

## Interview with Sister Cerella Baumgartner (CB)

Conducted by Michael M. Miller

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School Sisters of Notre Dame, Mankato, Minnesota

Transcription by Margaret Templin

**MM:** This is Michael M. Miller, The Germans from Russia Bibliographer at North Dakota University Libraries in Fargo, North Dakota. Today is July 27, 1998 and I'm in Mankato, Minnesota at Good Council at the School Sisters of Notre Dame at their provincial house. It a pleasure for me to visit with Sister Cerella Baumgartner, who not only is a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame but is also a relative of mine. Today I also have with me my, niece Mary Kay Miller Fiest, who is going to assist in this interview. It will be her first experience with us as a oral interviewer for the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection. I'm going to begin by extending greetings to Sister Cerella and ask her to say her name and what was her name in the Sisterhood before she changed it back to original name.

**CB:** My name is Sister Cerella Baumgartner. When I entered the community I was Sister Consulla. Then later on I went back to my baptismal name.

**MM:** Sister Cerella, when were you born?

**CB:** I was born on October 17, 1930.

**MM:** And where were you born?

**CB:** I was born in Strasburg with a midwife. All of my family were brought in by a midwife, all except my youngest brother. My father had died and four months later my brother John was born. My mother was very sick, so they did bring a doctor in for him.

**MM:** Do you remember who the midwife was?

**CB:** No, I don't.

**MM:** That's interesting. Were you were born in the home?

**CB:** At home.

**MM:** Very interesting. What is your nationality?

**CB:** I am Russian German or Germans from Russia.

**MM:** What is your father's name?

**CB:** My father's name was John L. Baumgartner.

**MM:** Was your father born in the United States or was he born over there?

**CB:** My father was born in Strasburg and so was my mother.

**MM:** They were both born in Strasburg. Was it their parents who were born in Russia?

- CB:** No, I think it was their grandparents that came from there.
- MM:** What is the name of your mother and her family name?
- CB:** My mother was Martina Schaar from Strasburg.
- MM:** Do you remember the names of your grandparents?
- CB:** Yes, my grandfather on my dad's side was Leopold Baumgartner and Marianna Reirick. On my mother's side it was Michael Schaar and his wife was Regina Welk.
- MM:** That's interesting. Did you know your grandparents?
- CB:** I knew my grandparents. My grandmother Baumgartner died when I was maybe in the fourth or fifth grade. And Grandpa Schaar died before I was born. Then Grandma lived with us and then she died when I was little, I think about sixth or seventh grade.
- MM:** When you visited with them did you speak English or German?
- CB:** German.
- MM:** Do you recall if they ever learned English?
- CB:** Yes. I don't remember about Grandma Schaar. I think Grandpa Baumgartner spoke German mostly.
- MM:** Right. We will get into this deeper a little later. Did the grandparents ever talk about their life, do you recall?
- CB:** You know, I do not remember because Grandpa was gone when I was born. Grandma, I don't remember that much about her either. But Grandpa Baumgartner I remember when we used to, especially when my dad was so sick and we would go out there. Ever night Grandpa Baumgartner would sit in a chair and we sat around him. He would read from the scriptures and we would say our evening prayers then he would put us to bed.
- MM:** Did he read in German or English?
- CB:** I don't really remember but I think it was in German.
- MM:** But you understood it?
- CB:** Yes, yes.
- MM:** Very interesting. Now it goes on to ask this question. Were there any other family members who were interested in the religious life other than you, in your family?
- CB:** You know my sister Nilia was in the community here until renewal of vows. So, she was here about five years and then she left. My sister Bergie was in the aspirant here. In her senior year she decided she had better be home to be with Mom. We were kind of worried the Mom wasn't taken care of. So then she never came back.
- MM:** So there were actually two other sisters who were considering.
- CB:** That's right.

- MM:** Very interesting. When you decided to go into the Sisterhood was there encouragement from your mother or other family members?
- CB:** From my mother, very strongly. She told me when I was received that she had prayed that one of her children would enter Religious life. You know where I got the most opposition was from your aunt, Agnes. We lived right next door to her. She tried to discourage me because she said, "You are just old enough to help your mother. You should be out working and helping to support her." I cried and talked to my mom about it. Mom said, "Honey, how long would you be here? In a couple of years you would be married and off anyway. Don't think about me in whatever you decide."
- MM:** So your mother had a great influence.
- CB:** Oh, yes and Bessiludilia, that is your grandma, supported me. We left at five o'clock in the morning, early in the morning Sister Mary Miles and I with Father Matthew who took us to Mankato. She was there, Bessiludilia. We loved her. She said.... (German 93) and off I went.
- MM:** How old were you then?
- CB:** I was almost twenty.
- MM:** So you had actually been doing some work before you left.
- CB:** Yes I did. I worked in Dickinson, North Dakota during the summer so that I could make enough money for graduation. Then I taught in a rural country school with just a high school diploma. I taught in a one-room school.
- I loved Music, Michael. And at the Beasler girls, who are married now, sent me a tape recording of their music. I remember when I took those kids, do you remember the YCL.
- We taught there and I had my kids sing. I remember Ken Burgland saying "How do you get those kids to sing like that?"
- MM:** Yes. Interesting. But when you were in Strasburg you were surrounded by all those relatives, which was unusual. You had all those uncles and aunts near by and all that. That had some influence, sometimes favorable and sometimes they were trying to make decisions for you. You know and it influenced you on what you should decide to do.
- CB:** Right.
- MM:** But was there anyone else in Strasburg who had influence and really encouraging you other than your Mother and your aunt Bessiludilia? Were the clergy supportive?
- CB:** Oh, yes. Sister Richard Anthony of course was there, you know. The sisters were supportive. I think people in town would say, "You'll be back in a week, girl, you'll be back in a week." Well this girl was not back in a week. Like some would say "You are throwing your life away, why are you doing that?" I thought I am not throwing my life away, I'm just giving it to God. I've been happy and so that's the big thing.
- MM:** What about having gone to the Catholic school and Catholic nuns in Strasburg? Did that have any influence on all of this?

- CB:** I'm sure they did. I'm sure that did because I had the Erslerine Sisters from the first grade until the sixth grade. Then the Notre Dames came when I was in the seventh grade so I had the Notre Dames all through high school. I said my education was really in Catholic school all my life. I went to Mt. Mary College. You know that's run by our Sisters. I did go to the University of Minnesota also.
- MM:** Who was the pastor at that time, in your youth?
- CB:** When I was young Father Augustine Fox. Do you remember how he used to, maybe you don't remember him.
- MM:** No, I don't.
- CB:** I remember when I was little and he would come down the side walk and we kids were trained to get off the side walk and say, "Praise to Jesus Christ. Good Morning Reverend Father Augustine Fox." He married my parents and baptized all of us kids. Mom said when Dad died he used to come and say, "Do you think you can do it. Do you think you can raise these kids?" And Mom would say, "Yes. I can do it." She was only thirty-two years old and had eleven children. It was a big family.
- Oh yes, the clergy. Then we had Father Junt, Father Thomas was there too. Oh I loved him. Father Matthew, Father Charles Delighten was there. They were great guys.
- MM:** What about your classmates when you were considering this probably as junior high schooler or as a senior?
- CB:** No, I did not consider that. Michael when I was younger I was always thinking about being a Sister. But then when I got to high school, you know how that is, dances, parties, boys. No, I think it was after graduation. One night when, you know how we always had rosary in the evenings and benediction on Saturday nights. I was singing, you know choir was my life. I was trying to think, what do I want to do with my life? Just like that, at that service. I went home after that service went to my mom and I said "Mom I'm going to the convent." That's how it happened, just out of the blue. Then I went over to tell Sister Richard Anthony. The entrance day was in September. No, August 28, the Feast of St. Augustine and they took us on June 12. I'm not sure if they thought if we don't go now we won't go.
- MM:** You had the summer activities.
- CB:** Right.
- MM:** That's interesting how you made that decision. Did you talk to some of the other classmates? You were still in touch with some of your high school classmates.
- CB:** Oh yes. No, I think the only person I told was Sister Mary Miles because we had been off to work together and had an apartment together. I met her and told her that I was going. She started crying and said "You know what I'm going too."
- MM:** So you had a little influence on her decision.
- CB:** I don't know but the two of us entered on June 12.

**MM:** When you first went this was all exciting. This new life etc. Did you think about what you were going to leave behind? You know, the social life and all of these kind of things. Did these things enter your mind?

**CB:** No, not really Michael. I never missed a dance whether it was at Hague or Lenten or you know. I loved to dance. I was engaged to be married just before I entered. I broke that off and I entered. I never looked back.

The only thing is when I came up here, you know how North Dakota prairies are, wide open. You could see forever. I felt like I was hemmed in with all these trees around here.

**MM:** Yes. The terrain is totally different here. It's very different. I still love my prairie.

**CB:** I do too. I just love it.

**MM:** When you came here and what you left behind. What fulfilled you here that you left behind socially? All the social activities that you knew that you couldn't do anymore.

**CB:** Well Michael, I had my postulant directors had entered at the age of 26. We had gone to her and we said, "You know could we, like on Saturdays, dance?" "No problem, get your records." So we had a phonograph and records on Saturday afternoons, we danced our head off. All girls, of course but it was fun. I can't really recall, everything was so new. The adjustment as far as the religion was concerned, at home we went to Mass every morning whether it was Saturday, Sunday, Monday or what ever. My mother got us up no matter what. Mass, praying the rosary everyday at home, praying my night prayers. No matter what time I got home from a dance my mother was awake and would say, "Now don't forget to pray." That wasn't that much different. I think the new people you met that were also part of entry. The Sisters that you lived with were young ladies. So I don't know, I didn't miss it that much. **MM:** When you were in Strasburg at home as you were in high school, were you speaking English in the home?

**CB:** Michael we spoke German when I started first grade. I remembering going home crying the first day of school at noon, we went home for lunch, and I cried, "I'm not going back."

And she said, "What's wrong?"

And I said, "I don't know a word they are saying."

My mother said, "That why you are going to school so that you can learn the English." I remember that so well. Okay, so I went back to school.

**MM:** It must have been basically when you started school. What year was that?

**CB:** That must have been in 1936.

**MM:** Right during the depression too. Basically it was totally German with your home, friends, and every one?

**CB:** Yes.

**MM:** And the brother and sisters.

**CB:** Yes, all of us spoke the German. Very well even until this day.

**MM:** Very interesting. So when you went to school you must have found other children who spoke German too.

- CB:** They all did except, I would say the Hollanders. They didn't speak the German.
- MM:** And the teacher was a Sister from here and they weren't German Russian. So they knew only English. So it must have been difficult for them too.
- CB:** That's right. I don't know about the Ersline Sisters whether they knew the German or not. They must have, then how would they be able to teach.
- MM:** With the Ersline Sister, most of them came from Germany. They, actually for some time in Strasburg, were teaching in German.
- CB:** That's right they were. I never took them.
- MM:** That was past your time. Who was your first grade teacher?
- CB:** Sister Pauline I think was her name.
- MM:** She was an Ersline Sister.
- CB:** Yes she was an Ersline.
- MM:** Were the Ersline quite strict?
- CB:** Very strict. I remember when, if you got your name on the board for doing something. Then if you got a line behind your name, on Friday you got that many taps on your hand with the ruler. Of course, my brothers were always up there, right!
- MM:** So that was actually was done. That was done, that was part of their discipline and it probable worked at times.
- CB:** I suppose. I never resorted to that stuff. Never.
- MM:** Times have changed. Let's go back to when you left. When you decided to enter the Sisterhood and leave Strasburg etc. You were at home. You had all your clothing and everything. That was difficult to choose what am I going to take, what am I not going to take, what shall I leave behind etc. Or, was it like you packing up to go somewhere.
- CB:** Oh, no. We couldn't bring any of our own clothes. I had to buy those mother shoes, those black ones, you know. We had to have black stockings, and lets see. We could have a mirror at the beginning when we were postulants and all that we had to give up when we went to the novitiate. Well we didn't really bring much, just the clothes we wore and then we would send them home with Father Matthew. We didn't bring much.
- MM:** You didn't bring much. And everything was just left behind, all your things and personal items.
- CB:** White t-shirts we brought which we wore under the habit.
- MM:** Now when you came to the convent here. We are now sitting in Good Council is where this all happened. When you arrived Father Matthew brought you. Your mother actually didn't come with you.
- CB:** No. Sister Richard Anthony and Sister Mary Joyce Peach came in for renewal of vows that summer. So Father Matthew brought them down and us along.

**MM:** And so he drove you out here then?

**CB:** Right.

**MM:** Then you came here. What happens when you come here? What kind of reception did you have?

**CB:** Well they took us to the postulant to meet Sister Mary Joseph and the postulants. They took us up and we changed clothes to a long habit. When we came down Father Matthew took some pictures. Then Father said, "Go up and change clothes and we will go down town." We went up and put back on our street clothes and went down town. The postulants said afterwards, "We couldn't believe you would do that."

I said "We didn't know any better."

**MM:** You thought that was part of system?

**CB:** Yes. So we left and then we came back and that was it. They were all friendly, wonderful people that we met and learned to love.

**MM:** How many were in your class?

**CB:** Twenty-three.

**MM:** And of those twenty-three how many are still nuns today?

**CB:** Lets see. Two are dead. I think there are seventeen of us left.

**MM:** Seventeen who are still with the community. That's wonderful.

**CB:** Yes. There are some who left. Wait, maybe fifteen right now because two died.

**MM:** These other postulants that were here, many were of other cultures. They were not of German Russian, of course, or had this back ground from North Dakota?

**CB:** That's right.

**MM:** Did you find that interesting. Did they talk about their heritage at all early on or were you so involved with other things.

**CB:** I don't think so. We went to class, you know took college courses right away.

**MM:** So it was like, you were a postulant but also it was like you were a freshman in college.

**CB:** Right Michael, except we had the silence, only at recreation did we talk. I don't know if we had a chance to really talk about our background. I think we talked about our families, and how many brothers and sisters, etc.

**MM:** So what was the daily schedule here?

**CB:** Well let's see. We got up at 5:15 in the morning, then we had morning prayer, meditation, then breakfast, then cleaning and then class. We had recreation at noon after lunch. We had supper and recreation. We probably had our classes then too. Our night prayer and the Great Silence, we didn't talk after that.

- MM:** What about just to keep up with the world. Were you able to have a radio or newspaper?
- CB:** We didn't have those.
- MM:** You didn't have time did you. Not to much time to find out what was going on.
- CB:** No.
- MM:** What were you encouraged not to do?
- CB:** I'm trying to think about that question. I really do not remember. The only thing I can think of is they challenged us to be who we are. I think I did things in the convent I don't think I would have ever attempted to do if I had stayed in the world.
- MM:** Really, like what?
- CB:** Well. Music lesson. I taught myself how to play the piano. I can play with one hand, the notes. I had eight beginning music pupils. I never would have done that at home.
- Let's see what else. Being an administrator. I don't think I would have done that, when I think about it. They just said obedience, they tell you to do this and you did it.
- MM:** When you and other postulants came here, were you encouraged by the administration as to what your career should? Or were you pretty free to decide what you wanted to do with your life?
- CB:** I think they really encouraged you to teach because that was the order, being a teacher.
- MM:** And that of course is changed today somewhat?
- CB:** Oh yes, very much so. We have Sister Immaculate, that you just met. She is a registered nurse. She was a Home-Ec teacher at one time and now she is a RN.
- MM:** Sister Mary Allious who was at Strasburg for many years. For twenty-five years a teacher then she was a dietitian for twenty-five years. So that is a good comparison.
- CB:** Right.
- MM:** Very interesting. What about communicating back home? Of course you had your mother only and your brothers and sisters and your friends. What was the situation, how could you keep in touch?
- CB:** Well, when I first entered we had a rule that you could write home once a month to your parents. I never kept up with the siblings, of course. We received mail only once a month, on the 26th of the month. Then as the rules began to change, you could write to them on their birthdays, their name day, Christmas, and Easter.
- MM:** On special occasions.
- CB:** Right.
- MM:** At that time classmate could write to you and you could receive the letters once a month but you couldn't write back?
- CB:** That's right.



- MM:** So you could receive mail but you couldn't write back and they, of course, understood that.
- MM:** What about phone calls?
- CB:** In those days we didn't use phones very much. It was only later, we made a point to call my mother once a week. But we didn't use phones much at that time. Now it a different story.
- MM:** And later on they could come and visit.
- CB:** Yes. That's right, they could come for a visit but I couldn't eat with them.
- MM:** In those early years.
- CB:** In those early years. No, they had to eat in a different area.
- MM:** What about if there was someone at home, I don't know if that would ever happen so for vacations. How long did you have to be here before you could go home for a vacation?
- CB:** Well when I was a postulant we could go home for Christmas for about five days, before we were received into the novation. When I first entered you could only go home twice in your lifetime, once for your father's funeral and once for your mother's funeral. Then that changed when I was in the novitiate, you could go home once every five years. Now that has changed to sometimes more than once a year, like now.
- MM:** What about when you were here and the family and all the classmates were at home. Did you ever have homesickness?
- CB:** You know Michael, I thought about that question too and I don't remember. All I can remember is my sister Nilia and my brother John were little when I entered. I missed them a lot. I also missed my mother a lot. But I don't ever recall being so homesick that I got sick.
- MM:** That you made yourself sick from it.
- CB:** No. You love them and you miss and that is wonderful. But I kind of take things in stride.
- MM:** I think it helped that you had a good schedule. You kept busy. You had others to visit with. They were all in the same situation. Because I'm sure there was a difference in homesickness among the different postulants.
- CB:** They could receive company once a month and if they lived near here their parents could come to visit. Of course, Sister Mary Miles and I didn't have anybody. Sister Mary Joseph was so wonderful. She would say come on let's pack a lunch. So we would pack a lunch and go out in the woods and have a picnic. She always kind of really understood and kept us going. I mean, we did fun things.
- MM:** Do you think the Sisters here, some had been to Strasburg, of course. Do you think they really understood or were interested in the somewhat unique character of growing up in Strasburg? It was totally different. It was like an island in North Dakota as far as roots. And today, it is some what intermingled but it is quite different and I'm very proud of that. Do you think they realized that you were coming from a quite a different cultural background?

- CB:** I think so. In fact when we were postulants Sister Mary Miles and I at Christmas, you remember how the angels and santa used to go around. We dressed up as angels and we sang and we gave out the gifts like we did at home. It was wonderful.
- MM:** So you showed them the old traditions.
- CB:** Right. They couldn't believe it. They said "You mean you did that?"
- MM:** You were an angel at Good Council too.
- CB:** Right.
- MM:** What about some of these items. We have so much to talk about your German Russian heritage that I going to let you answer some of these questions in writing so we don't have to discuss them all in our formal interview. What I want to ask you about is, in your career you went on to be a teacher and then an administrator. Was that very rewarding for you? Did that have some influence in having Sisters as teachers at Strasburg? What made you like being a teacher?
- CB:** You know Michael I think being a teacher is in our relationship. It seems like teaching is kind of top priority. I love teaching, I love the kids, I love the parents and I got along wonderfully well with the parents. I don't know, I just think I found my niche in life.
- MM:** Do you think it had something to do with having been around some of these relatives who were teachers.
- CB:** Oh, I think so, I'm sure. Aunt Agnes, Aunt Gail.
- MM:** Johnny Baumgartner?
- CB:** John. John was a good man. He loved to teach. I love to teach too.
- MM:** When you would go home periodically, did you go back to speaking a little German?
- CB:** When Sister Rose Schwab and I get together we speak nothing but German.
- MM:** Even today?
- CB:** Even today, and Sister Mary Miles says she forgot it but I don't know. I don't see how you can forget it.
- MM:** Right. Keep it up as long as you can.
- CB:** When I would go home I would go to the nursing home, not any more because I don't really know many people there any more. When I first used to go home I would go to the nursing home to visit. I would speak to all those people in German and they would say (German 510) and I would say I don't think you lose it.
- MM:** Interesting. The questions about the anti-garb law were experiences you never experienced.
- CB:** I certainly did.
- MM:** Did you experience them?
- CB:** I certain did. I was a senior in high school when the anti-garb law.

- MM:** Well tell us about that.
- CB:** Well I think at the time, if I remember correctly. Have you ever read the bill?
- MM:** Yes.
- CB:** They said that it was written in such a way that the people didn't know which way to answer. They didn't know what they were answering, but I remember we had registration of the Sisters who were in school. We kids felt so terrible we said "Let's meet up town and go to school at the same time to register. We didn't want to see the Sisters in a lay garb. So we decided that we met up town. We all went to school to register. Well we met Sister Grace, and you know Sister Richard Anthony, she was so wonderful. We respected them and treated them the same way whether they were in the garb or out of the garb. They are wonderful people. So I did have it in school. Yes.
- MM:** You remember you was a senior when it changed. Was there much discussion in Strasburg. It was such a Catholic community, about this change and the voting etc. So was there a lot of discussion on it. Do you recall?
- CB:** Yes there was a lot of discussion and I remember the people would peek out of their window to see what the Sisters looked like. It was hard, it was very hard on the people to think that. You know they respected the Sisterhood very, very much. They did not want them to have to do that. The Sisters wanted it and that was part of what the Lord wanted them to do so they changed.
- MM:** So you never felt that it effected in the school, discipline or change of attitude to the Sisters or anything?
- CB:** No, none at all. Sometimes the boys would give the wolf whistle to one of the Sisters. She was a cute little red head, a tiny little thing. She taught math. Clarence Fettig and Vick Silvernocker were very smart men. She used to have them work the whole board to figure out a problem. Those guys would sit there and whistle. She would get so angry that they would do that. So that was the end of that, I'll tell you.
- MM:** Now you are in lay clothes today more or less. Some of the Sister here wear their religious garb and so forth. Is that quite widely accepted here at Good Council that you are free to wear what you want? Do you think some of the older Sisters sometimes think about this, why aren't the other sisters wearing Religious clothes, or is it pretty much accepted, the freedom of goods.
- CB:** Well, it was not accepted when it first started, in fact it was very looked down on. Now I don't think it makes much difference. I have always have worn the veil. Since I am up here and because of the heat, it is just too hot. I thought I'm living in the convent they certain should know. When I go back, if I go back to teaching I will wear my veil again because I do think it has a significance.
- MM:** Do you when you go for home visit or to Milwaukee do you wear your veil?
- CB:** I do.
- MM:** You do wear it when you go out for home visit or, so forth?

- CB:** I didn't this last time when I went to the wedding. In fact I forgot it at home and I forget my money at home too. I felt so awful. It was horrid. No, I usually do and I tell you when I go back to teaching again I will wear the veil. I do think it has a significance to the children.
- MM:** It's probably a good idea for the Sisters to consider it at least, to wear a veil. Even if it is very simple because not everyone is doing that.
- CB:** Yes, but a lot of them don't.
- MM:** When they are out in the working field. Think about Good Council when you came here and today. What do you see as the most significant changes with the community here?
- CB:** Well there's certainly a lot more freedom because we were so very, very strict at the beginning. Strict. But a lot of it is changed. I can't begin to tell you some of the things that we used to do, that was a part of our life here which has taken a dramatic change. We're much more free, you know, to do things. We have a lot more to do with the parents, the people out there. Years ago we didn't do anything, we didn't go grocery shopping, we didn't do anything. I mean we were home. Now we're all over.
- MM:** Now in comparison to this freedom, you know they are much more free to do things, but when you came here you had 23 postulants but today with this freedom there are no postulants.
- CB:** That's right.
- MM:** That's interesting because you would think now there would be young women who would be interested because they don't have these strict rules. What can be done to improve the situation that there might be some more women?
- CB:** You know Michael. I think that whole vocation situation is the times we live in. Kids today have everything. You know these young women have the cars, the apartments, the furniture, you name it. They have everything and she is in the community, she's postulant. I don't know. I think the times that do it.
- MM:** Because I do a lot of work with German Russians community and others there are a number of women I know who are single parents, they have lost their spouse or whatever. Their children are gone and they are longing for a new career and there is potential, I think, to look to these. Women who are maybe older, maybe in their forties. I think they can still be of great service at that time. You probably have some Sisters like that who have entered later in life.
- CB:** Oh yes, we do.
- MM:** I think Sister Richard Anthony is an example of that. She was in a career in her 40's when she entered. That also may be a opportunity.
- CB:** You know we have the associate program. These want to become part of our community. There are men and women that belong to us and have a Sister who meets with them to pray. Then anything that we do in the community they are a part of. It's a wonderful program, I think.
- MM:** So you have found yourself interacting with the lay people much more than before.
- CB:** Very much. We go into their homes.

**MM:** Now we are going to turn to some questions related to your life growing up in a German Russian family. When you were growing up your father of course died at what age?

**CB:** 34 years old.

**MM:** And you were how old then?

**CB:** I was 8 going on 9, I think.

**MM:** So you were pretty young then.

**CB:** Yes.

**MM:** And your mother, of course, then had to raise you alone.

**CB:** My mother was five months pregnant when my father died. Nilia was eight months old I think.

**MM:** Did you ever go over to your grandparents, where they would do any singing in German or verses or anything like that?

**CB:** Any wedding you went to, remember Butcher Pete? They used to get together in a cannier of the hall and they would sing in German. Oh, just beautiful harmonizing. I was little, I didn't know the songs so I don't remember but I remember the weddings that was a big thing about the singing.

**MM:** In your elementary school days you must have went to some of these weddings. What kind of activities were in a wedding? How long was it?

**CB:** Well, when my aunts got married in Strasburg, Baumgartners. We had the wedding and then went out to the farm. The wedding itself took three days, we celebrated for three days. The barn was swept out. Someone came and played the accordion and we danced all day. We had big German meals that my aunts would cook. We would dance and sing.

**MM:** Was there liquor too?

**CB:** Oh, you bet!

#### **BREAK IN DIALOGUE**

**CB:** The dandelion. It flowed freely.

**MM:** And when you had these weddings who played or what band was it or what accordionist?

**CB:** Well, John Schwab.

**MM:** You remember his music.

**CB:** He's the one I remember. Yes, he played for all weddings. Everybody, they said used to change their wedding date just so they could have him. When he would be available to play.

**MM:** Did you ever learn any songs in German?

**CB:** Not that I can remember. The only thing that I can remember is...(German - 9 ), that's all. Something about your father is tending sheep.

- MM:** But when you were a child your prayers were in German.
- CB:** Yes.
- MM:** Do you still know those prayers? Do you remember.
- CB:** You know, I don't remember. We used to say the rosary in German. The only thing that I remember (German 14 ). That's all I remember of the Our Father. I know we said it all the time. I don't understand that I don't remember but my Uncle Karl, when he died in the nursing home. They said at the end, he no longer spoke German but Russian. Very fluently, they said. I don't remember him ever speaking in Russian.
- MM:** But when you went to church in Strasburg to St. Peter and Paul. When they had the sermon did they have it in German?
- CB:** But it was in high German. I never understood it because of our dialect. My mother always translated when we got home.
- MM:** The older folks, like your mother, did understand it?
- CB:** Yes.
- MM:** What about confession? Was that in English?
- CB:** It was in English. I think my mother went to German.
- MM:** So it was almost required that they had a priest in Strasburg who knew the German language in the earlier times? At least until the 1950s.
- CB:** Yes. You see Father Matthew was there and he understood it.
- MM:** Oh, he understood it too. And even today if we had a group here who spoke only German you would feel comfortable speaking it?
- CB:** Very comfortable.
- MM:** That's wonderful and that's true for your brothers and sisters?
- CB:** Absolutely.
- MM:** For the younger ones too?
- CB:** Yes. The nieces and nephews, I don't think so. They understand it but they don't speak it.
- MM:** Now, there were eleven children and your mother would have to had a good system of chores and work for you. Did some of the children have to go out and work to help other families?
- CB:** The boys always went out to the farm during the summer and at harvest and they worked out there. I worked in the Strasburg Cafe, the Vanderhorse Cafe. Of course, at home we all had to help. We all had jobs. Mine was scrubbing the kitchen every single day. Every single night I had to scrub that kitchen. We stripped all the bedding on Saturday, we scrubbed and wax the whole house every Saturday, scrubbed the kitchen walls every Saturday. My mother was meticulous.

- MM:** Did she had a big garden too?
- CB:** Oh, yes a huge one.
- MM:** You had to work in there too.
- CB:** That's right. She was a midwife too.
- MM:** Your mother was a midwife.
- CB:** She brought a lot of kids into Strasburg. I mean she was the midwife when they were born.
- MM:** Really. But this relates to midwifery and so forth. I remember in Strasburg, but I was quite young, Do you remember ever like folk medicine? Brauche?<sup>CE™</sup>
- CB:** Oh, yes.
- MM:** Do you remember her name, was she a relative?
- CB:** Yes, I think so. I went to her. You know every summer I used to get some kind of a thing on my leg. My mother finally said, À\_ÀYou go over there. And so I went over there and she took her thumb and put it over the place and prayed over it. Then she took a white piece of cloth and put that over it. She took some camail, you know that grow wild. She would boil that up and take that and spoon it on my leg, as hot as I could stand it. I had to do that every night. You know that went away and I never got it back. If anybody had ringworm they went to her. She really used herbs a lot, I think. If you had a boil they would take milk and put bread on it as a poultice.
- MM:** Do you remember that, Brauche? Then there is a lot of feeling about their medicinal remedies that are true today.
- CB:** Oh, yes.
- MM:** Some of those are coming back today.
- CB:** You know that Chamomile tea was good for all kinds of things. When you were sick to your stomach they used it. I don't know what it was but it worked.
- MM:** What about school? In grade school there is so much to talk about. Not just in school what are some of your memories of the lower grades. Do you still recall some of those earlier years?
- CB:** No. Well. The teachers I had were the Ersline in the early grades. As I said I cried because I couldn't speak English. But then I remember when I was in the first and second grade I always had to read to the class, I must have been a good reader. When the Notre Dame Sisters came they were so different. Of course, they were tough teachers too in those days.
- MM:** Did you feel well prepared leaving high school and getting your education.
- CB:** Yes, very much so. Oh yes I think I was ahead of others.
- MM:** When you look back to these first teachers, which of them provide you with the most memories? When you felt the most challenged or were good teachers.

- CB:** Well, I think, Sister Aquine who was my seventh and eighth grade teacher was very understanding I mean she was wonderful. Then I had Sister Mary Thomas, Sister Baumgartner, and Sister Richard Anthony. Of course Sister Richard Anthony was a person all her own. I admired that woman, she had a lot of influence on us kids. She also a great influence on the non-Catholics in town. They still talk about her.
- MM:** She was well respected by many people. Lets go into the area of holidays etc. When Christmas came at the Baumgartner household with that many children, what do you remember about Christmas?
- CB:** Well Michael, you know we were very poor. I never had Christmas gifts. What we got for Christmas was maybe an orange and an apple a few little peanuts, and maybe some hard tack candy.
- MM:** A Christmas tree?
- CB:** Never. Now when I was working, I remember when my sister Nilia and John were little I remember I bought them a Christmas gift. I bought John a sled and Nilia a doll and something bigger to cook with for my mother. She needed bigger cook wear. My sister Nilia still talks about it. She says, "It was the first Christmas I ever got. I'll never forget that doll."
- MM:** Did you go over to the neighbors to visit for Christmas?
- CB:** No. We had Christmas at home.
- MM:** And then did you go to Christmas Eve Mass?
- CB:** Oh, yes. We went to Midnight Mass and came home and my mother always had made Gaulivets. We would have that for a snack and then go to bed. We always went to Midnight Mass.
- MM:** And they had Santa Clause and angels in these smaller towns like Strasburg. Do you remember that?
- CB:** Oh, absolutely. I was one of them. I was a angel in the seventh grade, eighth grade, freshman, sophomore, junior and senior year. I was one for six years. We dressed up and we went around on Christmas Eve. I remember Sister Eugenia saying, "Now girls you must stop early because we have to sing for Midnight Mass." You know your voice would get so tired that you couldnt sing for midnight mass. We would meet around five o'clock. Remember that tree we had in the middle of town? The Santas and the angels would meet there and we would sing there first, then we would go house to house. We would sing Silent Night either in German or in English and then we would give out the gifts. I don't know what the Santa Clauses did.
- MM:** Who were your partners, the other angels?
- CB:** Sister Mary Miles, Adeline Schwan and Glades Beacker, the three of us. I sang soprano Adeline sang alto, we harmonized.
- MM:** You all had good voices though.
- CB:** Yes, we belonged to three choirs in church.
- MM:** Three choirs. What were the three choirs?



- CB:** Well when I was in the seventh and the eighth grade I belong to that choir, then I belonged to the adult choir, and I belonged to the high school choir.
- MM:** Who was the organist in the church?
- CB:** Sister Eugenia was there and the there was Sister Mary Thomas, who later changed her name to Katherine. Those were the two I remember the most.
- MM:** What about Easter? Was their anything special you can remember about Easter?
- CB:** You know Michael, our Lent was very important to us at that time. We couldn't go out and play on Good Friday because Jesus died on Good Friday. We didn't dare dig in the ground because of Jesus being buried, dying on the cross. And then we went to church a lot. We spent Holy Week at church. On Easter Sunday we dressed up and went to Mass. That sometimes lasted until 1:00 o'clock, they preached forever in German then in English. It used to get very long.
- MM:** And the foods. Were there any special foods made at Easter time? Do you remember that? Did your Mom make any special breads or anything?
- CB:** Well, breads yes. My mother baked nine loaves of bread every single day. But kids, we had everything from dough. I don't know Michael if it was anything different from other Sundays. You would either have Borsht or you would have potato soup, you know how it is.
- MM:** Your Mom was a good cook, of course, with so many children. Did other family members have to help especially, the girls. So they learned how to make these foods.
- CB:** Well, let me tell you Michael. I never really learned because I wasn't interested. My sisters are all good cooks and they cook like my mother and their kids love all of the German stuff. When they come home she always says, "Now honey what do you want when you come home?" "Oh Mom don't (German 80)."
- MM:** And many say that today yet.
- CB:** And watermelon. My brother died, you know my brother Bill died last year. Mike Harvey came in and gave me a `dounfgugglen and watermelon. When I had given lunch the day before I had made chicken salad and leaven soup, I said to him," Well Bill how do you like that. How would you rate they on a scale of 1 to 10?" And he says, "A four." And he said he had ate the dounfgugglen. So I asked how did you rate that and he said, "A eleven."
- MM:** So they still like German food?
- CB:** They love it and they are all good cooks.
- MM:** And that probably came from your mother.
- CB:** Yes. From Grandma Baumgartner.
- MM:** She would cook at your moms. She was so close to her.
- CB:** I think they came from the same. I think both my parent's families ancestors came from the same area.

- MM:** And all that came over because dough was very important all over the villages. It was a matter of economy, that's why they used dough a lot.
- CB:** The depression.
- MM:** Now your nieces and nephews, your sisters and brothers children, did they make any of these foods?
- CB:** Yes.
- MM:** They knew how to make them too. So they had these recipes with them?
- CB:** Yes. Before my Mom died my brother went up there he said, "Mom you gotta tell me, how do you do this?" Mom said, "Well you take a little of this and a little of that." "What's a little?" he said. He tried it but he has perfected it, so that his cooking tastes just like Mom's.
- MM:** Who is that?
- CB:** Harvey.
- MM:** Because we'd be interested in getting those recipes.
- CB:** I wonder. He probably has them.
- MM:** I'll have to get his address and write to him. Relating to your heritage, who in your family is interested in I'm a German Russian and interested in all of this?
- CB:** Harvey.
- MM:** He is the most interested.
- CB:** Oh yes. He has all the old pictures. He loves it. You should go to Milwaukee and stop there sometime.
- MM:** Well have to do that. I gather that music is quite important to you.
- CB:** Yes it was. You know when we grew up, on my mother's side, everyone played an instrument, the clarinet, accordion, harmonica, piano, you name it. They all played a musical instrument. We danced before we could walk. I think at home the radio would be on and we only got the radio when I was a freshman in high school. We didn't have any electricity before I was a freshman in high school. When that radio was on we danced. I remembered the boys taking Mom while Mom was trying to work. She said, "Leave me alone! But she laughed and would go along with it and dance with them. We danced and sang any new hit that came out. I had a loose leaf book and I would listen to the words and write them down so that we could sing them. I kept that book under the mattress. Sunday afternoons we kids got together, that book came out and we would sing. Adeline, Gladys and I would go up to the choir on Sunday afternoons, take out all of the music. We would sing up there like everything. We just loved to sing. That was our entertainment.
- MM:** Was there someone in Strasburg that influenced you? Who got you so interested in this music or was it just in the family?
- CB:** I think it was everyone in town sang and danced. We loved to sing. Didn't you sing in your house? This was second nature to us. We sang from the time we were young.

- MM:** Has that continued in your family?
- CB:** Yes. I have a nephew who plays the pipe organ and since I have another nephew who is a composer. He does his own composing and he has a band. That's very much kept up. Except they have more opportunity than we did. They have lessons where we didn't have that opportunity.
- MM:** So you never really appreciated that much in cooking.
- CB:** No, but I love it.
- MM:** Do you ever have people make German food here?
- CB:** Yes. I live with Sister Patronia, the Smaltz girls who come from Hagen, North Dakota. They make like the bluchen, dumplings, and kuchen. Yes they make some of that stuff.
- MM:** They still make it today. They go into the kitchen and make it?
- CB:** Yes, they cook it. You see I live over in that house over there. I live with them and so they cook all this.
- MM:** So they cook themselves?
- CB:** Yes. They make homemade bread, caramel rolls, I mean anything. They are very good cooks.
- MM:** They love to do it.
- CB:** Oh yes, they do.
- MM:** It was interesting when you said you were a freshman in high school when you got your first radio.
- CB:** Yes. We got electricity then.
- MM:** Before that you didn't have radio?
- CB:** No.
- MM:** Do you remember the first time you heard the radio?
- CB:** Yes I do.
- MM:** What was it like?
- CB:** Exciting. We were all around it. Someone gave it to us. It was one of those real old ones. That had the dial on it. You could hardly hear it. We were all around that thing. Every night we would listen to the Lone Ranger, especially the boys. They always got there first. It was exciting to hear the music.
- MM:** What was some of the first music you heard that attracted you?
- CB:** Well, they had classical music on it. Opera singing. I loved it. I would listen to that and the boys would say, "There she goes again listening to her classy, classy." I loved it and they had polka music on it, modern stuff too.
- MM:** When you reflect back to Strasburg and think of some of the elders there, who were some of the figure heads? The people you most remember or you most admire. That you thought were really important for

the community or important in your life. Of course your mother was important to you and your family members.

- CB:** She was top notch and then I would say Bessiludilia, your grandmother, she was so good to us and my mother took such care of her when she later got sick. JP Wickenheiser, of course he was a big wheel in town. Pete Miller, that was your dad. I used to tease him, he used to tease me too. I don't really know I think the biggest influence on my life was my mother. She was a wonderful lady.
- MM:** Your mother was a very special person. What about some of the older classmates? You know you always have older classmates when you were a child that you looked up to or someone that you that was a real role model. Can you remember anyone?
- CB:** There was Rose Schwab. She was different, always in pants and cowboy boots. But there was something about her that really drew you to her. She was a tomboy. The older classmates, yes there was Clarence Nicholas, Pete Brickner, Ozzy Miller and Paul Bauman. They were all upperclassmen. They used to tease me so terrible because I am so short and so little. Yes, they were great guys. I always admired them, did you notice how I always said the boys. I got along with boys, I was sandwiched in between boys in my family.
- MM:** What about when you reflect back to Strasburg. Now you are at Good Council and life is quite different here, quite peaceful but challenging with many activities. When you go back to Strasburg now or reflect back to now. Of course, going back now is way different than when you went back in youth, you had more relatives there at that time. What are some of the fondest memories that you have of growing up in that little town?
- CB:** Very peaceful, some days were very sacred. We went to Mass you went home, you changed your clothes, then it was nap time for Mom. All the kids in town got together. We played games that took all afternoon. I don't remember this game but I know we formed into two groups and you met with your group and you made up rules. Then the group leader would go with this group and they would try to find you. Of course, we were all over town, out in the fields, you name it. It took all afternoon to play. We kids in Strasburg played together all the time, in winter we went sledding or we went on cardboard boxes. We pulled each other around. We had a lot of fun. Kick the can and there was another one we used to play. All of us kids played it. Baseball of course was big time. That's one thing I remember about my father. Every night after supper we went outside and my father played with us. Another thing we used to do was walk out in the country, on the little bluffs or whatever you called them. Walk out to the dump grounds and see if we could find something, some little trinket out there. And of course we picked up cow manure.
- MM:** You remember that?
- CB:** Oh, you bet. We took gunnysacks and that was fuel. I mean we used that for fuel, we used that for cooking.
- MM:** Would you go out to the relatives?
- CB:** Yes, we went out of town. we would walk out there and we would pick up all the dried manure, the minched.
- MM:** Put it in gunnysacks and bring them home.

- CB:** Right. My mother used it for cooking. We used to carry our water, we didn't have any water. So our drinking water we had to carry about a block. You know we had to walk with a pail about a block to carry our drinking water. Behind our house we had a cistern with a pump. Then my mom had a rope with a pail to put the butter and stuff in to keep it cool in the summer down in the cistern, and the meat because we had no refrigeration.
- MM:** You had no vehicle.
- CB:** No vehicle, we walked. Of course, in Strasburg we could walk anywhere. We never left town except when we were in high school and we got a ride with Harry Miller. He'd take us in his car and we would go to dances.
- MM:** So you didn't get to Bismarck very often.
- CB:** No, never. Eddy Bousier had a cart that had little 'hagler' that wouldn't let the door open up, that would keep them shut. Then we would have quilts to keep warm.
- MM:** You could go to a lot of dances that way.
- CB:** Oh, yes.
- MM:** In Strasburg only or did you go out of town too?
- CB:** Oh no, we went to Hague and Linton once in a while. But Strasburg had one every Friday night so we didn't have to go far.
- MM:** Did young people come from other towns too?
- CB:** Yes.
- MM:** Were there kids who weren't Catholic who were coming to?
- CB:** Oh, you bet.
- MM:** There was good interaction with them?
- CB:** Very. I was close friends, one of my closest friends was not Catholic, Marvin. I remember we were good friends. I remember his dad coming to my mom and telling her for me to stay away from his son. And my Mother said to him, "Well it's Marvin who asks her. Tell him to stay away from her." We didn't, we are friends until this day.☺™
- MM:** Now about this dancing. Did you learn at home or did you learn at dances?
- CB:** We learned it at home. My mother taught us how to polka, how to waltz, the two step. The jitterbug I think we picked up on our own.
- MM:** And there were school dances?
- CB:** Yes, there were school dances.
- MM:** The Sisters allowed dancing?

- CB:** Yes they did. Eight inches apart. One of the boys brought a ruler. I remember Harvey my brother, he was holding me close and I said, "Harvey don't. Sisters are watching." He said, "I don't give a damn. You are my sister and I can hold you as close as I want."
- MM:** What about barn dances. Were there barn dances too?
- CB:** Yes there were. I maybe went to one.
- MM:** Not too much. That was probably earlier on.
- CB:** The only time we had barn dances was at a wedding the next day.
- MM:** Then they would have it out at the farm.
- CB:** Yes. We celebrated for three days.
- MM:** We didn't talk about something that is important and sad to the family, it is a funeral.
- CB:** Well, I went through a lot of that. My brother Leroy died. A year later my sister died, no two years later my sister Dolores died. She was in the eighth grade. That one hit me the most because we were so close. She was a wonderful singer, I mean she used to sing from little on. Dad used to take her around. She had just had the lead in some operetta they were putting on and then she died. Edith Wagner took her place to do the singing. When she died I was just devastated. My mother put her arms around me and said, "You know God gave her to us and God has a right to take her." That's the way they look on death. It was God's will. I still was not satisfied. I would cry until one night I had a dream. She had on this beautiful pink gown, she had beautiful black naturally curly hair. She had on this pink rose and she had this basket of flowers. You know we talked and she said, "I have to go now. God is calling me." And I said, "God's calling you?" She said, "Yes and I am very happy." And then she left. The next day I told my mom this dream and she said, "See I told you. She's with God. She doesn't want you to grieve anymore."
- MM:** You were in the eighth grade then?
- CB:** Sixth grade and she was in the eighth grade.
- MM:** And what did she die from?
- CB:** Spinal Meningitis. She made her first retreat and the abbot from Richardton came down and gave the retreat. She got sick the night the retreat ended and then died 21 days later. The abbot came down and gave her funeral. That was hard on me. Then of course my Mother died. That was another hard one.
- MM:** But when they had the funerals in Strasburg, was there singing in German? Do you remember?
- CB:** I don't remember. We had it in the home not in the funeral parlor. We never went to the funeral parlor. They were always laid out in the home and you stayed up all night with the body. That was part of the tradition. No I don't think we sang in German then anymore, when my sister died. When my Father died the adult choir probably did sing some German songs. I don't remember though.
- MM:** You grew up in this German home which is German Russian, of course. Your mother was first generation and you are second generation. When you think about these people who came over from the old country they would stay here or whatever. And like you said and so many Sisters or others would say, they never told us very much or they never talked about the old country. Your Mother probably was

trying to make a living and all this and in some cases they were trying to forget. How do you feel about the importance that your generation and the next generation learn more about who are we as Germans from Russia?

**CB:** Well I think there's a great interest especially my niece, Kathy, Helen's daughter. I had the prayer cards of Grandpa and Grandma with their pictures on them and it was written in German. She has those because when I die who is going to care if those things are here. I thought somebody in the family would have them. Then John Baumgartner did all that research on the Baumgartner family. The Sheers did the research on the Sheer family. I think there are a lot of mistakes on that. My brother Harvey is very interested in the family line. Did you know that it would be my great grandfather and your great-great grandfather lived with your grandparents when he was old? He was in his nineties when he died. He was a little tiny man. You see we used to live next door and we used to go over there as little kids and take Grandpa Baumgartner walking, out for a walk. I remembered when he died. He was laid out in that porch, remember where Grandpa and Grandma lived. My mother took us over to see him but we didn't want to go. We went over there to that porch and she made us touch him. She said, "Oh yes it is good for you to see Grandpa." But he was actually a great grandfather to us. It was so vivid in my mind because I was so little. We walked him every day. Now he's the one who came from Russia.

**MM:** It is good to know that there are some family members who are interested. We need to get in touch with them. As we gather all this material we are very interested in your help in identifying the younger generation who are interested in all this and help us gather some of these pictures and things. For instance, these obituary cards are very interesting to scan and put on so we can get some samples of these with your interview because all of these things are important. So people can see how traditions are kept and how German was kept. You know everything was in German at that time which is real interesting. Sister Cerella is there anything else you would like to share with us today about our visit and your experiences here at Good Council? Finally, I would like to ask you what you are doing now at Good Council?

**CB:** Right now I am in charge of transportation here in the Mother House. I schedule every night for the next day all the Sisters who have doctor's appointments, if they need a companion I have to find a companion to go with them. I schedule out of town trips, who will be the driver, where they will be going. I also schedule cars that are to be used by Sisters, if they need to any shopping.

**MM:** And how many years did you teach?

**CB:** 47 years.

**MM:** Did you ever teach in North Dakota?

**CB:** Oh yes. I was in St. Pious, Sheffield, where Sr. Ann Shook is from. I had seven of her fifteen brothers and sister in school. That was a boarding school. They came on Monday morning and they left on Friday night. You were their mother and teacher. I had the little ones, I had 44 first and second graders and maybe 24 were boarders. So when they would get homesick they would cry. One of the Sister's maids said, "I want my Sister." So they always had to call me from prayer or wherever. I would take this kid, I would take him on my lap, read him a story, try to help them forget what they were thinking. You know, it's interesting. Then I was in South Dakota, I was in Eden, South Dakota, which also has the Russian Germans there. When I taught at Sheffield, there were kids in Sheffield who could not speak English.

When I was teaching reading I would ask what is that? They would say a `shifila' or a holdsheif (German 602). I would try to teach the T H sound because that's very hard for the Germans, they would say `fadder', `madder'. Oh, I taught that T H sound like it was going out. I came home one night and I said, "I think I've got it. They know the TH sound." Great. The next day I come to school and this little girl came up to me and said, "Sister may I have a drink of wather." I thought forget it, forget it, forget it.

**MM:** But today they probable speak just good.

**CB:** Oh, yes they do.

**MM:** And so, one of the members of the family joined the community here then.

**CB:** Two of the family, Sister Ival and Sister Ann. Sister Reid was with us until later. She became very involved at St. Mary's college in Bismarck. And then was a representative there.

**MM:** Very interesting. So we are going to close our interview and I want to ask you if you have any final comment. We certain thank you for taking the time for being with us and I think it was very interesting for my niece Mary Kay to see the process of an interview. It was special for me to have a chance to interview a relative and someone I have known many years. I hope that from our experiences here that you will take a greater interest in your German Russian roots and encourage your family members. Because that is very important, we know there are many out there that need to reach us in many ways.

**CB:** Right. You get a hold of Harvey. Harvey knows and remembers so much. See what happened I think I left home when I entered the community and I never went back for years and years. When I could go home Mother was in Milwaukee so the only time I went home was for reunions. But Harvey get mad at me because I don't remember. You know we all had nicknames. I remember the nicknames but I didn't know what their family names were, you know that as well as I. So he is the one to talk to.

**MM:** So maybe he help us do some interviews. He knows all the people in Milwaukee that should be interviewed and who is going to do the interviewing. I think he could likely do it. Rather than just doing it himself he could help us do some of these interviews.

**CB:** Right, he's retired.

**MM:** And he has the time.

**CB:** He spends his time golfing!

**MM:** Well this is pretty important. Thanks so much.

**CB:** You are welcome.