joan: Did you join a sorority?

Sally: No, I was asked, but I didn't believe in them. I was sort of at that stage, and thought it was a real snotty thing. I did not go over there. Allen was a DELT, but he only went because he was in track, and they wanted him. He went there, and he was a freshman for about two weeks in the DELT house, and they wanted him to do the things that freshman do. He said, "I don't have time for this crap. I'm making the grades and going to college." So he just left. Well, the next year they inducted him anyway because they wanted him there.

Joan: Were you in the dorm all four years?

Sally: No, then I stayed in a private house.

Joan: Just a room?

Sally: No, it was in a house. Miss Davenport let rooms, and she was an old English teacher, and she had rooms upstairs. There were three girls lived there. I had a roommate, one of my best friends who isn't with me any longer. Then a girl from Turkey lived there. She was Yuksel Tekeli.

Joan: Why was she there from Turkey?

Sally: She was going to graduate school. She taught me the national anthem in Turkish and a lullaby, or a little kid's song, in Turkish. And I know them both, but I don't know which is which. I still sing them today, which I'm not going to.

Joan: And I thought that would make a good video!

Sally: If I met a Turkish person, I'd have to ask them to say a few words of their national anthem, because it would be rather rude, wouldn't it.

Joan: We could probably find out on the internet. So you had a room with kitchen privileges?

Sally: No, she was a sweet little old lady, like I said, she was a retired English teacher, but she would have coffee and a boiled egg and toast for us in the morning.

Joan: Every morning?

Sally: Every morning. E-ver-y morning!

Joan: And you couldn't have cold cereal?

Sally: And we lived clear down, I bet it was a half a mile or so from the campus. And we lived downhill, so every morning we had to go up to classes. So I'd go up in the morning for classes, and sometimes my legs...we always wore dresses, you know. Sometimes the backs of my legs would get chapped from my skirt rubbing the backs of my legs. Then I'd have to come down at noon, because sometimes Allen would drop me a letter and I wasn't going to wait until night to see if I was going to get a letter from him. So I made that trip four or five times a day, and I had the best looking legs you ever saw.

Joan: And what did you do for lunch?

Sally: We'd eat on campus.

Joan: Dinner too?

Sally: And then the girls would usually go out. We'd go to the first Kentucky Fried Chicken, when it was still just a little place. And by God, the Colonel came in one day.

Joan: You're kidding! The real Colonel?

Sally: The real Colonel came into this place, and it was just kind of a restaurant, but we did like the chicken. Yes, the real Colonel came in one day, and I didn't realize what a big deal that was until a little later. But I can remember the cute little man who looked just like the Colonel. And at night time, you could walk there, and one of the girls who lived in the house had a car so we'd drive. I didn't know my directions in Lawrence for years because I'd either be going with Allen or one of my friends. Unless you're driving, you don't pay attention to where you are. And you just didn't go anyplace. But I do remember one time, Louis Armstrong was at the college. Yuksel was as excited about it as I was, so we went up on campus. Usually you didn't go unless you had a date, but we said, "Forget it, for Louis Armstrong." So we went up to the union and I stood within five feet of Louis. Somehow we ended up in the back by the drums and got to see Louis. We could have touched him. That's one of the biggest thrills in my whole life. That was a very cool.

Joan: Now what was your major in college?

Sally: My major was elementary education. Dumbest classes you've ever seen! I mean, they were worthless! Even at KU they were absolutely worthless.

Joan: Because of lack of content, or because they didn't help you be a teacher?

Sally: Both. The content, and I don't think you can be a teacher until you teach. But the content was, well, if you went to elementary music class, they would have you do little songs and stuff. I mean it was so stupid. They were absolutely worthless. Did you take any education classes? Didn't you agree with me?

Rosetta: It was just terrible.

Sally: Just awful, and if you wanted to learn history, they didn't send you to history classes. They'd teach you this crappy little...

Joan: They'd teach you elementary history.

Sally: I don't know if it's any better now, but it was just worthless. It was an easy "A". That's it. But I did that because I didn't know what I wanted to do. What I liked, I loved Western Civilization, I loved my English classes and stuff. But I wasn't a really ambitious person, I guess. I just did that because I was in college. I thought, okay, elementary education. I loved teaching my kids and had four kids, but I would have been a lousy teacher. I didn't know I was interested in art until later, either. Or I would have taken some art classes, but I had no clue.

Joan: So how did you meet Al?

Sally: Well, the August we went to KU, Allen had been working out here in the summer over at Macksville with a good friend. It is a convoluted story, but the friend's brother was dating one of my good friends, Helen. Allen wanted a date, so Helen called me. She called somebody else first, but they were busy. So she said, "Sally, would you please do this?" So Allen and I had a blind date for our first date, here in Kinsley. We went out to the sand pit, oh well, we went out to the sand pit.

Joan: Your grandkids are going to hear this.

Sally: Oh well. Anyway, we went out to the sand pit and went to shoot. But anyway, I think the only reason Allen wanted to see me again was that I told him I didn't kiss on the first date. And he said, "You've got to be kidding!" "No, I don't." "Well, what about the second night?" And I said, "We'll see." So anyway, that's how it all started.

Joan: Okay, so you met him here. And you were both already enrolled at K.U.?

Sally: And he was a senior when I was a freshman. Yes, and then I remember the first night I got there, he came to the dorm and they said, "You have a caller." You know, they call up, and I went down. It was off and on for a year, and then it was on for the next year.

Joan: Now, you've hinted at it, but he was quite an athlete.

Sally: He was. He was an All-American, and he was a national champion in cross country and in the mile, I can't remember it all. But he was the national champion in a couple things and an All-American in a couple things, and a Phi Beta Kappa.

Joan: And these are all in track.

Sally: Yes, he was very, very good in track.

Joan: Did you know his reputation when you first met him?

Sally: No, I had no clue. I know Helen talked to her brother later, and he said she went out with an AL FRAME!. But at the time, track was the most important thing at K.U. That was during the Bill Easton time, I don't know if you know about Bill Easton, but he was a famous track coach. He won everything at K.U. It's kind of like basketball at K.U. now, the only thing going at K.U. was the track, so it was a big thing at that time. But no, Allen was... I probably wasn't noticed at college, but Allen was a big deal in college.

Joan: How long did it take you to figure it out up there? That you were going out with a star athlete?

Sally: Well, about the second day. Maybe that's one easy thing because I didn't know who he was. But yes, I was very impressed. But I remember coming home after the first date, and I said, "You know, Mom, that's the first man I ever dated that's smarter than I am." It was true.

Joan: And he was in pre-law?

Sally: No, he was in history. And then after the army, he came back and got his master's in history, and then decided, he'd grown up in small towns, so he thought and by then we'd been married awhile and he could see having a baby. So he thought a small town is a good place to raise kids. So he talked to my dad about it, and he went to law school and came out here. But at first he was planning on being a history teacher, a college history teacher which would have been okay with me.

Joan: So you met him, and you said you were dating and it was on and off for a year.

Sally: When I was a freshman, and then the next year, he graduated and went into the army.

No, he hadn't gotten into the army yet. The next summer we got back together again. (1957). Then my sophomore year we dated the whole time. He was in the army and when he came back we would...

Joan: Because he was just at Fort Riley?

Sally: No, because then he was doing here, but he lived in Wichita at the time, so he would come back and then come up and I'd wait for him. We'd date whenever we had a chance to and then got engaged the next spring and got married down in Georgia.

Joan: Spring. Which year was that?

Sally: The end of my sophomore year. And then he was stationed at Fort Riley, so that's why I went to K State for a year while I was pregnant. Then the next year I had a baby and I had to quit to raise a baby.

Joan: So you got married after your sophomore year.

Sally: And then went to K State.

Joan: And had a baby and didn't finish college after that. Well tell us about this, he was being shipped to Germany was the story?

Sally: Yes, he was being shipped to Germany, and he was down in Augusta when he got his orders cut to go to Germany. So, we were going to get married in June, you know, in a couple weeks anyway. He called and said, "Sally, I'm going to be shipped to Germany." And I said, "Well, we'd better get married before!" And my folks agreed, because they did happen to like Al. So they said, "We'd better get you married so that you can get over there as an army wife. So we headed down there, 1400 miles. It was my mother and father and my mother-in-law and my father-in-law and Allen's brother and myself in this car. Yeah. And my Daddy had to stop about every hour and a half to have a cigarette and coffee. And all I wanted to do was get down there! So when we finally got down there, it was "Hi everybody!" and stuff like that. Allen and I went off, and Allen told me, "My orders were transferred to Fort Riley, Kansas. Do you think we could still get married?" And I said, "Oh, I'd love to!" So we went up to the bedroom where my folks were and said, "Daddy, he's being shipped to Ft. Riley instead of Germany, but we still want to get married." And my Daddy said, "God Damn right you're going to get married! I drove 1,400 miles!" So anyway, we got married.

Joan: So where did you get married? Did you have a wedding dress?

Sally: No, I didn't go in for big weddings. And so I have my little lacy dress, really cute. I got married on post, and Allen found a suit.

Joan: Not a uniform?

Sally: A suit. You know, for corporals the uniforms are... So we got married in a little chapel down there, which was fine with me. The only one I wanted there who wasn't there was my best friend Helen. Otherwise, that was fine. I just wasn't into big weddings.

Joan: And you didn't want to ride home in that car with all that family!

Sally: No! So I stayed down with Allen and then flew home.

Rosetta: Was it your first plane trip?

Sally: It wasn't my first plane flight, but it might have been my first big plane trip. Well this friend that Allen was working for that summer, it was Jan Howell. He flew planes, so he was kind of like a boy friend. Not a boyfriend. He'd fly in to Kinsley and my folks would take me down to the airport. Jan would pick me up and go flying and they'd come and pick me up at the airport again. So I did fly in a little tiny plane quite a bit. I loved that. But big planes, I think maybe that was my first flight.

Joan: Were you with Allen? Or did he go with...

Sally: No, he was down there, then I had to fly back home. Then we got together. It's a little blurry now, it's over 50 years. But no, when we got back we moved into a crappy little apartment in Manhattan. Then he'd go to the base or the fort everyday or something like that. When it rained, the mud would come into the basement floor. It was very adventures and didn't care a bit. But you look back and think of the awful places we lived, but it didn't matter. I wouldn't want to do that again, but you know.

Joan: So then you were there a year and then you had the first baby.

Sally: Then Allen went to law school.

Joan: And he went to K.U.?

Sally: Yes, Mark went to Washburn, but Allen went to K.U. Law School. You know, it was fine, but I had two kids then. And most people didn't have any.

Joan: You had an apartment? Or married housing? Or what?

Sally: It was an apartment, a duplex. It was the best place we'd ever lived in.

Joan: What did you do for money?

Sally: Well, my dad would give us \$50 a month, I think. And then Allen worked. He was assistant track coach and you know, we just didn't spend a lot. We just wore clothes from before college and didn't do much. Gas was cheap, so for our entertainment we'd go out and go around the hills. Lawrence was beautiful. We'd go out and pick wild strawberries and wade in the creeks there. That's what we did. We hardly went to movies or anything like that. But no, we just didn't do a lot.

Joan: Was law school two years?

Sally: Four years, but Allen got out at least a semester early. I had Sena (*Josena*).

Joan: Sena was '58, and Anne was '61, and Glenn was '62.

Sally: We'd just moved out here in the spring of '62, so yes, it was four years.

Joan: No, because he was in the army...

Sally: No, he wasn't. He got out of the army about two weeks before Sena was born. Allen had to borrow money from Daddy to get us out of the hospital because the army wouldn't pay for it! Because I had to a lot of walking because I wanted him there when I had the baby. And he had to go back and start calling, so I walked for like two days all over town. Then I had it, and he left the next morning after the baby was born, he just had to get up there. Thank God we were young then.

Joan: And you came back to Kinsley in...?

Sally: 1962,

Joan: And he went right into the law with Dad.

Sally: As a junior partner with Daddy, he was the third lawyer, a family lawyer. When Mark came in, that made the fourth generation. So that was pretty cool. I can remember when Mark said he wanted to go to law school, Allen said, "What the hell for?" But Mark is kind of like his dad, he wants to raise his kids in a small town.

Joan: And where did you live when you came back?

Sally: We lived in a house on 607 East Seventh Street. It's a big old brick house with a carriage port. I don't know if you've noticed it. Do you know which one it is Rosetta.

Joan: Platts

Sally: Yes, Platts' house. They bought it from us. It is a wonderful house! I loved that house. Allen called me on a Monday morning and said, "Sally, what do you think about living on the farm?" And I said, "I don't know, why?" And he said, "Melba Converse called me to ask for some lawyer advice about something and she said this house is up for sale." I said it was going to have to be a hell of a house or I ain't moving. And he said she had said we could come out that afternoon. So we came out here, walked in, and I said, "Okay."

Joan: What year was that?

Sally: That was in '74. The winter of '74, like in November of '74. So we bought it in about a day and a half after we decided we were going to do that. I remember the boys thought it was wonderful, and the girls said, "If we go live on the farm, we'll never see our friends again!" Of course, now everybody just loves this house. It is a great family house, and it is the perfect distance from town. You can walk it if you have to. Yes, and I never had a day where I was homesick. I just was ready for this house, but that house was a cool house. It really was a cool house, but this is even cooler. It is better arranged.

Joan: It is different.

Sally: Yes, completely different.

Joan: Let's see here, do you remember the school consolidation?

Sally: No, I don't remember that. Lewis had a high school, and we had a high school and Offerle, I think, had a high school. I do not.

Rosetta: Well, it wouldn't have been when you were in school yet.

Sally: No, it wouldn't have affected me at all. When I was growing up it didn't affect me, and then I can remember the kids going over to Offerle, they did something like that at the time. They used to go here. But they all went to Southside School, and then they had the next four grades at Northside when we had the kids, because I can remember having to go to Southside for parent/teachers meetings and then I'd go to Northside for a parent/teachers, then I'd go to Offerle, and then the high school. So I had one at each. One year I had one child in each different school. Yes, I can remember that.

Joan: When you married Al, he was Catholic?

Sally: No, he was kind of like me, Methodist. They went to church all the time. His folks were school teachers, you know, and you did go to church if you were a school teacher. As I think about it, in our high school all the teachers were Methodists. I mean they were all Methodists. I've got to get in somewhere that the best teacher I ever had in high school or college was Miss Pearl Peterie. Because she was the only one...she could look at you and you just wanted to crawl on the floor. So you did everything you could, because I loved her, so you didn't want her to look at you. She taught Latin and journalism and English, and she prepared me for any kind of work in college. Pearl Peterie, she was great.

Rosetta: We always ask about hospitals. Did you have any of your children here?

Sally: Yes, Josena was born here in the old hospital; Annie was born in Lawrence, then Glenn and Mark were born here in the old hospital. And I can remember when I had Sena, I was going to breast feed. It wasn't the "in" thing yet, but I was going to breast feed. And it was, "Are you sure you want to?" But I was going to breast feed; they'd been doing it for hundreds and thousands of years, so I was going to breast feed. So I can remember all the nurses would come in because they hadn't seen anybody breast feed before. I was all on my own, I didn't have any of these classes or anything, but I thought, "Everybody else can, so I can do it." My mother had said she wished she could have been in a time when they did, but they just didn't do it. She always kind of wished she had. She said she wished she'd had the guts like I did. Because I said, "I'm going to figure it out if you guys can't figure it out because I am going to breast feed." So I did, but I can remember all the nurses and everybody came in and they thought that was wonderful.

Joan: How much time did you spend in your childbed? When you gave birth to these kids, were you staying in the hospital one day? Five days?

Sally: Well, let's see. Three or four days at least. Now with Mark, he was an RH factor baby, so I stayed in there kind of a week with him. Because I can remember thinking if I could just get him home he'd be fine. The nurses didn't want to wake me up, so they'd give him a little stuff in the nursery. Of course, you didn't have the baby in your room like they do now, and I can remember thinking if I could just get my kid home we'd be fine. And when I got him

home, we were fine.

Joan: And then you adopted Lisa?

Sally: Lisa when she was about 18. We had her as a foster child for a while. Then we decided, "Well, why not?" Her biological parents were still alive.

Joan: Why did she go to the foster system?

Sally: She just needed somebody, and we got to know her. She was in school here, well, she was in Mark's class, maybe that's how we got to know her. Anyway, we fell in love with her, and she fell in love with us. It was both ways. We did it right before her college. I said, "Why didn't we wait until she got through college!" So right before college she was probably 17 or 18, because she went to college with Mark when we adopted her. I take that back. I think we sent her to college and then we adopted her that year.

Joan: That's highly unusual, for a teenager...

Sally: Yes, but she didn't have a very good home.

Joan: So had she been hanging out at your house?

Sally: Yes.

Joan: So you'd been mothering her?

Sally: Yes, I'd been mothering her and stuff and then she just kind of came to live with us. And then we decided...we picked cherries in the summer. Every time I pick cherries now I remember. She and I would pick the cherries and then do mother and daughter stuff, pitting the cherries. And we still remember that, it's one of our fondest memories. Then we sent her to college and now she is doing exceptionally well. One of the sweetest things she ever said, somebody said, "I wish I'd win the lottery." And she said, "I already did." Which I thought was very cool. But anyway, she is doing very well. Her client is Sony, in California. So she is doing very well.

Joan: Maybe we should go through the other kids too. What's Josena doing?

Sally: It's Josena Garven now. She graduated from college, raised two boys, and then went back and got a masters in psychology, a masters in law and a doctorate in psychology. So she is working for the army now as a psychiatrist. She's been to Afghanistan and Alaska. I'm not quite sure what she does, but she interviews soldiers that are coming back. I think it's kind of basically what do you need? what kind of help? and stuff like that. She loves it; she just loves it. But she was an army wife. Her husband retired as a lieutenant colonel. So they spent their whole...all their married life until now, but he's retired also, so they both work for the army. So she's busy.

Joan: And Ann?

Sally: Annie worked out in California for years in the advertising movie business. Her

husband and she now live in Lawrence, and they're working for a small firm and have a child. She had her first child at 42. They are still in advertising, and they also do pictures. He's a very good photographer. He was a movie editor back in L.A. But when they had a kid, L.A. seemed to all turn different. So they've trying to get a business going here now, but it's not the same thing they had back there. But they're working on it.

Glenn is a Spanish teacher. He's been a Spanish teacher for a lot of years and loves it. And the kids can't get away with anything because anything they try, he's already tried it.

Joan: And where is he?

Sally: He's in Clearwater. This fall in September, he's going to *Cameroon*; the family is going to Cameroon to teach in a school there. He's our adventurer; he's been all over. He's been in Africa and he's so excited about going back to Africa. He was in the Peace Corps, in the Heart of Darkness literally, in the heart of Africa in the Central African Republic. Right there in the middle of Africa. And he loved that. He says he doesn't know how much help he was to them, but he got a lot out of it. He had a lot of interesting stories. You ought to interview him about his experiences. But anyway, they're going to Cameroon, and they are excited about that. Mother's going to miss them a little bit.

Of course, Mark's here. He's a lawyer with five kids. He married a local girl, Beth Gleason, who is an absolute doll.

Joan: So out of the five children, one stayed in Kinsley. Out of your graduating class, how many to you think stayed here?

Sally: I was trying to think of that. I saw that little note, and I'm trying to think how many there were. There were Jerry and Diane Anderson, and me, and Ronnie Littrell stayed here. He was in my class. And Ruth Bernatzki Domme was in my class. Rosalie (*Perez*) Castaneda was in my class... Oh, I ought to get the list.

Joan: So maybe ten out of the fifty?

Sally: I don't know. Do you want me to get my little...

Joan: Maybe when we're done. It's just sort of interesting because we're talking.

Sally: There weren't a lot went to college, I mean there weren't that many went to K.U. There was Helen and I and Judy Copp, there were about four of us went to K.U. Then some went to Hays. Like I said, I guess some must have went to Kansas State, but by then my whole attention was K.U., and I don't know where the others went except for a few. Well Vina Nichols, but she wasn't in my class.

Joan: Probably a lot of them went into the service and left town for that reason.

Sally: Yes, that's right, they probably did. I don't know what happened to them.

Joan: Well, you know one of our explorations is the declining population. You see it in your class, and then in your children, one out of five kids.

Sally: Exactly. There's nothing they can do, you know. It's sad. And we don't need another

lawyer. Well, I do have one grandson who is a R.N. now. And I thank God I have some medical...the older I get the more important that is.

Joan: So what changes have you seen come about because of the declining population?

Sally: Well, it's just sad. You try to buy in Kinsley, but losing Duckwall's really hurts Kinsley. Everybody is pissed with that. They don't have the movies anymore. I don't know if kids can run around town like we used to. This is kind of off the subject, but I was thinking, one of my grandsons was here, and he said he remembered running through the lilacs and making little paths. And I thought, "My God, I can remember doing that as a kid at night." Do you remember that, Rosetta? You'd make paths through the lilac bushes. It'd be after dark and you'd hide from the cars. It was so innocent, and no vandalism on our part. You'd just do all these things at nighttime. You could be out at night and see the stars. We had one of Lisa's...her first husband was from Mexico and he had a nephew come up. He and his mother came up. They didn't speak English but they came out here and stayed with us and Lisa and I said, "We ought to take him outdoors." So we took him down the road in the middle of the dark and we could hear coyotes. I'll never forget that little boy's eyes. And he said, "Look at the stars!" We don't appreciate that. Lisa says that to this day (he's old now, 20 or 30) but he said that was the best vacation. City kids just don't have what we had; they just really don't have that. And the police, when I was growing up, we had Whitey and Cliff Kirkbride. Whitey pulled me over one time, Whitey Gordley. They were around forever. They knew the kids, and they knew the ones they really had to watch and the ones they just had to say, "Knock it off." It was just so innocent, it seems to me. It probably wasn't as innocent as I remember it, but to me it was. And I know it was a lot more innocent because there was no drugs. My first drink, I think, was when I graduated from high school. We went over to the supper club in Dodge. I think maybe I had a drink. But that was literally the first drink I had. And before I went to college, I thought, "I'm going to learn to smoke." I was just wild! Of course, my kids, Annie says it was kind of like that to her, growing up. It was still innocent, but they didn't have the drug stores they could go to at night. You know, on Saturday night, it was a big deal in Kinsley.

Joan: Tell us about it.

Sally: Saturday night? The stores were open until like 11:00, I mean like the drug stores and the movie. I don't think the clothing stores were, but I can remember you'd go there and people like the farmers would all come into town. That was the day they'd do their shopping; they'd come to town. I worked in the drug store part-time, just once in a while, but everybody would be in town and go in for sodas and stuff. It was just everybody was in town because that was the day when everybody got together, and I guess they ate out. We never ate out; my folks didn't eat out. But you know, Saturday was a big deal. The stores were open all day on Saturday and late in the evening. Can you remember that? (She's so much younger than me! I still think of her as a baby.)

Rosetta: She's the only one. I worked at Duckwalls when I was younger. And you were there until 10:00.

Sally: That's when they were open till? Okay.

Rosetta: They were open until 10:00. Then you started closing down. We had four cash

registers going, with a line! Especially when the store was getting started.

Sally: And you could get almost everything. I can remember when we did go out of town, my mother always wore a hat and gloves, even if we went to Larned. Hat and gloves! I didn't have to do that; I was little, but I remember it was a big deal. You could go to Dodge and ride the elevator, you know, at Eckles (*Department Store*). It was so cool!

Joan: Did you get your Easter hat every year?

Sally: Well kind of, but we weren't really into that. But yes, I usually got some kind of a fun thing for Easter. No, we weren't really into that, but I did love Easter. I can remember Easter when we had the eggs and all that stuff. Christmas was a big deal, and Santa Claus was a big deal. But no, I've been to church more since Mark married Beth than I had been in years! So anyway, Saturday night was a big deal. Allen said it was a big deal in all the little towns he grew up in too. It was just a big deal. On Sunday, everybody went to church, and we took the kids to church when they were little because we thought we ought to. Somebody said they could remember, it looked like Allen and I and then our four kids trailing behind us. It looked like mama and daddy duck with the little kids coming behind. And one of them said, "Sally, you looked so damn happy!" Well, if Glenn hadn't done anything...he behaved himself for a little while! I was thankful for that.

Rosetta: When did you start painting?

Sally: When I was home and Allen was going to law school. I started kind of messing around. I'd always done little things, you know, crafty things. I was always doing crafty things. Then my brother-in-law, bless his heart, I don't know why but he brought me a oil box of paints. I just started doing that. I had no training, and I still don't do well, but I still enjoy it. Sometimes they turn out fine, and when I go to an art store, I think, "My picture could be next to that one." Then I'll see something and, "I don't want it next to this one!" So then I piddle along and just all through the years, I've been doing it whenever I had time. I'm not an organized person. I kind of do what I want to do. I wish I was a little more organized than I am. Then I'd get down to doing it, I will for a while, and then my garden comes up, and then I start working in my garden. But I've been painting on and off since then. I'm good enough that I keep doing it. I'm not good enough that I'm going to show people all my stuff. But some of them are good!

Joan: Do you take instruction of any kind?

Sally: June McClaren was my first art instructor. I don't know if you know her, but she was a wonderful painter and a marvelous teacher. She really got me in on the basics, and we used to have art classes. A group of people would go out there and we'd paint. Allen called us "The Meadowlarks". It was a very nice time because we really got into it. I learned so much from June. If I'd just kept at it. These were when my kids were at least in high school, I'm trying to think when it would be.

Joan: The eighties?

Sally: Probably the eighties. I think so, and maybe even when they went to college. Of course, they kind of spread out. We had four kids in college at one time. I don't know what

Mark and Beth are going to do. But anyway, my children love my paintings by the way. So I have a very good audience. And I do eggs; I do my little Easter egg type things (*Ukrainian style Easter Eggs*)

Rosetta: Yes, I've seen those eggs before.

Joan: I've got one, where did I get that? Maybe Jerry bought it for me down at the shop.

Sally: Yes, I had some for sale down at the shop.

Joan: It's out, it is actually decorating!

Sally: Hey, good. Just don't let the sun hit it. That's the only thing I tell people, the sun fades them just like that. I had about ten or so in my shop window, and it's in the north, so I didn't think anything about it. Then they were all faded on one side. Lisa wanted them, so she got everything. Anyway. Painting and gardening and reading are my hobbies. I can't dance anymore. Last time I danced was about a week ago. I'm 74 now, and about two months ago we were at something, and they were doing that on the floor. Now, I used to be a really good jitterbugger. So we went out there to do our thing, and before we got to the end of the song I said, "For God's sake don't dip, Al!" And he said, "I'm not!" He just laughed. If he'd dipped, we'd both have been flat on the floor.

Joan: Is there anything else we've forgotten?

Sally: Let's see, I don't know who in the world is going to be interested in this.

Rosetta: Oh, you've got good stories.

Sally: I'll probably think of something else, but I can't think of anything right now. Oh, health care and going to the doctor. The doctor, he'd come to the house, and I don't know how many times Schnoebelen or Unruh would come to your house when you were sick. I really remember them coming to the house more than going to them. I remember having to go to the dentist all by myself, going up those stairs! That was scary! That's one reason I think I'm brave to this day is having to do that.

Joan: You're a good library patron now, do you have any stories about the library, or didn't you read?

Sally: Oh yes, the library used to be over across from Allen's office. The librarian was Elsie Jenkins. The library was up above, do you know where Allen's office is? Okay, across the street. Do you know where the old library used to be? Well, that's where it was when I was a little girl. I'd go up to Elsie Jenkins and I went up there all the time. I loved reading. Olsa and Martin Johnson, they were adventurers, went to Africa. They lived over by Independence, which I didn't know at the time. But anyway, I read all their books. Anything on Africa and stuff and adventure things, I read that. I remember the folks had Bram Stoker's *Dracula* in the house, and I read that. It scared the _____ out of me! I said something to Elsie one time, and she said, "Oh, you're too young to read that!" But it was... Oh yes, and *Kon Tiki*. I loved that type of book! I loved *Kon Tiki*. I was going up there all the time, reading. I can remember before I got them, I read all the children's books. But I was up there all the time when I was

young. I can't remember my other friends being up there all the time, but I was. I always have loved the library! And by the way, whoever is listening to this, Joan's the best librarian we've ever had, and Rosetta's the best helper she's ever had.

Joan: She's the best librarian! And I'm an okay director.

Sally: You're both wonderful, by the way.

Joan: Thank you. Is there anything else you want to know about?

Sally: Well, highlights of the past forty years. You realize I'm seventy, so that leaves out a lot!

Joan: Well, you have how many grandchildren?

Sally: I have ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild. And they're all, as they say, smart and beautiful! And they really are!

About the blacks, Kenny Gaines was the only black in town, and Kenny was a marvelous kid. He was talented musically, and track and sports and everything. I can remember Allen and Joe Hamm took him up to K.U. to get him enrolled. I remember doing that because...I kind of forgot that, but one time Glenn was in one of the rooms where you do muscle work, whatever that's called, and this black kid was next to him and they got to talking. He said, "Where are you from?" and Glenn said, "Kinsley." And he said, "Really! Do you know Al Frame or Joe Hamm?" And Glenn said, "Well, Al's my Dad." And the kid said, "Really. They took my Dad up here to go to school!" And it was Kenny's son!

Joan: Really! That's neat.

Sally: Yes, isn't that cool? Oh Kenny was a terrific kid. I can remember coming back when Winchester's had their 80' anniversary or something, whatever it was. Kenny was back for that. It's the last time I saw him. He's a lawyer in Washington D.C. now.

Joan: South Carolina.

Sally: Oh, it's South Carolina now? Do you know anything about him?

Joan: We are hoping to interview him; he's agreed.

Sally: Wonderful. He was quite classy.

Joan: He went to K.U. because of an athletic scholarship?

Sally: I don't remember exactly. Ask him! I just remember Al and Joe Hemm took him up there, that's all I can remember. I didn't even know that, you can ask him, but that's what his kid told my kid.

Joan: And then Glenn just ran into his son.

Sally: Just happened to see his son. I know, it was his son because Kenny had a son. Yes, it

was his son and they just got to talking over the weights, while they were doing weight-work or something like that. That's very cool, isn't it?

Joan: It's a small world.

Sally: Yes it is.

Joan: We're looking forward to that interview.

Sally: That will be very interesting. *(Note added after the interview: When I was a child, I'd go to the movies with Martha Gaines, my babysitter. We'd always sit in the balcony. I thought it was great and special. I didn't realize until later that we had to sit in the balcony because Martha was black.)*

Joan: Well, that might do it.

Sally: Well, you have about 4-H in here.

Joan: Oh, were you in 4-H?

Sally: I was in 4-H. They had the Kinsley Live-Wires. I was a city girl, but they let city girls in there for cooking and sewing. I ended up being a pretty good sewer. Geneva Copp taught us sewing, and my mother taught cooking. I was a much better sewer than I was a cook. But I remember just loving I, and anybody that was in 4-H, we'd have these model meetings. You know the model meetings? Boring. You had to have them, and you had to have Robert's *Rules of Order*. And you had to have a meeting, and then you presented it at the county fair and then you did it at the state fair if you won. Everybody had their set thing, and all the rules, and you had a model meeting. So you had to practice these. Well, you know how much fun meetings are anyway, and then to do this! I remember that was dreadful. But we had fun cooking and sewing and demonstrations. One of the funny stories is Janice Heinz; she was in 4-H with me. We did a demonstration on how to make cookies. We got up, kind of late in the afternoon on a hot summer day. Janice and I were both kind of not too serious people. And you know that when you did demonstrations in 4-H you couldn't show any advertising. Well, we got up there, and we'd forgot to take it off. On the salt or something there was advertising. We kept trying to turn it so that people couldn't see it. Then we were putting the flour in and it went too fast and it went POOF! All over the place. Of course by then we started to get the giggles. Everyone was sitting there, and everybody was tired, and I think we got a blue because everybody just loved our demonstration. We started having fun, and it was chaos, absolutely chaos. Janice and I still remember that. I don't know what all; the butter wasn't soft. It was just awful, and it was just more fun. 4-H did teach me to sew, and I remember to this day, sometimes I look on the inside of dresses and see how they are put together. But anyway, 4-H was fun.

Joan: We have a question we've never asked any women, but when your children were little in the sixties and seventies, were you in organizations? Or were you too busy with the kids?

Sally: No. I had a bridge club, but I wasn't... well, I was in hospital auxiliary. I did that, and was president of that once. I did blood bank... The service type things. But the kids, by then

the Sena were in track, and the kids were in basketball. The girls were in sports, and the boys were in sports. But they never wanted to be in 4-H. I think they were in Boy Scouts. Maybe Glenn was in Boy Scouts for two seconds. Maybe. I said, "Do you want to be in Boy Scouts?" and two seconds later he said, "No." I can't remember exactly how that went. But anyway.

Sally: It will be absolutely fascinating when I hear what I've said...