

1983

Oral history interview with Nancy Wainwright

Nancy Wainwright

Scott Sirason

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Recommended Citation

Oral history interview with Nancy Wainwright, 1983. Women of a Small College Town Oral Histories (EWU 984-0094), Eastern Washington University Libraries, Archives & Special Collections, Cheney, WA. <http://dc.ewu.edu/wsct/22>.

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**NANCY WAINWRIGHT
INTERVIEWED BY SCOTT SIRASON
EWU Women's Oral History Project
EWU 984-0094 #91
FEBRUARY 17, 1983**

SIRASON: This is Scott Sirason interviewing Nancy Wainwright for the EWU women's oral history project on February 17, 1983. Okay, well the projects are...I don't know what Lee told you, so I'll just go over it and give you a second catch of breath. It's a...putting together an oral history of Cheney as seen through the women in the community and so they're interviewing people that have participated in Cheney's history and you were selected. I was given your name by my teacher to interview. Let's see what else I have here. I've told you about the reason I have a tape recorder is I have to turn this in and be graded on this. It will be transcribed later on ... the whole interview will be transcribed and given to some historians at EWU and other area historians put together a whole picture from all the composites of interviews that are done and from all the women that are interviewed and like I said, the topic is women in Cheney's history, so first off I'd like to know how long you've lived in Cheney.

WAINWRIGHT: Okay. I lived in Spokane. I practiced in Cheney since...it must be the last week in October of 1978. We take the BAR exam at the end of July and the results came out either the last week in September or the first week in October and I am now...I've been working out here since then.

SIRASON: How old are you? Sticky question, but...

WAINWRIGHT: I'm 33.

SIRASON: That was one I didn't really relish, but I had to get it on the tape for references. Can you tell me what made you go into law, practice law?

WAINWRIGHT: Okay. I originally graduated from college as a teacher and I taught for three years and I didn't really want to get in, so I started to think about what, what could I do and I couldn't type, I seriously considered...

SIRASON: Practice of elimination.

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah, I seriously considered community college to learn how to type, you know, get a secretarial job and a clerical job and I just knew I couldn't get through a quarter of typing and I lived...at that time we lived in Hawaii, on the island of Maui, which is a very agricultural community to the possibility...you know, to the possibility of my working like in the...sugar mostly in our area. It wasn't something that, you know, it was just...wasn't something that I was going to do. They wanted somebody, they wanted scientists and I wasn't going to go back to school and become a scientist. Either that or hotel management and I figured all the hotels in that area, if they were going to bring in management people, we were going to bring them in from the United States, from the mainland. So that just left law school.

SIRASON: So, were you from this area originally? Did you go to school in this area? WSU?

WAINWRIGHT: No. I went to...My dad was in the army and his last assignment was Hawaii and I went to high school in Hawaii and I went to college in Hawaii and I taught in Hawaii and we moved here from Hawaii and so I had no familiarity with this area whatsoever.

SIRASON: Well that leads just nicely into my next question that I had in mind was what made you decide to move to Cheney or come to practice in Cheney I should say? Spokane.

WAINWRIGHT: Well we knew we wanted to stay on the west coast and Gonzaga heavily recruits in Hawaii. Just for that matter so does Eastern and Washington State. Not so much western Washington. I think...

SIRASON: And this applies to a law program or...?

WAINWRIGHT: No, it's undergraduate. This area is familiar to those of us who've gone to school in Hawaii, because they do come over, so at least the names of the schools are familiar and we know that a lot of people have come up here and survived and like I say, we knew didn't want the Las Angeles area and Oregon doesn't really have any...At the time I was looking in the book it was so old they didn't have Willamette in there and we had the state schools and the state schools are hard for out of state people to get in to. I'll tell you though, we flew into Portland and our car was...we had our car shipped over and we went and picked up the car and we drove for about an hour and it was gorgeous and we thought we made the right decision. Then you hit about the Dalles and the dessert starts and my husband was born and raised in Hawaii and he was used to.

SIRASON: Trees and vegetation.

WAINWRIGHT: Green and the whole thing and he...you could just see that we kept driving hour after hour and it kept getting more and more barren and he was going, "Why have I done this to myself?" I must say, driving into...Well, then you see Cheney and we had done some looking and I recognized the name Cheney and there were trees. Well maybe this won't be quite so bad. But it was kind of a shock to move up here. My husband's mother was born in Spokane, but he never...the family had never come back.

SIRASON: Basically just knew the name?

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah.

SIRASON: So then you chose to come practice out here in Cheney for what reason?

WAINWRIGHT: My husband teaches at the junior high. He went to Eastern to get his masters and was very pleased with the program and then they offered he a job at the junior high and he had taught here in Cheney a year and so I figured, well, if he liked the area I'll give it a try.

SIRASON: Sure, so both you and your husband live in Spokane, yet both of you work here in Cheney.

WAINWRIGHT: Cheney, right. That's not good planning.

SIRASON: I'm not going to make any judgments on that or anything. I commute every day too and I swear I spend most of my time out here myself, so.

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah.

SIRASON: Most of my working life anyhow. What was your impression upon first moving to Cheney? I've got your impression of physical, but so far as the social, economic, climate, what kind of under currents did you first kind of feel when you came out here?

WAINWRIGHT: When I first came out and talked to my partner Steve about a job, we got along. We just did and we have since, which is what partnerships all about. It's basically getting along with each other and he said, "Okay, we'll give it a try." And that's fine and he says, "I'm going to a lunch for Republicans, do you want to go?" I said, "Sure, I'm a liberal Democrat." And Steve's a conservative Republican and I thought, Boy this is just really going to be tough and...but it's worked out and I discovered the business community is basically conservative Republican and I'm the only liberal Democrat in town besides being noticeably one of the few businesswomen in town. But I think that everybody's been...gotten used to the idea that Steve practices with, you know, with a woman and that's just the way it is. There's just a woman lawyer in town and a man lawyer in town and they work in the same office.

SIRASON: What were some of the...I get the impression that there's more to it than that. There are no cameras that went through the...

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah.

SIRASON: What happened?

WAINWRIGHT: Well I'm still occasionally asked if I'm Steve's wife. I think that most...for some reason people have the perception that women who practice are married to lawyers, so it would seem most logical that Steve and I are married and particularly people who don't know...who haven't met Linda or haven't met...that that's Steve's wife and who haven't met my husband Paul. The either think we are married or I think there for awhile they were just concerned...I would be stalking, "Oh there's Steve and his wife Linda." Everybody would be shaking their head and go "No." At Steve and his partner Nancy and get this, "Oh." But I could say it...I think surprisingly for both of us considering what a small town it is and the age of the population. We really don't have that much to do with the college students, you know the younger...or used to change. We have more contact with the older more established community and it really didn't take them very long to accept the fact that there was another lawyer in town. Other than those, you know, the few...Oh, I have preconceived notions. After that, they just accepted it.

SIRASON: At first did it kind of scare off the business for Steve and you or?

WAINWRIGHT: No, no. I think, I honestly have to give them a lot of credit in the fact that they figured that we were both lawyers and we wouldn't have gotten to practice if we hadn't have done the right thing.

SIRASON: The right thing.

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah. That our sex really doesn't have to do with it. There's more loyalty to us as individuals. We've done...you know, Steve has done a good job for me or Nancy's done a good job for me and I don't like to transfer my loyalty to Steve or Nancy than there ever has been on the sex. It's more of a manor of...you know, they feel a tremendous loyalty to one or the other of us and they don't like to switch between us. We don't mind and we'd rather do it that way sometimes because we want to make sure people get help. Sometimes they feel like they're betraying us.

SIRASON: So I take it...My next question was, has your view changed? But I see that it has. That initially people were trying to test your medal and now you see people as more of being a real loyal community. That probably just comes from the real conservative community of Cheney. So I can see where that goes. Do you still find that people are trying to test your medal occasionally so far as being a woman? Or has it passed that? Is Cheney a little more progressive than what I'm giving it credit for?

WAINWRIGHT: Cheney is more progressive than what you're giving it credit for. It really is. I don't have any problems and I'm finally getting into the yield where I don't have...It was more a problem with my age than my sex and it's more a problem putting myself among my own peers, the other lawyers and the judges than it is in the community. Say the community figures if I've gone to law school and the state says I can practice law than I'm a lawyer and I deserve to be here. The profession itself says that the youngsters against the people we know and once you've proven yourself then...I've noticed in the last year it hasn't been quite so difficult and it's more my age than my sex. When I'm with another young man attorney it's equal. When I'm with an older man attorney there aren't many women that are older. You know I can feel that the judge kind of differs to them because they've been around a lot longer, but not necessarily because they deserve it or they know the law better, just because they know them. That's

starting to equal out now, but a lot of the judges know who I am now. A lot of the attorneys know who I am now, so.

SIRASON: That's really interesting. I...That never even really cropped up in my mind, because I was thinking of Cheney as being very conservative and might have problems accepting a woman versus just the age factor. Can you tell me what sticks out in your mind as far as what roles, some of the key things that made them see you as being confident and the age had nothing to do with it or was there any particular one case or project or something that you did that really brought it to light to the community or changed people's minds?

WAINWRIGHT: No. I think it's just...

SIRASON: Continual exposure?

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah. Yeah, that you're here and you've done a good...you've helped them out. It's surprising how many of them just need to be told a number to call in case they've got a problem or that they're not alone, that other people have these problems. So it's just a matter of contact with them.

SIRASON: Let's see, what else do I have here? What did you see in a way when you first moved here of how Cheney's society viewed women in the society? Not necessarily towards you, but women overall. What was the view that you first perceived when you moved here?

WAINWRIGHT: Well I think and it still exists. I was surprised how many non-working women there are in Cheney. It was a shock. I don't know why. I guess if you asked them the question they'd probably say the same thing in view of shocked at how many working women there are. I was surprised at how many women stayed home and were full-time wives and mothers.

SIRASON: Basically to paraphrase it, "the women's place is in the home."

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah, No well these are women who make conscience choices that are what they wanted to do and it had been a long time since I had any contact with women who had made that kind of choice, and obviously three years in law school you...

SIRASON: Law school, yeah, it's a very progressive group.

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah, right.

SIRASON: They're achievers.

WAINWRIGHT: Right. So that was a shock and there are a lot of them around.

SIRASON: Do you see any trend in that at all? Do you project it to? What direction do you see it going in? Is it going to stay that way for awhile? Do you see it starting to loosen up or is it still quite the same or...

WAINWRIGHT: I think what it shows now are that women have the best of... We can have a wider range of choices. The whole gamut from staying home and, you know, raising children and being a wife and basically not having that pressure of producing a pay check to, you know, deciding and there's a variety of career choices and a lot of women, you know, reach a position in their careers and they decide to quit. I mean they're very happy with where they are in that position and they don't feel that pressure to keep climbing up the ladder and then there are women who want it all and just keep going and working their way up and how much time they devote to their family varies. So like I say, we've got the whole gamut and we can make the choices now and nobody pre-judges us on what choice we make. It's acceptable any choice we make. I don't think a man is allowed to make choices and feel comfortable with...If you don't progress or if you decide to stay home, people look at you and say,

SIRASON: You should meet my brother-in-law. He calls himself a house husband. He stays at home and my sister works, but he's in an engineering school down in WSU, but I always got a

real kick out of that, because it...just exactly what you say, we don't have a choice and here's someone is doing it and having fun doing it.

WAINWRIGHT: But if a woman was doing it would be perfectly acceptable. Everybody would say now that's really great, I'm glad you made that choice, So I think that's one thing I noticed when I came to Cheney.

SIRASON: I see that now, because when we talk about it it's more of a qualified answer because he says, "Well I'm still in school." But there's always the underlying assumption that he would get out and assume that role. I see what you mean. So then you don't really see a trend in Cheney so far as you have the whole spectrum, but as far as the trend right now I would assume there's a lot of that made the choice to stay at home, but and that there's no trend that that will change from going out and finding work.

WAINWRIGHT: No, no I don't think so. I think the ones who decide to stay at home are always going to stay at home and they're never really going to work and those of us who decided to work, decided relatively young, sort-to-speak in our twenties, that's what we're going to do. I haven't...There really isn't an influx of new women in town. We've got accountants next door who are women.

SIRASON: Has the influx of people been all from outside the communities, such as people from Spokane moving out here?

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah.

SIRASON: There's no...

WAINWRIGHT: That's what I was thinking. There's...I was trying to think of like, women from Eastern who decide to stay in area and establish a business or something like that and I'm sure there must be somebody, but I'm hard-pressed to think of...

SIRASON: Somebody...that's not very many.

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah. I'm-hard-pressed to think of who it is, it's mostly women who have...who either have ties in the Cheney area and have worked, but there aren't...Like the new dentist in town is a man. We didn't get a new dentist in town who's a woman.

SIRASON: His wife is the teacher of this class. It's who I'm doing this for Stockton Right?

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah, right, and it will be surprising to see. We need new doctors in town, because most of the doctors left. It would be surprising to see if a woman doctor came out or a woman doctor who was from the Cheney area and saw this as an opportunity to come home. I don't think so; I don't think that's what's going to happen.

SIRASON: I see that when we were talking earlier about the political environment so far as you being a liberal and your partner being a conservative. What are some of the activities that women have gotten involved in politically and what are the potential and is there a potential for women to get involved or is Cheney that closed-type community that they would never accept women to get involved politically?

WAINWRIGHT: Well the...let's see, the Republican Party is pretty much predominant for the businessmen in the community. I don't think...I'm sure there are a couple...there are some...Oh that's what they are. There are some Republican women who are in what you call 'key positions.' You know, there are some that the men would go to and want their support, but the Democratic Party is much more open. It's not as structured and it's been...basically it's been run by whoever's been the president of the Education Association.

SIRASON: In your opinion which is the more influential group or does it fluctuate?

WAINWRIGHT: It's the Republicans.

SIRASON: All the way?

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah. Democrats are trying real hard, but it's the Republicans.

SIRASON: So then I basically see that even though there are some women in 'key positions' in the Democratic party, they don't have as much muscle.

WAINWRIGHT: I don't know what it is, because boy we work hard.

SIRASON: You say 'we.' Are you included in there or?

WAINWRIGHT: Oh yeah. My...I say the Education Association pretty much...it doesn't...It's very strong in the Democratic party as my husband does a lot of campaigning and I get dragged along and we leaflet, we doorbell this Cheney area and oh, I've driven out and put fliers in mailboxes and the Cheney area is a tough area to canvas. It is just impossible. It took me all day to canvas at one time and I don't think I hit even...

SIRASON: Put a dent in it.

WAINWRIGHT: No, and it seems the Democrats do all the right work, but they're just not making a dent in it, so we'll keep plugging along.

SIRASON: How many women are there that are actively involved in the Democratic Party in town?

WAINWRIGHT: It's pretty strong in the women, and they're starting, as a matter of fact, I think a woman just became the committee person. It had been a man all along. I think in Spokane County it's a woman now. I'm sure it is. I don't know if that's good or bad, because women are not all liberals in their thinking. They're conservative women. Women are opposed on women's issues too. It seems to me that...I can't remember what it is. A real liberal women who got nominated or a real conservative women. I think there's more potential for, not even involvement in just women, but involvement of people who are just in politics in the Democratic party than there is in the Republican party. I think that that's because the Republican Party is the party in power and it's not quite so eager to give it up. Like in Hawaii it's just the opposite. The Democratic party is very, very strong and if you want to get in politics, you'd want to become a member of the Republican party, because you'd have a better chance of moving your way up and getting your people in and things like that, so it's just the party in power as opposed to the party that's not in power. It's the party that's easier to move through. Teachers had an easy time moving into the Democratic Party. It was not doing real well. The Republicans on the other hand have been very strong. They may not have all the power, they may not have all the positions, but they're real strong lately.

SIRASON: What other activities are you involved in within the community?

WAINWRIGHT: Chamber of Commerce and we have the first Thursday of the month, a luncheon for professional women in town. We can do another in about four months.

SIRASON: I understand you had a hand in starting that.

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah well, it was Janice Punar, who's the accountant, is a member of the group in Spokane that does the same thing. They meet for dinner and we were talking and we decided it was about time that Cheney did the same thing and it's a real easy group to organize, because all we do is get together for lunch, but it's that idea of networking. Men call other men that they know that they've met a social basis or in some kind of organization. Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary and it's time women started...

SIRASON: Kind of the same opportunity.

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah, to get to know the professional women in your community, so that if you've got a problem, you call the other women. It's the name of the game.

SIRASON: "Who you know not what you know."

WAINWRIGHT: Sure, because most professional people are equal. I mean they worked hard to get where they are and the women, just like the men, have a few who aren't any good and aren't good no matter what they do there you're not going to be referred to, but there's no reason why women can't refer to other women.

SIRASON: I see kind of...maybe a little challenge going in between the sexes here. In there any kind of crossover or any kind of activities or groups that are professional and for men and women that are organized in Cheney or...?

WAINWRIGHT: Well there's just Chamber and we're going to have our first women president, Judy White, from the Farmers and Merchants Bank and Judy has worked hard to get there and the Float Association. I think that's been a real effort on the community in general to keep Cheney having a float in the Lilac Parade in that promotional aspect of it. There's a Community Center Board where all the organizations come together and meet and that's across the board kind of help. Yeah, as far as service organizations there are a lot, but there's nothing as powerful as Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions and the purpose of those groups is...

SIRASON: And Shriners.

WAINWRIGHT: And the purpose of those groups...Yeah, and the purpose of those groups is for professional men to meet other professional men and to make bonds for business.

SIRASON: I know. I deal quite heavily with those in my particular job right now. I'm doing something for the Shriners too, so. I'm beginning to understand how that power structure works.

WAINWRIGHT: And that's a very difficult system to break into. I mean you can't as a woman and so that, you know, that really makes a difference. So I say women need to do that other than there's no question that we...when we work together we do a good job. They're ahead of us in their networking.

SIRASON: So you have to look for other viable methods of doing that, which would be the Community Center and Chamber of Commerce.

WAINWRIGHT: But they're not...

SIRASON: Not as powerful or...

WAINWRIGHT: No, because those people who are in those groups or in the Rotarys and Kiwanis and Lions and they get together on that one morning a month or whenever and discuss things when you're not there.

SIRASON: What do you do for the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Center? What are your roles there?

WAINWRIGHT: Okay. Chamber, I participate and I have a feeling one of these days they'll realize that that's all I'm doing and be called upon to serve. It's a lot more help for the retail people, although indirectly that's help for us as the community prospers, so too to the professionals and it...Steve was president, I figured that was enough.

SIRASON: One in one building right?

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah and...

SIRASON: Isn't the Chamber of Commerce in this complex too? Oh, he didn't have far to walk.

WAINWRIGHT: You know, that was before we had an office. I think we had a box of fliers hidden in a closet somewhere and Community Center, we're just...we're working very hard to keep that building open as a facility for community use, but it's uphill battle, because Federal money is gone, the state money is gone for those kinds of projects and then I'm also president of the Cheney Recycling Center and I must say I've learned a lot about recycling and that's a business that should be supported by the community. As hard as Jessie Lang, who runs the

place, has to educate the public, they still think they can take all their recyclables into Spokane and why? You should keep it here in Cheney. We've got a recycling center that does a really good job and a lot...and all of it mostly on volunteer labor. Aluminum cans and newspaper and glass should stay in Cheney and I've enjoyed learning about that. Jessie runs a good...She'd be somebody who'd be good to interview for recycling. She knows a lot about it and she's done an excellent job.

SIRASON: What was her name? Jessie...?

WAINWRIGHT: Jessie Lang and you normally think in terms of recycling as a man's business, but she has...she's done a remarkable job in such a small facility of keeping it solid. But that's been more of an education than anything else. I don't know how I ended up being Chairman, but I am. Basically because Jessie does all the work and we're just mixed...is someplace she has. Whether to get some feedback on what she's doing is a good idea or a bad idea or what.

SIRASON: Okay, next. I kind of wanted to move into the future now that we've talked about some of the things that you do and but I want a little projection on your part so far as...What do you see the future holds in this community for women? We've kind of touched upon it in other areas, but I was wondering if you might focus down.

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah, that's tough. When I first came the economy was still on a boom and everything looked like it was just growing. Things have slowed down and it's hard right now to say whether things are going to get better or things are going to get worse. It's just kind of going along. Last time I went through one these that's when I graduated from college and it got better.

SIRASON: Well, I assume you mean like a recession?

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah. Things got better and there was potential to go out there and get a job and to do things. Right now I really don't know. I don't think I'd be particularly encouraging anybody to come out here. Cheney hasn't...isn't growing.

SIRASON: Residing?

WAINWRIGHT: No. It's a lot of it is people who still go to here in Spokane it's the basis for all their services. I don't know. I really would be hard-pressed to project. I think there was a time there when I thought High Tech was going to move into the Spokane area. If High Tech would have moved into the Spokane area, Cheney would have gotten its share. Cheney would have fought real hard, anything they can to discourage High Tech from moving in. High Tech is a very strong school system. The school system in Washington is going through some changes right now. I think it's great that Eastern's in Cheney and not in Spokane, because it lends for the population to kind of be dispersed rather than concentrated in Spokane. It's not that far to commute, it's not that difficult, but I understand that rumor has it, it's just rumor, that maybe more and more of Eastern will shift in Spokane. It's not...

SIRASON: That seems to be the general rumor I've perceived here too.

WAINWRIGHT: If that's true it will hurt Cheney. I don't think it would really help Spokane and I don't have...I'm not privy and all too statistical information that goes into making that kind of decision. I know that there was a big fight in Hawaii to move a college campus on to an outer island to stimulate the economy of an outer island, to keep the population growth in Honolulu down. Honolulu is just running out of room and I tend to follow that philosophy. Cheney is not so far away from Spokane that this isn't a good location. That's going to have a big basis so that it...right now it's hard to project the future because there's just so many unknowns. A lot of decisions to be made depending and how those decisions are made, so will Cheney's future.

SIRASON: Now let's narrow that down. How do you see yourself in twenty years, forty years here in Cheney or?

WAINWRIGHT: The mortgage will be paid on the building. Twenty years from now the mortgage on the building will be paid and we'll own this and we won't have to pay rent anymore. That's the only thing I can think of right now.

SIRASON: Do you still see yourself practicing here in Cheney or?

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah, I do. Wow, I haven't...I don't have any desire to go downtown and practice in Spokane at a big firm there. There's no point in starting over in a small firm and I don't want to take another BAR exam and move. So yeah, I'll be the old-town lawyer eventually.

SIRASON: Be one of those that you ran up against when you first started.

WAINWRIGHT: Right.

SIRASON: What kind of business do you see having carved out yourself? Do you want to practice at your leisure or do you want to keep a pretty full schedule or?

WAINWRIGHT: Nope. I want to practice at my leisure. I'm going to be the partner that they send checks to in the Bahamas and who will occasionally come through town and shake everybody's hand and say, you know, remember me.

SIRASON: Doing a good job, bravo, bravo. What kind of role which you like to take in the community's future? Do you have any? Do you want stir Cheney in more than one way or anywhere do you see yourself doing that?

WAINWRIGHT: No, I don't. I don't see myself, but I would really like...just everything points to High Tech and I just, you know, anybody who would be willing to listen I would say, you know, you have just got to do things to support, you know, the High Tech people coming in. Hewlett Packard is the trendsetter in that area and if Hewlett Packard moves into an area than it tells all the other companies that we have a stamp of approval. If Hewlett Packard isn't happy with us now that they've moved in here...we, exactly and we've got...Eastern is an excellent institution. Washington State is an excellent institution. They both have very good reputations outside their own local areas. University of Washington has an excellent reputation. I don't see any reason why people who are educated down in Stanford and Berkeley can't move up into this area. This is the kind of area where people want to live. You know, we just don't seem to be making the right kinds of decisions to do that.

SIRASON: What would be the best way to accomplish that?

WAINWRIGHT: You've got to support your educational systems.

SIRASON: Education.

WAINWRIGHT: That's what they say. They say that High Tech needs a certain kind of skilled person and the last thing they like to read is, you know, funding for education's cut. You know, and they don't like to hear that and you need to bolster your math and your sciences, encourage people into engineering, and you need to keep quality of life. I think Spokane has the quality of life and I don't think that right now they have an industry that seriously impairs that. So I...whatever we're doing in that area that's been right we should keep doing. We shouldn't let ourselves slide. I guess we spend...we must spend a high percentage of our money on parks and things like that and we've got to keep doing it. Sooner or later it will pay off. I'd much rather live in Spokane than Denver. We've got more to offer yet business' go to Denver, so what's Denver doing?

SIRASON: They've got the banks or they've lured the banks there and that's...at least that's the way I understand that.

WAINWRIGHT: But I mean as far as the quality of life, we're much...And we've got a better climate and we've got better skiing, closer, you know and we've got the lakes that Denver doesn't have. I don't think Denver doesn't have any water. It's got a reservoir somewhere.

SIRASON: It's got a lot of streams, water runoff, but it doesn't collect anywhere. Well those are about all the questions that I have. Is there anything else that you'd like to say or feel is important that you'd like to share?

WAINWRIGHT: Just one point that came up. I am the first woman attorney to practice in Cheney as far as I know, however there was a walker who practiced law here before Merit Johnson. They may have overlapped and his wife is rumored to have practiced going to middle law and she worked with him all those years and when he died she just kind of continued for awhile closing up his practice.

SIRASON: So would it be safe to say that you are the first independent?

WAINWRIGHT: I'm the first law-school trained lawyer and I'm the first who can sign all the papers. She couldn't sign anything as a lawyer.

SIRASON: Oh, she hadn't taken a BAR exam, she was just very skilled and knowledgeable about it, okay.

WAINWRIGHT: Oh no. Yeah and it would be...kind of curious to know is to how people accepted her and I gather they did, because he was the only lawyer in town. Everybody kept going and a lot of them knew she was doing a lot of the work for him. So maybe she...maybe she broke a lot of the ground for me. Yeah, but they had been used to working with Kathleen Walker and so it wasn't all that shocking when a real lady lawyer shows up.

SIRASON: When someone could do it.

WAINWRIGHT: Yeah.

SIRASON: Well that about does it. I'll flip this off.