

MARION LIPMAN

An Interview by Wanda McDonough

Wanda McDonough Oral History Project

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ORAL/TAPED HISTORY INTERVIEW

Interviewee: MARION B. LIPMAN
Name

Interviewer: WANDA McDONOUGH
Name

Interview: 6-7-93 DIOCESAN PASTORAL CTR.
Date Place

RELEASE FORM:

The sound recording and the transcript of my interview with _____
Wanda McDonough on the date of 6-4-93 may
be deposited for public inspection in the oral history collection
of the diocesan Archives, and used for scholarly purposes.

Marion B Lipman
Signature

6-7-93
Date

INTERVIEW BY WANDA McDONOUGH OF MARION LIPMAN, TAPED AT THE
DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER, SALT LAKE CITY, ON JUNE 7, 1993

- WM: All right, Marion, if you would give your name, where you were born.
- ML: I'm Marion Lipman. I was born in Salt Lake City in 1906. My maiden name was Marion Buller. And I was married to Allan Lipman in June 1931.
- WM: And who were your parents, what nationality were they?
- ML: My mother was Margaret Tracy and she was Scotch and Irish, and my father was German.
- WM: Your nationality got really mixed up.
- ML: Uh-huh. And Lipman is Jewish. Buller is German.
- WM: Are you related to Justine Buller?
- ML: Yes, her husband was my cousin.
- WM: I have a tape on her, and one on Mrs. Halfhill.
- ML: Oh, have you?
- WM: And where did you go to school, Marion?
- ML: At St. Mary's on the West Side. And I graduated in 1924 from there. Then I went to Duchesne College. It's part of Creighton University in Omaha.
- WM: Duchesne. Part of Creighton?
- ML: It's a convent. Creighton is a Catholic school too. And I got a scholarship from Bishop Glass to go there. And he gave quite a few scholarships to St. Mary's graduates, and a few medals to girls.
- WM: Were they all to Creighton? Did you have to go to Creighton to take the scholarship, or was it a scholarship you could go where you wanted?
- ML: No. It was a scholarship to Creighton.
- WM: Do you remember anyone else who received it?
- ML: Yes. Louise, not from here, a girl from Ogden received a Blue Medal. And then Catherine Edwards received a scholarship to St. Mary's of the Woods, I think. And, I don't know, quite a few scholarships.
- WM: Now, let's see, did you graduate?
- ML: Yes. I graduated. I went to the University my junior year of college. Then I went back to Creighton and graduated.

WM: University of Utah?

ML: One year.

WM: Let's see, which parish did you live in during all this time? Or what parishes?

ML: Cathedral.

WM: You've been in Cathedral all the time? Born in Cathedral? You still live in Cathedral? It's your home parish I'd say.

ML: Yes.

WM: Okay, now, I know you have known a lot of the bishops here. Can you tell which ones they were?

ML: Bishop Hunt, or Bishop Glass of course. And Bishop Hunt was a very good friend of mine. He married us when he was a monsignor. And then, when he became bishop, we played bridge practically every week.

WM: With Bishop Hunt?

ML: Bishop Hunt.

WM: I knew you played bridge with some bishop? I thought it was Bishop Federal or did you continue?

ML: No. It was Bishop Hunt. And he lived at the Holy Cross Hospital and Catherine Edwards, Allan and I played bridge with him practically every week.

WM: Did you beat him.

ML: No, he's a very good bridge player. (laughs). He was. And he liked it.

WM: And then you knew the bishops in between you, you must have known . . .

ML: Bishop Kearney, and Bishop Mitty. And we were engaged when Bishop Mitty was here. And he wouldn't allow us a church wedding. We were married in the rectory because Allan was not a Catholic.

WM: Mr. Halfhill is a very interesting person: he's not Catholic, and he's ninety-two years old. He says, "I'll never be Catholic, but brought up good Catholic family."

ML: So did Al.

WM: It's the same thing. Um-Um.

ML: Bishop, he was a monsignor then, talked to Allan about it. And he said if he won't bring up the children in the Catholic (faith), what if he

objects? And I said, "Well you better not let him object!"

WM: That's good. I guess it can be done. Let's see, then what priests, can you remember--any of the priests you've known in the cathedral, Salt Lake cathedral?

ML: Well, I can't off-hand. Um, Bishop Dwyer. I knew him quite well.

WM: McDougall?

ML: Yes. Father McDougall, yeah, Monsignor, I knew him very well. And he married Nancy, my daughter.

WM: What's her name now?

ML: Giles.

WM: Does she live in Salt Lake?

ML: Uh-huh. And he's an attorney. He's not a Catholic, but she is. They have no children.

WM: Both of my sons married girls who were never baptized. Now, before we forget it, let's talk about that Blue Medal. Why you got it, and who gave it to you, and what it was like.

ML: It was, I think, on the chain and it was the Blessed Virgin medal. And Bishop Glass gave them to different people. It was quite an honor to receive one. He received you and gave you the medal. You were very thrilled, very honored.

WM: How old were you when you received this?

ML: I received it when I graduated from high school. . . um, that would be about eighteen, when you graduate from high school.

WM: I was seventeen when I graduated.

ML: Seventeen or eighteen.

WM: Did they give them some kind of a ceremony, or just each person?

ML: Oh, no. Individually. And he gave me this and blessed it. Then put it on, I think he put it around my neck. And he gave them to several different people.

WM: Do you remember who else received one?

ML: I think, I know Catherine did..

WM: Catherine . . .

ML: Catherine Edwards and Dorothy Lynch.

WM: How about Marie Thompson?

ML: Who?

WM: Marie Thompson?

ML: No, she didn't go to St. Mary's and I don't think she had one.

WM: Oh, it was just the girls from St. Mary's?

ML: Uh-hum.

WM: By then, where was St. Mary's then?

ML: On the West Side.

WM: Still on the West Side. I can't remember when they moved up east.

ML: No. I never went up there.

WM: Where was it on the West Side?

ML: Second West . . . I don't know what it is now. It was on Second West and, ah, between Second and Third South.

WM: That's getting close to the Greek Church.

ML: Yes.

WM: Now, let's see some of the things you've done. Let's talk about the Catholic Charities. How it got organized, what parts you had in organizing it, and what you did.

ML: Well, I was president of it when I was a volunteer. And then I worked as part-time every other day in the mornings.

WM: Where, where was it?

ML: It was in the red brick building next to the church.

WM: To the Chancery.

ML: To the Chancery, yeah. And then we were down south. And I worked part-time for quite awhile, for several years.

WM: Well, you say when you were a volunteer, how did it get started at all?

ML: Um. I can't remember that.

WM: Was it a St. Vincent De Paul organization?

ML: No. No. I don't know who started it. I guess it was Bishop Hunt.

WM: What did you do? What were the activities?

ML: It was adoption and placement, and helping of the poor.

WM: What do you mean by placement?

ML: Children for adoption. And I did that quite a bit. And, went over to see the families. I can remember, I placed a baby--this girl came from New York, and she didn't want anybody to know about it. So I can remember her writing letters, and me sending them to someone in Idaho, and they'd mail them so that her mother would never know that she was out here, that she was visiting in Idaho.

WM: She had relatives or friends up there?

ML: So she had her baby, and we had taken such precautions trying to keep it a secret from her mother, then she called her mother.

WM: Told her all about it?

ML: Anyway, we placed the baby for adoption, and then we went out regularly to see how it was getting along. And we found the baby had bruises, and it was mistreated. So we took it, had to take it away. And that was the first experience I had with child molesting.

WM: And they were adopting it? Not just foster home?

ML: No, they were adopting it.

WM: Could you take it away when it's been adopted?

ML: Oh yes. Oh, the adoption wasn't completed.

WM: Oh, it wasn't completed.

ML: And ah, so we took the baby.

WM: When you say you helped the poor, just the Catholic poor? Or was it a community.

ML: Well, it was small, small organization then. It wasn't community services like it is now. And it was mostly Catholics.

WM: Catholics, plenty of them on the West Side.

ML: Yeah.

WM: When you went to school at St. Mary's, of course you were on the West Side. I just wondered if you were conscious of all the Catholics that were out there because I've talked to some people who went to St. Mary's

up here, and Judge. They had no contact at all with the West Side of town.

ML: Well, we didn't have much contact with them either. At St. Mary's there were "minis"; there were "tiny tots" under kindergarten age there clear up through high school.

WM: There's a lady who wrote an article earlier for the Colorado Historical Society. She lived in Brown's Gulch where the Bassett Family did. Did you happen to go to school when Ann Bassett did?

ML: No.

WM: She went to St. Mary's when it was the old school.
Uh . . . I remember working in a clothing room.

ML: Oh yes. They had a clothing room. And we gave clothes away.

WM: And it was..where was it?

ML: It was downstairs in that red brick building, down in the basement.

WM: I remember working down there. It was a gloomy place.

ML: Yeah. (laughs).

WM: How long was that going, do you remember?

ML: Oh, long time. I was there. I think it was Mrs. Marion Major who was head of it--she's dead now. But, when she resigned, she felt she was too old, and retired. And ah, I don't think anything happened to it after that. She had kept it going. She was a case worker.

WM: I didn't think it went on for too very long. Have you been connected with it since they've been out south, the Catholic Community Services?

ML: Yes, I am.

WM: You still?

ML: No.

WM: Can you remember anything else about the Catholic Charities that you did while you were there?

ML: I was on the board for a long time. Anyway, when I stopped, they gave me an award. It was a little car (laughs), that I travelled around.

WM: Still have it?

ML: Uh-huh. It's an award they've given me, being on the Board of Catholic Charities.

WM: Was it a paid position?

ML: No.

WM: It was always volunteer?

ML: Oh no, I was paid part-time. But, I just did that a little while. And then I was on the board for years, all the time.

WM: But you said you were a volunteer when you started.

ML: Yes. But then I worked part-time. Then I was on the board ever after.

WM: Until you retired from the board and got in an automobile.

ML: (laughs)

WM: Now let's see, you've also been president, I know, of the DCCW [Diocesan Council of Catholic Women]. Do you remember the years, or anything that happened during those years?

ML: Oh..yes. At first the Catholic Woman's League was the only member and it was called the..

WM: DCCW

ML: Yes. And then Marie Thompson [president, DCCW: 1955-1957] was really instrumental in getting other parishes into it. Districts . . .

ML: Diocesan Council, and it really became a Diocesan Council under her.

WM: Officially. Who has the word to say that it becomes diocesan. You have to get that from the NCCW, or through the bishop?

ML: No, I think it's national.

WM: It was the DCCW helped at the Christmas party up at Intermountain School.

ML: Oh yeah.

WM: Were you in on that in all that?

ML: Yes.

WM: Now let's see, you were president of DCCW?

ML: Yes, after Marie (Thompson).

WM: Was she the first one?

WM: Where did Margaret O'Brien fit in there?

ML: Somewhere. (laughs). I know Margaret O'Brien and I went to all of the parishes in the state, the district rather, to see if they could get more money, give more money to support of the Diocesan Council. Some of them raised their amounts and they gave fifty dollars to sixty to seventy a year.

WM: That when you were president?

ML: No.

WM: Was Margaret president?

ML: Marie was president then. Margaret O'Brien and I went around trying to get more money.

WM: Then you were also president at one time of the Catholic Woman's League.

ML: Yes, I was.

WM: Do you remember what happened? What was going on then?

ML: No. I can remember I was vice chairman of the Catholic Woman's League and Bishop Hunt said now, "You got to be president". The president was not well. And he said, "You've just got to take her place." Well, she resigned. And so I was elected president.

WM: Where did they meet then?

ML: At the Ladies Literary Club.

WM: At the Ladies Literary Club. When I was chairman we were down in the Moreau Hall.

ML: Oh, were you. The Ladies Literary Club is a very nice place.

WM: What were they doing?

ML: We had a fundraiser, I know we had luncheons. I don't remember much else. We had a charitable project, we had picked it out, you know, something to do, to give our money to that year.

WM: Each year just like they do now. Do you remember when the Catholic Woman's League was connected with the sisters down in the old mission, Guadalupe Mission? I have a faint memory of going down there with the lady, with my sponsor, who helped me join the Catholic Church. We went to one meeting, and there were some people there, she said, "That's the Catholic Woman's League that they are attending today." I guess they held classes. Now, with all that activity, did you have any time to work in the parishes?

ML: Well, I belonged to the Women's Society.

WM: Women's Society now, used to be Altar Society.

ML: The Altar Society. But that's about all in the parish.

WM: Were you ever an officer in it?

ML: No. I pay my dues.

WM: They have their meetings at night--I can't go out at night anymore, I don't suppose you do either; so I can't get to a lot of things I'd like to. Now, I know..oh! Big Brothers and Sisters, you were...

ML: But that was very brief. I didn't do it very long.

WM: Was that in connection with the Catholic Church or was it a civic organization? Were you a big sister to any of the girls?

ML: No. I don't even remember being on that.

WM: Now. What you did in civic organizations, which ones you belonged to. . . Girl Scouts.

ML: Yes. And, ah, the Welfare Council. I was president of that, Welfare Council.

WM: That's what they called it?

ML: That's what they called it. And I was . . . all of these organizations, I can't think of names.

ML: But what is this organization that has, ah, housing for travelers?

WM: Traveler's Aid.

ML: Traveler's Aid, yes.

WM: Oh, you belonged to Traveler's Aid. What did you do for them?

ML: Well, I was president of it.

WM: President? But you must have worked your way up to president.

ML: Well, I had charge of the volunteers going to the depot and to the airport. We had volunteers at the airport.

WM: Were you ever a volunteer out there? Did you ever go out there and work?

ML: No, no. And I had volunteers, and I went out to see them occasionally to see what they were doing. But, they had a desk out there.

WM: They have a place in the bus station now. Did they have one in the

railroads? For the railroads, for AMTRAK?

ML: No they didn't. No they didn't. But they did at the bus station, and the airport. And that's what I did most of the time.

WM: You didn't say what you did with the Girl Scouts.

ML: Well I was on the board. I helped Marie (Thompson). But ah, I didn't have a troop or anything.

WM: You didn't ever have one. Roselee Norwood had one, didn't she?

ML: Yes.

WM: Were they mostly all Catholic Girl Scouts? I know the LDS have their own organization for young girls, but were the other churches likely to have Girl Scouts too, besides the LDS?

ML: Well, ours was a Catholic Girl Scout Troop. I helped Marie, just on her board.

WM: Was that statewide, or just countywide, or Salt Lake City?

ML: No, I think it had to do with Ogden too, I think it was Utah Girl Scout Council.

WM: Utah Girl Scout Council. How long were you on the board?

ML: I can't remember.

WM: But while we're talking about Marie, do you want to tell us what you know about Marie Thompson, or do you not know much about her?

ML: Well, she was head of the Girl Scouts, Executive Director, and that was a paid job; and she was president of the DCCW; and she was also president of the Catholic Women's League.

ML: Uh-huh. And, as I say, she was very active with everything to do with the city (laughs). And she was executive of the World Union of Catholic Women [World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations; WUCWO]

WM: She died in Rome.

ML: She died in Rome. They brought her here, and buried her.

WM: I remember a funeral, and Margaret Mealey (sp?), who was head of NCCW. Now where was Marie born?

ML: In Park City.

WM: Isn't her brother still here?

ML: Yeah, Thomas.

WM: We could call him and get it.

WM: Is her sister-in-law still around? Was it Betty? Was that her name?

ML: I don't know. I don't know.

WM: Now, this is just personal. I always like to know what people did during the depression. Were you so well off enough that it didn't affect you?

ML: Oh no, it affected me. We married during the depression. And I can remember having a fight with the telephone company about a five cents charge that I didn't deserve for talking out in the southern part of the city. Ah, think it was like Sandy or something, and they charged me five cents. (laughs). Yes, we watched; ah, my husband had a very low salary.

WM: Where did he have to work? You didn't say anything about..

ML: He worked at Auerbach's.

WM: Everybody had low salaries. I worked for the telephone company, we had the low salaries too. We only worked three days a week, but we were never laid off.

WM: We were desperately poor. What money I made had to go to my mother and dad because I had little brothers and sisters, and I can remember not ever being able to afford a new pair of shoes and having to stick cardboard in the shoes when they had a hole in them.

ML: I remember what we did was very hard doing. Allan's family had a Cohns store that's gone out of business now; but, they owned a store, he ran it.

WM: Which one? Cohns?

ML: Cohns.

WM: What kind of a store was it? I can't remember.

ML: It was a dry goods.

WM: Where was it?

ML: It was on Main Street, on the west side, between Second and Third South. It's right next to where, you know that shoe company that had the lion in front?

WM: Flags. Well, something like that. Well, I must have been familiar with it at the time, but I can't remember now.

- ML: But, they helped us out, quite a bit.
- WM: At least trying to help others. And during World War II, do you remember World War I at all?
- ML: No. My father died in the World War I. But, I can remember they couldn't have a burial, you know, the flu epidemic.
- WM: Flu epidemic?
- ML: And ah, they had to wear masks and they couldn't have a funeral or any gathering of people.
- WM: Did you have the flu?
- ML: I don't think so. Did you?
- WM: I can still remember because, my mother and my two brothers and my sister, we had it at the same time. And my dad didn't get it for some reason. He had a grocery store, but they wouldn't let him come in the house. He'd come up to the window every night and wave to us.
- WM: World War II, what did you do in World War II, we all did something.
- ML: Well, I worked with the USO. And, ah, and knit one sock. (Laughs) I never did finish it by the time the war was over. But I volunteered quite a bit.
- WM: Was your husband in the War?
- ML: No.
- WM: Mine was in an essential industry, in the railroad. Brothers were. Well is there anything else you can remember about any priests or bishops or anything we haven't talked about?
- ML: Well, I don't think so.
- WM: Been talking almost an hour. Don't want to miss any little goodies that you can think of
- WM: Do you remember any of the sisters who taught at St. Mary's?
- ML: Oh, yes. Sister Valentina. I remember her. And she used to dance. (laughs).
- WM: She teach you dancing?
- ML: Well, I can see her dancing with her habit up and dancing. She was an awfully cute person. And that's about the only one I can remember very well. Um, speaking of awards, I got an award from University of Utah Alumnae.

WM: I can even remember that in the paper. But what was that for?

ML: It was for volunteer work in the city. And a woman from the Navy got one and a man.

WM: And then, you got the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

ML: Yes.

WM: Now let's see, any other awards? Yeah, we kind of skipped over them, except the Blue Medal didn't we?

ML: Then an award from the Welfare Council . . .

WM: Welfare Council and who?

ML: Uh, Catholic Charities, Community Services.

WM: I get all kinds of awards from the library, but I don't have many from the Church.

ML: An award from the Salvation Army.

WM: What were you doing with the Salvation Army?

ML: On the board.

WM: Couldn't they run a board in this city without you?

WM: What did you do in the Salvation Army? Did you ever work in it, or just on the board?

ML: I was on the board, and then I helped when they had these people out getting money at Christmas time and all that. And I sort of had charge of that.

WM: Did they volunteer, those people that are out at stores at Christmas time?

ML: Yeah, I think so.

WM: They're not paid.

ML: I don't think so. But they are part of the Army, you know.

WM: Oh! They're members.

ML: They're members.

ML: Of the Army, so they get probably some salary, you know, for being there.

WM: You didn't ever do that, did you?

ML: No. But I...

WM: What did you do, scheduling?

ML: Uh-huh.

WM: Keep track of the money. Did they really make good money?

ML: Yeah, they did. It goes to the Army. And they dish it out to have dinners, you know, meals for the people. And they give clothes, and I can remember I was on the board, and Mr., ah, the head of the Red Cross, was also on the board. And the Salvation Army at that time was in the old hospital, you know, on the West Side.

WM: St. Mark's.

ML: St. Mark's Hospital. They were in there. And they would give clothing and all. And then they decided they couldn't give meals. And so we had a bitter fight about that because that was part of their obligation.

WM: Now wait a minute, was the hospital still operating at that time? They were still out there?

ML: No! No. It was after they had moved.

WM: Okay, just the building after they left.

ML: ...and they were in the building.

WM: And what about the meals? They had a fight about the meals?

ML: They were to give clothing, and that was part of the Salvation Army saying, you know, "Purpose!". And they weren't fulfilling their purpose and so the board was very, very upset about it.

WM: Why didn't they want them to give the meals?

ML: Well, I don't know, they said it was hard out there or something.

WM: Well it seems to me that would have been a good location right there.

ML: Yes, it was. Well, they finally did, 'cause the board insisted.

WM: But there is another organization out there, the Children's Museum. What about the museums up at the University? Have you worked there?

ML: No, I have no time.

WM: But you only went to the University one year, but you got an award for distinguished alumna? Aren't you glad you came back for that one year?

That's nice that you came back for that one year. Did you like the college of Creighton?

ML: Very much.

WM: What was your course of study?

ML: I majored in English. And I got the scholarship for four years and I persuaded Mother--I met Allan in between.

WM: Was he from back there?

ML: No. I worked at a store in the hosiery department. And I met Allan. He was working there. And I met him and so I wanted to go to the University. (laughs). Or stay here one year. And so they said that I could, you know, still go back and finish. And I persuaded Mother that it would be just as good for me to go up to the University and save the railroad fare and everything back there.

WM: But did you lose the four year scholarship because you...

ML: No I didn't. I went back and finished.

WM: You still got the scholarship money.

ML: No, I didn't get the money. It was paid right to Creighton.

WM: Even for the third year when you were at the University, they were getting your scholarship?

ML: Oh, no. They didn't.

WM: They didn't. But there were no stipulations that you have to complete four years.

ML: So I went up at the University that year. And because I had met Allan and I persuaded Mother. And so, then I joined a sorority when I was up there, Kappa Kappa Gamma.

WM: Did you belong to one in Creighton?

ML: No, they didn't have one.

WM: They didn't have one.

ML: And so I enjoyed that year up there.

WM: You only mentioned the one sister. That's the only sister that you can remember at St. Mary's all the years you went there?

ML: Well, I can't remember the name of this other one, the one that was really responsible for me getting a scholarship. I can't even remember

the name, isn't that terrible? I went there when I was in the grade school, just the grade school.

WM: Well, do you have anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself? Any other civic activities? Salvation Army came up, maybe there any others?

ML: Oh, yes. There was . . .

WM: If it had to do with charities, you have been there, haven't you?

ML: Yes. A I haven't been on like, the Symphony or Arts or any of those things.

WM: Like to do with charitable works? How did you get interested in charitable organizations?

ML: I don't know. I guess through Catholic Charities.

WM: One time they were on 6th South and State Street someplace down there. Had a store.

ML: It was when we were in the red brick building, Father ah . . . and then he left the church. Married. I can't think of his name.

Brusatto. I think it was.

WM: Well, thank you for all your information. It's been very interesting. hope we haven't missed any awards.

ML: (laughs)

WM: Did you get an award from the Girl Scouts? Did you say?

ML: No. No. Welfare Council . . . what is it now? It used to have members from all of the different organizations in the city.

WM: Women's Organization?

ML: No. All organizations like the Salvation Army, the Traveller's Aid.

WM: United Way?

ML: Yes, uh-huh. Yes, I was vice-president of the United Way.

WM: But they also have, they still do, the Heart Association and Cancer Society. That's, that's the United Way. Did you get an award from them?

ML: I got...(laughs)

WM: Where do you keep all your awards?

ML: (laughs). Well I have them hanging up in the den. And that was all, the one from the University is the biggest and then the Catholic Charities, Salvation Army...I think that's all. And the Welfare Council.

WM: The Pro Ecclesia is kind of big; did you have yours framed?

ML: Yes.

WM: I had mine framed too.

ML: And that's in our hall.

WM: Well, thank you.

(END OF INTERVIEW)

