

California State College, Bakersfield
San Joaquin Valley Oral History Project

Interview Between

INTERVIEWEE:	Mary Holman Dodge
PLACE OF BIRTH:	Bakersfield
INTERVIEWER:	Betty Parker
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INTERVIEWER: Betty Parker
DATED: October 23, 1977

B.P.: Mary we have a list of things here that you filled out for us in answer to some of our questions. Your birthdate.

Dodge: September 23, 1912.

B.P.: And where were you born?

Dodge: In Bakersfield.

B.P.: In Bakersfield? Well then you are one of our native people here. You spent your childhood there in Bakersfield?

Dodge: Yes.

B.P.: What schools did you go to?

Dodge: Went to Hawthorne. Went to Bryant. Went to Emerson, Kern County Union High School, Bakersfield Junior College when it was on the high school grounds and the University of California.

B.P.: When did you graduate from the university?

Dodge: 1933.

B.P.: You didn't go into law enforcement at that time?

Dodge: No.

B.P.: What did you work at, at that time?

Dodge: Well at that time I was a waitress. I'm probably one of Bakersfield's best waitresses now because I went to school during the Depression years. My folks then sent me \$15 a month to help out and I had to earn the rest of my way. And I became a waitress and I was a very good waitress. I graduated in 1933 with a major in mathematics. There were no jobs for lady mathematicians in those days. So, I kept on being a waitress and kept on going to school and trying to get a

teaching credential because I didn't particularly want to teach but that was on thing that lady mathematicians could do.

B.P.: Did you work as a waitress here in Bakersfield at all?

Dodge: No, around the university.

B.P.: Did you teach here?

Dodge: No, I taught in Tulare and Pleasanton, in high school.

B.P.: Now your folks came to Bakersfield. Do you know what year and why they came here or were they born here?

Dodge: No. My mother was born in Texas. My father was born in Grass Valley.

B.P.: What was your mother's name, maiden name?

Dodge: Bertha Beatrice Beshears. B-E-S-H-E-A-R-S.

B.P.: Do you know where she was from in Texas?

Dodge: Hamilton County in Texas. She's still living here.

B.P.: Is she?

Dodge: She lives out at [?]. She's 87 years old now.

B.P.: Your father was from Grass Valley?

Dodge: Grass Valley.

B.P.: And his name?

Dodge: William Harvey Holman. His mother was even born in Grass Valley.

B.P.: That would have been some time back.

Dodge: Yes.

B.P.: Your folks came here then for what reason?

Dodge: I would say probably for romantic reasons more than anything else. They had met when....My paternal grandfather was a school teacher and he was sort of a wandering school teacher because he usually didn't teach more than one year at one place; he always fought with the school board. He was a very bright man and a very unpleasant man. So, he moved around a great deal. He and his family were living in Grass Valley when my mother's family moved there from Texas. My mother and father became acquainted. Then my mother's family moved back to Texas. They got engaged sort of long distance by letter, then my mother's

family moved to Bakersfield and my father came here to see my mother. Then they were eventually married.

B.P.: Do you know what year they were married?

Dodge: Yeah. They were married in 1908?

B.P.: And then they settled here?

Dodge: Methodist Church on the corner of Truxtun and H Street.

B.P.: A local church?

Dodge: Yeah.

B.P.: They settled then here? Do you know where their first home was?

Dodge: They rented a house. Well, their first home they rented a house in the oil fields then they moved to Eureka. My oldest sister was born in Eureka. They were gone about a year. Then they came back here, in about 1910, I believe. They rented a house until, for just a few months until they could build a house. And my father bought land from the land company at what is now the corner of 27th and L Street. That land is, I think about somewhere between 15 and 20 feet higher than 19th and Chester. My father said that only a fool builds on low ground. So, L Street didn't go through then and 27th Street was a path and they built a house there and then they built several rentals there. I was born in that house in 1912 and I lived in that house there with my mother until 1963 when I married Charlie.

B.P.: You were in the same place all your life.

Dodge: Yeah.

B.P.: Well, your father worked here then as a blacksmith.

Dodge: A blacksmith. That's when he came in, about, I think it was 1910 when they came back from Eureka. He opened a shop in the 1800 block of Eye Street on the west side of the street, south of the alley.

B.P.: It doesn't look anything like it now.

Dodge: It doesn't look anything like it. I can remember though, when I was a child because blacksmiths get very dirty. Mom did his banking for him. She would take me down there and I could stand right-square in the middle of the blacksmith shop and I wasn't supposed to touch anything while she got the money for the deposit and that sort of thing [?] There's an odor about a blacksmith shop that you can't miss. And I know I went in U-Holt's [?] blacksmith shop not long ago. Nostalgic odors in the blacksmith shop.

- B.P.: Your mother never worked did she, just house work?
- Dodge: No.
- B.P.: How many children were there in your family?
- Dodge: Four.
- B.P.: Four of you?
- Dodge: Yes.
- B.P.: You and one sister?
- Dodge: No, my oldest sister's name is Nina, Nina Beatrice Holman. She's married to Jack Daillak. D-A-I-L-L-A-K. And they still live in town here. Do you want all that sort of thing?
- B.P.: Yes.
- Dodge: Ok. They have three children. Michael John Daillak, he's a C.P.A. in town. William Holman Daillak, he's the assistant treasurer of Santa Barbara County now, a C.P.A. And Richard Holman Daillak and he's working on his doctorate at U.C.L.A. right now.
- And I'm the second child. My name is Mary Julia Holman. Named for both of my grandmothers and I'm glad I got their first names instead of their second names otherwise I would have been Arizona Adeline Holman.
- B.P.: I can agree.
- Dodge: Well, one of my grandmothers was named Mary Arizona because her father led wagon trains across the country and he thought Arizona was so beautiful, the territory there.
- B.P.: [?]
- Dodge: And Lincoln's my brother. He's William Harvey Holman also. He lives in Santa Maria now. He had three children; he has two living. A girl Hillary [?] and another girl Bingam [?]. Then there's my younger sister. Her name's Jean Holman Grove. She's married to Harry Grove. She's lives in San Luis Obispo. She has three children: Catherine, Andrew Jameson, and Martha.
- B.P.: When did you become interested in law enforcement here?
- Dodge: Well, when I was teaching school I loved murder mysteries. I was teaching in Pleasanton, came home the early summer of 1941 and had this notice for civil service examination for police woman in the paper. My younger sister was then

going to Santa Barbara State and my brother's wife was living with the family too because he had been drafted. So, at dinner we were kidding around and "why don't you take the examination for police woman Mary," because I loved to solve things by deductive reasoning. I got an A in logic in college. And I think I will. So, I put on sister Jean's shortest, [?] skirt and my high heels and sallied forth to the police department just for fun. I already had signed my teaching credential for the next year. I had my teaching contract for the next year. I went down there and told them I thought I'd be their next cop. They said ok fill this out. Anyway they gave the examination and there were a lot of women took it. You were supposed to be a college...the qualifications for women were much higher than they were for men at that time. You had to be a college graduate and to have some experience working with children. I don't remember how many women there were taking, but there was a whole pack of them because a bunch of SRA and those other alphabetized government agencies had folded up shortly before then and a lot of people were out of work.

I had a lovely time up on the third floor of the old city hall. All the commissioners showed up because they never had hired a woman before. It was much fun because it was the first time I ever took an examination where I could smoke. In those days I smoked a lot. They had ash trays all over the place. They had spittoons there too but the ladies there didn't use those. Then they apologize for giving us an examination that was aimed at men and we accepted their apology. And I got a 100 on the police aptitude test which, of course, flattered me a great deal. I think I misspelled the word "Sheriff" though on the spelling test.

Then we had an oral examination and I [?] by a light blue dress because I read somewhere that old men like light blue. I wore that around the squad room and waited for everyone to go in. I felt bad because they didn't call me first and then I want to be called last, then they finally did call me last, and didn't ask me any questions. I just think I was just in there and out of there. The next day the Chief called and said to go over to [?] and get a physical examination. Then they called me over there and told me to come and get my badge. I still had my contract signed for the next year. I said, well, I'll try it for the a month and if I don't like you or you don't like me at the end of the month I'll go back to teaching and you can hire somebody else. And so then I stayed there.

- B.P.: Who was the Chief at that time?
- Dodge: Robert B. Powers, a very remarkable man.
- B.P.: And the dates you were employed?
- Dodge: July 3, 1941.
- B.P.: Before the war?

Dodge: Yes.

B.P.: They didn't the women the same sort of duties as the men. What were your duties?

Dodge: They didn't know what to do with me. The League of Women Voters had decided that Bakersfield needed a police woman. Gee, I wish I had of know exactly what I was going to be asked because I can't remember the woman's name. The League of Women Voters had imported a speaker, a police woman from the City of Santa Barbara. She had enthused them so, she was such a charming woman, that they decided that this is what Bakersfield needs. And you know when the ladies start warming the benches in the city council they can get anything they want. So they warmed the benches down there. The police department could get along fine without any women, they didn't need any. But they had one, they had a geometry teacher, and they didn't know what to do with her. The chief was kind of a shortish, heavy-set, bald headed man. I can remember him rubbing the top of his head and saying "I don't know what police women are supposed to do. Make a cop out of you first and then will figure out what women do." So he gave me all the books the police department had and they fit very easily on the top of one desk at that time. He gave me free reign of all the files and told me to go on everything, see everything, listen to everything, keep out of the way, keep my mouth shut, and not to get hurt, which is probably one of the most fascinating assignments anybody could ever have.

B.P.: No responsibilities of observing everything.

Dodge: Well yeah. This is my indoctrination. At that time when Charlie went to work, Charlie's my husband; I guess we ought to tell them that, huh? And Charlie was a sergeant in the police department at this time. When he went to work I think he rode with somebody two nights then turned him loose and said you're it. Somebody told him if he knew the Ten Commandments he had a pretty good idea of what was right and wrong and if it was against the Ten Commandants there was a law against it somewhere and go ahead and pinch him if they violated it, or something to that effect.

So, I had a better education as far as police work's concerned than the men did because I went with traffic officers when they investigated traffic things. I could have done a traffic investigation if I had to. I had a desk in the detective division and they taught me how to pick locks. I have a journal at home, that would really, if I had thought about it, I would have brought it because the beginning of my education is, my sister gave it to me, this book, that first Christmas and said I should write the recollections of a female flat-foot. So I did for a very short period of time, just for a few months. A couple of years ago I came across that thing and it is kind of funny. They used me as a stool, I guess a stool pigeon is what you call. I remember Charlie was working vice and there was a law against, punch

boards at that time. Never could catch...what was the man's name that had the cigar store over on Baker Street? Have you been around here a long time?

B.P.: [?]

Dodge: Ok. Who had the cigar store? Ted Mills. Ted Mills had punch boards and they couldn't catch Ted Mills with the punch boards. So, Charlie stood on one side of the street and sent the new police woman over to Ted Mills. I used the City of Bakersfield's money and I played the punch boards just had a lovely time, didn't win anything. When I used up all the city's money and I looked at old Ted and I said "Well, I guess I'll go now, I'll guess I'll take the board with me." He said "You can't do that" and I said "Oh yes I can" and showed him my new badge. Charley was standing across the street laughing all the time because he had sent other new policemen in and Ted could always smell a new cop. But he didn't catch me.

B.P.: Well, then you were one of the first under cover women that we had here, I guess weren't you?

Dodge: Well, I don't know if under cover [?].

B.P.: Well at least that's what they call them now. Had they hired any woman policemen or policewoman before you?

Dodge: No, I was Bakersfield's first police woman. Now there was an article in the newspaper not long ago about Helen Rush and in the article, whoever the girl was, [?] was misinformed. Helen occasionally worked as a matron and this sort of thing, but she was not a police officer as such, not paid as such. She was a secretary who sometimes did matron duties.

B.P.: Well I remembered you having been first.

Dodge: Yeah. I was the first one.

B.P.: You did that type of duty, I guess, for some time. When did you go into the juvenile section? Didn't you head up the juvenile section?

Dodge: There wasn't any juvenile section when I went there. [?] And nobody liked to work with kids. So, I worked in the detective division. First, they called it the inspectors at that time. I was in the inspectors division. Gradually, as cases involving children came in, because they were not considered important by a lot of the men and they were time consuming; and you had to sometimes battle the parents which was unpleasant duty, I find more and more of the assignment regarding children would come to me. Because I, the excuse was you used to teach children and you knew all about kids and therefore you can do this. So, I looked around one day and my life was completely, all my time was taken up with children. I don't think it got to be called a juvenile division. They called it a detail for a while. Yeah, it was called a juvenile detail. We had a vice detail and we had

the juvenile detail and they were part headquarters division of the Police Department. The Chief explained that to me, that headquarters division reported directly to him because those were the two most critically explosive details in the Police Department. People really get excited about vice or their kids.

So, I got the kids. So, eventually the detail, when it got to be too much for one person to do, well they gave Mary a helper, and then I got another helper, then it became a division. It never was a very big division though. Because I've always thought that children are people and they are not just something [?] that fall apart all on their own.

B.P.: The children in those days, say 1941 to 1950, there were just about the same type of problems weren't there?

Dodge: They were doing the same thing that they're doing now.

B.P.: Children are children.

Dodge: Children are children. People are people. There were ornery ones and there were good ones and there were in-between ones. We didn't have the problems of narcotics then. But we had lots of problems with [?] and it can be vicious. We had the Zoot Suiters in those days with stomper shoes and long chains hanging down and all that sort of stuff.

B.P.: We've always had some type of a problem for children. You stayed with them for...were you working with the juvenile section for as long you were with the Police Department?

Dodge: Yes. They say it grew up around me. I don't even remember what year it was. I remember Chief Grayson¹ when Chief Powers had come and gone. They had Chief Grayson and he got mad at the Probation Office, then he was supposed to go to a police chief's meeting in Florida, I believe, or somewhere on the East Coast, I think it was Florida. He called me in the office and said you can't have anything to do with the Probation Office until I get back and get this argument settled, which was a little difficult. I was trying to keep the Police Department little[?] and still at the same time do my job and have nothing to do with the Probation Office at the same time and this means absolutely nothing to you because, the Probation Office is the arm of the court. And I was just having a horrible time trying to get things taken care off within the time limits that law has been allotted on cases.

I remember on Halloween night I had a child and I was trying to find somebody that I could give that child to before it became illegally in my custody. I had just a matter of hours. And all the cars were out except one Lieutenant's car, who will

¹ Horace Grayson

remain nameless, and he was saving it to go to coffee in and I wanted out on Edison Highway and see if I could find this kids folks. And he wouldn't give me his car. And when the Chief came back I said "Sir, I decided I want to be a Lieutenant." He said "what makes you want to be a Lieutenant?" I said "if you have to be a Lieutenant to get a car on a Halloween night; I WANT TO BE A LIEUTENANT." He said "Ok."

So, anyway they gave an examination for Lieutenant not long after that and before that all examinations for promotion had been for men only. I was not permitted to take them. And I think that I could [?] any of men there other than maybe Charlie on any examination. But they wouldn't permit me to take them. Anyway, I was permitted to take this one, so I became a Lieutenant.

And then, I might brag, that I was the highest ranking police woman in California who was not in jail. Because they did have Lieutenants and a couple of Captains in the big cities who were running jails. But for one who was actually working on the street, working with officers, working with people, and it was quite a feather in the cap for Bakersfield, because Los Angeles wouldn't permit any of their women to have a rank higher than a sergeant; San Francisco wouldn't; Oakland wouldn't.

B.P.: What year was this?

Dodge: I don't remember for sure. Nope. [?] I think it was around 1950.

[END OF TAPE 25:35]

Dodge: But that was the only promotional examination I was permitted to take because the ones that came afterwards were, anything else, there were still for men only. [?] were pretty good women's libber. I'm probably one of the original women's libber.

B.P: Well, you [?] all regions, I guess. We can consider you a pioneer. Not just for our area but [?] in California. Did you have anything, that you remember, any particular case, that stands out in your mind as quite strong when it happened while you were working in the juvenile unit? Infamous or famous?

Dodge: Not particularly. I can...I hate to have to talk about it because people are still living and it is something I would like to give some thought to before...I've got a real good [?]

B.P: Did you work with the schools in any sort of programs or anything?

Dodge: Bakersfield High School used to say that If they built an new school [?] that they would build an office for me there because I spent so much time there. And I spent a lot of time working with various attendance...[interview interrupted by noise of a train].

B.P: I know as a policewoman you were probably called upon to work with schools?

Dodge: Yes, all the schools; the elementary schools; the parochial schools; the high schools and occasionally the junior college. I think one of the funniest things that I, when I worked in the school, a time ago, was the panty raids. Bakersfield High School used to have a girls dormitory and they had a panty raid. This would have been in 1952 because that was the year we had the earthquake and I remember we were in temporary quarters at the corner of 17th and L Street. Most interesting temporary quarters too. You had to recognize the furniture in order to tell where you were in the police station. My desk, the juvenile division was half way between the men's room and the drinking fountain and therefore I knew everything that went on at the Police Department all the time.

B.P: What a spot.

Dodge: It was a lovely spot. And Chief Grayson was a rather unusual man who was not noted for sense of humor among other things. He found nothing humorous about panty raids at all; they outraged him. So, I am sure that the people who are living will not care if I tell about it or not. The high school had a Halloween Patrol, or something going on, because they had a panty raid and I was instructed to find out who did this. I eventually, after a long, long time found out that a young man who was really a police buff, who belonged to the Stockton family, well-known in this county was supposed to be one of the guards had something to do with it. One of my, what I thought was an informant, Dr. Lowenberg, Bakersfield's then only psychiatrist, his son had something to do with it. One of the girls who was complaining the most, I don't remember her name, she'd drawn a map and shown the boys how to get in there. One of the city attorneys' son was also in it. I had the city attorney's son sitting along-side my desk trying to talk to him about, and the Chief came over, and he tried to talk to this young man about what a serious situation this was and all this sort of stuff. And the young man, I thought his name was Charleston, I can't remember what the boy's first name was. Anyway, he had a book of Plato there. He started reading Plato to Chief Grayson, which was the mistake of his life. And I can remember Chief Grayson was part Indian and he just danced a little war dance all around my desk, screaming "put that kid in jail; get 'em out of here; get him out of my sight!" And of course, you know, the police department is a semi-military organization and in a military organization you always obey their last order. So, my last order was get him out of his sight. I didn't want to put him in jail. Not when the [?].

So, the city attorney then was occupying one corner of this building in which you had to recognize the furniture in order to tell where you were. And there was a little, part of a partition that wasn't ceiling high. It must have been about six maybe seven feet high, but clipped off one corner of this building so the city attorney had privacy. This is immediately post-earthquake. So, I took this kid in and sat him behind the door in his father's office so the Chief couldn't possibly

see him. So, there he sat in back of this door eating a banana while I went around and concluded my investigation and finally got it but I obeyed the last order and I kept him out of the Chief's sight.

B.P: How long were in the temporary quarters because of the Earthquake?

Dodge: Until about, a couple of years, maybe. Until at least when Saint Francis School was...but it was very interesting there. Because we went into these temporary quarters when they decided that the old City Hall was unsafe. It was extremely well built, they found, when they started to pull it down. But they decided it was unsafe so we went into these temporary quarters. Then we had the second earthquake, and then I had the duty along with some other officers. They picked a few of us that between us we practically knew all the merchants in town. The Police Department was very proud of the fact that we had no looting. The whole downtown area was cordoned off and you couldn't get in there unless you owned a business, managed a business, or was escorted by an owner or a manager or you had a pass signed by one of these people. And I was one of the people on twelve hours a day seven days a week signing passes. I can remember a burglar whom I know came in and he said had a load of meat and he had to get in to see his boss. I said no, you can't go in how this meat will spoil. I said I'm sorry the meat is going to have to spoil; you can't go in and we both why. It was interesting duty then.

B.P: You did a little of everything.

Dodge: I guess I did everything.

B.P: Even though you started out as, kind of, you know, as a token so to speak?

Dodge: I was a token when I went to work. It was such a fascinating business. Lots more fun than teaching geometry. You can square the hypotenuse and square the other two sides just so many times with interest.

B.P: Your job would have been different each day.

Dodge: That was the interesting part about...there was lots of overtime for which you were not reimbursed in any way. And it makes it a little difficult to understand now when you have police unions and this sort of thing. But it's a different world.

B.P: The way the laws were for people, children or adults...

Dodge: They were very different.

B.P: They were weren't they?

Dodge: Yes, because you had vagrancy laws then, running about from place to place with late and unusual hours without apparent wealth of business. You know,

most criminals are rather dull people but occasionally we get interesting ones. It was easier then to protect people with a vagrancy law. I use to ride in the prowl cars at night just for fun, just to see what would happen. And I can remember once driving in a prowl car in the area in which Charlie and I live now and we saw this seedy young individual with a brand new great big suitcase, it was about two o'clock in the morning hiking down the road. So you stop him ask him who he is and he wants to see what's in the suitcase. In those days officers had the right to see what was in the suitcase. We opened the suitcase and here was all this stuff that was obviously out of a burglary. We didn't have the foggiest notion of what place had been burglarized. People didn't even know they had been burglarized yet. So, we did what was called bagging back then. We took him to jail and waited till the next morning until people found out that they had been burglarized and they knew who it came from.

He was kind of an interesting burglar. Because in going through all his stuff, I was always interested in going their stuff because I'm curious, I came across this couplet written on something: "In this world of streif from grief it is not strange to be a thief." I always thought that would make an awfully good title for a book. It is not strange to be a thief.

In these days all you can do is tip your hat to them. Even when you know he doesn't belong there; he doesn't look right. You can't look in the suitcase and hang on to his coattails until someone finds out if someone has been burglarized.

B.P: Things change.

Dodge: Yup, things change.

B.P: You have been married now how long to Charlie?

Dodge: Fourteen years.

B.P: You were married before you left...

Dodge: Before I left the Police Department. Yes. I tell everyone that he is an extremely a brave man 'cause any man who will marry a 50 year old, old maid female flat-foot is brave.

B.P: You never had any children of you own? Just everybody else's?

Dodge: Everybody else's. He's a child now though. There are not very many people who get to become a mother six weeks before you become eligible for Medicare.

B.P: How did this happen?

- Dodge: I adopted Charlie's daughter. We had adult-step parent adoption and it was a lot of fun. I enjoyed it. I am very fond of her. So now she is my child so instead of saying this is Charlie's daughter, I kind of stutter and say this is my daughter.
- B.P: I guess Charlie left the Police Department to become our Sheriff. Was that before you were married or after?
- Dodge: After. I retired and then...I retired in 1965 and they were talking then about running him for Sheriff. And then he went on a leave of absence in early 1966. We ran him for Sheriff. Then he retired.
- B.P: You live here in Bakersfield and you both are retired now, do you plan on staying here?
- Dodge: Oh yes, this is our home. I've lived here all my life.
- B.P: Weather and everything else, you still live here.
- Dodge: Everything is so much better now than when I was a kid and we didn't have air conditioning.
- B.P: People find it hard to believe that it gets so much hotter here.
- Dodge: We thought it was a miracle when we got swamp coolers, and now that we have refrigeration we know it's a miracle.
- B.P: Do you have anything else, Mary, you'd like to tell us about your days as a police woman or your early time here?
- Dodge: We haven't talked about integrated schools now. I think Hawthorne was a truly integrated school when I went there. I believe I was Miss America when I was in sixth grade and I think that was probably because I was the only Anglo kid.
- B.P: Things have changed in the schools here. There were a lot of Orientals, a lot of Blacks.
- Dodge: We got along fine.
- B.P: We really appreciate you coming today and talking with us.
- Dodge: It was a great pleasure. I wished I had given it some more thought before I came. You know I wrote a book that I probably should tell you about that shouldn't I. OK. I didn't make any money on it at all but it great [?] to write a book and have somebody actually print it.
- B.P: What is the book about?

Dodge: It's a text book, well I talked a little about the type of education I was given when I went, we gradually began having schools in the police department, that sort of stuff and now they have a regular academy. It was probably about 1959, somewhere in there. I was getting ready to teach a class on the handling of juveniles to a rookie and I had a bunch of notes. There was nothing at that time that was written on the interrogation of children. You had a little bit written on the interrogation of adults but nothing as far as children were concerned. So, I had written a bunch of stuff and took in it to the Chief and asked him to read it over, that was Chief Grayson, to see if he thought it was worth duplicating to give to the men. He surprised me by sending it to Charles Thomas Publisher and I thought that was real nice, and they surprised me by writing to me and saying that if I would expand it some they would be real glad to publish the book. So, I did. I kept trying to write things and not doing very well. Finally, time was getting short. I was supposed to get the manuscript finished and I went into the Automobile Club and [?] ...days driving distance there was nothing to look at. I got a cheap motel at [?]....I had taught myself to type by then and I didn't know how when I went... [?] recently good inexpensive restaurant. The gal said have you considered Bull Head City and I've never even heard of Bull Head City, where is it? So, I went to Bull Head City for a week all by myself. I worked on my book and finally got it finished and it was published by Charles Thomas Publisher. Not enough people bought it for me to make any money. I don't know if there were troubles with publishing costs or not. But it's great to see your name on a book.

B.P: [?]

Dodge: Yes. It had limited appeal. After all it was a book about handling children that was aimed at rookie cops.

B.P: Did the local department [?]

Dodge: [?] Of course all the laws have changed so it no longer has any meaning at all.

B.P: But at the time it was very up to date?

Dodge: Yes. It was very flattering that they were willing to publish that that my thoughts were on something?

B.P: You had experience in developing the juvenile section with the department. Did you ever get called upon speak about your experiences to other cities?

Dodge: No. I did a lot of talking but it was, just representing the police department and that sort of stuff.

B.P: Did you belong to the local organizations around town?

- Dodge: Well I used to belong to a number of them and I quit them all except [?] Club and I still belong to [?]
- B.P: I remember seeing your name and picture in the paper many times.
- Dodge: I used to do a lot of the talking for the Police Department. When you're a free program you become very, very popular and cops are free programs. People are always looking for a free program. It was an interesting life. I enjoyed them.
- B.P: Would you recommend police work for women?
- Dodge: I don't know if I would or not the way it is now. Because....I thought it was fun to be a cop, I enjoyed it. But I don't know if it is fun to be a cop anymore. It would be so frustrating now. It always has been frustrating. But, it...I think it is more so now.
- B.P: Do you have any particular type hobbies or anything you are interested in, now a days, that you have a little more time?
- Dodge: All the time I seem to have very little time. He stays on committees and I try to catch up with him and that's about it. We have a quiet life and a peaceful life. It's nice. Both of our mothers are living. We have to take care of them and that's a little time consuming.
- B.P: You both have close family ties. Do you have any special outlook as far as cooking or anything like this? I don't remember where I was [?] looking for a slab of marble for candy making.
- Dodge: Oh, golly. You know I'm probably one of the few in town that has their own tombstone in their own kitchen. I hollered for that slab of marble for so long that Charlie went up to Greenlawn bought a blank for me. So, now I have that and a group of candy making. If you ever want to know about peanut brittle I make it just as good as See's Candy makes anytime, on a marble slab.
- B.P: Do you have any hobbies like that?
- Dodge: I cook a lot. I make miscellaneous wedding presents; I make aspens because Sheriffs get invited to everybody's wedding whether you know them or not. So, I have kind of an idiot's delight pattern of an aspen that doesn't take too long to make. I have them made up ahead of time and when somebody's grandchild gets married well, I just wrap up another aspen and off we go. But it's something to do when you no longer smoke.
- B.P.: You gave up your smoking.
- Dodge: Yeah, I gave up my smoking.

Dodge: Charlie just came and reminded me how the city of Bakersfield improved its automotive equipment. Chief Grayson thought that a comfortable top was a port top. So, most police cars had heaters in them. People traveled with bricks wrapped in newspapers, lanterns, everything else at night, trying to keep warm, blankets, everything else. My car didn't have a heater either. So, we had some itinerate sign painter who painted jolly Christmas messages on the bulletin board in the Police Department and as he was painting jolly Christmas messages, I had an art major and also a mathematics major, and I told him I wanted to paint a little bit too. So, I, in this Christmas scene I put a note to Santa Claus: "Dear Santa Claus, please bring me a heater for my police car Love Mary." And it embarrassed Chief Grayson so in front of some of his friends because, they thought everybody had heaters in their cars by 1957. So he screamed and hollered and says "get Mary a heater for her car." So they took one out of property, didn't they?

Charley Dodge: A heater that had been confiscated.

Mary Dodge: Confiscated.

Charley Dodge: They couldn't find the owner.

Mary Dodge: ...couldn't find the owner. It got hung in my car and that was the first heater in a Bakersfield Police car. Then eventually, after that, a few other ranking officers got heaters and then, eventually, they ordered all the cars with heaters. I am responsible for the comfort of present day policemen.

[END OF INTERVIEW 27:25]