

The Andre Norton Oral History Project

Narrator Release Form

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Special Restrictions:

Narrator's Name and Address:

Andre Norton
1007 Hermit St
Marbleboro, TN, 37130

Narrator's Signature

Date: 10/10/04

Interviewer's Name and Address:

Sharon Faye Wilbur
370 Westview Terrace
Arlington, TX 76013

Sharon Faye Wilbur
Interviewer's Signature

Date: 10/10/2004

Two originals of this form should be signed by the narrator and interviewer(s). The narrator should keep one copy for their records and the second copy should be returned to The Cushing Memorial Library and Archives.

Tape 1

SIDE A- INTERVIEW WITH NORTON

Wilbur: ____ Wilbur, I am in ____ Tennessee. Interview with Mrs. Andre Norton.

Wilbur: When and where were you born?

Norton: Cleveland, Ohio.

Wilbur: Where are your parents from?

Norton: My mother came from an old Ohio family, where there was, before Ohio was a state...

Wilbur: Oh wow!

Norton: And my father came from the Midwest.

Wilbur: And what did your parents do?

Norton: My mother was the first woman to hold a private secretary job in her town...

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: She paid to be taught to use a typewriter and _____ and went out and got that kind of a job. And that was back in the 1880's.

Wilbur: 1880's,? Wow! Did you learn to love books from them? In other words, were your parents readers?

Norton: Huh?

Wilbur: Did your parents like to read?

Norton: Oh very much so. My mother was. My mother wanted to write but she never had a chance and after she died, I found half of a book in her papers and I finished it and it was published and it was a story something like the fairy children, only they were living in Ohio and in the country and it was called _____ after she and her sister.

Wilbur: So you grew up in Cleveland?

Norton: Yes. I was born in Cleveland and I moved there mostly. I took one year out during the war and was working in Washington. Luckily, that was about the time that Science Fiction began to sell, so that I go back home.

Wilbur: Where were you educated?

Norton: Huh?

Wilbur: Where were you educated?

Norton: Well I didn't have what is known as a regular education. I went through high school. I got the English trophy as a result of going twice. I did only one semester in college. Then, there was a little thing called a depression bit. So I had to get out and get a job and they were hiring in the library so I worked in the Cleveland public library for 22 years in the children's section until my health failed and all the time I was doing that I was writing of course. From then on, I did about two or three books a year and that was enough to keep me going.

Wilbur: Did you choose Andre as a pin name because it was not gender specific.

Norton: Yes I had to use it.....My first story was an adventure story for boys and consequently I was told it was better to publish either under my initials or under that could be for either and I picked out Andre and kept it, and then it became my legal name.

Wilbur: So basically then, you were hiding your gender because you had to.

Norton: Well, it was a matter of trying to enter a field where it was highly masculine. It was done but it was always done in initials. For example, one of the best western story writers at that time was B. M. Bower, and she was a woman. And there were several, of course there were several mystery story writers that wrote under in a masculine fashion under a man's name. And then in the science fiction field there was Lee Brad, there was C. L. Moore, there were three others. Lee Brad was probably the best known, she and Moore. Moore invented the woman swordsman.

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: Yes, she invented that in her jail of joy stories. And she's famous for that, she wrote very good things but I mean she's famous for actually doing, as they call them now, tricks in males. I could not travel and so I couldn't attend the various conventions and so forth they had. And I knew the people that I did know _____ just through writing. I mean through correspondence.

Wilbur: How did you become interested in fantasy and science fiction?

Norton: Well I always liked things that were different. I wanted to be an archeologist or a historian: that was my two field studies I liked the best. I would pick up on a little _____ I read in the newspaper or in a magazine and I'd carry that around my mind for oh maybe sometimes three or four years and then they would turn up _____ in the plot. And most of my plots are founded on actual historical happenings or finds and archeological material.

Wilbur: And how did your family and friends respond to this interest? Did they encourage you or did they try to discourage you?

Norton: No, my mother was very helpful. Unfortunately I am not a good speller. I was one of the first classes to teach them to recognize a word in its entirety which is bad for both spelling and pronunciation, and consequently I had difficulty with both. But, mother was an expert speller and she did all my proofreading for me. She would also come to me and say, "Now this does not go together. If you do this over here you can't do that over there." She would point out the weak spots in everything. She read a great deal. The family Friday night was a set up get together: we had supper. We went to the library, we had to drive in the car because we were some distance from the library. We went to the library, changed our books; we walked down one block and went to the community movie. That was our Friday nights. Of course in those days, the movies were stories. They weren't as they are today. Often times we would see a book that we'd read.

Wilbur: Did you find that it was difficult to break into writing?

Norton: No! I think I must have been unusually lucky! I knew nothing about agents, I knew nothing about the field, except that you had to have publisher. So when I got my book finished, I went and got an alphabetical list of publishers. The first one on the list was D.A. Appleton. I don't think they still exist, if they were, they went out. I sent it to them and they took it. When I had difficulty with one publisher or another, they didn't like the book or something, I'd move on to another publisher. So, I never had that trouble. I had more trouble with agents than I did books, because the agents automatically set me in the mid-standard. If you are a mid-standard writer they won't push. So... and the only way that you can exist now a days, now this was not true until after WWII: publishing used to be a literary man's business. My first two editors, one was a professor and one was _____. They knew what they were doing: they knew their history. Now a day, instead of having a literary degree, they have an MBA, and they don't know anything!

We'd have a terrible time, you'd be surprised, a terrible time that authors have with publishers who make mistakes, especially if your doing historical. For example a ____ Cher who writes under the name of Rosemary ____, she is an authority on the Regency Period. She's also been both an editor and a writer in that field. She called me up one day and she says, "What do you suppose they are doing now?" I said, "I haven't the least idea." "Well," she said, "They sent me a manuscript from New York to read" and she said "The year is 1808" she said "one of the protagonists takes a train to Telmada!"

Wilbur: Did they have trains back in 1808?

Norton: No, they didn't have a train you could ride on until 1814. And _____, today you go with a ship: it's in Ireland! We fight this battle all the time. We fought it with a book last year and he said that they didn't have rifles in 1807. I said, "All right then, who made up Morgan's rifle men during the revolution, and who was fighting with Willinton in the peninsula? They were all rifle men. They just don't know...and he's a publisher, and it drives me nuts. Oh yes, I demanded that ____ read my books because Lilo is a Navajo Indian and he always presents him as a fellow that looks like Conan on the covers. I taught him _____ so he called up father ____ I don't care anymore _____.

Well I said, "Just look and the last one, ____ some of the worst ____ on the book." I said, "Your heroine is shown as a girl on her way to the ball. Your hero is shown in the back with long brown stringy hair and he looks like he's got ____." Now I said, "He's supposed to be a Navajo. Navajo's do not have long stringy brown hair." So this time, he calls me up and he said, "Well I don't know how the Navajo's wear their hair." I said, "Did you ever look inside the history books?" I said, "They wear it shoulder length, they tie a ____ in the front and they roll it up around in the back. That's the Navajo."

_____. Oh dear, if you knew what people suffer. I did a military one, and the civil war caused an immense change in American uniforms. Before the war they wore one kind, after the war they wore another, so you have to be aware of that change. My book was made in 1859, in the west before the outbreak of the civil war. And the regiment was then called the secondary recruits, which later became the 8th Calvary. They wore a tent jacket that curled around like this, with a very high standing collar, and they wore boots that came up to their knees. When they sent it...I even told them I said, "Now I went and got, from the Library of Congress, the history of this regiment and it has four or five pictures in it of the informs of different periods. Now you want the uniforms previous to the war civil war, and there're blue, always blue." What did they turn out? They turned out the uniforms that Custard's men wore in green. Then I had a hero who was Chinese and they made him a _____ Irishman. You can't win! You just can't win. You know the artists does not read the book, he's sent a paragraph of some kind of action and told that to them. Sometimes they buy pictures that are striking and they put them to one side and when they get a book that they think it fits, bang its on there. They had one of my Egyptian ones: they had all the men in it wearing the royal crown of the theo_____, on the jacket. You get very angry but there's nothing you can do about it, every once and a while there's an article in one of the papers which the authors read on the subject of jacket pictures. Oh, dear.

Wilbur: When was your fist publication and do you remember how much you were paid and how it was received.

Norton: They paid you when they signed the...they paid your half when you signed the contract, it was a small amount. And then they paid you the other half when the book was published. Then you got nothing more for six months, until the royalty. Royalty came in once every six months. The average for a...see I worked for children's books, for what was known as Y.A. The average for one of those was 1500(dollars):none of this million dollar stuff that they pull now, no. The trouble is now, it's so commercial. The life of a hard cover book buy a new author is two weeks. If it doesn't move in the stores, its out. The life of a paper back is about four weeks, then they rip the cover off and throw it in the dust. I know because we dumpster dived and got those books and sent them to prisons and to places where they needed reading matter and there was no money for it. Two of the homes for abused women, and places like that, we sent those to.

Wilbur: Now this was when you were younger?

Norton: Huh?

Wilbur: This was then you were younger?

Norton: No. That's when we are much older when I...the past ten years or so. We were backed... our backyard backed on a very small mall where there was a book place, and they knew we took them and they knew why, so they never...you see, the only thing against would be selling, no, we weren't selling them we were just... I hate to just throw books away. To me, that is a pretty bad thing to do. So that's why we took them.

Wilbur: Did you talk to other women writers at the start of your career? When you were first starting out did you talk with other women who wrote?

Norton: No, I didn't know any. It wasn't until I was asked to join theta sigma pi, which was, at that time, the national women's writing and newspaper. But I managed. Then I met the woman who did Nancy Drew,

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: ...and she was a grand person, I liked her a lot and she was double crossed. You know she never got more than about \$150 for about any of those books!

Wilbur: Oh that's not right!

Norton: No! They made a company thing out of it you see, and according to them she was writing for order and they did that then with series books. And she never made a cent out of any of the pictures or anything. She did the first ten. _____ and she was really good. I knew her and I knew a couple of the _____.

Wilbur: Do you remember... what type of comments do you remember about women writers in the 1930's and '50's? Were the women writers even noticed back then?

Norton: Well women we largely mystery stories none are men and some of the best mysteries of that time were _____ and they were very good. Family stories were very popular and that was considered the woman's view. You didn't find a man writing those. Those were _____ and that sort of thing, and children's books were, except for the adventure stories; those were men's. Sports were men's and war stories were men's, unless they had a distinctly feminine reason, like a nurse or something like that. But it was very...it was just accepted. See, even the magazines were like that. There was the *American Girl* which was for the YA girl; high school. There was the *American Boy* or *Boy's Life* which was the boy scout one, which was the adventure and _____. And they were the same thing the same type of mystery. And there were a great many books that were sold in the dime stores that were adventure stories of

different kinds. Now, those you barely need to look at the books because they didn't pay well _____ price when they bought the book.

Wilbur: Do you have any favorite stories or recollections about other writers in the early days?

Norton: Huh?

Wilbur: Do you have favorite stories about early writers?

Norton: You see as I say, I lived an extremely quiet life after I quit the library. I had an inner ear problem without knowing it, and they could not account for several attacks of vertigo that I had, and things of that kind. I went to doctor after doctor; I couldn't be in the library anymore. I could write all right, but that's the only thing I could do. And so I couldn't go out, I got so I couldn't go out at all, and that so I had my work. Of course, in those days, we didn't have the video, which would have been wonderful because of things like struggle. I had to get mine from magazines and from books and get material. I couldn't travel and as a result I lived an extremely quiet life. But I'm happy, and I enjoyed it and I love to write. I liked my work in the library because I was working with children, and we'd have a little girl come in and I'd say, "Well, what's the last book you took?" She'd say 'so and so'. "Oh," I say, "Now I bet, if you read 'so and so' did you like it? Alright then you would like this one over here." Then you could give her something and start her on a whole new line of reading. That, to me, was something worthwhile.

Wilbur: Did you read any other science fiction and fantasy at the start of your career?

Norton: No. Fantasy was a later _____. The first ones were all going into space and visiting other worlds and things like that. I didn't have science and therefore I never became, what they called, a hard science fiction writer. A hard science fiction writer, the important part in the story, is the gadget that they discovered: that is one thing that kept the women out of the field. The woman's approach to science fiction was always, 'how does it affect the people?' instead of, oh this wonderful thing, you know. It's, 'what did happen when the people had the finished fact?'. I just finished a huge book, a new one that took me long, it took me longer to read. The basic part of it really, 'is there a survivor type of person?' its amazing. It visualizes our modern world. When something happens that nobody can explain, that which causes electricity, famishes, cars don't run, computers don't run, the electric lights don't run, no power. _____ He brings forth something that other people didn't know. The people that really get started again are the ones that belong to the Renaissance fair and the FCI, they created an acronym because they use swords, they use archery, they can cook over fire, they know herbs, all these things. You know they're very, they created an _____ people are tight over they're things that actually _____. One of my friends is one of there judges during broadways, and you can't use an embroidery on a dress unless it was something back then.

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: But it just shows you Now that you see that's my idea of an interesting woman. This fighting of course because there isn't enough food. Its spring, nothing is planted the stores are all...nothing is shipped anywhere. They can't run cars and they turn to cannibalism. It just shows you that we do have bad things _____.

Wilbur: Now this is a story that you read or that you wrote?

Norton: That I read.

Wilbur: Do you remember the title?

Norton: _____ and its _____ its very good, extremely good and world disaster things. This one is interesting because it does show that these people _____ everything that had been interesting in the past were now the ones that could cope.

Norton: You know you're not allowed. Here, did you have one of these? I'm sorry _____.

Wilbur: Was there one writer that you read that really influenced you?

Norton: Huh?

Wilbur: Was there any one writer that you read that you really liked?

Norton: _____

Wilbur: _____ 19.

Norton: Oh yes! Marriage books did, those did. But I didn't know ___ existed except for Tarzan, which didn't interest me at all. Somebody gave me for Christmas, *John Carter Morris* oh no the *Princess of Morris*, that's the first one. It was like opening a door for me. And ___ I had never heard of until I picked it up and for some reason it was hard cover and it had gotten into the public library. I don't know, they must have been feeling well that day. A descriptive passage was in that book. In that, they had a situation where one of the things was, they had this vast arena with a stage at one end that was empty. They had cultivated people that could dream and they would go in there and dream and people would pay to see they're dreams across this, you know, empty stage, and dreams of that kind were just wonderful. Nobody could ever touch ___ for descriptive passages. She ___ *John Carter* stories was the first one that let people roam around another world and become fascinated by the strangeness of the other world and not spend all their time you know. Well, it just opened another world for me. I had been reading all I could on travel. I read a _____ of English books because they had to best. The English had the best adventure stories. I think its because of the British empire. They were used to a world that was different but we weren't. So they did have _____. Now you can look back and think oh my, remember the first time you read that its like when you read Tolken. When I read Tolken, I read it when it first came out, a book a year and you had to wait a whole year until the next one came out and you'd worry, "Did he get away from the spider?"

Wilbur: What kind of books or stories gave you the most personal satisfaction? In other words, of all of the books that you wrote, which one did you like the most?

Norton: I never had any particular one that I liked. Once in awhile you would do I scene that surprises you. I have a scene in _____ that surprised me and I think it's the best thing that I have done. That's when they come back to this earth and go in the building there and find what means they had _____ in the beginning. They go there and name places. No writer, literally, is ever entirely pleased with the book; they don't. I have one book, a historical, that I wrote: I rewrote it. I waited fifteen years before I could publish it. I can't say there's any book that I liked above the others. When you're working on them, that is the important part _____. You can say I like that. People do I know but I just

Wilbur: This one kind of goes along with the first one, so in other words you don't see any of your books as being the most important one that you wrote?

Norton: No, but what I think that's important about my books is that I have, in the past say twenty years, received a great many letters from people in their forties and fifties saying that they never liked to read until one of my books fell in their hands, and from then on they became readers and correctors. To me, that is important. Not that it was my

book but the fact that they had been _____ what could be found. I had one paper book that I found when I was throwing out, and it had on the back of the jacket, there were names listed and it had come from a hospital in Vietnam and all those people had read it. You see, that sort of thing makes you feel... I am quit angry with authors that develop a part that they are so wonderful that everybody should bow down to them. I had a friend who worked _____ the south pacific, _____ two and he said he thinks he's lost his mind if he had another book he was _____ he could go into that and leave it and walk into another world. So when he came out of the army he was discharged in San Diego and he found out that the author of that book, he never told me who it was, lived there and he felt, "I have to go and thank him for what he has done for me," and the man shut the door on his face.

Wilbur: Oh..

Norton: When I heard that, you owe anybody _____, but you owe anybody that writes you a letter about your work to write back and thank them and say, "I'm glad that you enjoyed my work." You owe that. After all, they didn't have to pay for your book. To treat anybody like that... It's odd, the effects of war has had on books. The end of the Civil War brought about the ten center, the paperback ten center, that men carried with _____ and they were usually Westerns or Indian stories. I've seen pictures of Yellowbacks, they called them because they were bound in yellow paper. The WWII _____ terribly lightweight. I don't know about her now, the way _____ paperbacks like that. Anything that was in a first degree, and to realize that there's another world out side of what's fresh in your mind... I hear it's true myself because I was given, several years ago _____ and when I closed my eyes I had the most terrible things in my mind that I could see. I _____. I read ever single _____. So I know _____. You can offer somebody a chance to... that's why I don't like the modern novels because they're pessimistic. The characters are worse off in the end than they were in the beginning. A book, a work of fiction, has only one purpose: to the _____ to another world. It should be a world so unlike the one that _____. Now why should a woman who has had a bad divorce or something like that, pick up one of these modern novels where she's having trouble with her husband, and trouble with her teenagers and all, to read a _____ and the reading _____. Now that _____ media is telling stories. _____ TV told stories. That's _____.

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B-INTERVIEW WITH NORTON

Norton: And she also write non-fiction about cats.

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: and she has some of the funniest cat stories. Oh I must tell you one of our funny cat story.

Wilbur: How did you meet her or how did you become ... ?

Norton: She sent a story in about fifteen years ago I offered a prize for the best non-published story by a woman writer fantasy. And she was one that sent one in, it was very good. Well it didn't go over nobody ... in fact I was told I was pushing where I had no right to go and so I dropped it. But we kept in touch and then I asked her to do a couple of the ___ books for the ___ that she did. And this time... she's very good with animals, ___ her stories about animals are so funny! They are. And the funny one that she's telling and she doesn't allow them to roam on the farm, she has two.... Egyptian cats they were ___ cats, they are like miniature leopards you know they have little spots on them. And they ah she has it all covered with wire and of course they climb up and down that can't get out. And on the other side of it is her corn bushes and the birds come down and eat the kernels, well she said she was working there one morning and such a howling and noise she never heard in her life and she went out and there was her male cat had climbed up there put his two arms through had a bird on the other side. And he couldn't pull him through and the bird was biting him and she thought oh dear she had to go and do something so she went around the other side and she couldn't go near the bird ___ so she took off her sweatshirt and threw it over the bird and got it down and let it go and then she realized she didn't have anything on under the sweatshirt. But she tells these funny things. But our story is really something, you see they like to sit there at night because they can see out down at their own level. Well they all three were sitting there and I was in bed of course, when I get in bed I have to stay until somebody comes and gets me out, and the ah we heard them and all three of them were yelling and they usually don't make that much noise. So Sue came in and she turned on the light out in the ___ and couldn't see anything and pretty soon they gave up and stopped. The next morning she went out and fastened around one cats there was a snake skin, snake had come up there to lose there skin you see. And I said yes you see they were saying that oh I'm seeing nudity on the front pouch there goes the neighborhood what will the neighbors think.

_____, and odd part about it is that I got one of the bulletin which is ht magazine for science fiction group and here in the back they have a list of new agents and publishers with their email address and here was an email naked snake. So I says to um sue I says you see we got the naked snake right here we got proof of it. _____ for turning on something terrible.

Wilbur: oh no obscenity.

Norton: (Laughs) oh dear and ah she has her female is a hunter but the male isn't the same way and the female will come in with a field mouse or something and play with it and then she puts it under a piece of furniture that's so tight to the floor that you can't get out. So she got a mouse out the other day put it out and she said she turned around and there was the female coming in with the mouse again very live and she turned around and deliberately pushed the cat down the ___ that was going to be her amusement for the evening _____. Oh they are so funny when they try something like that. I had a friend who specializes in Siamese and she and she couldn't find her female and she was terribly worried for fear of ___ and her _____. And she went and opened every covert every draw every place around her and she couldn't find her and she really got so upset she started crying and the male come up and looked at her and she says where is your sister? and he went over to the _____ and sat back _ she says now you know she isn't there I looked there ___ so she looked in and her she was way up under a blanket on a towel and she got her gown and set her on the floor and she walked right

over and smacked the male in the face. But they aren't real funny when they do things like that _____ and work things out. But I'll never forget her saying when that bird on the outside of the...and he was holding the inside.... Oh dear! I think part of your time there _____ you know Australia was put in a ruin by a Tony _____ you know?

Wilbur: Yes

Norton: Well, _____ New Zealand _____.

Wilbur: Why?

Norton: Opossums...and they're beautiful. They're not like _____ at all. They're dark brown and the under _____ beautiful. Well anyway, They _____ use them for because they kill birds and little animals and _____. They sent me for Christmas last year a shawl of what they call _____. Its _____ wool combined in _____.

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: Oh, its soft, oh, beautiful!!! Then she sent me one that _____ if you're sick in bed. Its flat like a pillow and you put a hot water bottle in it. _____ You didn't give a thing about greenman. Without the _____ at the lower part of that limb, it looks like it's a marigold; the lower part. We have done everything to preserve him; eyes, and the nose.

Wilbur: Oh, I see, up above!

Norton: No, down below.

Wilbur: Oh, you mean you _____?

Norton: Yes, at the end there. When we first saw this property, you see that was scrap land. They couldn't build on it because it's underneath: it goes up and down.

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: So, she was afraid that they were going to cut it down. It's 250 years old at least.

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: That's the Greenman and we had it fortified so that... Running up through it and the branches and all is steel so nothing could tear it down. When we first saw it, there was little branches growing out like a beard. When the man came to _____ it cut out, they took that all off so the face is _____. The eyes were there, and the mouth and all. I said, "Well, he's probably the last of the forest." We're right on the boarder line, here, with the big army and the _____ River engagement _____. Tennessee is very much unreconstructed. They carry the flag, and they're _____. I said, "When I came here, I had so much trouble getting the library started." There were three things against me: I was a woman, I had no _____ here, I was a damn yankee. Not only that, but I had a great uncle that died in Andersonville (laughing). They don't call it here, the "Civil War", no. Its Civil War of the Northern Aggression. I found one lone monument in Ohio once that had on it the War of the Great Event: that's the only time I've ever seen that. I was practically brought up on the Civil War. My grandmother had three brothers in it and a boyfriend was killed at Gettysburg so we heard 'Civil War, Civil War'. It's fun anyway. I always liked history and I knew people that don't want to know about their country and they are loosing so much.

Wilbur: I think the first you _____. I would like to know how your response to women that _____ and words that you have received, the last _____.

Norton: Oh yeah. Well of course, the most gratifying one is the _____.

Wilbur: That's the one you received in Boston?

Norton: Yes. I was the only woman to have it for many years. It wasn't until 2 years ago that they gave it to another woman, so that was it. I couldn't go there because they had changed. I think I went to about 4 in my life. There were all these _____. _____ get trophies right around the corner there, you pull the door; this door right here. Pull it open so you can see _____.

Wilbur: _____

Norton: Wait a minute, oh here it is

Wilbur: Oh, wow!

Norton: See these are _____ on the floor. Now that, _____. That is the grand national. It's time and space and _____ and _____.

Wilbur: That is beautiful!

Norton: Here's the one for Fantasy; that the _____ and that is what _____. That's

Wilbur: _____. This one you got again at _____ college. 1963

Norton: Yeah, that's one of the first ones.

Wilbur: I will have to take a picture of this lady.

Norton: Let me get out of the way here.

Wilbur: Take your time.

Norton: _____ There's one here from the Dutch government. Where is that?

Wilbur: _____ book that you wrote about WWII?

Norton: I wrote 3 about the Dutch underground in the war and when the war was over, they sent me this and a document signed by the queen. Well, I tell you, the best ___ gift of the _____ is the fantasy one. They limit that number of people that can attend and when they reach that limit, they cut off. More of the _____ and the puppeteers go for that than from the others. Now the WorldCon had had _____. There _____. As you would like to. [It gives you] a chance to meet people that you have been corresponding with a long time.

Wilbur: Are there any Science Fiction or famous histories by other writers, that you recognize as good or important to the field?

Norton: Oh yes. Now, I'm not so good on the new writers because there's been so many books, that I can't follow them anymore. Pierce, what is his first name, I can't think now; _____ Pierce, excellent in fantasy, very, very good in fantasy. I think she has a new one out in a new series now. Misty is fresh. _____ is very good.

Wilbur: Who?

Norton: Her real name is Ruby Beth _____ but she goes under the name of Rosemary _____.

Wilbur: Oh, ok.

Norton: I very much like David Weber. I like very much David Dre, and I like Allan Foster Douglas. I like *Sterling*, which is a new one about these people that went to a renaissance fair, and they knew how to act. Some _____ out well, but they keep on writing; they begin to repeat themselves. I mean it, they keep on a set. That's one thing I tried to do, even after I started writing Science Fiction. I wrote some suspense stories and some adventure stories because I didn't want to just write the same kind of stories all the time; you fall into to tight a pattern. Most of the people I know also write something different. _____ writes _____ notes as one of those _____. I am very fond of the modern story where its laid back in the middle ages, mystery _____. _____ daughter

is _____ very _____. The ones about St. Stevens _____ which are _____. In the first place, they happened over history, and they do. They're all people who... the daughter, I had understand, has transferred to one of the universities in England. Kathryn _____ does marvelous stuff with the _____. Her husband has a fascinating job. I wish _____ Harold.....

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: ... the Irishman. Of course now a days, they're not called on duty so _____ but their duties now are keeping genealogies so if they _____ or something is _____. He told us about finding a secret a _____ and that was a great deal of fun. He said one of his friends inherited a very old manor house and _____. He was found in a straight line of descent, that had died out. He visited the house once or twice but he didn't know anything about it. He called up Mr. _____ and said, "You don't know what I've found. Just come on over and see." Well, they went over and the first thing he did was to count every window. He found there was a window on the first floor that was not an outer one, by any room. Se, he went, and here he finally found _____ and it was paneling so he was sure there was something behind it. He had somebody come through and he _____. It was a narrow, very narrow room. It had a table of old wood used and carved _____ and there were chairs on either side and they were carved too. At the end there was a chair that also had arms and in front of each place at the table was a slashed wine glass, but there was nothing _____. They tried to find out the meaning _____. Nothing in any of the records, nothing in any family _____. They finally decided it was _____ bite: a meeting place for _____ people. The first thing that _____ bites always did when they had a meeting, was drink to the king that's over the water _____ so that's what _____. The last one that was left, they'd smash his _____ and he died. He had a _____. Kathryn Kurtz's _____ was built in 1834, on the foundation of a house that was built very much older than that, a manor house, and that was built on the foundation of an _____ built in the year 700.

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: Think of the ghost _____: they had 3 ghosts. She said right after, not soon after they moved in, they were told that the chimney pipes were beginning to break and they better have it fixed. She said they would have to move out and live for a couple months _____ worked on the roof. She said the minute they made the decision to move out, the whole atmosphere of the house changed. They felt very _____ and very bad and wasn't happy or anything. So, one day she went into the center hall and she said they were coming back. She said, "Its your house too, and if we don't repair the roof, it will fall down." She said, "We had to repair the roof and we'll be back," and she said just like the atmosphere changed. One is the pair of footsteps that walk around _____, one is the shadow that appears in the corner or her sons bedroom and the third is a woman her husband followed up the stairs one night.

Wilbur: Now, does she live in England, or Ireland?

Norton: She's American, but they went to live in Ireland. His name is McMillian, he's _____ France. You know, people come here and they tell us stories like that and they are so interesting that they see these things that are _____. There was a friend of mine that married a doctor and he was very, very anti-superstitious. They had a friend at the end of WWII that bought a house in Virginia. They had sold off the plantation, just the grounds around it, and they bought it. The _____ retired and he liked to do things, work on it

himself, so they started it. Well, their thing was, there was a bedroom at the top of the stairs that they could not keep open. If they left it open, it always got closed. They even had braced it open with his tool and then he found the tool ____ down the hall. So, ____ and her husband went down to visit them and ____ and the ____ wife ____ in town and ____ because they both loved _____. The ____ went into town and Bill was there alone. He was sitting down in the old parlor reading, and all at once he heard that door open with a bang. Then _____ to the top stair and then ____ as if somebody stood there and was looking down, and then he ____ slammed the door again. He realized then that he was the only one in the house and he beat it down the road, to wait until the ____ came back. They could never find any story about it, except during the Civil War there had been a skirmish near there and some of the Union had been taken to the house, but they never knew _____. So its _____.

Wilbur: _____ young writers that has caught your attention as being promising?

Norton: Oh yes. Unfortunately, the ones that I have found to be very good, I was unable to get anybody to back me. There's a young physician over in Nashville. He's hindu but he was born here and he is a Pediatrician. He's doing some marvelous stuff, very, very unusual. I referred him to my agent but my agent wasn't impressed the same way and then ____ send me a paperback from a lady that I've never heard of, _____. This was his second book in a series and I thought, "well _____". I hadn't read no news, no advertisements or anything. I was able to find _____. Then I asked around and _____.

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: Witchcraft _____ very well done. They had not given any publicity to them. You see, that's the difficulty: if the book doesn't sell right away they won't... Well you know what happened to one of our best of all Horror writers, the one who did the one about the motel, you know that _____.....

Wilbur: Robert _____?

Norton: Yeah, Robert _____. You know what happened to him? He was well established. He _____ on the biography, they were asking him to do it, so he wrote one. Of course, it was very funny because he was a _____ his things were marvelous. He called is *Once Around the Block*. Well, a friend came to visit him and he's given away all of his author books, so he said, "Let's go down to Barnes and Noble. I'll get one and autograph it and you can take it home with you." So, they went down there and they asked.. "No, we don't have any such book." Well, Robert ____ said "Why not? It came out 2 months ago." It didn't come through the ____; no such thing. Well, he said, "I'd like to know why." They said, "Well, there's the _____ *Man* over there. _____" He got out his list. They had never put it on the list. It was sitting back in the _____. They did that with one of our magic and _____ stories...

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: ...until we got up and yelled about it. I kept hearing story _____ magic ____ before. I said, " Well, its been out for _____." _____ he went down to say something _____. So you see, even a big writer _____ sits there in the warehouse for about _____ and they remember it, and that's what happened to my book. It's really nasty because a well written book... then you _____ all the time _____ and it makes you mad _____. That's the way it goes. _____ see the *Harry Potter* _____. None of the people in the Adult _____ of the Science Fiction admit that the children of Science Fiction had any right to _____. When *Harry Potter* made so much money, then they were all running around in circles wanting some more _____. There was a piece in our paper yesterday about this "Stine". He started this new list of books about _____ like that. Now, they _____ it's _____ well written. Tamara Pierce, who I think is unbelievably good...

Wilbur: Who? Who is the author?

Norton: Very good... Tamara Pierce.

Wilbur: Oh, ok.

Norton: She has written 2 or 3 series and they are very good. One of them was a girl that wanted to be a Knight, and for political reasons the King had put it down that they could, we accept this Knight. So she went to be accepted, and well, of course, everybody was against it and they all make life miserable for her. Well, there's 5 books about her and they are good because they show you how you have to _____ troubles. The next one started in and that's the one that I want to read the sequel to. It's supposed to come out now. One of the characters in is so funny, its very amusing. It's a _____ raven a _____ raven. He can be a raven or a man you see. Well, He falls for this girl so he turns up as a man and tries to court her but he does it like a raven. _____ He tells her 'doesn't she want to nest?' an all this! One of the high points in it is when he takes her out to _____ a picnic. He's sitting there talking to her and there's a line of ants marching by and he..... _____ . _____ you could just see the difficulties you _____! Those were very, very good. They have good ones, but the difficulty is that they do not do any advertisement. Advertisement is just flawed. The way things are now days, a thing has to be advertised pretty much, has to be mentioned on sale _____. I think, if you could get Bush to come and burn one in the public square, you would have a bestseller! Its too bad because _____ did 2, and then she thought she had a contract for the third one, _____. It was an _____ United States in which witchcraft was medicine...

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: ...you see. She becomes the apprentice to the practioner. We don't call _____ a practioner or _____. One of the most scary creatures in that is a child that's been avoided that comes _____. It's a really... a very good _____. That's what makes you so mad _____. Then, years ago, I heard about somebody where _____ the same _____. He had not written a book yet: he had sent in the idea of a book. He had never had

anything published, he was unknown, and he was paid \$1,000,000 for his idea. So I said, "I'd like to know what kind of book that is that he's never written anything before and its worth \$1,000,000." So, my agent read it. It started on the first page with a long description of a vine growing up a tree, so naturally you get an idea that was a very potent part of the book. The second page started out, "When my father was murdered, they would not let me see his body." He had no way of time _____. I wasn't the only one that felt like this because Misty Black had me and she said, "You know, they just sent me to review, to write a quote on. I couldn't get through the first chapter." I said, "By any chance, _____?" She said, "Yes. It didn't make sense." Now, he not only had \$1,000,000 for that, he's written 7 since: all of which have been on a New York list.

Wilbur: Can I ask what author? Who was it?

Norton: I still don't see how he does it; he's not _____. At least, unless somebody changed it a great deal from the thing I saw. He had no pretense of time from one scene to another.

Wilbur: Who was it? Who was the author? What was his name?

Norton: Tom...I can't remember it all. He has one out every year! Sells them, always sells them at the top of the line! I said at the time he must know where the bodies are buried.

END OF SIDE B

TAPE 2

SIDE A- Interview with Norton

Norton: There is no excuse for poor research. And you hate it when somebody produces a mish-mash. It isn't so much for money, it's the fact that the books spread because everybody talks about it

Wilbur: We have already talked about this, and as you look back over the history or science fiction and fantasy, what are your observations about the field?

Norton: Well it's changing of course, it's changing quite a lot. Just recently the big change has been this side by side worlds. Where that goes with the If theory of history. There are times when our history depends on a single set thing, like the result of a battle, the life of a man, just one single thing. The "If" theory of history is that from that point on, there exists two different worlds; one in which it happened as it did, and one where it happened the other way. And that is you wanted to travel in time, it would be easier to go across time than back or forth in time. Well, we've had a two excellent series of this

across time. The one is the Nantucket one, by Sterling. The book I just read is an offshoot of that series, but not part of it. And the other one is the 1632, 1633, and 1634. And that is the story of this small village, or small town, in West Virginia. It has been a mining town, and all of once, on this day, there's been a crowd of people there because all of the mines had closed and the town was dying. But the man who was head of the Union, his brother, was getting married. He had an outside wedding and all these people came back that had been there. And they, right after the wedding, there was a very queer thing happen. People just stopped you know, they couldn't know what happened, but something happened. They felt peculiar. They knew that something had happened. So the hero who is the mining, the union man and the Chief of Police take their car, they have a Jeep, and they take the car and go outside the town. Well, this feeling goes with them until all at once, right straight across the highway, and running on both sides as far as they can see, is a huge wall of dirt, higher than the highest building in the town, just as if something had cut around. And when they get they heard a woman screaming and they see smoke on the other side of the wall. So they get to the top of the wall in Jeep, and this girl comes running away from a little strip of woods. Most of her clothes had come off and when she see them she just shrieks and shrieks and runs right away. Well they go on a figure and that the place must be a house on fire. They look down and there are a set of men wearing their armor of the 1600's attacking the house, a farmhouse standing near the fire, they are raping a woman and they killed two men. So they just take their machine gun, they brought this to the, the hero brought this machine gun which he brought back from Vietnam, and he brought it in their to show somebody and they just took it and killed all the soldiers. They were all burned to the ground. Well, they don't know what happened, but this the town and its surroundings has been lifted and put into Germany in the 30 years war when Richard was trying to organize France and when they the Catholics and the Protestants were after each other, and when they began to realize what's happened, then they see that they have to make the best of it. But, they know things that should be super dark. They start a factory to make parts for another car and in the third book (I have the third book, I haven't had a chance to read it yet) that's when they come up against Richard he's mad because they establish a united cooperative, something like that, and other towns join them because they can defend themselves against these soldiers. They expand all the time even when they were young and finally what Richard doe - I want to see how it comes out in the next one - he steals their school books and sells them to all the others. So that they can see what's happened to them. The amount of research that Mr. Flint had to do for that, I could hardly see because that devoted a lot of time and it was is a lot of trouble, and .principal general for the Swedish and all these people milling around. Now those are the kind of books that are coming in now. Those are military science fiction. Military Science Fiction is what David Webber does, very good. And he has two series. His one series it was a man named O'Leary, and he's backed by a librarian who is an authority on computers and she carries a little computer all around all the time, a little tiny one, and she always knows what's going to happened next by the computer. So it's very adventurous in three or four book. Those are very interesting because there is no romance between the two of them but its how she knows that they're going to, and then she'll tell him, "You watch, their going to come here" and he's done three of those. Fantasy used to be like Conan, that type of thing. Well it isn't anymore, it's more this kind of. And then there's a David Weber who

invented a woman in the Navy - Honor Harrington, and there has been a slue of Honor Harrington books. Those are all good readers. I don't care for some of them, they're too bloody, I mean you just go for the massacre to another, but they're doing intrigue, which some of them do, that's interesting. And Pauline Griffith- they're bringing them all out again. She did nine books about a regiment and it was done almost twenty years ago; like Green Berets and commandos. She has written two more since then, and they're both stories from this fall. She lend me the two new ones so I could follow it up. They are very interesting from the point of view, who again the point is on the character. There had been a terrific intergalactic war which was one bunch of trails. But, they were wearing them down and finally the sheriff got the gun on him by, he had more supplies. So they had to, the enemy lived only for war. The whole civilization was built on war. All their titles were army titles, they were an empire. The hero is one of them and he was on this planet and he was under a man, one of their generals, who had lost his mind because they had surrendered. Well whatever. He gave orders that that planet must be completely destroyed and this fellow didn't pass them on. Because he already knew that the armistice was being signed, and it would mean the death of these people and there's no room for it. Well, they got him, for disagreeing with the command, it didn't take into consideration. And they started out by flogging him around the navy. That was actually done in England. And then they threw him (they thought he was dying of course), they killed his wives (they had more than one wife) they killed them, they made their wives kill themselves. They killed all their children so that bad luck wouldn't come? And he was put in an escape hole out in space. Well he was found and came through. Well he was the survivor type and anyway he came to the attention of this woman who was commander of these commandos. And she was had fought against him and knew that he had done this and everybody that had heard about it had been horrified that they had done this to him. So she enlists him in her group and then each one of the books after that is something they are sent to, that is something they don't think they can survive. One planet has volcanoes, that comes in contact with all things. The point of each story is that he is considered by his own people to be the worst kind of power because, according their law, he should have committee suicide and he didn't. When they run into him, they always try to kill him because he reminds them of the past. The trouble is always something happens where he has to confront, in each book, in his past. But they are very well written, and she's done a beautiful job. _____ she has 11 that will coming out. I'm so glad for her because it is good stuff. Yes and you know a person can really write if you've enjoyed their work, and it makes you mad when you see what happened to her. She was turning her ninth one, was working on her 10th one, got a new editor and he said "That's trash, Doctor." That's the way it goes. And I'll tell you, you have to take a lot of disappointments. You can't overvalue yourself, that's what I've seeing from some writers. You have to admit to yourself that they're not, because it comes right down to basic things, and you tell a good story, you have a background to tell a good story. One that will keep the people reading because as the book follows, the same pattern, I took some courses in college later on a news paper writing and so forth, it follows the same technique. In a story or a paper you have to say who, what, when, and where. Who's chapter in the book, who, what, what, when, and where. If you don't introduce the main character in the first chapter, you've got to introduce them quickly, and they has to be some good reason for not introducing him before. You can't say he

was a *** _____. 18.30 But that's the way it goes. The one thing I ever say to anybody is that you must read as widely as possible. Now, I have used over and over again, things that I have found in the papers. For example there was something that they found in the paper seven years ago, that I used in this book I had to sit around and go to sleep last week. The natives in the rainforest of Brazil know that if they can bring an archeologist or anthropologist something that they found in the rainforest that nobody has seen, they would get a lot of money for it. So it a greater difference. And these two American explores were in Brazil and they were approached by this native. He said he had found something that was entirely unlike anything. It had no bearing on his people. They had never heard of it at all and it was in caves. So they agreed then to go with him. Well, there's a place where another river ran into another river there and it formed a wedge, and the wedge had heights (but not as high as mountains, but heights) and little caves in those heights. Well the first one they went into, everything had been smashed. Pottery had been smashed. But it had not resemblance to anything they knew. There was no sign that any of this ground had been used for agriculture, nothing like that. No sign of any buildings. Well the next cave they went into it was intact. They found a it all full of little benches that were made of pottery and the benches were wide enough for two people (or two little statues). Some of them had two on and some just one, but there were two kinds. They are apparently made to resemble people in the body but no the head and they were like terra cotta. One set of them had just a round ball of a head and the other had a teardrop face. They were apparently – sometimes there were two teardrops, sometimes there was a teardrop and a round headed one, sometimes there were two round headed ones, they never knew. They figured out they represent two sexes couldn't be sure which. Anyway, they knew from the smashed things in the first cave these were all full of human ashes. It was a graveyard. No resemblance to anything known in South America. The pottery was unlike it. There was no town near, nothing. The native that had taken them there said it was never his people. So I used that as a basis for my book.

Wilbur: So this is your new book that is coming out?

Norton: Yes.

Wilbur: I can't hardly wait.

Norton: Now to that I combined something that is down in Alabama.

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: We have down here where the ground suddenly sinks and catches things. There is a huge one down there – very, very large – it never sank when there were people there to notice it, I mean it was long before Indians. It is forty feet down, there is no way to reaching it, or wasn't originally, except by rope. There is vegetation in the bottom of it and water and all. But it isn't like the vegetation at the time.

Wilburn: Oh!

Norton: You can go down there now – they have built an incline you can walk down, but you can't get a car down. You can't bring anything out. I combined those two things, you see. That's what you do, you pick up something and you hold it for a while and think about it, Well there those people could have gone there, and done that! Now just recently I get a wonderful magazine I think you'd enjoy it so much its called Ancient America.

Wilbur: And that's the name of it?

Norton: That's the name of the magazine, Ancient America.

Wilbur: Let me get a pen and write it down.

Norton: Its things that are found in this country that cannot be explained.

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: Pre-Indian

Wilburn: Oh!

Norton: And they have pictures they have photographs. They have a lot of things and I think you would find it highly interesting now that magazine is rich in stuff. And one of the things they had recently in the paper here was- no I think it was in ancient America, yes, ancient America. There was a place down in Florida, where the islands you know way down in the end of Florida and... around Key West, and there was a big swamp there. And they figured they could drain that, and of course that was before the hurricanes moved in, but they felt that they could drain that and use it to build summer homes right on the water. But, when they started digging they uncovered bodies. Now the American Indian did not bury its people in graveyards, they buried them separately and they buried them so that the... there's no place like we bury. The burial, the bones read ten thousand years ago.

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: There were 50 bodies there. There were men, woman and children, but the important part was that because of something in the water from the bog, brains were almost all intact. Now they are sending those up to investigate. An intact brain a thousand years old.

Wilbur: Fascinating!

Norton: See that's the kind of thing you faceted in for me like that and it just... I always call them jumping off places then you've got a story. Where did they come from? Why did they come? Who found them? What was the result? Do you know that all of the archeology in this country all of it is governed by a set of laws made in 1888.

Wilbur: No!

Norton: Yes! And therefore if it does not follow those laws it is either, according to our people in charge, it is either a fake or the people are just imagining it. And the man who made the laws was very much a believer in Columbus.

Wilbur: Okay.

Norton: Now they have discovered there is no such thing as a land bridge coming over into Alaska. People came by boats along the coast and there are little settlements along the coast going back 20-30 thousand years. So, they found a whole bunch of documents written in the official language of the Ethiopian church, part of the bible of the Nascidians church, which apparently had been there since trouble with Rome when the Christians had to get out. In Illinois. See, but they won't admit this. One of the things that I found the most interesting was they said clear back 1920 they were drilling for oil in Missouri. They went down 40 feet and nothing. So they said to the man well no use to it, and he said oh no we'll wait another – so 40 feet more. Meanwhile they were using a new drill that indicated they had gone through two times where water had covered that place like a lake or even a river, had covered that place for year. All right and they brought it up and caught in the drill was copper coin.

Wilbur: But copper was not, supposedly, not invented way back then.

Norton: It was a copper so rich and so pure that its never been used, copper of that kind has never been used by us. We use copper too mainly to make bronze. It was circular

and instead of being stamped like the ancient coins were, it was milled? around the edge. It had a portrait of a man sitting on like a throne and little marks over the edge that bore no resemblance to anything we knew, that could have been some kind of language. Well a Spanish man might have dropped it out of his pocket 80 feet down through rock and two lops of water. (laughs) But that's the kind of stories that have in this magazine and they have pictures, photographs of the things. So you see that's were you get your raw material, and if you can make people question what has been accepted and say well if that's so how come this is so, then your getting something. And I just a got a new book that just came out, called the Treasure King Jewel and what it's about is Cleopatra's granddaughter, who had a great deal of the treasure that Cleopatra hadn't had. The Romans, she had married, she had married a sea king of the Martians, and they were like the Phoenicians they were, their work in the world was to transfer groups from one country to another most of the time. When he saw that the Romans were moving in, he said they were, he was moving out, so he gathered together major part of his people and all the stuff that he got from Alexandria including a lot of the library that was destroyed in Rome and he had the maps of the Phoenicians. He went across, into the gulf, up the Mississippi river, because their boats were a light draw, clear up into Illinois, but the names of his village was still there, stone walls covered in a section nobody knows who build. So in 1988, a man bought this land and decided he knew this story and what he wanted was to find if they had got the Alexandrian Library.

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: So they started exploring and they found a cave. The cave had an entrance but the back had been walled up _____. And in this stuff they had photographs of trays and gold pieces and all sort of things like that, but there was one, another room there that the wall had been very tightly closed so he tried to get that open and they did but nothing came up so they figured you know that it was a papyrus and the books were just rotted away. And when they were working on trying to get things out of the little room they tried to open the door farther and they decided, and they used dynamite and brought the whole thing down and now they had used one of these things that you run over the ground that tells when you have mapped, and they had mapped miles of caves running underground. But you'd like the magazine.

Wilbur: That's right I made a note.

Norton: Yeah. It's fascinating. But that's where you get your materials. I just got a new mystery story, not mystery but what we used to call adventure stories, from England called The Lost Diamond where somebody gets a message that they found were the ____ went. They were the ones that overcome in the night by a sandstorm on the borders of Egypt and never found again. _____.

Wilbur: Do you read the storied that you write introductions to?

Norton: Yes. You can't give up when you see something that's a lost treasures its fun to follow along. When .. up here at Vandenberg College they had an expedition with new ____ in Guatemala. And they had found a town down there that had been so hidden in brush and growth that they didn't even know how big it was. And so they're uncovering it piece by piece and there was this very big one that they thought was a pyramid and they can only work there half the year because of the climate and they were pulling out, this was in the paper in Washington in May or something, they were pulling out and the man who was head of it said he was going to climb to the top of this big one and see if he

could get an idea of how far it extended. So he went up there and he took two or three steps away and boom went down in. And nobody knew where he was and he was scared stiff because he said that snakes were there. When they finally got him out, what he had found was a new kind of building that nobody had seen before that had a coach courtyard in the middle, like the castles used to and then these high places around the room; he doesn't know whether it's a temple or what it is and he said that he would have to, he figured it would take him three years to clear it. (Laughs) He stepped in one. Getting tired?

Wilbur: I should ask if you are doing ok. Are you doing ok?

Norton: Yeah, I'm doing OK; I usually take it easy the next day after. I want to do these books for you.

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B- Reflections

Wilbur: Andre is now making beautiful necklaces and earrings to keep busy. She showed me what she has made and it is beautiful. She was gracious enough to give me a beautiful black and crystal necklace with black cats on beads that she has made. I would probably not wear it too often because it is too precious to wear. I would keep it always for display. I took pictures of the three cats, of Ms. Norton and her caregivers Sue Stewart and pictures of her many awards and author honors that she has received. Because we went through all of the questions that I had typed and brought with me, I will have to think of a new set of questions to write down and ask her tomorrow. Sue Stewart, who is now her caregiver and hospice person admitted that after Andre fell and broke her hip back in the spring of this year, that they were concerned about her. I learned that the author who has co-written the most recent Beastmaster series is going to continue the series without Andre's help.

TAPE 3

SIDE A

Norton: _____

Wilbur: Oh you can have this.

Norton: Oh thank you.

Wilbur: I finished ___ this morning.

Norton: Its. Uh... I used to cut pictures out I didn't get a chance to work on that ____ . We uh concentrated on the necklaces. We made last year ____ and bags that you could use for Christmas, you know doing them up and I had loads and loads of pictures of pretty

animals that we used for those. I had covered them and ___ using them this year I found one place that had ___ little books _____ little book. And um we were uh _____ I felt so tired all the time and about three hours is about all that I can work. _____.

Wilbur: They must be getting used to me at least these two stayed.

Norton: That's her favorite place just right there, _____, they used to sit here she sit right out of the door of the house they had the albino skunk that would come and look in the window and cause _____ and they have a flying squirrel.

Wilbur: _____

Norton: Yeah I haven't seen either one of those I think they moved out.

Wilbur: I think I will wait until after we have our snack before I really gave into the questions today.

Norton: I had to write a letter this morning to a lawyer. Some years ago I started a contest for a fantasy written by a woman writer a new writer and I got some really interesting books and one of them was by this woman out in California and her characterization was very good and her plot was interesting and shortly after that she had fall and it started for her, see with me it's the breaking of the hips down at eh ____, but with her it started _____ where pain runs all through you and she couldn't get around very well and her family was she had a very hard time with it. Her husband was a police officer and he abused her and no one believed it seeing that he was a police officer and she had twins and an older girl. And the ah... he ran off because _____ and he took the two youngest children they were just a year old she couldn't find them and they tried all over the united states she __ checked__ everywhere and it was over two years that they found them and he put them in a orphanage they lived in California and he put them in an orphanage in Illinois so she got them back. But _____ and has trouble but she wants to still be a writer and she's struggling _____ all the time with that disease and her _____ was to both of the twins the boy and the girl and they worked so hard against it the girl graduated with an A student and the boy with _____ he uh he wanted to be a marine so he went and enlisted in the marines but _____ so he got out and he had done pretty well and made an impression and they got him a job with the government working with people who were _____. Well what happened was he was going to work ... oh my goodness.

Norton: _____

Wilbur: _____ thank you.

Norton: Snack.

Wilbur: no

Norton: No no! That's not kitty food. Kitty food doesn't come on plates you know that. And uh he was driving to work and there's a red light and the man behind him _____ into him and broke his back. And he recovered form it but he nearly almost _____ then while he was in the hospital and she was feeling so bad.....thank you I have to be sure that no little kitty's are around. There got her! And she fell and came down and hit her head on the partition between two doors and concussion. And now she can't even read which she had managed to do by this year _____ she says I can't even write a letter she had to dictate letters to her daughter. She said this is too _____ so she had written me a letter which I got yesterday. With the lawyers and because she fell in circumstances where she was in a public building he thinks she may be _____ you know the SIS for her. So that's what

she's trying and she wanted me to write a letter telling that I had known that she had been writing and knew her work, so I did that this morning. But some people do have the worst luck don't they. Just _____. Oh I had one sister but she was seventeen years older than I she was always a grown up and I was contemporary with my nephew. And uh so that was ___ but uh

Wilbur: Now do you have any family still living?

Norton: No. We uh ... we became born again and we discovered that I was no longer the type of person that they wanted to know. So I thought that was alright.

Wilbur: That goes along with this question.

Norton: Oh we never saw it from that point of view ___ and um we are descendants in a straight line of one of the witnesses of the Salem witchcraft trial but we spoke in favor of the woman that was charged the first woman charged Rachel Norris and we spoke in her favor. John Abby was my grandmothers ___ and mother never had any feeling about it mother herself was a very stern Baptist but when they moved to Cleveland and had to move into a new neighborhood there was no church we could walk to except the Presbyterians so we changed and became Presbyterians and I don't know where _____.

Wilbur: Now this goes back to our love of cats.

Norton: All right You know I've always loved cats, uh _____. We didn't have it until I quit work and came home to stay then I could look after the cats ___ mother _____. I uh... from then on we had cats. _____ mother ___ I think my father for some reason made us worship him ___ and uh well we had driven the car ___ but we were always cat people. I do not like the smell of dogs I don't like them jumping on me I don't like ___ dripping on me. Kitty's have different _____

Wilbur: Yes!

Norton: Oh well during the war I lived in Europe for a year. Well first I was uh I had a bookshop in ___ and then the war broke out and so I got a job in the library of congress and ___ and I couldn't take anything down we had a very very, well now you can _____ I would have never taken the job if I had met him but the night ..the afternoon that I took the job his assistant was there and his assistant was a very nice person, and this one was just he loved to get somebody in the middle of the room and uh prove how stupid they were. What we were in was the department which sent out the ___ cards so we still need ___ cards you know and we would order them from the library of congress. Well we had to make out those orders, and they was a ___ room bigger than this whole house underneath the library of congress and just tables of drawers or cabinets and the idea was that you came in and picked up a bunch of ___ that had the title and the author and the volume and the publisher, ___ and then you took that and you went around and found card equal to that and wrote the number of that card on your card and turned it in. Well that was very nice of course with anything else there were some difficulties and one of the difficulties was that they were always taking these cards out of the draws to make some little changes on them. The hardest things in the world to hunt for were fairy tales the bible and some of the scientific ones. The scientific ones were so bad that we were really expected, we found some of those in our stack, we turned those in to a ___ leader who has the _____. Well when you turn your pack in you might have started with a pack this thick and when you turned it in you had four or five which you could locate. Well he would come in and he would grab one of those cards you couldn't locate, and

then he'd go and get you by the ____ I'll show you, you say these can't be found, I'll show you I'll show you right now come on, and he'd talk like you committed some crime. So you'd go behind him and he go, well he finally came to me and I think I had five on mine that I had turned back. Well the first one he went to there was no pink slip somebody had taken it off, the second one he showed me too ____, the third one he couldn't find he threw them bah and he never said that I'm sorry and he turned on his heel and walked out there "woof woof woof woof woof" oh dear! But then I discovered my parents _____ and it was kind of hard on them and I go well I feel bad for them _____. And ill go back there and ____ I went back and I had no difficulty the library called me and said could I come back because I had been trained I didn't have a library degree but I had spent some ten years in the library and I needed the ____ so I went back __ library and I said ____ I didn't have any one branch and the library had forty seven branches well its one of the largest city libraries in the united states and I think I worked in the east forty three which means in some cases I traveled an hour and a half.

Wilbur: Now, did you drive?

Norton: Oh no never drove. You see I lived in the city all my life we had very good ____ urban __ extremely good every fifteen minutes there was a bus which you could take. And there was no reason for us to drive. Dad did it because he _____. So that how it went. So I was away from that time that I was in, and the reason we moved to Florida is that uh... what was left of my sisters family sent me to Florida and mother thought that _____ the ranch in Massachusetts __ was ill _____. So we moved down there in Florida and um... Florida was quit different then it was before the ____ you understand. And things were quite different you never locked your door ____ and in the summer all the stores in town closed except the grocery and something else because the winter people were gone and it was _____. But by the time we left he Hispanics ____ I went down to Miami to appear at a book sale and I was shocked. We drove into the street about ____ everyone of the stores had sheets of steal down the front so you couldn't see anything in the window, all the signs were in Spanish. We went into the hotel I couldn't understand a word that the girl at the desk had said she was either Hessian or Hispanic. And when we went to eat at the hotel they were Hessian. We had a joke then that we were _____ the last one leaving the ____ leave me here __. And I understand _____. You see the difficulty is that the other nations that have come over here have gone have spread have learned English but Hispanics ____ and they uh ____ in Cleveland, Cleveland was all ____ of different nationalities, and you see grocery stores selling all odd looking things in there you know and you'd wonder well how do they eat that and what does it taste like. We had um I worked in __, Chinese, Russian, _____ . And it was very... its interesting and where we live most of the people that , the middle class workers were more out of town. I worked in the extreme negro section now this is a thing about it we the school teachers and the district nurse they knew us all and no one would ever think of snatching purses or anything like that, and the uh.. that was uh oh it was interesting. We did a line on the floor that way.

Wilbur: What made you decide to leave Florida and move....?

Norton: Well mother had been dead for ten years by that time and I wasn't particularly interested in Florida and they talked up this I hadn't been _____ and they talked about is it goodbye so I said _____ before I came up here I found a career _____ goodbye

because of the physical condition I liked the house

Wilbur: Where in Florida did you live? What town?

Norton: Hum?

Wilbur: Where in Florida did you live?

Norton: Oh. We were in Winter park and that is like a suburb of Orlando. In the center part of the state. There one of the ____ I understand from friends that live there that everyone of those trees are ripped out and everything that was ____ you know that was so beautiful is gone. We didn't have anything like that when I was and it was and the hurricane just came round the edges ____ two or three times. And we've gone over twice I have an English friends ____ and so we went down to the uh a very famous island off the coast there. _____ and after a rain storm or a bog storm the beaches have ____ shells and we went down there so she could see. And then we went _____ and her husband came down. She wrote nature books very good ones and he was an artists and uh we went all the way down to the end where the otters are and the ____ and they liked ____ we'd been down there _____ this time. _____ . Got any more?

Wilbur: Uh huh I sure do!

Norton: Well some of them ____ some of them ____ I knew ____ and his wife and I knew Highman , I knew Hamilton, I knew ____ and I knew the older ones the ones that I had known personally I usually _____ collaborate with Mr. Matthew and ____ and _____ and a uh... then ____, ____ Adams. Roger _____ , but I wasn't able to attend the meetings and things like that. ____ and I said I worked with some of them on ____ I did anthologies themed anthology's and so they would call me up and uh say would you like a theme anthology well one of them was a renaissance fair. ____ we needed a renaissance fair, it worked so I'd get busy on my list of writers and I people that I knew, knew the fairs and could write one and I'd call them up and say could you do a story for us and I did about twelve anthology's. And we did the cat anthologies _____

Wilbur: I have all of those.

Norton: We did five of them and we always wanted to do more _____. And they and the magic of _____. He was a military _____ created th famous ____ -

Wilbur: Now did you know him when you were in Florida? Isn't he from...wasn't he from Florida?

Norton: He came down to Florida he and his mother and they stayed with me and ____ found a house and then they stayed on until they uh _____. He was a very interesting person he was _____ run over by a tank. He was a master sergeant in career and they landed on a sandy beach and he tripped and went down and a tank ran right over him and of course it crushed him right down in the sand. But he I liked his ____ so much _____. Still running?

Wilbur: Uh huh!

Norton: Have you mentioned your what is it....

Wilbur: ____ what authors have you helped over the years.

Norton: Oh well uh we exchange ideas like these things that I have found out about uh archeological things I will tell ____ Gene or I would tell misty. Now for example there was one that had the newspaper picture in it that I cut out and sent it because I never saw

anything like it the picture was _____. The uh this came in _____ not to an archeologist but to a gem buyer and he said that there was a form of jade in south America like the it was like the imperial gem jade of china it was so fine and _____ the aristocracy _____. And it was decided that _____ worked out because another gem buyer was thinking of buying and then this man started going around and he went to the flying fields and not the big flying fields but the ones where people go into the interior and coming out of the interior changed _____. So they asked the buyer and he said what happened well it came from the mountains and it came from the very high mountains well people found it hard to believe and people didn't live there and the only people who went up these mountains where the goats the people that had the goats _____. And they had to go up on this high and stay all summer and then when they came down they still couldn't come down very far. Well they _____ and they even found caves that were covered up in vines. And they were the one that _____. So he thought wow gee _____ pay quite a lot to take them up there. And he said it was terribly they had to use a mask because it was too high for them. That city _____. And he got but he the man took them to this one that he had found but it went on farther in than the man had gone so the explorer took the professionals and went farther in and he stepped into this place he could believe there were pillars well no you can't say they were pillars because they were _____ and they came not from the floor up like a _____ but from the side of the wall out, crystal pure crystal. And they showed this man standing and these things coming out of the sides of this like shelves. And when I heard about it I called _____. You see its things like that that you can use for background and background is different were always _____ background looks different. And uh strange animals and I heard about a man wolf in Madagascar, and it was in national geographic of this man. Madagascar to this day has never been completely explored it's an island with the largest section at the center of the island with a rain forest so thick you had to cut _____. _____ Well this man had been there for several years working there for business, he heard there was an animal back with the wolves that was about the size of maybe a _____ that lived up in the trees _____ all aerial and the tail was as long as the body which it helps its balance, and the color was a gorgeous shade of red gold its gorgeous. And the people there that lived in the villages never tried to get it because they found out that it ate the rats that lived in the forest that would come out at night at rip up the fields of the people and eat their wheat and _____. But these things lived on the _____ and they _____ and they call them a Sossa. So _____ take a picture of one and he knew he couldn't get it capture it as it was he had to get it sleeping. So he captured the shot and got it to the road and showed the children it had a face like a leopard combination of a cat and dog, ears were small it had a very dog like, and _____ and it was _____ jaws _____. So he took a lot of pictures of it _____ and he came back but there's none of them in zoos. It has to he says it needs to live at the top of a tree it eats birds it eats monkeys and it eats things that climb or it will come down and hunt along the _____. So I used a _____.

Wilbur: Which character do you base on it?

Norton: The _____ when its coming out. They went down in the hole _____. And another thing I came across was right here in Florida, and if its unique we had to change it a little to fit you and they discovered in the center part of Florida an section that had not been in the water it must have been an island for a long long time and it had an entirely

different growth of grass. But there was no leaves there were no flowers, oh yes there were no leaves but at a certain time of the year there was a stem that wasn't much bigger than a hair that came out with a little teeny little hair and they covered that and then they went down. It was carnivorous: it ate worms and beetles and all sorts of things like that down in the ground. And it ...no place other in the worked have they found it. SO I use that as a _____ and they were taking sheep into a country they didn't know and they were turned loosely and began killing sheep. So, that's what you have to watch for all the time to make it interesting. On the other hand, you're making it interesting for the reader and sometimes your even getting them to do a little more and hunt stories or material about these things. I always read Cliff Notes on books. I have written 2 books on Cliff Notes _____ . I always think that one of the most wonderful things in the world can happen to anybody if they _____ and they _____. The early Science Fiction pictures _____ but what did they do? They knew _____Greek and Roman _____. How did they know? There might have been something _____what a Greek and Roman _____ was. They had something else _____. Oh, there's a million wonderful things in the world.

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

Norton: That's kind of hard because I don't... its kind of hard because the reason I'd always been in the _____, _____, I _____ and _____ for others, and the thing never strikes me first. Now, I can see like the transcript said: to me, that was very, very funny. I might not have been funny to anybody else, but I could just see what was going on in the cat's minds about _____. _____ there again, I'm a strong believer in _____ in another form. Therefore, you cannot say 'I'd _____'. I may be all wrong about it, but its hard to see. I thought I was dying two years ago; I was very bad. One of my friends said it was frightening and I said, "No, I'm not frightened because this happens to everybody. That's just _____." I _____ that _____. _____ . I don't know whether that means anything to anybody or not (laughing).

Wilbur: Now, you mentioned that way back when you started out, you started with _____.

Norton: Yes, because when people didn't have agents in the beginning, no. I had some very, very good publishers; Robert _____ and _____ and the girl at _____ and Grace _____. Of all of them, Grace Hilgard was a personal friend and so was Marty _____, he became a personal friends. John _____ decided to start his own publishing company. I had just sent him a manuscript for the company where he was and he said, "You might as well keep it _____." "Oh," I said " _____." _____ was his first published book.

Wilbur: Now, what was the name of his company?

Norton: _____ Press

Wilbur: Oh, ok.

Norton: John _____. Its right _____. Jack _____ in my head now, is very good. He is the type of reagent that you can call up and ask questions. I have had reagents that would not answer your questions; you get so used to them. "He's on the other phone. He'll call you later." _____. I had _____. I will say that I had _____ exception of a batch of publishers; _____ that I had _____ to listen, to do things. Now a days you see a great many publishers who do not even read a manuscript unless he made you present it. That is hard because the agents don't want anybody who won't sell, so they won't take anybody who hasn't already sold! I tried and tried and several people were _____ and I tried to _____ one of them, Jack _____, and he tried, and tried, and tried _____ last year, he sold not only a book, but he sold it as the beginning of a series, and _____ published last year. Now, that shows, you know, _____. I don't like _____ they _____. _____ I've seen things that are.... Now, there's one author that's been praised through the skies by librarians. I get so mad every time I see something in the Library Journal _____. His name is _____.

Wilbur: He's an English author. I have read his books

Norton: Yes. They're so _____ to his. He's an atheist. He makes the business of trying to work it out in all of his books; that there is no God. _____. Now, these are considered _____ and are held high by librarians. Now, why is it? I don't know. I tried to read one of those once, and I read about half way through it _____. To me this is just poison _____. Young people question anybody and to _____ something in _____ that attitude of _____ everything is known, and something else is wrong. But, everyone to his own _____. Even the ads are made _____ of that. I see magazines like *Vogue* and, you know these, what do you call it? Magazines for the ladies style that have things in it that are absolutely pornographic. Now why? Certainly the media, I have _____ that the television _____ twice the _____. Once I saw the towers go down, and the other time was when the English _____ were down in _____. I read the reviews for some of the _____ and they understand that the dialogue was _____. You know, when I started to write books, there was some things that you would never, never, never, let your hero do. He mustn't smoke; oh no! Your hero mustn't smoke. He mustn't drink and as for looking at a girl, in any way upset her because _____. The reason why I wrote book with Harold _____...I wrote my first book with Harold because I read a review of one of my books in a magazine that accused me of being vague because I never put women in my books. Of course, for years I did pass as a man, people that didn't know. So I said, "Oh dear, I've got to fix that." So I sat down and wrote _____ a heroin. Well they didn't like it, the publisher didn't. Who's _____ run by a woman. They're aren't enough reading books. I said, "Try it and see." _____ That's why I wrote. Its funny how things turn out. I think we're gonna have rain; my knees are hurting. Are your knees hurting too?

Wilbur: Well, my knees and my ankles.

Norton: Oh. Rain's coming. (humming a song) Are you writing this as a paper?

Wilbur: No, I hope to turn it into a book.

Norton: Oh! I am afraid there isn't enough to make a book (laughing)

Wilbur: But, maybe.

Norton: When I was young, I was always wanting to be a boy and be an explorer or an archeologist or something that was _____ great _____. I worked it out; I had _____. I understand so much more now, of why things work, than I did then because seeing another person put in my situation, which I did this past year. As a failure, I could see where I failed because she wasn't given the same acceptance as I was. _____ changed her attitude toward _____. You can understand that... The genre writers who've got it made are the _____ instructors. They have these most wonderful creations; oh boy! Their publishers make up, you know, booklets for them that have in them a couple of bookmarks with pictures from their books, one of their pictures, a list of all their titles, everything like that and those are given out _____. There's one thing that bothers everybody that's _____; if you pick up a pretty good book _____, using paperback, and read it and find out its one of a series and you can't find anymore of the series: that is irritating! Did you ever see the picture on TV, years and years ago, about the man that wanted to read all the time and his wife nagged him and she wouldn't let him do it. He's in the library at Lunar and he goes down into the basement library and sees some old books they had. The town blows up, and when he comes up, the town is in ruins and he said, "Oh, to read forever." and he steps back and steps on his glasses.

Wilbur: Oh, ___!

Norton: Yeah, that was a terrible ending for it! _____ family _____ I said _____ take the garbage out and he didn't come _____ right back. He _____ out and he probably had a piece of newspaper that he had found and it had something interesting and he was sitting on the bench just reading it! Read the side stories on the _____. If you come from a reading family, if you have to do without reading, it's terrible.

Wilbur: My father did not read much, but I can remember that my mother and my brothers and I all did.

Norton: Uh huh. Well, mother liked to read. She read to me so much, that when I went to get a card in the library, they tried to steer me over to the _____ *Sambo*, and I was already reading *Little Women* on the other side of the room! I never did get to see picture books! I had a book when they cleared out the library that was given to me by a _____ friend and it was published in 1618 in the book shop _____ published then, newspaper. It was written by a _____ on how to locate _____ witches.

Wilbur: Oh!

(laughing) I asked my friend, who was kind of older than me, turned me _____ so he had it now and he was keeping it for an auction _____. I only had to _____ sea salt on all the doors and windows.

Wilbur: I never knew that!

Norton: Huh! If you're a _____ old _____, and you open the door and nobody's there, you _____. We always knew we had a _____ and as we got the computer, it took up that _____ and _____. So the cats _____ at night.

Wilbur: In other words, they took their paw and went tap, tap, tap?

Norton: Yeah. Well, Raven would sit there for an hour or more in front of an absolutely blank screen and _____ and there wasn't even a reflection on it, absolute blank screen. I know they see 8 points about us and 8 points below us, but who in the world is looking _____ (laughing). I heard a _____ in my bedroom like that. I was sitting in bed reading, and most of the family was down at the bottom of the bed sleeping and all of us

_____ . He stared through the door like this, and then _____ laid down in the room, and _____ stood in front of the Chester drawers like they were looking in a mirror. They did that for a while and then all at once, he back to the door _____, then they all settled down _____. _____ . (laughing) Oh yeah, the artist that did one of my books had experienced something like that. She said that she wanted to get away from New York city, so she went up the Hudson River Valley and bought an old Dutch farmhouse that was about 200 years old and had it all fixed it up _____. _____ she moved in. At a quarter to 10 in the evening, every single evening, the room that she picked out for her living room turned absolutely fridged. The cats, she had quite a few cats, and they all runned out, and she couldn't understand why they did that. There was a terrace out side the window, the door, and she told the man to take the terrace up and take the door out _____ and make a flower bed, so he did. The terrace was a really rough stone, probably taken from the bottom of the river; it was rough. When they picked up one of these stones, underneath it was a gold watch of the years when they used a key to, you know. She said the _____ were all gone, it had rusted, but the outside was very pretty. She decided it was so large that she would have it made into a compact. She laid it on her dressing table and _____ gone. She thought maybe the cats would take it and play with _____ no one found it, but from that day on, no more trouble in the house. So, about a year later, she went to New York for a publisher's dinner and a man who sat next to her did _____ history. He asked her where she was living and she told him so and so. He said, "You know you have one of the real haunted houses in your place?" She said, "Well, what is the name?" He told her, and of course hadn't told him the name of her house. She said, "Well, what's the story about it?" and he said, "Well, during the Revolutionary War, the man who owned the house, had a _____ the death for stealing his watch." She said she doesn't know who came back for the watch, but somebody did; everything's alright of course (laughing). The funniest thing I ever had with cats; that night I was just hopeless with laughter because it was the funniest thing. That's when I lived out in the country _____. I had tried to not to let them out, but they would get out _____ and get over the wall so I could barely _____. So, I was sitting there and in came Froto, no, Samwise and he had a bat, it got away from him, and it got up on the mantle an there was a Chinese duck up there, and he sat down on the duck. Well, all the fur-people gathered together _____ and started climbing, except Suey. Suey put on an act like the bad child that you take into Toys R Us, and saw something that she wanted, and she wanted it right now, and you get it. She jumped up and down and howled, and it was the funniest thing I had ever saw! Well, I got a dish cloth and I went around and it flew again, and Samwise jumped at it and it _____ on the _____. So, I tried once more and this time, I hit with the edge of _____ and it clung to _____. I took it out and _____ outdoors. _____ after _____ "your taking my toy!" and they never _____. _____ who was a Persian loved to hunt, but her way of hunting was bringing home something lavish, and in no way marking it, bringing it home and turning it loose in the house. So, for future fun I guess. She brung home a rat, because my niece's stables were right up there and the children's horses were there. So, I could see the rats tail _____ behind the book over there, but I couldn't get it. _____ take it out, that's yours" Well, finally, somehow, I got it into the _____, and then I went and shut the door and I went and got _____. I put her inside and I said, "You see that. That's yours, now get it." I _____ I said, " How am I gonna get it? I can't _____" I though, "Well, its

been here 2 days and I know its hungry. I have to feed it.” I sent out and got some dry cat food and I crushed it up like this. I got dish and I put it down, and _____. I broke the _____. Well, I opened the door _____ and here, slow motion walking by rat. _____ So I got _____ and Dustcloth and I took them out. Do you know, he stayed there all afternoon in the back yard, walking _____.

Wilbur: (gasp)

Norton: They were so funny. They let you know just what they do. _____ brought any moles in and _____ it behind my desk, behind a big pile of books behind my desk. I head this noise all the time and I couldn’t _____. Finally, I saw a tail and I got that and got it out. It got _____ and I walked into the service room, and there was a circle of pee on the floor with a snake in the middle. The snake didn’t look like any snake I’ve ever seen; _____ out in _____. It wasn’t thin like a snake and it lying upside down, so I figured he would have brought it in _____. I got a paper towel and I took it out and put it in the trashcan. About an hour later, one of my neighbors drove up and she was a lady _____. I said, “Do you _____ lid out back.” I got it behind the head and took it down and put it in the ditch _____. It was a gopher, and apparently their trick is faking dead when they’re caught (laughing). Oh, dear. At the time my maid came in and she was all upset and she said, “They’re something _____.” I said, “Well, we’ll have to hind it.” So we looked around and we took the cushions off the chairs and we took the cushions off the sofa and she said, “It’s around here somewhere.” Then, she looked behind the sofa _____ and she turned up with one of the _____. I had been caught there, _____. I said, “See, Suey put on that act of a bad child that wanted a toy, and _____ ‘right now’.” I’ve never heard such shouts and jumping up and down! The other cats never _____ made a sound; they were trying to climb the wall (laughing) Oh, dear! One can never be bored with a cat in the house! Oh, my friends had a cat that baited mouse holes.

Wilbur: Did what?

Norton: Yes. They lived in an old farmhouse and they had a lot of mouse holes that field mice would come in. He’d go and get his mouth full of dry cat food, and then he’d come and spit it out in a little line, and he’d wait; and he got him.

Wilbur: Now, did he just kill them, or did he kill them and eat them?

Norton: No, he just killed them. Suey wanted the rats, but she only ate the _____. My nephews wife was _____. She called me at night and she say, “I think Suey has something under the bed.” And I said, “Well, I’m coming to see.” True enough, she had one laid out there, just the _____ (laughing). I wonder if they make observation about us and entertain each other with the stories about two legs and how fickle they are and what they....

Wilbur: Do you talk about us?

Norton: (laughing)

Wilbur: Yes? I notice that the other one is male.

Norton: Yeah. Now is there anything else I can help you with?

Wilbur: No, that does it.

Norton: Its hard when you look back, you know. I remember when we _____ 2 _____. We _____.

Wilbur: When was that, back in the 1930’s?

Norton: (laughing) Yeah! Oh, dear. And yet, they had something else too. My sunt lived in Mansfield, which was a small town, ____ Cleveland, and we went on the Interurban in Mansfield, and that was a street ____ cities. ____ When we got our first car, it took us 2 days to go to Mansfield. _____ in half an hour. No, no, it wasn't paved except in the cities, and that how you _____ dust _____. Your nights in the car were cool _____.

Wilbur: Now, Do you remember what make of car?

Norton: Ford. My father believed I had had 84 Fords during his life. He got 4 in the beginning and he stuck with them (laughing). How we tested, you didn't have any drivers license; he went down and said they wanted to buy a car, "alright". He showed him this _____ and he got in the car with dad and put dad behind the wheel and said, "Alright, now go." and they drove around the block and he'd come and sign the papers and he'd say, "Alright, you can drive it now. Take it home with you."

Wilbur: They did not have driver's licenses back then?

Norton: Nope, and you carried your gasoline with you; there was no places you could buy gasoline along the way. So, you had a running board in the car with cans on it, and that ____ gasoline. You had to crank the car in the beginning to get it started, and if it started to rain, you had to hurry out and cover your oil skin over the top (laughing). That was kind of.... I just remember sitting beside my sister in the back seat of the car, my mother and dad sitting in the front seat. Just showing how time is, my grandmother was born before there were Twinkies.

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: She was born in '34, 1834. She lived to see the first _____ and the first car.

Wilbur: Now, did she live in Ohio?

Norton: Yes. The movie pictures, they had what they called the _____ and they were 5 cents and each picture ran 5 minutes, and they were not stories, they were just pictures. One had showed a big train _____ and all _____. Then, Mary ____ made the first pictures. They were 15 ____ long, and _____ on was a New York hat. Mother's church had a family _____. They were raising money for the church and they brought it so that you ride around the block in the car. So mother took _____ and saw that she had been _____. Imagine, she lived _____ first _____ and then she saw the first car, and the first movies. I saw the first radios after WWI, and I also saw the first flying, fighting planes in WWI. Mother and Dad took me and they were showing off the _____ and you could see them up in the air. The of course after WWII, there was a video. I _____.

Wilbur: You remember your grandmother ever talking about the Civil War? Did you know your grandmother at all?

Norton: Did I know what?

Wilbur: Did you know your grandmother? Was she still alive when you was growing up?

Norton: Oh yes. Yeah. Daddy _____ out west, he had worked for years in Ellsworth, Kansas. The year after _____, and when we showed the _____ on the TV, dad went to see it, and he was always making cracks about how wrong it is! _____ . The boys made radios out of oatmeal boxes _____. They would take that and then they had a piece of _____ fastened to the top, and a little copper wire _____ and he ran the copper wire over the _____ until you could pick up the

voices and then you started right there. _____.
You know, I can't remember _____ were at least bit surprised.
_____ Yep, it's a strange life. I can remember how wonderful, though
it is, to travel on the trains. That was when you really knew how to travel. You didn't
have to drive clear out the outside of town to.....

Tape 4

Side A-Interview with Norton

Norton: I've never been on an airplane. I can't.

Wilbur: Because of your vertigo?

Norton: See I didn't know for years. I had two or three episodes.

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: And I didn't know what caused it. I went to I don't know how many doctors,
only to find out _____ I had to sit and tell stories with my hands
behind me. Yes _____ you know ___ but the girl that I have with me
at that time, she kept insisting she should _____ she had been, what you call it, a
receptionist for a specialist. So she _____ and they put on the table you know
and ___ to the machine _____ all those ___ I had one of those on the table
and nothing _____ so now I have to take it all the time _____ it can't
be good especially if you are outdoors away from anything you can hold on to it.

Norton: _____

Norton: Are you still teaching?

Wilbur: I'm still a part time librarian. I work 20 hours a week.

Norton: Well that's interesting you don't want to be like, people that I know that retire
try to get some sort of hobby or something they get just like to do, of course if I know
_____ but a um....

Norton: I was always sorry I didn't get to Holland because I had a ____ I wrote some
books on Holland and after the war I wanted to go over there and I was all set to go and
my traveling companion went to New York to take a course at the college there and _____
so I never did. _____ Now a days _____

I've had two friends take them this past summer. You get off a barge in Amsterdam and
you go clear through to Austria and you don't get off the barge to go to have to go to a
hotel or anything it is a hotel. And they stop at all these castles and places and you get to
see them and they go to country fairs and oh they were so wonderful. And the ___ took
one and Peggy Lewis took one. Peggy Lewis had a fascinating job she would ___ in the
Navaho state.

Wilbur: Minnesota, I mean Mexico.

Norton: Yeah. She had to go around to all the a Navaho, all the libraries on the
reservation and a ___ before she returned. And a she _____. But she ___ was so
anxious to do that and to _____.

Wilbur: And plus you don't bathe, you should be cleaning your back. (Laughs)

Norton: Oh I think I need some nourishment. (laughs)

Wilbur: Would you like some more tea?

Norton: Oh you think you can do that?

Wilbur: No, I still have some.

Norton: _____

Wilbur: _____

Norton: (Laughs)

Wilbur: If you could fly or if you could go any place that you wanted to go in other words if you could travel again what would you like to see what would you most like to see?

Norton: The southwest. I'd love to see it again Arizona and New Mexico I have pictures that Peggy has seen of the beautiful rocks and reds you know and ah lovely. I don't care much for famous buildings or things like that I'm more interested in natural things what I'd like to do is to have that magazine I was telling you about and then when they have something interesting in it take that magazine and go there and see what is there, that would be fun, but I never did. I found out when I tried to learn to drive with my two other dates that I have no sense of distance.

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: I can't tell how far I am from things, so I'm no good at it. (Laughs)

Norton: _____

Wilbur: I think before it gets any darker, let me go get soup so that we can take some pictures of you and I.

Norton: Oh okay.

Norton: I think she's there. Oh dear. I can give you a walker if you need it.

Wilbur: No that's ok.

Norton: (humming to herself)

Wilbur: _____

Mrs. Stuart: Ok ma'am. I'm gonna take some pictures.

Wilbur: You're just amazed.

Mrs. Stuart: To get pictures of you and her oh lets see. I got us a good supper cooked. We've got a roast and potatoes and green beans and corn and biscuits. I hope things are good.

Norton: Yup

Wilbur: _____

Mrs. Stuart: _____ Miss Norton doesn't eat that much. She eats like a bird

Norton: Well you know you say that, but a bird eats all the time I do not eat all the time. (Everyone laughs)

Mrs. Stuart: I told her that after her visit tomorrow me and Ally will take her out for supper because she's leaving Monday morning

Norton: oh all right.

Mrs. Stuart: You could go too because you don't get out

Wilbur: This is favorite sample one of my all time... I guess you could call us your fastive tonight. Did it snap it? It did suppose to.

Mrs. Stuart: Yeah well I'm not good with cameras period.

Wilbur: well _____ ok now the battery is wearing down, so you have to hold this down a few moments until you hear the click.

Mrs. Stuart: Ok the black button?

Wilbur: uh huh.

Mrs. Stuart: Ok, now get this one too and you can show me how to...

Wilbur: Oh it snapped.

Mrs. Stuart: Oh it snapped once

Wilbur: uh huh

Mrs. Stuart: Ok let me just get over here and move that trunk out of the way.

Now _____ so just hold it down a while.

Wilbur: Uh huh until you hear it click.

Mrs. Stuart: Ok you ready? Here we go

Wilbur: I didn't hear it click.

Mrs. Stuart: It clicked

Wilbur: Oh ok. Now did you hear it go....ok

Mrs. Stuart: Ya'll ready? Ok. We're gonna do some back up pictures with your, with our digital too so you can see it right then I'll get Ali to get my camera over here that way we can be sure to have some back up . See? . I can hear it turning

Wilbur: Ok let's get Al to do it so he can take pictures of the three of us.

Mrs. Stuart: Alright let me run and get him.

Wilbur: Now if you weren't sitting with the cat. I would say come sit in her lap so we could get you in the picture.

Wilbur: Oh I know what we could do. You and I could move over there and get him in the picture with us.

Norton: Yes, when she comes back we'll try that. (Wilbur and Norton laugh)

Norton: (humming)

Wilbur: I'm looking at your picture over here on the wall.

Norton: Oh yes.

Wilbur: Did you, did you ever see any of those actually guitars?

Norton: Yeah there some of those are actually awards

Wilbur: I stayed looking at the one with the _____.

Norton: Oh yes that's that first version of the historical fantasy one and it was named for Fritz Lieber so I got a _____ there.

Mrs. Stuart: We got to take some pictures right now, right now pictures

Wilbur: We were just talking we think we...., let's move all of us over there and put the cat between us.

Mrs. Stuart: Ok is she gonna leave you a magazine.

Norton: I'll get you. Somebody's coming to get you. (talking to the cat)

Mrs. Stuart: Let me back you...let me back you

Norton: All right

Mrs. Stuart: We're still learning how to drive this thing, we do good though don't we, put them in front.

Wilbur: Do you think he would stay there in her lap?

Mrs. Stuart: I don't know he might, we'll see, if we can just get him to stay there a split second.

Man: I think if you just leave... don't go by or anything he'll probably stay there.

Wilbur: Ok you can get us all in the picture.

Norton: Please

Mrs. Stuart: She wants a picture of...

Wilbur: Just here and click, but the battery is getting old so if you have to hold it down until you hear it click.

Man: Well the good thing about the ones I take is I can email them to you.

Mrs. Stuart: Yeah we... these are immediate we can see them.

Wilbur: _____

Mrs. Stuart: They really work.

Man: _____

Mrs. Stuart: _____ it flashed... there put him back down.

Wilbur: Take one with my _____ oh well; he's had enough that's ok.

Mrs. Stuart: Well we can email the pictures

Man: oh yeah don't worry about that part

Mrs. Stuart: We can go in there and download them and get you pictures, snapshots I've got, we got the printer. We'll make sure you leave out of here with good pictures.

Man: Everybody look at me now...ready?

Mrs. Stuart: Allrighty we'll get one with you in it, you've been the host too.

Wilbur:

Norton:

Man: All right here we go. Look at her now she's letting her hold her.

Wilbur: ... you can get in the picture. And you can go get in the picture. Yes.

Mrs. Stuart: _____

Man: _____

Wilbur: _____

Wilbur: Ok

Mrs. Stuart: She's not even biting Mrs. Norton.

Man: How bout that. If one of us picks her up she's goes to squirming and biting

Mrs. Stuart: You want to get a couple with Mrs. Wilber and Mrs. Norton there on our camera so she can...we'll make sure you'll leave here with some good pictures of you and her.

Mrs. Stuart: Look at her sitting up there on Mrs. Norton's lap.

Man: I see her. She just normally, normally does not do that.

Mrs. Stuart: Look at that. I'll finish up supper and we'll eat.

Wilbur: She likes, she likes her.

Mrs. Stuart: (Laughing)

Man: Just stand right over there and I'll take another one.

Mrs. Stuart: With her in-between ya'll.

Man: Here we go. I'll download these and you can look at them.

Wilbur: Great! I like you yes I do. Yes. Now do they speak with you when you go to bed do they speak with you?

Norton: No, _____

Wilbur: What's the matter? You can come over here.

Norton: _____

Wilbur: _____

Norton: They come about ___ to five _____

Wilbur: _____

Mrs. Stuart: Don't know where ___ went to.

Norton: He isn't on my bed.

Mrs. Stuart: He isn't? Oh yes he is.

Norton: Is he?

Mrs. Stuart: Yeah he's curled up. Her gets on her bed __ he rules the __ here. He stays on her bed . That's cute he's curled up in a little croissant. I'm going to get supper, get supper and we'll eat and get you to bed. Ok.

Norton:

Mrs. Stuart: I haven't been up there yet.

Norton: _____

Mrs. Stuart: _____ mima already got here chair.

END OF SIDE A

Side B- Reflections

Wilbur: ___ it is October 9, the evening of. I have just gotten back to my hotel from my interview again this afternoon with the Mrs. Andre Norton. Today I have learned from Sue Stuart, her care giver, that most of Mrs. Norton's personal library and all of her diaries went to a cancer doctor in Mesquite Texas. The Diaries went with a prevision that they are not to be opened until three years after her death. According to Mrs. Stuart the doctor is keeping them in a climate controlled vault. Mrs. Norton answered all of my questions again this afternoon. I am going to have to come up with more for her tomorrow. I write them on strips of paper and hand them to her to read and answer because she is; she is partially deaf and has a hard time hearing and understanding me.

Tape 5

Side A- Interview with Norton

Wilbur: This is my third day of interviewing and talking with Andre Norton

Norton: _____

Wilbur: Wow

Norton: And I have two birds. The first one disappeared and was found dead.

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: We had woods across the street. I think he was shot by somebody

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: But the other one lived and she was my dear little _____. She lived to be 17.

Wilbur: She was _____

Norton: _____. I lived out in the country, but I lost Samwise and Tutti to cars _____.

Wilbur: Now this is when you lived in Florida?

Norton: Yes, Florida. We lived out in the country and we built a wire enclosed space. They would go out through a door and come in but they couldn't go roaming. It fun to see them. I say the only ones I don't think are pretty or look like cats are the sphinx. I don't think they are pretty at all.

Wilbur: They look like big bats!

Norton: Yes (laughing) oh dear.

Wilbur: I have to start off, I bought this because they told me it was written by you. Did you write this book?

Norton: No I didn't. I rewrote part of it. I tell you what happened. I met Amy Cushing at a writers seminar up in New England.

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: We enjoyed being with each other. She was a descendent of an American Tory family that fled into Canada at the end of the Revolution and settled in Montreal. So she came down and stayed with me. Her mother died in October and my mother died the day after thanksgiving. I called her and she said, "All right, I'm coming to spend the rest of the winter" and she said, "I'll be there on Monday." She drove down with her housekeeper and _____. She wrote mystery stories and romance stories. We decided what we were going do: I was going to enlarge my house down here with a room, a big room and also a bathroom off it and a little place that could me used for a kitchenette, and a close for the dinner patio into a central garden with walls. She had two cats she brought with her. One was a Siamese and one was a house cat she had three years. We had so much fun. She had been abroad getting material for a life of the woman with Bill Chatsworth. She was contemporary with Queen Elizabeth I, and she was told that she would live as long as she built houses and she built houses all over England.

Wilbur: Oh wow

Norton: And Eden had been over there driving from house to house, getting material for her book. She and I both wanted to do mysteries so we thought that she would come down in the winter and we could write a mystery and then she'd go home in the summer and write about her romances because she had just sold another romance in English. She had this book in manuscript that she couldn't sell for some reason, it was historical. She brought it down in manuscript and I enjoyed it very much, but it was laid in Canada at the time of Napoleon. The references in it to Canadian history would have damned an America publisher because no America knew any of this history

Wilbur: umm

Norton: So I said, if you let me take that out we'll see what we can do. I told my agent and he we receptive to it. So I did two books.

Wilbur: Two?

Norton: Two

Wilbur: What was the other one?

Norton: A Historical, the other one is called Caroline. It's the story of Montreal in the 1830's and 40's. This one, of course, is earlier. That had quite a bit of English history and Canadian history. So I did two of them. Well, he took them both and this one just came out. She had been having these terrible headaches, migraine headaches all the time, so she finally decided she'd have to go to an expert on headaches. Well, I called her up on New Year's. We might had had an addition to the house, a place for her car to go. I called her on New Year's she did not know who I was.

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: ...and when I was talking, she apparently ____.

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: I happened to know the address and phone number of one of her friends up there and I called her immediately and I said, "There's something wrong" and I told her about it. Well the friend called me back the next day. She had fainted and fallen. She had been in the country, that was her favorite. She had a Montreal home and then she had this home in the country that she liked better. They had taken her into Montreal. She had a brain tumor.

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: She lived another year, but of course she had an operation. She didn't live to see Caroline, that's too bad. She died in November and Caroline didn't come out until January, the other book. She had the most interesting stories to tell about hunting and doing research in England you know and meeting the people over there. The first time she went she took her mother with her. They went to all these places and second time, she went by herself and she rented a car and driver. She was ____ and it started to be dark and very gloomy. She decided she better look up and get some place to stay. Well, the towns were all very small and she didn't think any of them had Inns where they would take people. She stopped in the next one down and told them that she was driving through and she didn't want to go out in the night and _____. No, but they said, "There's a National Trust Fund." And the National Trust, some of them will take people over night ____ and breakfast. So, she said "That's fine!" a manor house. She went there and she said, "What made it so very interstesting, it was a moated manor house...."

Wilbur: Wow

Norton: And the moat was still in existence. When she went in, the lady who was in charge told her that the moat had just been cleaned out just a couple of years earlier and they had this big glass case, in the hall way was with the things in it they found in the moat: a broken spur, a part of a sword, some money and all sorts of things that had been found in the moat. So the next morning, the woman asked her, she said "Did you rest comfortably?" and she said, "Oh, yes.". She (the woman) says, "Well then you didn't see the blue lake,". She says "What blue lake? _____. She said, "My luck. I come to England and I come to a Haunted house, and do I get to see the blue lake" (laughing)

Wilbur: (laughing)

Norton: Oh she was so funny. That was the year that everybody was down in Florida wearing suits in summer made out of cotton floral patterns, so we both got quite interested in it and we got suits , not right, but well. Well, she had to go down to Miami to see her friend. She said, "Will you drive down with me and _____ where I have to see her and you can stay at a hotel." She had to take her cats with her because they got very upset with her. Well, that was the funniest thing I have ever been through. We came to the place. We were late because we had made reservations through a motel in Orlando. We expected a motel and we couldn't find it. We finally stopped and asked. They said, "Oh its right over there in the corner." And here in Miami it was a big luxury hotel, not a motel.

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: So we went in and it was going on 6 and people we coming down to dinner and they were wearing dinner gowns and they were wearing jewelry. Because of her

headaches, she always had to carry three pillows with her and certain things that she'd put around her shoulder. She had her kitty wrapped up. One of them was the cage. She had her wrapped up in a blanket like a baby

Wilbur: (laughing)

Norton: And we had two suitcases. The man came out to get our luggage (laughing) and we went in and I said, "You know what we look like? We certainly don't fit in here!" (laughing) She look around and said. "Don't worry. The worst dressed woman I ever met was an English Duchess." (laughing) but she was always like that you know, funny. She could tell the funniest things.

Wilbur: What year was this?

Norton: Huh?

Wilbur: Was this in the 1980's or 1990's?

Norton: The 1990's, yeah. No, it was in the 1970's. That's what it was because we moved to Florida and the year that she spent with me was '67, yes. We had a lot of fun together and she tells all the stories about... I was asked to go to the WF dinner that year; it was in New York and I said, "No, I am not going" "Oh yes," she said, "you're going, and I'll see to that!" (laughing) So she took be down and saw that I had a very nice suit and she said said you had to have flowers. She says "I'm going to get your mother's squirrel cape." So she called them and it came down and it was the most gorgeous thing you've ever saw. It was below the waist and it was just dark squirrel. It fact, it was lovely that when I went to put it on during the summer _____ they though it was sacred.

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: And of course she had furs too. She had a fur hat, fur coat, muffs, and fur lined boots that she bought in winter. It would have been so nice if we could have gone as we wanted to do instead of the winter's temperatures because she was so interesting and we liked the same things. So, that's how I wrote that one. I mean I didn't write that but I sort edited it . I had three of her mystery stories and one of her love letters that I had read. She introduced me to Bill Simms and she also found me my English book supplier and it that was marvelous. She was buying books, of course, for the background of work for her mystery book. And the way she did it was she hired a taxi for the day and got in and went to me. She said all the old book places were certain. Have you ever been abroad?

Wilbur: Yes, yes

Norton: Well, she said London they were all sort of round in the face. And she started at the top of the street and put the books in the car and she found this old house. It was a sort of like court. You went in and there was houses around it and one of them was a bookshop and she was quite pleased with what they had. So she told them about me and she said she cant get books from London because she has nobody here to shop for her. They said "well" and they took my name and address and they said we'll send her some materials. Do you know that until they passed that A T&T tax or AT tax, I got every two months I got packages of books. They would send me great things twice a year, great big bundles of catalogs...

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: ...from the firms where they do the type of thing I was interested in; history, archeology, mystery stories, things that I was interested in reading. They sent me these and then I could order from those. Generally I could get them all on sales. In those days,

our dollar when very far. I could get a book that would be about \$5.50 here and I could get that for say, \$2.00 in Europe and something would be a pound. The pound is still \$5.00. The mystery stories was 10 and 6 which is practically nothing much more than a paperback! She died at the end of the second year that we knew each other. I still kept on with them until the AT tax and then they said they couldn't. The complications of the paperwork for sending something abroad like that, they didn't have the _____.

Wilbur: So this is like, in the 1980's?

Norton: No, this was in the 1970's, about the end of the '70's. Oh my goodness that's a lot of books. I didn't know what was coming, whether it was a long list and when the books came out and were available they would send them. They were just marvelous. I don't think you will ever be able to find a copy of Caroline. It didn't sell very well here because of course, since she was dead they didn't push it.

Wilbur: (mmmm)

Norton: I was brought up more or less over the civil war...

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: ...because my grandmother told mother all of the things about it. Mother also knew her uncle who was in the war. He was in naval cavalry. My grandmother's first boyfriend, she was engaged to him, was killed in Gettysburg as was her brother. We knew the songs from the civil wars, we knew them all. Her other brother died in Anderson as a prisoner. So I knew the Civil War. I didn't know my grandparents. I was told about them. I met my father's mother once. She came east to visit us. I don't say I knew her because I was very small. I knew my mother's father a little bit and the other a little bit. You see, my parents were middle aged when I was born.

Wilbur: Oh

Norton: They were in their 40's so they were more like grandparents than parents. Mother knew about her family history and she'd tell us _____ of their kind. We didn't know anything about dad's family (laughing). This is very funny: a year ago I got a phone call from California. The gentleman said, "Are you Delbert Norton's daughter?" and I said "yes". He said, "Well, I'm your cousin." It was the western branch of the family, we hardly knew them. He's doing a family genealogy so he's been corresponding back and forth, telling stories that we didn't know anything about and he came to visit us about a month ago.

Wilbur: Oh, wow.

Norton: Very pleasant gentleman about 7 years ago. He keeps writing family scandals and when he'd called I say, "well, what have you discovered now?" and he has discovered that we are an illegitimate branch.

Wilbur: What?

Norton: (laughing) I said I can't understand, knowing my grandmother, how she married into a... She was a very stern ___ type of person, to see her marrying into a family of that background _____. But now a day that doesn't mean _____.

(Long silence)

Norton: _____ I could go into one of the nicest restaurants in Cleveland and get a lovely lunch _____.

Wilbur: Wow.

Norton: And fruit salad, toast, raisin bread, and iced tea. Everything was very nice. My cousin had his own business and _____ got smaller and smaller. Then I had always

known that it was necessary for me to get a job because that's just _____. My mother was our news reporter _____. In the 1880's, she became 16 and _____ and her father was a sort of a drifter. His job disappeared with the change in technology. He had been a _____ all of his life and he was one that _____ with stoves and when you didn't have that kind of stove, you're out of a job. So it was necessary for her and her sister to go to work. She was determined, in those days the only jobs for a person that _____. She wanted an education and her father didn't believe in educated woman. If they could read and write and think it was enough for any woman. So she couldn't, she wanted to be a teacher, but she couldn't. So, her uncle who would _____ and was _____. She applied to him. He sent her money to learn how to use a typewriter and _____ and she did. She learned it from the woman that was a court reporter and then she went out and got a job, a business one. By the time she was married, given about 5 months later, she was the highest paying woman in town. She was very impressed with the rest of them who became factory workers. She was _____. So she was determined to reach _____ starting out and she _____ two things that _____ a job that was important. _____ my sister didn't want to do what mother wanted her to do and she _____. I to work _____ because I couldn't go to college during the depression because college _____. I did go back in later years when I had a job and took courses, of things that I wanted to learn. The depression made me... People made such a joke of it. They'd laugh about having to do this and do that because they didn't have the money for it and of course we slide back into the war. My class at high school was _____. We went into February because we were half in class and I think _____. Years later I saw _____ and _____. It was nice seeing him _____. _____ church. _____ and his wives and so forth. But it really didn't we knew what was going on, but it didn't touch us personally except that we were _____. To go to a good movie was 10 cents on Saturday afternoon and 25 cents in the evening. Our family went often to the movie in the evening. Then we all got _____ which we had a _____. They were presented at the door saucers and glass. But, I can't say that we were _____. Now, our people that I knew, we were much _____ class and as I said my father's business _____ and he never regained what he had had but it didn't do it the point of desperate _____. _____ but luckily we liked to read and we liked ah things we could do as a family. We went out _____. My first paychecks were \$30 a month. As a librarian, I mean a library assistant, \$30 a month. And that meant you had a 6-8 week and you worked either from 8:00 in the morning to 1:30 or from 12:30 to 9:30 _____ and the days _____. In the children's room, we had slightly different hours because they closed early. _____. We didn't have... a lot of things that they talk about today is unheard of. _____ we try not to use first names. We must always address each other as Ms. So and So because were ladies. One of the rules was if we went home visiting that's when you were to try to collect books people didn't return. We wore a hat out. Of course in those days there were no ball hats. I had one _____. One of my friends was a newspaper woman who ran an organization for the newspaper called "World Friends". Children could write in and get the name and address of a child in another country that was they're age and who wanted an American friend and write back and forth. Well, she came to me and she said she was getting letters from teachers and people like that who wanted an American that would answer some of their questions and would I take some of those on and I said, "Yes!" They were teachers in Holland, one teacher in South Africa _____ but mostly they were Holland. I don't know, it just turned out that way. Then she

finally came to me and asked me if I would keep up with that and maybe be able to do talks with them. Well, then the war came and we were limited. I had something very interesting. I had a man who had been one of the officials of the Dutch East Indie Company in the East Indies and he had stories to tell about his work there which was very fascinating. At the end of the war he sent me a packet of small pearls that he wanted sold for cigarettes because cigarettes had become money in Holland and he could buy more with cigarettes than he could with anything else. I was able to sell it and get several packets, 8 boxes. The trouble was, the pearls were not too white, they were a deep cream color. Well, now these ____ light colored pearls and they had probably had been white. ____ because they weren't white pearls and I told him that _____. They only came from one island that there suppose to be something in the water that discolored them. But anyways, he sent that and stories and I used some of his stories ____ books. Then there was a teacher and she said that German's had takes all of the books in English from a school library and burned. So I went around the library and in ____ with the list of ____ books that we thought were very good about the background of Europe. How people lived in the early days and the pioneers and all this and everybody ____ that bought and they wrote they're name and they had sent it to the library. We sent 200 books ____ at their library. Another one they hadn't had any clothes since the war. They were wearing wooden shoes that they _____. Well I couldn't send shoes but I could send clothes. I would send summer dresses and then I had a cute outfit of a violet, woolen suit and a hat the same color, and purse with gloves all the same color. I had taken the buttons off _____. I got the cutest letter back from the girl. She said they had called all the people together and she said they had a style show! They kept the suit and you could rent that if you had a date, you could rent that out, but you couldn't get that _____. That was their big thing. Another time he told be about a man. This Dutchman of the East Indie Company had been a head of _____. The reason why he was so able to manage it was that his family were hereditary hunters to the royal and they had charge of the forest near there you see that was an order. Of course they hadn't done anything for years because _____. We established after _____. He wasn't caught until just about a month before the Allies were _____. They didn't know who he was, they just suspected it so his life was saved but one of his men was caught and tortured ____ so that he ____ hold a job again and he was able to get in the job near his wife. Caretakers that worked the royal _____. She was expecting a baby and they didn't have _____. So he ____ and ____ and he said he happened to be there when it arrived. He said she cried and cried. She had nothing to induce labor and here was this _____. So we felt we were doing something for the country that way. It was little bits _____. You know, do other things. Ohh, that's way all the way back in the '50's now.

Wilbur: (laughing)

Norton: ...another world. I always say I feel ____ now days because the laws and manors by which I was raised, has ceased to exist and there for I have ____ strange world. But, its fun to look back anyway and see what you miss. I learned, oh I must tell you about the Russian soldiers, that was funny. When the war went down and Russia was ____ there were a great many Russians that were very interested in Science Fiction...

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: ... and very much interested in Science Fiction that they were not allowed to be a part of it. Unfortunately, our villains were all Russians and their villains were all

Americans! So, what they did, was they smuggled books through... they smuggled books through from East Germany and they translated them on type writers and _____ page by page among them. Well, when the war went down, these men had all been in the army, they decided they were going to come over to the World Fan...they had once a year, the World...

Wilbur: Science Fiction

Norton: Yeah. So they came, but they didn't have very much money, but they had a lot of common sense. They brought parts of their uniforms and their equipment and sold them. Well when they came to the _____ in Florida and they said they don't have money for their last flight and I had one extra bed and one extra bedroom and I think we could get a car, so we said we'd take them, as many as would could put. Well that was fine _____. So they came and they gave me something I still have and I threaten to use it everytime I _____ with the Identification table. They gave me the papers and the identification for a member of the KGB...

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: ...with my picture in it, my rank, and the whole picture! (laughing) My name translates by their alphabet to something that looks like _____

Wilbur: (laughing)

Norton: Well now, my books sell widely. I just sold four more to Russia. _____. It was so funny and they came in and they had sand brown belt, which their army is still wearing, and trench knives. I don't know _____, I don't remember seeing that, but they had _____ insignia from their collars and their sleeves _____. They were talking about trying to get the WorldCon to come to Moscow.

Wilbur: I take it that they spoke English?

Norton: Yes, the spoke English. They did teach them in the Army. A lot of them speak English for military purposes. They spoke English.

End of side A

Side B- Interview with Norton

Norton: Well, probably Space Rangers or one of the early ones _____ all in space. We see in the later ones like the _____ fantasy. So I would say star rangers and plenty of that kind that dealt with the organization of the government _____. I never wrote what they call hard science fiction. I wrote what they call adventure science fiction where it was based on the action. (Silence) Yes I do, I don't like machinery and it doesn't like me. (laughing) I had trouble with anything that's mechanical, and I don't know why but I have always drifted toward hand _____ rather. I think that we made a bad mistake, humanity did, back in the... when we changed the machinery, we did it too fast. The reason why so many people have problems today; they must create with their own hands and brains, they need that. They need that ability to think something out and they didn't.

If you have a job which _____ mechanical well of course now they have the computer, that doesn't satisfy _____. If you want to see a finished product _____. We made the change too fast, _____. It's always been a question of greed. Its always been a question of how much can we make. _____. With hand things, the answer is the thing itself; is it beautiful, is it unusual, is it _____? See, that's the difference. So modern people _____. They've even gone back to old fashioned scrapbooks now: that's become very prominent now. I had inherited scrapbooks through the _____. _____. That was their records that they kept in a different way. And so its interesting to speculate what had happened at the _____, but I suppose they couldn't because they had to have it returned, and a fast return.

Wilbur: Do you feel that technology has already come along back in the early part of the 1900's?

Norton: It's a... The odd thing about; it is it has always appealed to men more than women. Women, their hands, what they make with their hands. With men, its making something do something for them. Originally you'd see most of the caretaking, mechanics and all were men because they were _____ drawn to that particular type of thing. Well, women first saw it as dirty and smelly and, well what do you get out of it anyways, what's your answer, you know that type. It is a gender thing. Rosemary _____ was one of the bests historical writers I ever knew.

Wilbur: You actually knew her?

Norton: I knew her, yes.

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: She was crippled and for the first 12 years of her life, she spent in bed. She learned... she never went to school. She learned through tutors. Her father was a Naval officer and he was at sea a lot. Her mother had her _____. She was a marvelous historian. She visited me once in Cleveland.

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: ...and a very nice person. I would consider it that I was far beneath her as a writer, she was a finished writer. The only thing that I found hard was that she was a pessimistic one. Her people seldom were happy. She had the same technique about the past as another woman writer in England that does it for adults. I've tried to think of her name: she did a lot of Scottish ones. Darn it. She featured lost causes and so did Rosemary _____. Rosemary _____ was an authority on _____. And ___ in the dark ages. The lost causes were hers and this woman did it in _____. She's great deal _____. Her people never realized, which is probably far more realistic, her people never realized complete happiness in the stories. Their background in things were _____. She was wonderful. She got interested in Roman Brittan through Arthur, but she never used Arthur until her last few books. Her earlier books dealt with the earlier Brittan. She bought land in Greece and she wanted to settle there. She was a lot younger than I was but she was never well: she died there. She was made a commander of the British empire _____. _____ background. Everything was so marvelous. Oh my, you seem relieved.

Wilbur: (gasp)

Norton: She said, "I'm better than any old page to look at." (laughing)

Wilbur: (laughing)

Norton: _____. I don't know, I can't judge. Nobody can judge their own work, I mean do it successfully. If you judge it as good, you're either pompous, or you're a liar! If you judge it as poor, then you deliberately _____. You can't judge your own work nor can you judge how people will react to it. You only know ... Now I have had letters from a great many people, especially in the later years, saying that they did not want to read and they were lead to read by reading one of my books. Well, if that's true, than I feel that I have accomplished, that I have made it plain to them that a book is interesting, then you have got something worthwhile. Here, let's have some of these. I don't know what these are, these are new (laughing).

Wilbur: Thank you, and these we know are good.

Norton: Yes (laughing). I don't think any book that's written for a purpose is _____ unless the writer has become so upset with something. Now, you take Harry Beecher Stoves *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. She had become so upset at the slave condition and she was able to make them real. That's what you have to do. You sit down and say that I'm going to write a book about _____ all this and how it's misused. If you take that before you, it won't be good enough. You have to be caught in the story itself and tell it, and then you can say, here is a forest _____ or here is this or that. This is what Ann has done, but you have to hear it yourself. The reader has to feel it through, not because you say it, but because you show it. A book is just a exactly like a picture. Your words are paints. You have to make as light, as visible, to the reader as a picture is _____. If the paints are not true, or the picture itself... I think some of the modern novels are just like modern paintings, where people have three eyes (laughing). It irritates me to see something hanging on a modern wall that looks like somebody has dropped them. We had an art show and a museum once: they had a huge, huge painting of something red that looked as if somebody had _____ distance and _____ sopping wet. _____. I think it was called dammed souls or something like that. That was very popular, that type of painting at the time. Now, I couldn't live with it: my pictures have to be pictures so you know what they are and not that type. Of course that makes me one of the _____. You can't influence: I remember seeing an article that was _____ that showed this supposedly taken, stallion with two pictures behind it and both of them were coal black. Nothing else, just coal black. And the captions, "This is so and so doing this black _____." I thought, here is a man that is able to sell his pictures of these things at high prices and persuade people that they are fashionable pictures, now how does it work? These _____. (long silence) There's four men coming into field, but they're coming sideways through the military science fiction.

Wilbur: The what kind?

Norton: Yes. They're mainly fantasy, that is distinctly military or historic: David, Greg, Weber, Flinch, Sterling, oh there's five of six of them. They're mainly _____ fighter. You see, it was started by Howard his Conan stories which were the original sword and sorcery. In fact, they didn't call it fantasy for a while, they called it sword and sorcery. The first sword and sorcery that was for women was by Lee, was it Lee Bracket? I think so. Anyway, it was *Field of Joy* and hers worked with sword mysteries, a woman who is fighter. Now, there's a good thing _____. They're either a good sorceress or a woman of some talent, usually non physical talent that leads to _____ overcome. I think, I can't say because I don't get out to see modern books very much, and my contacts through the magazines. I do have known these few writers very well. There's a few I know that I

think very highly of. The ones I think highly of deal with women of unusual mental abilities for they're heroines. Ability or sorcery ___ of different kinds. _____ has a sword ___ in her one series, very good _____, and yet she allows this woman to have a hard time of it because she is a woman in a man's field and she gets very well at that. I think the men are ___ toward the ___ life.

Wilbur: I have to ask, have you read any of the *Harry Potter* books?

Norton: The what?

Wilbur: *Harry Potter*?

Norton:

Wilbur: *Harry Potter* books.

Norton: I'm sorry, my ear betrays me. (pause) Oh yes! I highly approve of it.

Wilbur: Oh.

Norton: She is a good writer and she has been able, because she is a good writer, to break through the academic ___ against juvenile fantasy events. Now, they have raved for years, the _____ including the American Writer Journal about such writers as _____. I would not allow a child in mine to be ___ book. I consider them _____. But, they weren't against *Harry Potter* ___ that type of book. Well they saw that this _____, there's something in those that appear to be ___ but there's nothing that her text objects to morality or _____. _____. I wouldn't give that to any child. Not that necessarily have to ___ but they should not ever risk saying that _____. _____ in the end. *Harry Potter* took many of the troubles of a child at that age and showed to adults what it means. They would understand _____ what a child thought about being made to sleep under the stairs and to do this and that. They were good books for both children and adults. I meant that I have not read the 4th and the 5th. Frankly, they became too much _____.

Wilbur: Her other one's too big.

Norton: I like the first ones better where they open the form of development and showed it to you. She got so much in them and _____ that you got tired. But the first books were very good. Dr. _____ that lived with me at the time, was very much in favor of them and she wrote articles about them and it had that they were said to be ___ and all this because they talked about magic. _____ had you lived in 1800's and walked into a modern home, and the TV was on, people had phones in their purses. In the kitchen, there was a microwave and all this and that. They would say you were really _____ brought by magic. No, it's just another form of knowledge, and we don't know that there isn't another form of knowledge that we can't ____, unless, there are people who have actually foreseen things. Maybe, they are in the right place at the right time to pick that up. I've always thought that this story about ghosts come from the fact that where ever there had been a very traumatic act, a very horrible and traumatic act, and _____ left. If you happen to be one of the people that can pick up _____ they do. I always think of _____. Have you ever read any of hers? She's an English and she does not write fiction, but she writes wonderful books about English life in small towns and so forth and they are ___ gorgeous. She was telling how at the end World War II, she had lived in London during the bombing _____. She though she had to get away from London, and of course she hadn't been able to move during war. So, she wanted a house, an old house, in a small town where she could fit in. She heard about it so then she went there and the real estate man took her and she _____ cottage and probably 200-300 years old very attractive. So,

when he went up and he opened the front door, he said, "Oh dear!" He'd forgotten the keys for some of the house. They weren't on the right chain. He said, "Now, the living room is in here. There's a very deep window seat and you can sit in there and wait for me. I'll be right back". She went in there and said it was a very attractive room; it was panel and it had these deep windowsills in it. She said that the moment she sat down there, she became so depressed. She said she felt so depressed during the _____.

Wilbur: Ohhh

Norton: Why worry? She didn't need a house, she didn't need anything. Her life was no good anyway. She realized that it was really dangerous: this went on and on and on. So she got up and went out and waited in the yard and he came and he looked surprised. She told him, "There's no use going back in _____." He wondered why so she told him and he said, "You know, I have showed this house to a number of people and they all turned it down. I can't understand why. There's no story about this house: there's nothing, just this feeling that people don't want anything to do with it, deep depression." Now you see, there is a house that sucked up something from a fore happening. You don't know whether it was a physical happening, or whether it was mental, a mental happening from somebody that lived there. She and the _____ were _____ enough to pick that up. That's what I think is at the bottom of ghost stories.

Very good. I followed them from the beginning, but there again _____ entirely I mean unless they're new material. Of course the difficulty is writing that's _____ is to get things _____ a new _____. I tried to bring that up myself doing collections with other people writing in the same background, in the witch world. You get a different opinion and Mary _____ did a very good novel. Pauline Griffin did 2 novels and Ann Griffin did 3 using characters in that background, but not my characters. Now, Lyn _____ is doing her 2nd one and _____. You can't keep one set of characters for one _____ all of the time. Now, she's done by coming in with other books. She did it by changing over to her musical _____. She did it by turning back to the history of what happened; what it was like when they _____. Then she did another one about a bunch of prisoners taken during a galactic war and were dumped on the world just to keep them out of _____. She did three about them, and those were very good, but they were different ideas. You have to break it up, you can't keep it.

Wilbur: Have you ever met Ann McCaffey?

Norton: ...

Wilbur: Have you ever met her?

Norton: Oh yes, she stayed with me. I saw her last year when she was over here. Poor thing, she had broken her shoulder twice and had a pretty tough time so she's not traveling like she used to and her son is taking over for her.

Wilbur: Do you think that he will be as good as she is, or do you think that only time will tell?

Norton: Now, it just depends. Ben _____ had done very well with these books _____. She is making him _____ in this story and she's making the girl the main character which I, didn't have a girl. She's changing and _____. Now, the book that I have coming out, I have 3 points of view. There are 3 sisters, and each one tells her story, but it tells you in the book their name. The reason they do it that way is that they were sent for by the queen and this is all _____ adventure, to write the account of what happened. Each one

writes the account as she saw it. They switch from one to the other. Now, that breaks up you're hearing and seeing only with the one view. I have done that, male and female, with all of those chapters, so you get the picture of what the girl went through and what she thinks, and what he went through and what he thinks. That's one way to _____. You can't stick to the same characters and the same general background: it becomes dull. I think that one of the things in *Harry Potter*, she has so many characters and she trades them around so, that you can't really hold any particular one except Harry, himself, as a main character. As I say, _____ I have heard a lot of things about ____ that its too long and tired me out, and so far I haven't been _____. You can't stick with one _____. Lots of times we've been _____ by changing to the son or the daughter of the original _____ and then showing you what time has done; changing the lifestyle. I liked her first one, that's where I got her _____. I think _____ without knowing anything about her _____. I read it and I was so interested because it was clearly a woman's book. I wrote and told her how much I... She had had a lot of _____ comment on _____ writings _____. She had answered and we had, a correspondence _____. I found her things very good. Mostly the writers are _____ really got under it. I had to work with her and Marian _____ and I could get along with Marian alright looked at things the same way, but not with her. Marian would have to say, "Now remember, this is a Fantasy." The woman was a Science Fiction writer: they wanted a trilogy of writers to do this book. There were three woman and each took one character _____ and boy was that something. We were suppose to turn it in by the first year. Well, I had turned mine in quite early because I have another book to work on. I had 187 pages and Marian turned hers in (she wasn't feeling well). I hadn't heard anything _____ she has put our book together, we should be seeing it. Well, in November, I tried to reach her and she got _____. Well, I waited and pretty soon, almost the end of November, I got this _____. So I called my agent and I said if my material isn't used, you take my name off the book. I called up the editor of the book and I told her the same thing. Then I called Marian. Marian was in the hospital and I got her secretary and I said, "Did you read that manuscript?" She said, "No, Marian's in the hospital and I haven't touched it. You better go and read it. And I said she didn't use any of my material and I don't know whether she's used any of yours." She called up _____ and said that she hadn't used any of Marian's yet. She had to get a secretary and spent 48 hours restoring (laughing) Marian's book. Well, by that time I heard from the editor and the editor said. "you send us a copy of your manuscript. I'll put it together." I said, "Fine, but _____ my name _____." Well, she put it together and well this woman had changed it put spaceships into it and she had taken out the magic and _____ weapons that had been _____.

Wilbur: (gasp)

Norton: Oh dear. _____ She was mad at me of course, and I said, "Well, you didn't use my material." So that was the one time, so many have trouble like that. I had trouble with an assistant editor once. My editor went abroad and I turned in the book. It was a _____ readers. I got it back and it had been scribbled all over, luckily with pen and pencil. So I _____. She had changed the name of my hero: she didn't think it was proper. The things she had changed were..... So I erased it and then I called up _____ was out of town and I asked her _____. Well, I said, "You tell her when she comes back, that I _____. It's been changed so it was not my work." About a month, oh, about a week later, I _____. She was _____. I told her _____ hero....

END OF TAPE 5

INTERVIEW WITH NORTON- TAPE 6

SIDE A

Norton: You can't do it just because it's your idea. That's etiquette. Because **(undistinguishable talking)** Then you discuss it and what all, if it's a historical change we're following this. ___ thing's true, I was doing historical work, how you're related to her. And she did _____ so she _____. And I am trying to do the research now. And it came back, she treats spelling _____ things that happen. And she just told them, this is all wrong, she said "what do you suppose we ought to do research for?" But you see, now these subdued people have a grounding in history or a grounding in anything that's happened, that you can't...they don't know it, and they didn't check. It's amazing that the American's don't renew _____. They have an idea, but they don't know them. But, I think that you should make a person into writing a historical novel. Write things in the novel that will make the person so interested in the material that they'll go read somebody else about that period. You know who used to do a little tricky thing? It was a man that was writing back in the early, early 1900's, historical novels about America. His name was Winston Chamber. And he wrote a whole series about the American Revolution both in the North and the South. He put in footnotes and he had one where the man was badly wounded and **fell** on brandy wine, and he crawled in a tree trunk that had a hole in it. Years later that tree was cut down and his skeleton was found inside of it. He puts that down at the bottom of the page. And you know it's fascinating because he proved everything that he was saying about him. He was deeply interested in _____. Those books are fascinating. All the little things, especially the work done on the Revolution in the west. Not along Massesuses and places like that, but they had some in New York in the west.: **Cherry-**___ massacre and the things that are not read unless you are interested in western New York and not in the eastern part. They are so called "light fiction" books of the early 1900's.

Wilbur: I understand that at one time you wrote poetry

Norton: Yep. Yeah, I wrote poetry, everybody does, but I wrote the kind of poetry they used to write in rhymes. I wrote a couple of science fiction one and fantasy one, but I'm not a poet. But I don't like modern _____ to me _____ Rhyming poetry rhymes

_____ It interesting how things have changed. Just to show you I had historic _____ I got someone who could make the rules and then I did all the rest of it. It was 1860 and I had _____. I had _____ it was suppose to be Kentucky. A copy of _____. And I gave it to the library when I moved south because there are so many tiny things that I could have lost moving. They set it up in the children's department and I found they took out all the _____ because everything in the 60's, you couldn't write about a colored man _____ and the colored maid doing the lady's hair, and the colored _____. Oh how things change. And for the time during _____ I had two men dolls and I made one of

them a Union officer and one a Confederate officer _____ because being in Kentucky, they went both ways in the war. The Union one was _____. The Union one had their insignias on their shoulder like they do today and the southern curled _____. I found sticky stuff that you could make your boots of. _____

I found a lady who was a widow _____ and she was an old fashioned doll who had _____ and her hair was gray _____. I started out, a friend of mine went to New England and she came home and gave me a ___ doll that she had bought. I cost seven _____. She was tired out of work, and she had two curls, carved and stood out, they came out like this. She was _____ doll. Then I got another doll _____. And she had her curls turned around out here. I had those two dolls and a lady doll, and a gentleman doll. I had a boy and girl. And then I had _____ from London, the kind that Queen Elizabeth get, _____ and she was the governess. And they took her dolls and they said that it made her look _____. I had a friend in England who brought _____. Neither were killed _____ made me _____

Wilbur: Oh, wow!

Norton: We had those _____ Mothers _____ bought her a t-shirt from France and the next year she went to Mexico and she bought her a chocolate service from Mexico

Wilbur: Oh...

Norton: A Lady in Germany sent some pictures from around that period. This woman in England sent the time that Queen Elizabeth II was crowned, and they had a lot of embroidery patterns. She sent embroidery patterns for _____. They were flowers and they made up with the pictures in her house. And they are delicate. And that's the idea, the book about her doll house, that _____ Included was one of those famous _____. And I never... I _____ to go through down stairs so we could see it laid out. So I _____ a background, and then I found they were all to that doll house so it was very easy to me. I went to the Museum of the City of New York. They had _____ from the _____ and they had a doll they ordered for one of the _____ book, one of the very wealthy girls. She had her child wardrobe with trunks and things around it. She had gloves that came out. She had corsets. She had a jewel case with earrings. She had boots. It was _____ that was tall. She had everything spread out in that _____. If you wanted to see what it was, _____.

People that clean out old houses.. one of my friends did, _____ very well known in their time. Her husband was an artist and he _____. They spent a winter with me down in Florida. She was the last of a very old family. They had hated slavery and so they moved North before the Civil War and built a house and _____. They took their slaves with them and freed them. This house was _____. It came down to two brothers who were her great uncles and then finally one of them died and they were _____. The house got _____. Well, what happened, they finally went North, she and her husband did, and saw what was going on and they didn't tell me. The knew somebody had to look after them, each other, so they got a woman that was highly recommended, a live-in housekeeper. Well, they weren't home very long before they got a letter and it said that this house, which was a very elaborate youthful house, had now become a center of a negro section of town, and it was walled. It had a garden and a _____ but they didn't have any _____. And one of the negro men they had hired to cut the grass. He wrote and told them that this woman was stealing things from their house and she was trying to get power of attorney and he suggested that they better look into her. Well, she and her house worker _____ and the uncle was so bad they had to put him in

the hospital. It was true, she had stolen things, but they didn't send a power of attorney. They couldn't prove it so they just dismissed her. And they knew that he couldn't _____ that so she didn't want to live there. She was the last one to hold _____. And they decided that _____ and what they found, you'd never believe. They found the entire service for 24, in sterling silver. And she took one single piece, which was a pink server, and it had their _____ on it and all. They took that down and they offered her something _____. They had china, linens and everything, and they found their things in books in the library, stocked between pages. Well, they were going through the library and they found a safe that was never mentioned. They had to tell the law and the law came and the IRS came and they _____. There were jewelry in the original cases. _____ There was a diamond ring there and her husband _____ from the safe and handed it to her. All the times she _____ it was so hard because they were always _____ so careful that _____. She could hear voices of _____ in various rooms that she recognized. They said "What should we do with the house?" Well, this mystery colored man that had told them what was being done _____, she said he had _____. She said you let him make a down payment of so much and you tell him he can pay on it so much a month. She said he could rent out those rooms and they did that. Well the final day they were there, she went down with the lawyer and they were at the front door, and she had the keys for him. She stood _____ and looked up the staircase and she said, "I hope you like what I've done with the house." There's a rush of air that went down the stairs and passed them and went out, and she was thankful for it. She said lawyer, she never saw anybody leave so quickly as he did. But she said what they found there, it would be fun to do that in a house, but wouldn't want to be responsible for it. But, that's what they accomplished. Her husband had been the art editor of a magazine corporation, but he was in the World War II, and he was in such a terrible service that when he came back, he was _____. He was on a tanker that carried oil out in ocean for _____. They were fair game for enemy _____. All of a sudden on deck said there might be chance to escape _____. And she said _____ the doctor told them, he said if _____ back to his job in the city, _____. So they had a cabin out in the woods they used to go to in summer _____ you couldn't hear a thing. And they went there _____. That's when she started writing these nature books and they caught on, they were great. People were very interested in them, they did very well. They had animals they would put food out for. She said they would leave door open and they had a little weasel that would come in the house and walk over and get in there ferns and sit down and watch them. They had a prairie dog that loved pieces of peach. He'd come down and pull her husband's trousers until he gave him a piece of peach. They had a wolverine that _____ on their porch. They had pulled out an old stove that they didn't use and _____. They didn't dare tell about the wolverine or the _____ because the people _____. They had a _____. They would _____ They had one deer, a doe, that had twins. They'd watch for her and put out food for the deer. She said that one winter they had a bobcat and a lynx that were living together.

Wilbur: Wow!

Norton: ...and they came and lived under their supply cabinet. She said they didn't hear if anybody had known they were there. He would go in a towel and _____ apparently for soup _____ they'd bring. She said _____ was over, one morning we had some boiling water and they looked out and they're were two sets of traps going across the lake on _____. She said that _____. One family that was _____. She was

shot at, she _____ because they were after the animals. Her stories about ____ animals and the little weasel that would get in ferns and sleep in them. She said they never ____ the animals. _____ They had a cat that was a ____ cat, and it had no ears, its ears were gone. They _____. They found it in their mailbox...

Wilbur: Awwe...

Norton: ... and they kept it and called in Sheila. It had a little harness, it went with them in the car _____. It went on ____ with them. It just was like a little person. She _____. But it's interesting; all these people that are writing have stories to tell about things that they saw.

The two talk about the cats that are outside the window.

Norton: Did you get all of your questions?

Wilbur: Yes, except there is one more thing, and ____ has a tape recorder. What I would like you to do for me, is all of _____ tape recorder and think about this and then record your thoughts. You don't have to do this today.

Norton: Alright, but I don't expect anybody to remember me as a person.

Wilbur: But I remember you...

Norton: They remember my books. They are still available _____ years or so. It's alright.

Wilbur: I think you have proven yourself _____. I think that you have lots to give us and lots to tell us.

Norton: Yes but you see, I don't

Wilbur: And this is why you don't have to do this today, you can take your time

Norton: Well just leave one of those, I don't want an entire book

Wilbur: Ok. (laughing)

Norton: We've got a ____ on Christmas. I dot my Christmas with catalogs you see. Because its getting harder and harder to send packages, we're sending _____. So I got us going and Harry and David and ____ and Swiss Colony and all the old ones. It was all _____.

Wilbur: I can't believe its October already.

Norton: I know! It's October and we've got to send the ____ stuff by the first of November. And we can't send food with out the receipts because it has to be send airmail and the prices are...

Wilbur: Out of sight

Norton: But I did find one place and they had something very interesting. I ordered several packages from there and its _____ packages of tea, Christmas tea of different kinds. I was disappointed, last year we got a _____. ...and elk and antelope and _____ and buffalo. _____ they have a breakfast package where you get ____ flour all ready _____ and ____ preservers, table syrup and all that stuff. _____ But they had some nice things. You know, the hardest thing is to buy for somebody that doesn't care, who isn't a collector. ____ a famous collector, goody, goody, goody you always know what to get. Aldine Griffin has a tree that calls the tree of eternity, and she gets for it only animal ornaments, and _____ that look like the animals. I was able to find three this year. One is two trees like this, with a hammock between them. In the hammock is a bear sleeping. The other one from Germany ____ sitting in trees. One is a squirrel and the other one

is a red fox. They are so ____ and she has three cats. What she's done, she took the door off of her bedroom ____ and had the glass door open. She puts the tree behind the bedroom door, so everyone can see it, but busy little paws can get it! ____ If you read, you're always ____ already got. Except I have one friend who collects mystery stories of the 1920's. So I ____.

Wilbur: I have one brother still alive and I end up giving him a gift ____.

Norton: One of the things this ____ I get one called ____ that had all the things the ____ to the renaissance fair. They have pins that look like swords. I didn't notice for so long, I found out that those were something ____

Wilbur: ____

Norton: You know, its hard to think of ties, you're always afraid to get the wrong color or pattern or something. Of course some people like the t-shirts now. Oh, last year, the Navajo people added they pattern on, and they had a gorgeous t-shirt with Indian designs that they were getting rid of at so low prices. We got quite a few of those and they go quite well. They had wolves on it or buffalo, _____. They say that when the archeologist try to find out about people, they try to find their ____ stops and dig into them. I wonder what people in ____ were digging in maybe thousands of years ago. Oh think about our future!

Wilbur: No ____

Norton: There was a science fiction story about the second _____. This little group of people had come in this valley and they went to the other end of the valley and the could see _____. They were trapped and they had to stay. They had this bag of things they had brought with them to signify their superstition and they buried it. And then it ____ to a thousand years from now when a spaceship comes back. They found it and picked it up and one of the piece is film. They were ____ of what that is and they put it on one of their machines and they decided from then that we were ____.

Wilbur: (gasp) (laughing)

Norton: (laughing) ____

Wilbur: I don't look like you, I would hope not.

Norton: Oh. _____ He looks like a big old _____. He has a evil face.

Wilbur: This one you mean (yes). This one, I'd go give to my cats to play with.

Norton: Yes, that's what it's for. He has an evil face. We used to keep their toy box by the fireplace. Their toys were always kept there. We'd come down in the morning and their toys were all over the floor. When we got Shadow, we were asked to take him ____ and we already had a _____. So we said we would take him and they brought him. You know, I had never saw a cat act like that. He got out of the carrier, didn't show any sign of begin frightened. He looked around like this. Well, I ____ walked right past us all in the living room where somebody had left a toy and he smelled it and sat down and _____, just as if he'd expected it all. I never saw ____ besides ____ don't want anybody near _____. _____. We had one _____ a new breed that is a cross between a bobcat and a tom cat, and that's another one that just came through the door. He didn't go down well with the other cats. He was considered _____. But he liked to go ____ and that was my ____.

Mama showed up but she wouldn't come near us but she was hungry so we fed her on the porch. ____ She had five kittens, we think, under the porch. We don't know. They were so funny. We had a glass door in the kitchen and had a door behind it. Well when id

come down in the morning and I put food out _____ she would see me coming and she'd stand up on the door and _____ who I think is the oldest of the litter. She was brown and her _____ was slightly longer. She'd stand up beside her mother and her little paws wer'nt much bigger than _____. _____ . Well we turned _____. Two of them, Fuzzy and one of her sisters went to a nursing home.

Wilbur: Oh!

Norton: And another _____. Another one went to a lady that had just lost her _____. But, the little _____ I had called old sambo, he seemed to be more afraid, and he's the smallest. He had him, and this lady _____. She felt so bad about it _____. So she _____. I don't see how anybody could resist a kitty. They have a good cartoon in one of the magazines showing _____ show window you know. _____ the window all the way around the side. I changed that whole liter box. (laughing)

Wilbur: (laughing)

SIDE B

Wilbur: I want to thank you for having me today. Thank you for letting me come to listen

Norton: Oh, well that's fine and I enjoyed _____ very glad _____. I don't encourage _____ much anymore because _____. _____. Yes, you _____. You and I have got into the story _____. Did you have long time on the plane?

Wilbur: about an hour and a half

Norton: Oh, that isn't too bad.

Wilbur: No.

Norton: I see in the mornings paper there was an article _____ and moving out

Wilbur:

Norton: yeah, and they're _____.

Wilbur: I'll stay right here.

Norton: Oh dear, I don't know when we had a such _____ election. Well it wasn't about FDR _____.

Wilbur: _____ He was his opponent.

Norton: He got it during the depression. You're _____ just like me _____ haven't you got arthritis. (???) _____ wonder what _____. I wish we could communicate. _____ probably wouldn't want to!

End of Interview