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SUBMITTED TO: MR. HARRINGTON  
MONTANA HISTORY  
INTERVIEW  
NOVEMBER 29, 1993

The person I selected to interview was Gary McWhorter. Gary is the Director of Transmission and Electrical Design for the Montana Power Company.

Gary was born in Kalispell MT in 1946, which wasn't a long time ago from some people's perspective; but, it was long enough ago to experience owning one of the first television sets produced, heat provided solely from a wood stove because they didn't have gas or electric heat, and bathing in a large laundry tub once a week because they didn't have running water. These are just a few of Gary's childhood experiences that are almost unheard of today.

Gary's family moved around a lot during his early years, because his father had to follow the jobs. He remembers one of their first homes as he put it, "a little holey", it was so cold on some winter mornings he could see his breath.

His early education was attained at a two room school, grades 1-4 and 5-8. Gary does not feel he missed out on any activities because of the small school setting, nor does he feel he received anything other than an above average education. Transition to the large high school in Kalispell took some getting use to from the social aspect, but academically he fit right in.

One of Gary's favorite stories his mother often tells is about him as a young child. His family lived out in the

wilderness where his father worked at a mine. One afternoon as his mother was doing her housework, and watching Gary out in the yard playing, she noticed a young black bear cub had wandered into the yard, and was standing over Gary. Without thinking, she ran out the door, broom in hand, and chased the bear down the road.

Christmas has always been Gary's favorite time for family celebration. He had a large family, and this was a time, just as it is now, to get together and enjoy each other. As a young boy he earned money to buy presents by going out in the woods and cutting down trees to take into town and sell.

Chores were an every day thing for Gary. He had to get up at five in the morning and milk the cows, feed the chickens, and gather the eggs before he went to school. He doesn't think it is any easier for children now, but chores for children who live in town are different than what he did.

I asked Gary about home remedies, and he said his mother had one favorite. She thought when people got sick they should try and flush their systems out, so she always had home-canned fruit on hand to do the trick.

Gary's grandparents on his mother's side both came from Sweden, and they met because of persuasive family members. His father's family migrated to Kalispell from Missouri. They left

Missouri not really knowing where they were headed, or for that matter where they would end up. Along on the trip was Gary's aunt, Irene Denison, his father's sister and mother of George Denison who is presently president of The University of Montana.

After graduation from Kalispell high school, Gary went on to get a degree in physics from the U of M, and later a degree in electrical engineering from MSU. Upon graduation from MSU he went to work for the Montana Power Company, for which he has worked for the past eighteen years.

Gary liked Butte from the time he arrived here eighteen years ago. He said the people are much friendly here than they are in Kalispell. When Gary first went to work for MPC the Anaconda Company was the major source of employment in Butte, but with major force cutting and literally shutting down for a number of years MPC has taken over as the primary employer in Butte.

He has seen many changes in Butte, from the Columbia Gardens being torn down to the rebuilding of Butte after the major employer pulled out, but all in all Gary likes the town and its people.

1. What is your name?
2. Where do you work?
3. Where were you born?
4. Describe your childhood.
5. Where did you receive your education?
6. Do you have any favorite stories told about your childhood?
7. What is your favorite holiday?
8. Did any of your family members have "home remedies"?
9. Where are your grandparents from?
10. Do you have any relatives that are public figures?

We, Gary McWhorter and Gus Laramie,  
(Person Interviewed) (Interviewer)  
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Gary McWhorter  
(Person Interviewed)

Gus Laramie  
(Interviewer)

11/19/93  
(Date)

Butte Mt.  
(City & State)