

**Butte History:  
Oral History Assignment  
Interview of Karen Butler**

We, Karen Butler and Martha JESSUP  
(Person Interviewed) (Interviewer)  
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Signed: Karen Butler Address: (St.;Box) 1035  
(Person Interviewed) City, State, Zip Butte

Martha JESSUP Address: (St.;Box) 1700  
(Interviewer) City, State, Zip Butte

3/9/02  
(Date)

Butte, MT  
(City & State)

**Interviewer Questions for Karen Butler 3/9/02**

- I. Can you tell me about what it was like growing up as a miner's daughter?
  
- II. What was it like growing up in Butte?
  
- III. What details stand out in your mind in regards to parades, school days, or special events?
  
- IV. Tell me about your experiences as a police officer's wife.
  
- V. Any details or "good stories" of things that happened in Butte in regards to police work?
  
- VI. Husband started the DARE program - tell me about that.

## **Outline of Interview with Karen Butler 3/9/02**

### **I. Arrival In Butte**

- A. Parent moved here in 1935 for a job
- B. Karen was born in 1940
- C. Dad worked in the mines

### **II. Union Strikes**

- A. Violent strikes against the company
- B. Father a "company" man
- C. Sent family to Salt Lake during strikes
- D. Destruction of company men's homes
- E. Strikes for better wages
- F. Long strikes made for hard times

### **III. Memories of Dad and Visiting the Mines**

- A. Signs with accident numbers
- B. Dad on first-aid team
- C. Old signs from the mines
- D. Dad didn't leave for the war
- E. Visiting the underground mines
  - 1. Dark, huge rooms
  - 2. Hot and wet
  - 3. Like subways

### **IV. Growing up in Butte**

- A. Grew up in the '50s
- B. Columbia Gardens
  - 1. Picnics
  - 2. Teachers worked there during summer
  - 3. Dances at the gardens
- C. Music and programs at the Civic Center
- D. School-time memories
  - 1. Teachers unmarried
  - 2. Fourth-grade bird club
  - 3. Sixth-grade Queen Elizabeth crowned
- E. No grass or trees

### **V. Memories of Special Events**

- A. Fourth of July parades
- B. Linden Johnson's visit
- C. Freedom Train
- D. Evel Knieval

E. Marian Anderson and other well known people

**VI. Anaconda Company**

- A. Ran everything
- B. Miner's checks went to a grocery store
- C. Butte houses built out of company's materials

**VII. Community Spirit**

- A. Christmas-time in Butte
  - 1. Window displays
- B. Lady of the Rocky statue
- C. Fundraisers for people in need

**VIII. Ethnic Foods in Butte**

- A. Pasties
- B. Butte settled by many nationalities
- C. Italians - Lydia's restraunt
- D. Pork chop sandwiches
- E. Serbian povachitsa
- F. Ethnic festivals

**IX. Police Officer's wife**

- A. Some crime in Butte
- B. Police dog shot
- C. Drug bust
- D. Tech professor murdered
- E. Stressful work
- F. D.A.R.E. program
- G. Good place to raise kids
- H. Tech cop

1 **Martha:** This is an interview conducted by Martha Jessop at  
2 Karen Butler's home on 3/9/02 at 4:00PM.

3 **Martha:** Can you tell me what it was like being a Butte  
4 miner's daughter?

5 **Karen:** O.K., well, my parents came here in '35 which was  
6 about, um, the war was beginning and the depression was  
7 about over so the mines were going and Butte was a good  
8 place to get a job. So that's why my parents came here.  
9 And I was born here in 1940. My dad always worked in the  
10 mines. And what I remember, when I was really young, is  
11 quite often the miners would all go on strike. And, um,  
12 they'd work for three or four years and- or- and then  
13 they'd have this big strike and they'd be on strike for  
14 quite awhile. And sometimes they were quite violent  
15 because, uh, the people that worked for "the company"  
16 stayed and kept the mines open, whereas... And the workers  
17 would not work so they had these picket lines and if you  
18 crossed the picket line there was a lot of trouble and that  
19 kind of thing.

20 **Martha:** Were they union kind of strikes?

21 **Karen:** It was union, yeah, union against the company.  
22 Well, my dad, after he'd worked in Butte for maybe three or  
23 four years, was a "company man". So when he knew there was  
24 going to be a strike he'd take us to the train and put us  
25 on the night train to Salt Lake where we would go and live  
26 with my grandmother until the strike was over because he  
27 would have to stay at the mine and not even come out. They  
28 didn't come out. They ate, slept, and everything there  
29 until the strike was over.

30 **Martha:** Why did they...oh...

31 **Karen:** Well, for one thing, it was dangerous. In those  
32 days they weren't just being nice with picket lines. They  
33 were throwing rocks. And miner's homes, if they knew that  
34 the "company men" were at the mine and their family was  
35 home alone, there was a lot of destruction done to people's  
36 houses and that kind of thing. So he would just put us on  
37 the train so that we'd be gone, and he'd stay there until  
38 the strike was over.

39 **Martha:** So it was miner's striking against - is it the  
40 Anaconda Company that you're talking about?

41 **Karen:** Uh-hmm, right, the Anaconda Company.

42 **Martha:** Were they out of work? Or they just started...?

43 **Karen:** They wanted more money. And, I suppose, in those  
44 days that's how they made progress. Because, of course,  
45 the big companies - the Anaconda Company - hired lots and  
46 lots of Butte men and this gave them a way to make money.  
47 But, and not, um... I'm sure their wages weren't great and

48 that's how they got them back. But, of course, that had  
49 its disadvantages because eventually they worked themselves  
50 right out of jobs because they opened mines in Chile and  
51 places like that where they could get cheap labor.

52 **Martha:** Uh-hmm.

53 **Karen:** Right. And then so - go ahead.

54 **Martha:** Can you tell me about being here during a strike  
55 and what that was like?

56 **Karen:** When I was older and then when things weren't quite  
57 so violent. I was older, in my teen years. We would just  
58 stay here and my dad would just stay at the mines. Uh, and  
59 the people were- went without. I mean, sometimes they were  
60 on strike for nine months to a year-and-a-half with no  
61 paychecks. And those were hard times for people.

62 **Martha:** Yes.

63 **Karen:** But I was always the "company man's daughter" who  
64 probably, if I would've known what was going on a little  
65 better, I might've been a little more nervous. I was a  
66 teenager. I didn't worry.

67 **Martha:** Everything was good.

68 **Karen:** Right. But, um, I remember going up to the mines  
69 with my dad and seeing the signs. I always checked the  
70 signs because they'd tell how many days there'd been  
71 without and accident. I always thought that was real  
72 interesting to see. How long they'd gone without an  
73 accident. My dad was on the first-aid team and, um, they  
74 always practiced so that they could take care of the  
75 accidents that happened. And they were always happy when  
76 they didn't have to.

77 **Martha:** Do you remember any specific accidents that  
78 happened?

79 **Karen:** I don't...I have read the history of some of the big  
80 ones. You know, the big fires and everything. I- the  
81 stories my dad would tell around the table about people  
82 cutting off their finger and those kinds of things.  
83 Falling down ladders and-and that kind of thing. We have  
84 some signs here at the house that I don't know where they  
85 came from. But, things that say, "the red plug goes into  
86 the red motor, the yellow plug goes into the yellow motor"  
87 that came up from the mines. Uh, but as far as, you know,  
88 that was a very good living, I'm sure. We lived very well.  
89 My dad didn't leave for war like a lot of people did  
90 because it was and important - what do you call that? - the  
91 government needed copper.

92 **Martha:** The lead and..

93 **Karen:** Uh-hmm. Yeah. So, ah, so my family didn't ever have  
94 to leave during the war years. Um, then, when I was

95 somewhere in my teenage years, they opened the big open pit  
96 mine because all this before was underground mines. And,  
97 uh, I went down with my dad into the - down underground  
98 several times.

99 **Martha:** Oh, you did?

100 **Karen:** And got on all the gear and the hard hat with the  
101 light and everything and was so surprised it was so dark  
102 down there. I don't know what I thought it would be.

103 **Martha:** So what did it look like down there?

104 **Karen:** Huge rooms. I thought it would be little tunnels.  
105 But they're quite big. Huge rooms. They reminded me of  
106 the subway in, like, Washington D.C. and Chicago. Um, I  
107 suppose then if we had wandered off to do some mining that  
108 there'd be tunnels but-

109 **Martha:** Yeah.

110 **Karen:** -and very hot and wet. So I was surprised about  
111 that. Um, but then he moved to the Kelly and the Kelly  
112 was, um, the- the biggest mine before they opened the pit.  
113 And then, of course, once they opened the pit that kind of  
114 changed mining here forever.

115 **Martha:** Uh-hmm.

116 **Karen:** Um, most of my friend's parents worked in the mines.  
117 Their dads all came home really dirty because they had  
118 worked in the mine all day and my dad, as a company man,  
119 showered at the mine everyday. So it seemed very odd to  
120 me. I wondered why their fathers were dirty and mine came  
121 home clean. Those are my big mining stories.

122 **Martha:** Nice having a dad for a company man. Yes.

123 **Karen:** Yes, that part was nice. And around the dinner  
124 table he would teach us about mucking and stoking and how  
125 they timbered up - how they used the timbers to hold up the  
126 walls and they'd go in and- and tap the dynamite in and  
127 blow it up. And the next crew would come in and pull it  
128 all out. And so I did learn about mining.

129 **Martha:** That's good!

130 **Karen:** Yeah.

131 **Martha:** And what was it like growing up? As far as being-

132 **Karen:** Well, I grew up in the 50's, which was the happy  
133 days of the world. And I was lucky.

134 **Martha:** Yeah.

135 **Karen:** At that time the Columbia Garden was still a part  
136 of Butte and so...

137 **Martha:** Do you have any memories?

138 **Karen:** Sometimes daily, in the summer, uh, we went to the  
139 gardens, and especially in the evenings for picnics. After  
140 my dad would come home from work, mom would have, uh, the  
141 dinner ready, and we would go to the gardens and have

142 dinner. And then we'd play and they'd relax. I don't  
143 think that- you know, people were sad that it was taken  
144 away because of the pit. But, as my husband was a  
145 policeman, he used to say he didn't think they could have  
146 it nowadays because there was no way to patrol it. It was  
147 in the middle of the woods. There were no - you know -  
148 and..

149 **Martha:** Because of security?

150 **Karen:** The way things are now. Uh-hmm. But it was a  
151 wonderful place for kids to play. I remember the old  
152 school teachers. Well, they probably weren't old when I  
153 was a child. During the summers they would work at the  
154 gardens, uh, hollering at the kids mostly saying, "You  
155 watch out for the swing", cause have you been over to  
156 Clark's park? Have you seen these swings?

157 **Martha:** I haven't.

158 **Karen:** They are big, huge, heavy, metal iron-like. We  
159 call them cowboy swings but there like gliders. Sort of..

160 **Martha:** Uh-huh.

161 **Karen:** Wheels on each end and they were heavy. And if you  
162 got hit in the head with one of those swings at the garden...  
163 So that was these teachers' summer jobs - to stand or sit  
164 in these chairs or benches under the trees and try and save  
165 the kids from..

166 **Martha:** Chaperones.

167 **Karen:** Right. Uh, it was a wonderful place. And then  
168 when we were teenagers, we would go up at night. And they  
169 have this wonderful dance floor. And all our proms and  
170 things like that were at night. And we would ride the  
171 roller coaster at the intermissions of the dances. You  
172 could - it was a wonderful time to grow up in Butte. Butte  
173 was a wonderful place. Butte was a small place that  
174 thought it was a big city.

175 **Martha:** Yeah.

176 **Karen:** We had name bands, and world singers, and band  
177 players that came to town. And lots of programs and the  
178 Holiday On Ice kinds of things came to the Civic Center  
179 when I was young. They only went to big towns. I thought  
180 I lived in a big metropolis. And really, there was - the  
181 population was probably double.

182 **Martha:** What it is now?

183 **Karen:** Uh-hmm.

184 **Martha:** It does give the aura of a big city.

185 **Karen:** Uh-hmm, it does. I went to Butte High. I went to  
186 Emerson grade school and, um, had very good teachers. The  
187 teachers were all unmarried. And I don't know if that was  
188 a rule, if it was a union thing, or if it was just a Butte



189 thing or what. But the teachers had to be single. Uh, and  
190 when I look back on it now it's odd.

191 **Martha:** Strange.

192 **Karen:** Uh-huh. But they were all very good and very  
193 dedicated and, well, they've been there for years and  
194 years. My best memory from the fourth grade was the bird  
195 club. And I still meet kids in town who- who recognize- we  
196 recognize each other from the bird club. You know,  
197 "Goldfinch Hannah" and "Bluebird Rudy". So it was a- I  
198 felt like I got a good education.

199 **Martha:** So it was a club you just organized to...?

200 **Karen:** The teacher did it and we just studied all these  
201 different kinds of birds. And we, uh, had a president and  
202 a treasurer and all those kinds of - I don't think we ever  
203 went outside. It was all just book learning.

204 **Martha:** Uh-hmm.

205 **Karen:** But outside was not all that great in Butte at that  
206 time 'cause there wasn't a lot of grass and trees. And  
207 when I moved back to Butte 25 years ago, the trees up here  
208 on the East Ridge, um, they used to be mostly rock. And we  
209 use to say to each other, "What is different about Butte  
210 now?" And it's the trees. Because of the smelter, the  
211 trees had all been either timbered off or didn't grow well  
212 because of the heavy smoke from the smelters. And so I  
213 remembered as a child reading books about kids walking down  
214 the street and kicking the leaves, you know, or raking the  
215 leaves in the fall and jumping in them. It was just  
216 foreign to me.

217 **Martha:** You had no experience.

218 **Karen:** We had no leaves. So the bird club didn't go  
219 outside looking for birds.

220 **Martha:** There were no birds there!

221 **Karen:** I remember in the sixth-grade listening to the  
222 radio as Queen Elizabeth was crowned the Queen of England.  
223 And now, this is their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She's having that  
224 this summer. And I remember that distinctly; listening to  
225 a big band - bong, bong, bong! And that was in the sixth-  
226 grade. And so I felt like we had good teachers.

227 **Martha:** Yes.

228 **Karen:** Uh, high school was great and, uh, it was a fun  
229 place to grow up. And then I went away to college and got  
230 married and didn't come back for 20 years.

231 **Martha:** Do you remember anything as far as Butte, you  
232 know, Butte history or events that happened through - from  
233 your perspective?

234 **Karen:** Fourth of July. It was always a huge thing in  
235 Butte.

236 **Martha:** Do you remember -- does one Fourth of July stand  
237 out in your mind? As far as describing the...

238 **Karen:** Uh-huh. Um, parades were always big -- and huge  
239 floats. Like I said, Butte thought it was a big city.  
240 Big, huge floats -- and people would come from all over to  
241 the Butte Fourth of July parade. Um-- what else? Oh, darn!  
242 I was thinking of something. But, anyway, that was a big  
243 deal. Oh! I remember when Linden Johnson -- well it wasn't  
244 Kennedy-- I think it was Johnson that came to town.

245 **Martha:** Really!

246 **Karen:** And, uh, we lived on Harrison Avenue, uh, which is  
247 now Champion Auto across from the Dairy Queen. And so the  
248 Secret Service came to our house, which they did, I'm sure,  
249 to everyone on Harrison because he was coming from the  
250 airport right off of Harrison. And they had to tell  
251 everybody to stay out of windows and if you wanted to come  
252 out come out but don't be half in and half out and all  
253 those kinds of things. It was probably very, uh, there was  
254 probably a lot of security in those days. It wouldn't be  
255 anything to now. But he was in a car waving to everybody.  
256 And I think -- I think it was a convertible. But at any  
257 rate...

258 **Martha:** Did you see him?

259 **Karen:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Yeah. It was our big experience --  
260 political! I do remember when the Freedom Train came  
261 through when I was little, uh, which had the Declaration of  
262 Independence and the Constitution and all those official  
263 documents and everything. They called it the Freedom  
264 Train. And it came through so you could walk through and  
265 look at all those historical items that nowadays you'd have  
266 to go back to Washington D.C. to see. Uh-hmm... Then, of  
267 course, when I came back to Butte the things that were, you  
268 know, the Fourth of July was Evil Kneival who always rode  
269 his motorcycle in the Fourth of July parade. We went to  
270 school with -- we called him Bob Kneival.

271 **Martha:** Really!

272 **Karen:** Uh-huh. And, uh, and gosh! When I saw that movie  
273 I thought he wasn't nearly that bad. But, um, you know,  
274 he's a character! But he's done a lot for Butte. And, um,  
275 when our children -- my children -- were teenagers he had  
276 this big house over here. And he used to hire probably 15  
277 boys at a time for like three weeks in the summer. And  
278 then hire another 15 and another 15 all summer long to mow  
279 his lawns and that kind of thing. He gave kids jobs in  
280 Butte we otherwise wouldn't have. Um, he's done some good  
281 things for Butte.

282 **Martha:** So did he come here often to stay?

283 **Karen:** He lived here. Uh-huh. Yeah. His house still has  
284 the big E.K. on the gates over there.  
285 **Martha:** Oh, really!  
286 **Karen:** Yeah. I'll show you sometime.  
287 **Martha:** O.K. I'd like to see it.  
288 **Karen:** Um, yeah, and - and he was a good golfer. And he  
289 had a Mercedes Bends golf cart with, like, fur seats and  
290 everything. So the kids would always know when he was on  
291 the golf course. And they'd all go running out after his  
292 autograph. And his autograph said - always said, "Happy  
293 landings. Evel Kneival." So he was one of the stars - of  
294 Butte! Right. Um, let's see. Who else was note worthy  
295 that I remember coming here. Like I say, there were things  
296 at the Civic Center. But, uh, I know my parents remembered  
297 when Marian Anderson came, and, you know, people that were  
298 quite well known came and preformed and those kind of  
299 things.  
300 **Martha:** What do you remember about the company? I mean as  
301 far as -  
302 **Karen:** The Anaconda Company?  
303 **Martha:** Yeah. As far as, um, employees -  
304 **Karen:** They ran everything. That's what I remember.  
305 **Martha:** That's what I hear.  
306 **Karen:** The Anaconda Company ran the water and the -  
307 everything. And, um... so, um... my particular family - and I  
308 know we had friends who had a grocery store that we would -  
309 I don't know exactly what you would call it - but the  
310 miner's checks would come to him.  
311 **Martha:** Uh-hmm.  
312 **Karen:** And then their families would go in and charge all  
313 month and then he would take out from their check what was  
314 left and give it to them at the end of the month. So that  
315 was almost like a company store.  
316 **Martha:** Yeah.  
317 **Karen:** I don't know quite how he got that to work but...  
318 So he would take employee checks for the amount of the  
319 groceries and, um...  
320 **Martha:** What about working for the (unintelligible)?  
321 **Karen:** Well, the old joke is that all the old houses in  
322 Butte were built out of - out of stolen stuff from the  
323 mines. And I imagine probably a lot of that is true. You  
324 know, probably a lot of basements that are built out of  
325 great big timbers. But, um, what did you ask me? Oh, the  
326 economize. Oh, I don't ever remember going without, uh, or  
327 feeling like, um, it was a bad time at all, or that we were  
328 poor. I don't know. When I look back on it I'm not sure  
329 how my parents did it. But we were - it was a happy place

330 to, um... Christmas time in Butte had these huge - big - all  
331 their windows would be filled with moving toys and  
332 characters and things. And then the fire departments  
333 around town would put up big, wonderful displays with  
334 Christmas music playing and... Butte - this was a magical  
335 place. We really thought like - like you were in a  
336 wonderful place.

337 **Martha:** Uh-hmm.

338 **Karen:** And most of that was free. And a lot of community  
339 spirit. People did things. Which is how the statue got  
340 placed on the hill, 'cause I think that same spirit in  
341 Butte remains. And that if there's something to be done  
342 people in Butte are very willing to get behind it and do  
343 it.

344 **Martha:** Uh-hmm.

345 **Karen:** I remember the day when the statue went up with the  
346 helicopter taking it up and how teetery that was and how  
347 scary that was. And how - you've probably heard the story  
348 about how they had to bring it back down - the very top  
349 portion.

350 **Martha:** Uh-uh. I haven't.

351 **Karen:** Um, well, they put the statue up in sections with  
352 this huge helicopter. And it would go up and there would  
353 be ropes hanging from it. And there'd be the iron workers  
354 down there grabbing the ropes and trying to steady it until  
355 they got it in the spot. And then they would come down and  
356 get the next piece. And the part with the - their hands,  
357 um, the wind draft was wrong and about lost it up there.  
358 And they had to dive down here and put it down here in the  
359 airport property until they could get it stabilized and  
360 take it up again. During those days the whole city just  
361 stopped and watched as the helicopter finally got all the  
362 pieces up there. It was in the middle of the winter. It  
363 was December. And it was an exciting time. And that was -  
364 that was volunteer. A lot of people worked on it.

365 **Martha:** How long ago did they put that statue up?

366 **Karen:** Eighty-three. That's when I remember it was - or  
367 '84 or '85. My kids were either coming or going. One of  
368 them was coming home. So, um, yeah- a lot of, um, you know  
369 - like for instance today I was uptown and met a friend who  
370 was working on that, um, that fund raiser for a gal who has  
371 bone cancer and has no health insurance. And she's just -  
372 just selling bunny rabbits, or something, for Easter. And  
373 she sold 200 in nothing flat. And they were \$20.00 each.  
374 People are good. And when my husband was sick, um, we  
375 would have many, many fund raisers for him. And it was  
376 very fortunate because even though he did have insurance, I

377 had to wait in Seattle and Port Call for about five months.  
378 Then he was in Missoula and expenses were just horrible.  
379 Um, and insurance doesn't pay everything. So I was very  
380 grateful to the people of Butte who made pasties. They  
381 made, like, 5,000 pasties or something and sold them as a  
382 fundraiser for him. You know about pasties, which are meat  
383 pies.

384 **Martha:** I've heard about them, but I haven't had one yet.  
385 I'm going to get one soon.

386 **Karen:** You'd better have one. That's what's called a  
387 letter from home. Because pasties are Cornish and the  
388 miners would carry them- carry them in their buckets -in  
389 their lunch buckets. And they're like a meat pie that- but  
390 instead of being a dish they just fold over the dough, and,  
391 so, they're easy to carry around. And that's the way we  
392 eat them. A lot of people put gravy in them but we like  
393 hamburger. And, uh, so Butte has a very interesting food  
394 history. Um, Butte was settled by lots of different  
395 nationalities. And so the Italian community had the - it's  
396 what Lydia's food is now- kind of ravioli and spaghetti  
397 with dinner instead of a baked potato. Yes. And, um, the  
398 pork chop sandwiches are kind of unique to Butte - and the  
399 pasties and tamales. So, it's an interesting place to find  
400 out about food.

401 **Martha:** Yeah.

402 **Karen:** The Serbians have something called povachitsa that  
403 they sell at Christmas time... and lots of ethnic foods here.  
404 But they use to have an ethnic festival and they had booths  
405 and you could go from booth to booth to try all these - it  
406 was a big fundraiser for years and years.

407 **Martha:** Uh-hmm.

408 **Karen:** And you could try all these different kinds of  
409 food.

410 **Martha:** What was it like being a police officer's wife?

411 **Karen:** Well, my husband use to say there's everything good  
412 or everything bad in Butte that you can find in any city.  
413 There's just less of it- and especially the bad. Because  
414 Butte has its share of drug dealers and pushers and, uh,  
415 you know, we have a murder occasionally and robberies. And  
416 we have everything that every other city does, fortunately,  
417 just not as much. So I always felt very safe. Mainly  
418 because I knew he could take care of himself.

419 (PAUSE FOR PHONE CALL AND THEN INTERVIEW RESUMED.)

420 **Karen:** So, I always knew Don could take care of himself,  
421 but yet there were worries that go along with the job. The  
422 worse one, um, that I - well not the worst but one of the  
423 ones I can think of often is when the police dog was shot.

471 waiting, and doing nothing and doing all the donut jokes  
472 and then all of the sudden they're in the middle of, you  
473 know, heart thumping things. But he loved it. But the  
474 thing he loved the best was the D.A.R.E. program. And the  
475 D.A.R.E. program in Butte just took off. Um, it was a  
476 wonderful thing to see. All these little kids that would  
477 come up to him in the grocery store. I felt like a groupie  
478 because they just loved him and the other officers. They  
479 just were - it was like a whole new thing opened up for the  
480 kids of Butte to find out that cops were O.K. In fact, I  
481 use to kind of laugh sometimes because they'd be dragging  
482 their parents over to meet the officer and the parents  
483 looked like, oh, I've already met him. I don't want to!  
484 But it's made a big difference in Butte. Butte's always  
485 been a hard drinking town, uh, lots of alcohol available  
486 and an attitude that says well, you know, as long as you  
487 don't hurt anybody it's O.K. But alcohol doesn't usually,  
488 uh, stop at that. Usually some bad things happen, uh, and  
489 so he really felt like it was an important program. And,  
490 if nothing else, to teach the kids that cops are O.K. And  
491 if you needed help that's where you went rather than  
492 staying away from police. And so he loved that. And the  
493 city of Butte was very supportive of him. And again the  
494 fundraisers that they had so that they could have the  
495 program go. Because you can't, um, you know, the city  
496 government couldn't support it by itself. Um, so we had  
497 lots of fundraisers and people were very, very generous.  
498 People in Butte love their kids. This is a good place to  
499 raise kids. Uh, as far as lots of little league teams and  
500 soccer teams and hockey teams and everybody goes - the  
501 grandmas and the neighbors and the aunts and uncles and  
502 everybody goes to the games. It's a good place for kids.  
503 However, when you reach about 18 and get out of high  
504 school, if they don't go to college there's not an awful  
505 lot for them to do. Don use to say that he felt like that  
506 was the trouble age in Butte - was not the kids but the  
507 young adults from 18-24 that are just hanging around. So...  
508 But he loved his work and loved Butte and felt like it was  
509 his town to protect. And he use to come home and say,  
510 "Would you like to go for a little ride? I'll buy you a  
511 Dairy Queen." And I'd think isn't that nice. And then  
512 we'd get down the street and he'd say; "Now here's a paper  
513 and a pencil. Write down the license numbers on this  
514 street." He was always on duty. Um, he loved President  
515 DeMony and - who was the president of Tech years ago. Our  
516 son played basketball for Tech and so we use to go to all  
517 the Tech games, of course. And quite often Don would come

518 directly from work and he'd be in plain clothes but would  
519 have a gun on. I remember one time President DeMony and  
520 the athletic director - I don't remember his name now - who  
521 were true elderly gentlemen came over and sat in front of  
522 us and kept getting closer and closer and finally President  
523 said, "Is there a reason your wearing a gun?" And I  
524 thought what would they have done if he had said, "Yeah"?  
525 But, so he explained why he was wearing a gun. He was on  
526 his lunch hour and that was his son playing and- and, uh,  
527 from then on he was the Tech cop and if they ever needed  
528 anything that's who they called. He went to school at  
529 community Tech himself, um, for four years while he was  
530 working nights as a detective. He went through Tech and  
531 got his degree in - what do you call it? - Society and  
532 Technology. And we've always felt very lucky to live in a  
533 town that has such a good college.