

Mary McMahon

I. Family History

A. Grandparents

1. Grandfather

a. migration to Butte from Nova Scotia

b. Butte miner

2. Grandmother

a. migration to Butte from Carson City, Nevada

b. ragtime piano player in Butte Saloons

3. Mining Accident

a. Grandfather dies in Butte mine

b. Grandmother forced to raise family alone

B. Family is split up

1. Grandmother becomes very ill

2. Grandmother is forced to give up her two sons for adoption

a. Mary's uncle is adopted and raised in Butte

b. Mary's father is adopted and raised in California

C. Father's return to Montana

1. returns to Butte after adoptive parents die

2. reunites with family

a. returns to Montana in search of his brother

b. also finds that his biological mother is still alive

D. Parents meet in Butte

1. mother's family moves to Butte from Eastern Europe for mining purposes

2. Mary's parents marry in 1936 during Depression

E. Depression

1. Father loses job in Butte

2. works in Navy shipyard in Seattle (where they actually marry)

3. return to Butte in 1938

4. move to Deer Lodge in 1941

II. Mary's history

- A. Born in Deer Lodge
 - 1. has five siblings
 - 2. graduates from Deer Lodge High School in 1966
- B. Vista Volunteer
 - 1. domestic peace corp
 - 2. tutors black students in South Carolina and Georgia in late 1960's during the height of racial tensions
- C. Montana Legislature work
 - 1. legislature of 1969
 - 2. Senate stew pool worker for 6.....
 - 3. works for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Dept. in Helena
- D. Marries
 - 1. met husband while working in Helena
 - 2. husband is now a teacher.
- E. Return to Butte (1970)
 - 1. husband received teaching position
 - 2. lived here for 22 years

III. Family history's impact on Mary's life

- 1. separation and reuniting of father with rest of his family has left the strongest impression
- 2. closeness of father and grandmother has strong impact

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I give permission for the information contained in this oral interview with Damian Bradley to be used in any research that may be requested or required.

May McMahon

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