

(one of) [She] The government was starting to pay this Family Allowance. They (returned soldiers were trying to kill me) it was to their advantage to have another baby. I think they were very careless about it.
VD: ...told me what a time she was having, and what a... awful pregnancies and births [and everything else] and her husband wanting to have her pregnant and, because the cheques became bigger, [You know,] with every new baby under certain years.

SD: So, it was so hard for people coming back from the war to survive, that they wanted to insure there was a source of income for family lives

VD: Well, it was a source of income. [There was a few people... mind you, nobody turned me down cold or mean, [I didn't have any of that problem,] but I sometimes talked to the women without the husbands, and they wanted birth control and their husbands wanted the extra money that these children brought under a certain age. And a new baby gave them another so-much a month. [I met one in North Kamloops like that and I met one somewhere down here in the Fraser Valley.] That was really something!

SD: Did you run into any women who were working and needed birth control so that they could continue to work?

VD: Oh, I don't think so. Most of them were in the house and they were...really needed me, you know. Gosh...and you know, [I went to a place in Vernon - a social worker sent me in there...she was a single girl and she had about two or three children, you see, a baby in a crib and no screens on the door or windows and flies crawling all over that smelly baby in that crib...and she was living with an old man, and the school teacher sent me there. [They said, "go

VD:cont... and see her". And say what do you know.] She was single and I had to get her mother's consent to sign papers to get her sterilized! And the mother would consent, and the girl consent, and the man she was living with said, "If you get sterilized, I won't live with you any more." And she wouldn't go on with it.

[Now, I went before that,] before I got that turn down, I went to some of the hospital boards and I asked them if they would sterilize the woman. So they had to take it up with the board and ask, "Who is going to pay for this sterilization". I said, "But you've got a new baby every year, every second year there is a new baby, who pays for that? Why don't you sterilize her and get her through?" And it was taken up by the Board, and they consented to sterilize her FREE. [And the old man says, "You don't get sterilized, I'm going to leave you if you do." And that was the end of that. My goodness! Those were the extra things, that I did, you know.]

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[SD:Running into people all the time who had very specific kinds of problems...

VD:Oh yeah, back and forth, and determined!... wasn't that... And that hospital was going to do her free.

SD:So, did you...you travelled around with the actual birth control mechanisms. with you, and the information.

VD:Well, I didn't really have supplies, but I could put them in as a membership.

SD:Right, so they would be able to receive...]

pg.
VD:They would contact... there was application forms, and they had to

VD:cont...sign them, that they wanted birth control, and then they would get initial supplies. There would be a little package come in the mail for them...and I'll tell you something else...the packages contained a jelly and a condom, maybe half a dozen condoms and a price list where they could get all this stuff for, well, below cost from this organization.

Kaufman Rubber?

SD:From

VD:Uhhmm, from his organization. And so that's what I did. Let's see, and when I went to Trail, which is a Company town, I met a lady, and she says..."You know, I gave you..." (they were to give me two dollars if they could afford it), but if they couldn't afford it they signed up for free, and they could send in the two dollars any time they wanted or never, if they couldn't afford

it. And this lady says to me, "You know, I gave you two dollars, and I signed up for that, and I haven't had anything back." I said, "You haven't!" I went to the post office and I could see all the little cubbyholes in through the wicket, all there in the different wickets and so I wrote or phoned to *Kaufman's*, to the information and told them that these little packages were all in the post office and they weren't getting them. And I tell you, I went back to the post office, they were all out. They were all out, no fooling!

Kaufman

SD: had sort of put pressure on them, eh?

VD:Oh, yeah, sure. Some postmasters apparently had opened one and found that they were birth control, and they were not... yes,

SD:...and didn't support birth control...

VD:they used to think it was against the law, you see. That was the

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when I went to trail

VD: (cont..)thing, you see.

SD: Did you run into alot of that, people thinking it was illegal?

VD: No, not really. In Mission, I run into a Doctor, [...I went to see a lady, and...what happened there?..Anyway, the Doctor] was going to have me run out of town, you see, and because I was doing birth control, and I was talking to some of his patients, and he was going to have the police after me, [you see.] So, I went to the Police Station and I said to the man at the desk, [I said, "Dr. So and So...I'm doing birth control work here in Mission, and this Doctor is going to have me put out of town. So he is going to come to you people, and see that I get moving on. Now," I said, "I'll tell you where i'm staying, so if you want to talk to me, you know where I am." So, I give him my address. But, he says, "Oh, don't pay any attention, that's just alot of bluff"...or something like this, you know, that's what the policeman said. And I went on just the same. So that is the only time that I have run into any trouble, of any sort.]

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SD: Well, did you ever work through the Union^S, or those kinds of organizations? Through the CCF?

VD: No - but - I'd go to -- for instance, way up to a lumber mill, to company towns like that, ..I drove up on a road one time, up on the mountain, and I don't know whether you know how they put boards, planks, over a gulch, kind of a funny bridge - it's open between the two wheels, you get your two wheels on the boards and go over the gulch...

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SD: You just hope that you're...

VD:...and you go right up to the top of the, there, and it's a company town. And the woman are all happy to see me...it really was, just really...

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SD: I'll bet it was really important to the people that lived in those kinds of situations, who were really poor and struggling to survive to be able to control how many children they had...

VD: Yeah, but they... I was paid \$2.00 for each one that I did, but I had my expenses at home, my expenses in the cars and all the rest of it, you know. *to pg. 7 →*

SD: Did the CCF do any birth control work? Did they have a position on birth control?

VD: Well, yes there was a little going on there. Have you seen Hilda ~~Kristiansen~~, do you know Hilda?

SD: No, I have to try and get in touch with her.

VD: You see, Mildred ~~Osterhout~~ and...oh, there was a girl, gee, I've forgotten that girl's name... They started a birth control ^(clinic) here in Vancouver, you know, they were fitting diaphragms, and it became quite popular. I think Dr. Telford...his nurse was interested in it too, a bunch of these women get together. I think Kaufman helped them too. They likely got their supplies from him. ^{Kaufman} But, mind you, Kaufman wasn't making the birth control supplies, not that I know of.

SD: He wasn't, eh?

VD: No, but he was ^{farming} them out...I don't think he was...I don't know too much...I never been there...Mind you, this Mary Bishop has been back to Kaufman and seen him.

SD: Oh, yeah, and has he talked to her.

VD: Oh, yeah, she'd been talking to Mr. ^{Kaufman} in fact, I think she has had a couple of trips there. She has also taken a trip to India, she is very interested - in birth control. And, of course, she is writing a book.

SD: It's interesting that you said that the Church of England...that this minister was from the Church of England, and that he supported that...

SD: (cont.) Were the churches divided around how they saw birth control?

VD: I wouldn't know. I really don't know. But, I don't know, it seemed to me that people were, ..I was going to say that they were looked down upon..having big families, having twelve and that...in the old days I think that...well, my husband was one of thirteen, number thirteen, well, they were needed I suppose, on the farms and stuff like that when these people were farming, it would come in pretty handy. But, as times got tougher, why, people wanted less children.

SD: So, especially during the Depression people would ^{to page 13 - own experience} want birth control?

VD: Oh yes, oh yes. I don't know whether these returned soldiers got anything in their pensions, or anything besides, but the government was starting to pay this Family Allowance...and they were trying to tell me that it was to their advantage to have another baby. And I think they were very careless about it.

SD: Well, it's interesting too, because that was the time when alot of women had been working, and were then being forced out of jobs, you know, after the war...women began to enter into jobs during the war.. and family allowance was introduced afterwards and that kind of helped to keep women, well, you stayed home and had your kids and the govenment helps to subsidize it, you don't go out and still look for a job.

VD: Sure, sure...I was amazed...I don't know...no matter how much maney you was bringing in, why would you want a bigger family? Gosh.

SD: Well, I guess those guys didn't have to raise the kids.

VD: Well, they weren't doing the work, they weren't working, lots of them, lots of people weren't working...but, my goodness, with this organization with free supplies if they needed them, it was terrific.

It really was!"

SD: Did you mostly deal with, work with, working people, you know, poor..

VD: Well, that is the people I went to, those were the main interest was the poorer people.

SD: And that was because you identified with them in terms of your own experience...or was that Kaufman?

VD: That was Kaufman's idea. He wanted the poor people...he was having problems with his own staff. Gosh, I had so much literature on that stuff...

SD: He was having problems with his staff, so...

VD: Well, he was having to lay-off people and then they were appealing to him and he had a sympathy for these people that were being laid-off.

Golly, I had literature on that...

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SD: Can you just start reading that again...

VD: "The United Church of Canada approved of the principle of voluntary parenthood at the meeting in Ottawa, in Oct. 1936, and recommended the establishment of voluntary parenthood clinics under public control and supervision, according to standards and regulations prescribed by the Provincial department of Public Health."

SD: That was very progressive for that time.

VD: Yeah; "Vancouver, B.C. expansion of its widespread activity was forecast at the annual meeting of the Greater Vancouver Health League when Cyril B. Roamer was elected to the presidency in March 1937, The pre-natal section, will extend in scope to include guidance in birth control. Mr. Roamer in this connection, made the following statement "I cannot see how we can fail to make such knowledge available to those who desire it."

-Extracts on birth control from the Social Work YearBook, published in 1937, in New York, by Russell, Sage Foundation. "In July 1936, there were 280 contraceptive centers in 41 states functioning under medical direction. Eighty-five in hospitals, and in country and municipal health departments

Sixty-three in settlement houses and community centers, and 132 as independent extra-mural centers. These centers restrict their service to patients who cannot afford a private physician's fee. This clinic service has extended rapidly. The number of centers reported in 1936 being nearly nine times the number reported in 1930." Hmmm.

You should be reading some of this stuff.

[SD: Yeah, I will. That is really interesting, it's relevant...accessible. There was no abortion, right, at all?

VD: No, not that I know of, no, they didn't go for that. It seems like there is birth control in the United States and birth control in Soviet Russia and Egypt and Japan, Italy...all these things, Bermuda, Holland and India, Iceland. So, my goodness.

SD: So, the CCF supported birth control - that's important. Where were there other political groups that gave you support?

VD: Well, what did the CCF do?

SD: Oh, I'm not sure, I'm sort of asking.

VD: I don't know, but I know...

SD: Were you involved with the CCF?

VD: Oh yes, ^{my} my husband was socialist-minded and when I married...did I tell you I ^{am} married 65 years this October...And they said "You're marrying a socialist, did you know?" I said, "What's a socialist?" Sounded pretty good to me. Anyway.

["---'68 - Birth control information in Canada is not illegal when given for the public good. See section 20 of the Criminal Code.

Extracts from the pamphlet - Society's One Ounce of Prevention by Helen Igmán Martin."

You should be reading some of this stuff yourself.

SD: Yeah, I will, I'll go through it. Did they make birth control illegal later on, or the dissemination...]

VD: it was... maybe thought illegal... it was a sort of hush-hush thing, but it was getting around alright. Margaret Sanger you see, she was arrested when she started her first movement.

SD: In the States, yes.

VD: I think you'll find stuff on her in here.

SD: Did you ever meet with groups of women?

VD: Not very often, but a few times, I talked to women-groups. What do they have?, these women's groups of some sort. They weren't necessarily NDP groups, they were just women's groups. If I was in there, I talked and tell them what I was doing and what could be done for them. Gosh, I think most of the doctors were very understanding, very co-operative, and we were interested in them doing vasectomy operations. Of course, a great number of the doctors thought that was illegal, the operation. But, Mr. Kaufman had searched through the law and that sort of thing, and found it wasn't illegal.

SD: So, he did this as a philanthropist, ^{essentially,} sort of, as a wealthy guy who had a hobby?

VD: Yeah, yes, it was his hobby, and besides employing people and finding some of the problems that his employees were having, he started it in his own factory. *to page 5 - clinics*

SD: Sort of so that working people would have more controlled families, and be able to give their kids better education and...

VD: ...get on better in every way... and certainly not having... this is the vasectomy operation.

SD: Oh, my. When was that written, do you know? 1961. Macleans.

VD: That's what that was. Interesting. This is the operation for no more children.

SD: Did the women usually consult with their husbands around using birth control?

VD: Oh, I think they were both quite interested, both husband and wife.

SD: Right, did you meet almost exclusively with women, though?

VD: Oh yes, but I would talk to both if they were interested and especially when it comes to the operation. I had an awful lot of vasectomy operations done, an awful lot. And some of them were very important and needed to be done. The doctor took me in while he was doing one, a vasectomy, showing me how it was done.

SD: Oh wow, that is...very progressive.

VD: Oh yeah, I had a lot of cooperation from the doctors.

SD: Did you find that people's attitudes towards having kids, children of families using birth control, changed in different times. Like did you find that people became more and more open towards the idea over a period of time, or was it like, during the war people were supportive of birth control and afterwards...

VD: No, I think they were interested in birth control all the way, all the way. I went up the mountain to a place, a woman up the mountain...gosh that was somewhere in the Okanagan, and I went up there and she told me, and she meant it, she was so desperate, that she was going to destroy them all...she was going to do something to wipe out her family. And she was so pleased to see me, and I had a talk with her...really she meant it. I don't know how many she had...she had maybe three or four or so, but she was getting pregnant and she said that she was just so fed up with the poverty and everything, that life wasn't worth living for at all. And she said, "Just talking to you has really given me a little bit of hope."

SD: Women must have experienced quite a bit of pressures around having kids..

VD: Oh, I'm sure they did, I'm sure they did..

SD: It was a lot of work, eh?

VD: Oh, I'm sure.

SD: Just trying to sustain a family on a small budget and also just knowing...

VD: Yes, oh yes ... do you know sometimes I was bringing, giving them food. I was, you know...nothing, and I'd go to the store and buy up some stuff and take it around there to her

SD: That was in the...during the '30's?

VD: Yes, yes, it would be, ^{during the '30's} yeah, that was one particular case I was thinking of...oh dear, I'm sure they did...and lived sometimes in hovels. I went up the mountain around off Chilliwack, up in there somewhere and they were living in a made-to, in a....

SD: Lean-to

VD: Lean-to, things that they had made themselves up there, not having to pay any rent...just squatting. Up there, it was more like a playhouse than a living quarters.

SD: And they were unemployed these people?

VD: Well I imagine, I would think yes...oh yes they wouldn't be working. Goodness no, and you know...from Mission to Abbotsford, no from Abbotsford in there they were on welfare, you know, and they had to walk several miles sometimes to get to the relief where they get their cheque and that was part of the ... and then I picked up, funny, I was going across from Abbotsford to Mission and there was a place where the men were working up the mountain, and then coming down with their lunch kits, and they were walking over to Mission where they lived you see, and I'd pick up people, I'd always do that, and I do it today. I stop and pick them up. All the time, I can't stop it. And, anyway, I picked this man up and he had his lunch, and we got talking and I told him what I thought about the working conditions of these... oh, I had someone else in the car, we'd been talking you know...and this fellow was living in a relief camp. Everything was hunky-dory with him. He was living in the relief camp with a whole lot of men and he got two

VD; (cont)...meals a day. This is what they were doing. And I picked him up. When I picked up the man with the lunch box, I said, "I bet here is a man that doesn't think like you think, everything's hunky-dory." I says, "This guy is working, I bet he doesn't think everything is fine."

SD: Was he a miner this guy?

VD: No, they weren't mining. They were up the mountain doing something, I don't know, but it turned out that this man was, oh gee, he's an MLA, this boy now...and he was going over to Mission and the next night I was at a meeting and this boy was at the meeting - he's now an MLA -

SD: An NDP'er?

VD: Yes, for Merit, in there now, used to be around Mission. We were at the meeting and I was talking to this fella and he says, "YOU were the one that picked up my father this morning, he says, my father comes home at suppertime and was he full of this woman that..."

SD; Picked him up and gave him a lecture on birth control...(laughter)

VD; Yeah, not on birth control, but this unemployed fellow that thought that everything was fine, living in a relief camp at tha...two meals a day and twenty cents a day I think for cigarettes, that's the way they were. Clayburn Bricks, up the mountain, that's where he was working. And he come down the mountain and he'd start to walk over to Mission where his home was and it was Bill Hartley's father that I picked up. And then I met Bill Hartley in the meeting that night and he says... someway he knew it was me and we got talking and he said "My father was bubbling over when he come home for suppertime about this woman that picked him up and how she was telling this man that she didn't think everything was alright when he was living with a whole lot of other men in a camp at twenty cents a day and two meals, and besides that he was satisfied with life like that." So, I spoke my piece. Oh gee, what fun, I mean, it's sad, sad-sad.]

SD: I guess travelling around you got a real sense of what....

(End of side one of tape)

VD: Measurements for shoes, I bought a pair of shoes off him, that sort of thing, I tried to help, but it's tough...door to door canvassing and things like that...begging people to buy

SD: And they probably didn't have any money themselves

VD: No, no indeed not. But there is alot of it right now, alot of hardship. But here we have, we can grow all the food in the world all we need, everything, we can even give away more than we can produce, and yet even in our own country, we got people that are hungry and struggling and that kind of thing. Oh dear, it doesn't seem right, that people anywhere in the world have to suffer.

SD: Do you remember when people began to Union organize, do you remember that process at all?

VD: No, I don't. They were organizing, some, because I know one of my boys was working in the cannery and they were organizing then, in the galleries

SD: Did you ever go into towns and find that they were in the middle of sort-of organizing drives or strikes or anything like that.

VD: No, you know when Raymond McGready, do you know him?...he can give you alot of information on that.

SD: How would I find him

VD: Raymond McGready, he's in the phone book, and he's been organizing. Of course his father is gone now, but, you talk to him, he knows an awful lot of the history of the organizations, I'm sure he does.

SD: He was a Union organizer or...

VD: Well, he is today, I guess, but he was even young in the thirties, but I met him and he knows quite alot of the history of the thing because he is terrifically interested in the organization. Very much so.
I didn't work around here much at all..

SD: Around Vancouver

VD: No, in the Interior.

SD: Is that where the need was the biggest?

VD: No, I guess they had a couple of girls down here. But I tried to contact one of them, I can't get her. I forget her name at the moment, but I want to talk to her and especially for that other book, you know, and I can't find her...

SD: So, in other words there were people who worked for Kaufman's who covered the entire province going around to different...

VD: I don't...well, these other girls were on the coast, there was a couple of girls on the coast and, but I did the interior, I just loved driving, and I was a good driver and still am a good driver, although I gotta go and get a medical every year, I get sick of that.

SD: Oh yeah, they make you do that.

VD: Yeah, but I'm rather amazed, I drive the car and I think "Golley-be you're 85 and you know what you're doing, you're driving and you're doing everything right. How do you do it?" I wonder.

SD: You have to be tough.

VD: Oh yeah, I talk to myself alot like that. (Laughter)

But you go and see Raymond and tell him I told you.

SD: OK, so how do you spell his name McCready.

VD: He's in Burnaby - he's, I think he is head or secretary or something of some of the Unions. But some of those Union fellows can help you an awful lot. And Helga, Kristiansen can help you a little bit on the birth control that was on in Vancouver.

SD: Do you know how to get ahold of her?

VD: Well, she's in the phone book. ¹Hylda. Spelled with a K. Those girls were in some building and they were fitting the diaphragms and some of us in Kamloops got together and brought those girls up there to fit the diaphragms, for especially some of the poorer people up there.

* Birth Control clinic

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[SD: So, it was sort of like self-help at that time.

VD: Right.

SD: So, if you went into a town, would you stay for like a week or two and try and see people, or would you just...settle yourself in.

VD: Yes, that's right, stay in there. I'd refer to...whatever, but I would write to Prince George and Giscombe and I went a way up into Braylorne into that part. I went right up to Queenel and Wells and in that way. I went in every side road wherever I could to get it spread. And I'm watching the population today, and it's going down...it's pretty good, you watch it. And I think some of that work is paying off.

over ✓

[SD; Yeah, I imagine that if you talked to one person and convinced them,...

VD: Here in Alma Road there is a couple of women, a doctor or somebody has started some kind of a clinic on sexual behaviour and helping - I want to go and see that guy...I've got awfully good manuscript on all that. I'd like to show it to him.

SD: YOU should make sure that gets published.

VD: Well, I wish...thank goodness I've got it, I lost it for awhile, Mary Bishop wanted to see it and I couldn't find it, I hid it...I put it away so carefully...and now I found it. What I want to do, is go and photostat every page of it, so I'll have two copies anyway. Of course, Mary would like a copy herself, I don't think she knows I found it, but she wants a copy alright.

SD: What is it about?

VD: Yes, sexuality, Many women don't realize the joy and the what they have * for them in the sex act at all and it's just telling them one thing and another.

[SD: That's great.

VD: Yes, it really is. This fellow is explaining and helping marriages and I've been thinking I'll go around and talk to him.

SD: YOU were really courageous for the time that you...]

VD: Oh yes, sure... you know... and not only that, ^{but} lots of people ^{were} so surprised and so wonderful that I was so interested, that I would get out and talk to them and help them, and....do you know - you Do know, oh dear, that girl in the left bookshop? Ruth Bullock.

SD: Yes, she was the one that told me about....some to see you...

VD: Yes, and she was quite amazed at...that was quite something you know...
✓ as long as I knew that I had the backing, and that it was not illegal, then I was trying to wake the people up.

SD: Well, I imagine if you start to talk about birth control to people, they would start to talk about their sexuality and that...

VD: Well, quite abit, but not too much...I didn't go into that at all, but I have a very good manuscript, very good. In fact Mr. Tyre wrote it and gave me a copy and I have a copy and it's plain as day...wonderful, so anyway, I've got to take time and get another copy before I lend it around because I don't want to lose it ever. "Cause it is so priceless.

SD: So were people sort of shocked by you as a woman...

VD: Well, I never really had much of a turn down.] I knew where I was going you see, I was not canvassing house to house.] I knew where I was going.]

✓ after 19.4 ✓
And I had to follow that, I just went there and lots of times it was a long ways between these contacts,] they weren't anything like door to door. That's another thing, it wouldn't have the feeling that it has if I were canvassing door to door.] It was problems and I was trying to help them.

SD: So, how did you find out about these people? Through a person in another town?...]

✓
VD: If I got one person in one town that was all I needed. They'd tell me, they'd tell me where to go. And I'd see Mrs. Jones down the street there and she's got three of them and I know that she is just haggard with these children and I know he's out of work and that, and I'm sure that if you went there, she'd be glad to see you. So I'd take the tip and go.

VD: (cont) And sure enough she was there. But lots of times they'd say "But who sent you". "So glad to see you, but who sent you." I'd say, well, I can't tell you who sent me, but you have to fish around yourself. And that was nice, and I just enjoyed every day of my life. I really did

SD: Oh, it's an incredible way to spend your life. How many years did you do that?

VD: Oh, I spent five or six years doing that. Quite awhile.

SD: So, after you stopped being B.C.'s Birth Control Lady, did you continue to work with birth control?

VD: No, when they folded up, I had enough of it, or that was enough and he had a good start, ended up all over...and as you can imagine there was two other women who were under him in this Vancouver area and Victoria and I practically didn't do anything around here. It was all travelling, all the way. And sometimes I'd meet a truck you know, a butcher would be up buying cattle way up in the hills and come back and meet my husband and my family, and where do you think I've met this guy, - way up in the hills and you. I was anywhere, just a good car driver and just enjoying driving. Enjoying every day of my life's work. Every minute I enjoyed it and I'd love to have gone through it all again, I enjoyed it so much. I felt I was doing something. to page 10, 11

SD: Yeah, well, you were.

VD: Of, course, I really was. You know when I think of getting that hospital board to consent to sterilize that single girl, with already several children and you never saw so many flies. I went out to the store and bought those things that you hang from the ceiling and give it to her. You know, those were the little extra things that I did. Many of them. I couldn't stand the little babies lying there flies crawling all over a baby...and no screen doors and in the interior the flies are awful if you don't have screens. Here you can get along without, but those were lots of little extra things that I couldn't stand that I had to do.

to pg. 4 (legality)

[SD: And your initiative came because you had three children yourself?]

VD: Well, remembering that mother...I was only 2 years and 10 mths. old when she had her third. She never had another one then for about 10 years, but that was too many, too fast. AND then I get my three in three years, both birthdays are in November, the first and the third, you know. And I'm telling you there was no intercourse for a long, long time after that I tell you. And I met lots of cases like that. * see pg. 15 - 'joy'

[SD: Well, I'm sure that is what women did if they didn't have birth control.]

VD: Yes, I'm telling you...they went often years without any sex play at all. Just petrified, just petrified about another pregnancy. And, of course, a jelly and condom is the safest method there is for birth control and then when we have intercourse and use a safe, you know what I'd do, I'd get up and go into the kitchen and test that safe to see if there wasn't a spot in it that could leak out anything there. Just in terror. And so when the women talk to me about their problems, there was something right there that was with them. see pg 6 - size families

[SD: The identification, sure.]

VD; It wasn't anything else, and they had a great confidence in me, these people.

[SD: Was childbirth difficult then. Childbirth must have been more difficult then.]

VD: Oh, I don't think so. Childbirth is very natural. You see my granddaughter has just had a baby and her husband was there for the birth, and she was well prepared for it, you know what I mean. She had lots of lessons and lots of exercising, and so had he, he'd been in the classes with her all the way through. And so, it goes along fine.

SD: Were women in that period, the 30's, were they afraid of childbirth?

VD: Oh, I don't think so, I don't think so. They were having their babies pretty well...some of these midwives, at home watching. That's the best place to have a baby, is in the hospital, certainly not at home. There is not, and I did both ways, I had the last one at home and that was a stupid thing. Cord around the neck two or three times you know. And all that sort of thing. Having to delay the birth to get the cord off, before the birth could come and I wasn't in the hospital, and Dr. not hurrying to come and my husband having a heck of a time to get him into the house. The craziest thing to do. Hospitals the only place. The first birth is often the hardest - you've never had a birth - no...

SD: I've been at several

VD: Oh, have you. The first birth is the slowest but afterwards, they come so quickly you know, and they are all sliding out... it's amazing, wonderful. Now I'm a great-grandmother. Gee, a lovely baby too. She's away right now, she lives on the top floor and she's gone up to the 100 Mile House to visit her sister for awhile, taking the baby. Lovely. Oh, I don't know whether I can tell you anything else about this business.

End of Tape