# **Conversations with Marian**

## **Childhood through teen years**

## What is your earliest memory? What else can you remember?

## What is your most special early memory or happiest time?

## Tell me about your mother…

## What was her birthday?

## Can you describe her; I don’t know that I’ve ever seen a photo? (Do you have a photo?)

## Tell me about your father…

## What was his birthday?

## I met him, but I don’t remember him, why don’t we have any photos?

## Did you get along with your parents?

## What else can you tell me about either of them?

## Your mom was young when she died, can you tell me a little about that?

## Do you remember your grandparents?

## What were their birthdates?

## On your mother’s side?

## On your father’s side?

## What were your brothers and sisters like growing up?

## What are their birthdates?

## Maxine

## Helen

## George

## Paul

## Who was the bad one? Why?

## Who was the good one? Why?

## Who got along best with your mother and father?

## Did the boys hunt?

## Can you tell me about other relatives on your side that I might not know about?

## Tell me about your house growing up?

## Tell me about meals… who prepared them, what type of food, did you go without food?

## What did your father do?

## What did your mother do?

## How much of your own food did you garden?

## What was school like?

## What was the school itself like?

## How many kids, from where?

## Did you have a favorite subject?

## Do you remember your teacher?

## Why/when did you leave school?

## Do you remember your first boyfriend?

## Was church important to you?

## What was your favorite color?

## Do you always remember having a radio?

## Did you have a favorite song as a girl?

## What did you think about? When did you know you wanted to leave Iowa?

## Can you tell me a funny story from when you were young?

## Do you remember any of your friends, or families from the area?

## Was there a pond or lake nearby?

## Did you ever take a vacation as a family?

## Were you healthy? What was health care like?

## **Leaving home and early adulthood**

## Can you tell me about why you first left home?

## How old were you, what year was it?

## How did you leave, by what mode of transportation?

## Do you remember being scared, excited?

## Do you remember how you felt about yourself?

## Did you feel pretty?

## Were things OK with your folks?

## How often did you keep in touch with your family?

## Were you particularly close with any sibling at this time?

## Where did you go?

## How long were you there?

## How did you manage financially?

## Tell me about your first job. Was that in Oelwein or somewhere else?

## Tell me about your first job away…

## I’d like to know about the first place you lived away from home.

## How did you meet new people?

## Who was your first friend away from home?

## Do you remember your first boyfriend away from home?

## What was popular? Songs, movies, politics, etc.

## Did you go to church?

## What did you do for fun?

## When was the first time you went home?

## How long did you stay?

## What was that like?

## **Places you’ve lived**

## Let’s try to map out where you went after you left home. We don’t have to get to Alaska yet, or even Florida, but let’s talk about where you went before then. When you lived there, jobs, friends, how you got there, why you left, etc.

## Fort Sill, Oklahoma

## New York, New York

## Anywhere else?

## **Meeting Bill Webb**

## How did you and Billy meet? How did you end up there?

## What were your first thoughts about him, what was he like?

## Do you remember your first date? Tell me about it.

## What kind of things did you do?

## Did you fall in love?

## When did he tell you about his first wife?

## How long after you met did he go overseas?

## What was your relationship like then? Did you think you were going to get married?

## How much did you keep in touch when he was overseas?

## Where were you then? Were you waiting for him?

## What did dad do? Why didn’t he talk about it?

## **Life after the war**

## Going to Florida (dates)

## Where did you get married? Who was there?

## Working for Dupont?

## Going to New York (dates)

## Back to Florida?

## **Alaska**

## The move with Bob’s family

## Did we know people there?

## Places we lived, people we met…

## Adjusting to Alaska

## Betty staying with us

## Sending me to Florida

## Betty’s death

## **Washington**

## **Florida**

## Billy’s death

## Now let’s try to go through the places you have lived after dad died…

## **Texas**

## Dana’s death

## Staying with Steve

## **Florida**

## Flo’s death

## **California**

## Living in Jackson

## **Washington**

## Moving you to Olympia (I’m so sorry about that)

## Staying with Bob and Kay

## Staying with Stan and Carol

## **Other**

## How have you felt, happy, sad, what?

## When have you been the happiest?

## What still makes you feel sad?

## Is life long or short? Which part went the fastest?

## What gets you going every day?

## Why do you think you work so hard?