

**INTERVIEW**

**Norris Sayre**

**YEAR**

**2006**

**GRAY COUNTY ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**

**NAME:** Norris Sayre

**DATE:** October 4, 2006

**PLACE:** Manor of the Plains, Dodge City Kansas

**INTERVIEWER:** John McLoughlin

**PROJECT SERIES:** **Veterans Oral History Project for Gray County**

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Norris Sayre's health limited the interview. He was assisted by his wife in answering the questions of the interviewer. He served as superintendent of the Ensign, Kansas, school system for many years after being in the service in California, and Fort Benning, Georgia. He remembers little of his time in the service in Europe not having seen combat. He was grateful to not have to go on to the Pacific war.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:** Life as a young couple in the service and return to Ensign to teach school and become superintendent and life in the care home in Dodge City were discussed.

**COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** 60 minute tape

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 50 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** none

**TRANSCRIPT:** 16 pages

**ORAL HISTORY**  
**Sayre, Norris**  
**Interview Date: October 4, 2006**

**Interviewer: John McLoughlin (JM)**  
**Interviewee: Norris Sayre (NS) Joan Sayre (JS)**  
**Tape 1 of 1**  
**Side A**

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**JM** – This is going to be John McLoughlin interviewing Norris Sayre at Manor of the Plains in Dodge City, Kansas, on October 4, 2006.

**JM** – Hi! This is John McLoughlin and I am with Norris Sayre here Dodge City on October 4. How are you this morning?

**NS** – In good shape, I'd say. I feel good.

**JM** – Norris, where were you when the war began?

**NS** – Let's see . . . when did the war begin?

**JM** – December of 1941.

**JS** – You were in K-State.

**NS** – Yeah, I was going to say, I think I was in K-State. I graduated there in 1943.

**JM** – How old were you in 1941? That's the year I was born.

**NS** – I was born in 1918.

**JM** – So, 38 to 41 . . .you'd be 22 or 23.

**JS** – Anyhow, he was draft age.

**JM** – Do you remember what you were doing when you heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor?

**NS** – I don't recall specifically what I was doing, but ...

**JM** – It was a Sunday, and it was in the morning. Well, it would have been around noon here. It was my wife's first birthday.

**JS** – I think you were in K-State, weren't you?

**JM** – Sure, it was a weekend.

**NS** – Well, when I graduated, I think we made plans to go back to Ensign.

**JM** – We are getting ahead of ourselves a little bit here, but that’s okay.

**JM** – When did you serve in the military, Norris? You said you graduated in 1943. So were you not in the service until 1943?

**NS** – Well, I was in the Coral Cadets?

**JM** – Okay, ROTC?

**NS** – Yeah.

**JM** - What branch of the military were you in? Army . . . navy . . .

**NS**- Army.

**JM** – Army. The United States Army.

**NS** – Right.

**JM** – You told me earlier that you were in California. Where did you take your Basic Training? Do you remember? Or was that part of the ROTC program?

**NS** – I think it probably was. I do recall that my first introduction into the military was working with the cadets that were doing a location outside of town. I do know that. We’d go out there each day and do our share of the work. Finally came up with that. It was a job, I guess because it passed a little bit for what we were doing.

**JS** – You went to K-State to school.

**NS** – Yeah, definitely.

**JS** – Then when the war started, they called you to teach the cadets what it would be like to be in the army.

**JM** – Then, he was like a trainer?

**JS** – Yeah, isn’t that right?

**NS** – I suppose.

**JS** – We were married in 1943, and he was in training at that time. You never did go overseas, did you?

**NS** – Oh, no.

**JM** – Besides California, where else did you serve, Norris?

**NS** – Well, I was sent into Iowa at one time. From Iowa I went to Fort Benning, Georgia. From Fort Benning, I did three small bits at three locations in Texas on the waterfront there. And at that time, they made me a . . . . (laundry lady enters . . .)

**JM** – Down in Texas? They probably promoted you.

**NS** – Yeah.

**JM** – Yeah, they did. Don't be too modest here, Buddy. It's good to be an officer sometimes.

**NS** - Well, I wasn't an officer at any time as far as that's concerned.

**JM** – What was your highest rank?

**NS** – I suppose a . . .

**JM** – Lieutenant?

**NS** – No, I didn't make it to the officer's club.

**JM** – I think your wife thinks she is married to an officer and a gentleman. Would that be so?

**JS** – I know I am married to a gentleman. And it doesn't make any difference to me.

**JM** – Could he have been a warrant officer? That's a very . . . it can be either way.

**NS** – I'll tell you what we did on the waterfront in Texas. We were placed in a spot where we had to take care of business as far as that was concerned.

**JM** – What kind of business?

**NS** – We were in the shooting business. They taught us how to fire a land base heavy machine gun. They'd take the little light planes and fly back and forth over that waterfront.

**JM** – And you'd blow them up.

**NS** - We were supposed to shoot at the balloon in the air, each playing toad. It wasn't too long before some smart-aleck decided to shoot at the plane anyhow. And he did. And we were fortunate about that.

**JM** – That's a nice way of putting it.

**NS** – Yeah. But we did three terms there in Texas. From there we were sent back to Iowa.

**JS** – Fort Benning.

**NS** – No, we were in the early stages there.

**JS** – Oh, okay.

**NS** – To Fort Benning, which was a nice Fort as far as that's concerned.

**JM** – Oh, yes, it's still there. It is a very big base. Yes.

**NS** - We hit Iowa again and didn't hardly get off the train there and they sent us from there back to Dodge City. And from Dodge City, I have to bring in my grandfather. He was full of ideas and everything. And he had his whole family in his hands, and he'd tell them what to do and expected them to do it. Anyhow, we went to Dodge City and this guy in charge of the bunch of us decided Dodge City wasn't the place to be, so he moved us over to Wichita. And from Wichita, he wasn't satisfied with that, and so he moved us into the state of New York.

**JM** – Do you remember where?

**NS** – No, I really don't. We were at an encampment as far as that's concerned. They kept teaching us how to be a soldier. And we went from Dodge City, wasn't it? We went from Dodge City to um . . . He was provoked to all his family members, so in Dodge City he rented enough freight cars to handle his whole family. He took everybody away. And they wound up moving, not owning, but taking care of land in the state of New York in various places. And he finally didn't care too much for that, for what was going on. So, he had all of his family move to the vicinity of Ensign. He kind of started the city of Ensign, as far as that is concerned. But, that's about the story of my early army career.

**JM** – But you had a tough sergeant early on, so you knew how to follow orders, hey?

**NS** – That's right. They taught us how to do it.

**JM** - That's why you're a gentleman, eventually because somebody taught you how to tow the line early. That's really kind of an interesting sidelight there. So, I am painting a picture here of Norris being in school and working around K-State and learning his training with the ROTC and then getting back to the war. Actually the war started, but we were not involved in 1939. And you were not yet . . . you may have been in college. But what prompted you? What did you think about? How did you come about being in the ROTC? Did you realize war was coming and that you decided you'd rather be well educated or what?

**NS** – Well, I . . .

**JM** – Was it that first sergeant, the guy that made you realize the value of an education?

**NS** – I think the thing that impressed me was the attitude of everybody. They were all for the army and what it was going to do. And we were eventually promoted to the regular army. I don't think we had a real base to claim as ours. We just took things as they came and did the best that we could.

**JM** – No backtalk.

**NS** – No, we didn't talk back to that sergeant.

**JM** – People of your age knew better. That was part of your very early training, I'm sure. If you had to look back on your service, don't belittle this, because it was important. There was a reason. What was the most impressionable thing about your service that you remember?

**NS** - We put in two college semesters, learning the two languages. It was Chinese and . . . why can't I say that? Uh . . .

**JS** – I don't know. Spanish. You learned Spanish.

**JM** – We could run through the languages. It would take a little while, but there is Spanish, French, German, Latin, Chinese, Japanese, Korean. . . I don't know what people in Thailand speak? And then there is always, you can always fall back on English, can't we?

**NS** – We were supposed to teach English to the Chinese. And I learned one, I retained one full sentence in the other language.

**JM** – Would you care to share it with us? Maybe somebody will figure it out.

**NS** – That language?

**JM** – Whatever the language is . . . Speak it. Speak to us.

**NS** – Well, the sentence I retained from my service there was . . . “让我向您介绍这两个美国人”

**JM** – Do you remember how that translates?

**NS** – I doubt if anyone . .

**JM** – Remember there is a woman in the room.

**NS** – Well, this came out alright. But it is “Let me introduce you to these two Americans.”

**JM** – I see.

**NS** – That is the English for it.

**JM** – Good. Well, there you go. It has been a long time since you've spoken that sentence.

**NS** – Oh yeah. I've used that sentence to joke around about and everything like that.

**JM** – In those days though it was dead serious because the Chinese were our very good allies. Chiang Kai-shek and those guys were our friends and they were making sacrifices like we were. So...the Flying Tigers and all....that's where they went. Maybe it was Burmese. We don't know.

**JS** – I know that he can speak Chinese, which he just did.

**JM** – Yes, that's interesting.

**JS** – And, I have a hard time speaking English.

**JM** – I should have been here thirty or forty years ago and this whole thing would have been a lot easier for you, but a lot of water went under the bridge.

**NS** – This brings back a few more memories.

**JM** – Well, go ahead. Share.

**NS** – We were learning two languages and then we were given a short leave home and then we came back to the base there in California, we were going to be sent overseas to these two homelands . . . Chinese and ...uh.anyhow.

**JS** – He was going to China.

**JM** – Going to Asia.

**NS** - We were going to teach these two different groups the English language when we got back from our short leave. We came back one day and as I recall, our leave amounted to six days. But anyhow, we came back and just as we came back they called us to attention and announced to us that they had called off the war. There wasn't any war left.

**JM** – Much to your disappointment? I don't think so.

**JS** – Well, he kind of thought it would....(if you don't mind). He kind of thought it would be fun or not fun, but interesting, to go to China. That is the reason they taught him the Chinese language. And all of that time we lived in California and he wasn't the only officer out there. But when they announced that the war was over, I don't know whether Norris did or not, but I was there and all those guys

that were in that group that were supposed to go to China took off their hats and threw them in the air.

**JM** – Well, that’s okay. That was in August of 1945.

**JS** – Yeah.

**JM** – They bombed very early in August two times and that was the end of the war. Well, Norris, how was the food in the military?

**NS** – Oh, we didn’t rush to a meal or anything like that. We showed up for the meals and ate what they wanted to give us. Which was good food as far as that is concerned. But it wasn’t what we were used to. Same way with this Manor of the Plains here. We have three meals a day. They are good meals. Breakfast is the best of the three.

**JM** – Twice today, huh?

**NS** – Yeah.

**JM** – That’s okay.

**NS** – Usually for breakfast we have an egg, a poached egg, and we have some kind of meat.

**JS** – Sausage or bacon.

**JM** – At home ,or in the military?

**JS** – No, while we are here.

**JM** – Oh, at Manor of the Plains.

**NS** – Yeah.

**JS** – And I won’t eat sausage, but I will eat bacon. Now that sounds crazy.

**JM** – No, it doesn’t.

**JS** – But that is the way I was raised. My mother used to make sausage patties, stick them down in a crock and pour (I don’t know what it was she poured over them.) to keep it from spoiling. But that has been years ago.

**JM** – Yeah, if you were raised on a farm, there was a whole different world you were in.

**NS** – That’s true.

**JM** – The thing there is they had to feed the masses so you didn't always get your choice. But if it was good but not to your particular taste, I guess that's okay, and that's probably the way they wanted it.

**JS** – Well, they sent him to Fort Bennett. They wouldn't let me go while he took basic training. But after he became an officer, they let me go to Fort Bennett.

**JM** – I see.

**JS** - We have two sons, Steve and Mike. And Mike was born while we were in Georgia. The other one after we came back to Kansas.

**JM** - Did they teach you how to eat grits in Georgia?

**JS** – Grits?

**JM** – Grits.

**JS** – Grits? Yeah.

**JM** – Grits and gravy.

**JS** – We had grits every morning.

**JM** – They don't have them here. If you go down South there, they have them there. So there was a little local color in the food, but not a whole lot. What were your living arrangements, before and after you became an officer? You were in college, so you lived in a dormitory, I suppose. Is that correct?

**NS** – I think there was some of the family where we were sent in college, and we stayed with them.

**JS** – Well, you stayed in the dormitory first. And then when they would let me go, then we rented an apartment.

**JM** – I see. Yeah, lots of times that's the way that worked. They always want the kids in the dormitories. My son went to K-State (one of them) and that was the rule, at least for one year. So they can keep their eye on you, I suppose. What was your specific job, if you can recall? Now, you were training people for a while and you were learning, and you became a linguist, they call that, as far as doing the foreign language. It all leaned towards teaching. Is that correct?

**NS** – I guess so. I took a job in the Ensign school system and I taught those two language in it. What else was my job there? I think that was about it.

**JS** – You taught bookkeeping. You taught them how to keep books.

**NS** – Oh yeah. My training in college led me to a bachelor's degree, and I was shooting for business. I didn't exactly get there, but we tried that. To teach pretty

good, what we knew and what we thought they wanted to know. We got by real well that way, with the languages.

**JS** – You can speak Chinese. That's what they taught you. He said it awhile ago.

**NS** – No, I don't . . . You're calling what I'd said, “让我向您介绍这两个美国人,” as Chinese language?

**JS** – Yeah.

**NS** - I don't believe it is.

**JS** – What is it?

**NS** – That's what I can't . . .

**JM** – Yeah, that's one we can't pull out of our memory bank.

**NS** - (??). . . recall, in my mind.

**JS** – (??) I know I can't. . .

**JM** - I am clueless. I have no idea, but it is interesting though. You know a little kid from nowhere learning to teach other people to speak English in a far off land is quite exciting. Actually it is fascinating. And you know, it's not a small deal. It would have been a really, really large thing if the war had continued. And it didn't, so . . . I wish you would have gotten to China. Did you ever take a chance to . . .? Well, after that then the Communists came, so it wasn't very friendly. So, I guess you could have gone to Formosa. But, you were not injured, and you were in California when the war ended. So, they said the war is over. So when did you get out?

**NS** – It didn't take them very long. A few days, and they figured all the paperwork and everything, and they dismissed us from the service.

**JM** – Right away?

**NS** – Yeah. And sent us home.

**JM** – They give you twenty bucks and a ticket and you were on your way, huh?

**NS** – Well, we got back to Ensign, and Joann and I bought the grocery store there in Ensign. And we ran it for a while, and finally we had a chance to sell it, and we did.

**JM** – Joan, he didn't steal sugar from the military, did he?

**JS** – No.

**JM** – You were selling it on the black market. Ha ha.

**JS** – Well, it came in little sacks. And when we ran the store ... why, if we needed sugar, then we took it out. He was manager of the store. Other food that we had on the shelves, if we needed them, why, we just took them . . . because we were paying for it.

**JM** – Sure. So, you were in the grocery business before you started teaching. And you got out of the service right away?

**NS** – Yeah.

**JM** – A lot of folks, they had to hang out for several months.

**NS** – Oh, really?

**JM** – Oh, yeah.

**NS** – Of course we were sent to California on a special basis. We were just supposed to be there temporarily, and I guess they figured that was the time to let us go, and they did.

**JM** – Well, I guess it makes sense, of course. But they gave you transportation home? And then you were on your own?

**NS** – Yeah.

**JM** – Oh my.

**JS** – We had a car.

**JM** – Oh, good. Okay.

**JS** – He didn't ride with me . . . home.

**JM** – He didn't? Did you take a nice little circle tour?

**JS** - I was driving the car, and they sent him on the train. I made it home, and I met him on the train.

**JM** – To Dodge?

**JS** – Yeah. But that has been so many years ago.

**JM** – Well, I don't know (ha ha). . . it seems like . . . it's only a half a century or so ago.

**JS** – Isn't that quite a while?

**Interviewer: John McLoughlin (JM)**

**Interviewee: Norris Sayre (NS) Joan Sayre (JS)**

**Tape 1 of 1**

**Side B**

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**JM** - This interview is partly interpreted by his wife, Joan, due to his illness. We are reviewing the years that Norris spent in the Army. I think you make light, Norris, of your service and I know some others that would do that do. It is all part of a very large puzzle. As you look back here at Manor of the Plains, I'm sure your thoughts go to California and to Asia occasionally. You may even speak them. But, what reflectionwise . . . Tell me what you think is important or unimportant about what you did and we'll let history decide, if you will.

**NS** - We did enjoy my service in California. We were assigned to a large home that had a family already living in it. We had our quarters there, and as a result of that we did learn a little bit about what was going to happen to us later, even though they sent us home. I don't think I was completely discharged from the service at that point.

**JM** - They always put you in the Reserves. They wanted to reserve the right to grab you again! (They,being us.)

**NS** - Yes, we were in the Reserves. (Joan) They then made him a superintendent at Ensign, Kansas. He was qualified.

**JM** - The degree?

**NS** - (Joan) Yeah, so they hired you as Superintendent of Schools at Ensign. (Norris) That was a little time after I had my taste of teaching. (Joan) Yeah, I know.

**JM** - Well, that's okay. It is good to be in charge.

**NS** - I taught in the schools at Ensign. I taught the two languages I had learned and several other things. It was interesting at that time to me and looking back it still is because that little bit of teaching amounted to something. I started by teaching in the primary grades and I moved to the fourth and fifth grades, I think. (Joan) No, seventh and eighth. (Norris) Until I got to the ...yeah, and then they promoted me up to teaching the seventh and eighth grade. From there, I went into high school and taught in high school.

**JM** - Went along with the kids, huh? I hope they liked it!

**NS** - Then they lost their Superintendent. I don't know where he went. I heard he went on out West into Kansas. But they lost him and they needed somebody. I

don't know what possessed them to think of me. I didn't have that much experience, as far as that is concerned.

**JM** – But they knew you.

**NS** – Yes, they knew me. They gave me the superintendency of the Ensign School system.

**JM** – A good school system.

**NS** – I was superintendent there for, I think it was four years. I had one other thing I would like to add here: the state department sent a person out (one of the trustees of the state department) to visit our school. He worked hard all day long that day he was there. I had a pretty good staff by that time. When he was finished checking us out, he let me know that he was satisfied with what he got. As he left he said, "Mister Sayre, I want you to know that I think you have one of the best small school systems in the state of Kansas." (Everybody else called me Norris, but he called me Mr. Sayre.)

**JM** – Well, that's fine; by golly, that is an endorsement for sure.

**NS** - I really appreciated that.

**JM** - You said something earlier that was interesting to me. I am going to back up a little bit. When you were in California, living in a large home, you were billeted with another family. You made a comment about them giving you an idea of what things would be like. Now, do you recall any more about that? Did you stay friends with these people or did you just happen to share a home?

**JS** – Oh, no, we remained friends. I'll answer that. When we left, we told them goodbye. And the girl that was our neighbor, cried and said, "Oh, Joan, I hate to see you leave." I said, "Well, you know you have to go where your husband is." She said, "Yes, I know that, but I haven't been able to go with my husband." Of course, she was a lot younger than me.

**JM** – Now, was she the one that explained to you what it would be like when he went overseas? Was this man overseas?

**JS** – Well, I don't think so. That girl was . . . When we went to Fort Benning, Georgia, that was what that girl told me. She said (her name was Greta), and she told me, "Joan, your life won't be the same with Norris overseas." I said, "Yes, I know that, but he has to go." There wasn't anything I could say or do.

**JM** – Ok. That lends a whole new meaning to what we were talking about there. So, that is excellent.

**JS** – I wasn't going to complain. Who would I complain to?

**JM** – You could complain to me, I guess. But fifty years ago, I wasn't very big.

**NS** - We had a good life in California.

**JS** – Yes, we did. When they said the war was over, we were as glad as anybody else, because I knew that Norris wouldn't have to go to China.

**JM** – Even though he wanted to?

**JS** – Well, yeah.

**JM** – Kind of.

**JS** – I don't know about that, but I just knew that he wasn't going to go to China. We lived in an apartment, and the family that was there with us was in the Army. We told them that we were going to go home, and we weren't going to have to go to China. And he said, "That's great!" He said, "Get going." And we did.

**JM** – Interesting. Very interesting. Norris, did you retain any, I won't say souvenirs (you didn't steal a jeep or anything), but any memorabilia from the war? I think your daughter-in-law said you had some down in Ensign. She said you had a book of Chinese, or two.

**NS** - That book is in this room somewhere.

**JS** – No, honey, we didn't bring it up here.

**JM** – Now, Margo said most of your good stuff is at home because people wander in and out here, like me. You know, you never know.

**JS** – Well, you wouldn't take it. But Steve, our son, when we moved in here, he said, "Now if you have anything that you really value, I'll take care of it for you."

**JM** – And he is. Do you have pictures and stuff too? . . . I mean the old black and white kind. You are a Technicolor kind of girl. That's okay. But to me, that stuff is so, so fascinating. ? (Misc. conversation about photos, music and a telescope in their room.)

**JM** – When I visited with one of the other veterans, they had some pictures and that is why I was talking about making light of your service. Because this guy had been all over the world several times, and he was so fascinated with people in India and how they did everything manually. They didn't use tools; they used their feet a lot. So, I don't know. But, you know sometimes I look at our old family photos. My dad was not in the service, but he was a policeman in New York, and all of those old photographs conjure up memories. So, the family album . . . my sister had it replicated, and we each have one now. So, anytime I am feeling lonely, I can just go look at it. So, I was just curious if you had any memorabilia besides the books. Margo spoke of the books. I don't want to take it from you. I

just want to know. If Steve has it, that's fine. Because, Richard, you know, he didn't bring his forward originally. And then I said, "Where's your stuff?" And you know how you ask people, "Where's your stuff?" And then a little while, I was changing the tape over, and he said, "I'm going to get my stuff." And, I'm trying to get a couple of other veterans who are a little bit reluctant to explain their service because they don't think it was important. And every time I see the one in particular is Clarence Irsik. I say, "When are you going to tell me? When are you going to tell me? When are you going to tell me?" And eventually, I think he will. I think there is a crack in the wall. It's coming down. This has been a blessing that you were here.

(Conversation about music & pies & coffee, etc. . . . )

**JM** – I think we are kind of done here. Is there anything else, Norris, that you think of fifty some years ago that would be of interest to somebody who was in the Library of Congress listening to this someday, in the very distant future?

**NS** – Well, I'm taken aback by the fact that he doesn't think anything he did was important.

**JM** – Everything was important. Modesty is a good quality. But I think, like you were proud of your service in the school system and rightfully so, and you were playing a part in a very large, very popular war, and can be very proud of that. Most people don't think that much of it. Usually later as time goes on, they think, "Oh, well, it wasn't important." Well, it was important. It was very, very important. Because even though you weren't getting shot at, you had a role to play, and God rest . .

**JS** – He told you about his service in Georgia. And they let me go. And our oldest son was born there.

**JM** – Yes, you said that. That will always be a memory.

**JS** – Yeah, it will. And as far as I know, they took real good care of us. Didn't they Norris?

**NS** – Oh, yeah.

**JM** – It's better than being a Russian.

**NS** - Joan has had a difficult role to play. Her mother was postmistress, but she was also a teacher of music--piano and organ. And this mother of hers and this lady in town about her age took turns playing for church. And then this other one passed away, and Joan's mother decided she didn't want to take on anything else along that line. So it was switched over to Joan and a friend of hers, and they played for church every Sunday. One of them would play the piano on Sunday and the organ the next Sunday. They just took turns.

**JM** – Alternate?

**NS** – Alternating. And there’s a fellow there in Ensign, he is kind of a joker. But anyhow, we would go to church out there. He was always in church, and as we walked in the door there, he looks up and sees us and he looks at Joan and he points to the organ. He thinks she should be playing the organ.

**JM** – He’s probably right.

**JS** – He still does that.

**NS** – She played it with a good friend of hers.

**JS** – Well, when you were traipsing around after granddad as a kid, you never thought you would go on this route, did you?

**NS** – No.

**JM** – Nope. You learned how to be a good Indian though. That sure helped the United States Army a lot, I’m sure. And then learning to be a good Indian has also helped in your relationship with your lovely wife, eh? No comment. If there is nothing else, I think I will shut her down and we’ll do a little bit of paperwork. Do you have anything else to say before the court adjourns here?

**NS** - I really don’t know. I am sure there are incidents that could be told, but I can’t think of them now. My age is working against me. I am eighty-eight years old.

**JM** – You are in good shape for an eighty-eight year old.

**NS** – And she is eighty-six years old.

**JM** – Shh..He gave you away.

**JS** – But, we don’t feel that old.

**JM** – Don’t tell the kids.

**NS** - The kids in this place have a few years on them. Pretty frequently, one of the ladies will ask Joan how old she is. Joan will tell them, and they won’t believe her.

**JM** – Good.

**JS** – Well, I say, “Why do you want to know?” Well, she said, “You respond so well to what we want you to do.” And I said, “But I did that at home. My mother played the piano and she played the organ. And I said, that has just hung on.” I’ll say it that way.

**JM** – Well, we learn to follow rules, don’t we? I tell people my dad was a cop and he had a gun and so I did whatever he asked.