

Episode 13

Everything Creative

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ INTERVIEWS PEARL WILDING (FAMILY HISTORY MISSIONARY)

[BEGIN MUSIC]

DIETER UCHDORF: The desire to create is one of the deepest yearnings of the human soul. We each have an inherent wish to create something that did not exist before. The more you trust and rely upon the Spirit, the greater your capacity to create.

NANCY HANSON: I'm Nancy Hanson, and this is "Everything Creative." This program explores a wide range of creative ideas, talents, and experiences through interviews and group discussions. Today on "Everything Creative" Minnie Mae Wilding interviews her aunt, Pearl Wilding.

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MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Hello. This is Minnie Mae Wilding Diaz again, and welcome back to "Everything Creative." I'm here with Pearl Wilding. She is my great-aunt, and I'm very excited to have her here and to ask her some questions about herself and everything. I know that you're my great aunt and I met you once in my life, maybe 40-some years ago, but go ahead and start with where you are from and where do you live.

PEARL WILDING: I am from Terreton, Idaho. I raised my children there and I, my husband died in '94. And, then I was 32 miles from any settlement, a big settlement of Rexburg, and I felt I needed more than, my children are all married and gone; my husband was gone; and I wanted to be a missionary. And that's when I first came into the mission field in my later years. It was 14 years ago.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: I thought we'd just set up now if you start talking about your mission. You started when you were 79?

PEARL WILDING: Mm-hmm.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: And you're 90-something now. So you work at the Family History Library now, is that correct?

PEARL WILDING: I work in the Family History Library.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Did you grow up in the same place that you were, you lived your whole life in that same area in Idaho?

PEARL WILDING: No. I was born in Sugar City, Idaho, and then lived, grew up with my siblings and my folks in one mile west of Sugar City, which is called Salem, Idaho.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh. So since you have lived many years, you've seen a lot of changes in your lifetime. Technology and things have changed, so maybe when you were small there were no cars? Did you ride horses?

PEARL WILDING: Yes. Buggies. And they farmed with, with horses and equipment that could be pulled with horses. And airplanes, I remember, the first airplane and the first helicopter, the first radio, the first (laughing), almost everything that we're accustomed to now. I grew up knowing a different world.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Yes, I can imagine. What do you miss about the old days, though, the world that you grew up in?

PEARL WILDING: Oh, I don't know. I love where I am now, so I can't say that I miss anything. I want to tell you about my early life. After I grew up I wanted to go to school and I went to a college in Rexburg called Ricks College. I was there for just one quarter, and then I wanted to go on a mission. My friend, a man, he, I was going steady with the young man, and he wanted me to marry him, and I said no: I wanted to go on a mission. And so, that is my first mission. It was wonderful. I went to the Central States, and that included Little Rock, Arkansas; Oklahoma City; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Kansas City, MO. And of course that is a big area for a mission, but in that, it was 1935 that I went on my first mission

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: 1935. Well I'm curious about that. What, was it common for women to go on a mission at that time in the '30s?

PEARL WILDING: (Laughing) There were very few lady missionaries, but there were a few. And the amazing thing is that I stayed two years, and that was unusual. But I was so happy with my mission that I wanted to stay as long as they'd let me, and my mission president let me stay for two years. And I came home and married the young man that had wanted to marry me before I left.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh. It was the same person; he waited for you. That was Uncle Wally?

PEARL WILDING: Yes.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Wow. How about that. So when you went on your mission, did you have companions and everything, just like we have today?

PEARL WILDING: Yes. It was a proselyting mission, and it was very few LDS people, Latter-day Saint people, in my mission field. And so we had trouble finding places to hold our meetings and, but I did a lot of Primary work. We'd go into an area and the first thing we'd do is organize a Primary with just kids in the neighborhood. And the first time they came they were not clean and maybe (laughing) dirty faces. And then after we had our first meeting they came dressed properly and with clean faces and clean hands. And lots of times these primaries were in the very slum parts of the city. And so it was such a wonderful experience. I loved it.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Wow. That is really something; it's amazing. You must have been a very strong person to want to go on a mission at that time. Most of your friends probably didn't get, go on missions: they stayed home and got married and had families right away?

PEARL WILDING: That's right. I had a determination to go to better myself, to help other people if I could. And I spent very happy two years before I married and settled down and had seven children.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Seven children. That's a big family. All seven of your children have their own families now? I thought I read in the "Church News" that you had seven children and 49 grandchildren? And 103 great-grandchildren?

PEARL WILDING: That's right.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: That's hard to keep track of all of them isn't it?

PEARL WILDING: Yes. I certainly don't know all their names but they, they all know mine.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Yes, of course. You're a great-grandma to all of them.

PEARL WILDING: I'm a great-great-grandmother three times.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Three great? Wow, that's amazing.

PEARL WILDING: Five generations.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: So you've just had some new ones. That's great.

PEARL WILDING: Yes (laughing).

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Okay. I'm sure that there are many more that will come, too.

PEARL WILDING: Yes. Just the beginning.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: That's right: Just the beginning of the great-grandchildren. I would like to ask you about changes in the Church: When you were growing up with your family, and then how does that compare to the Church today? Is it the same? Have you seen differences? What are some of the changes?

PEARL WILDING: Oh, so many changes. The first one that's really outstanding is that there's a temple in Oklahoma City. When I worked there they, it was difficult because there was very few members. And now there's a temple there. That is so amazing to me. So, such a wonderful thing that has happened. And in, my son-in-law has been a ward mission leader, and he had a video, I think you'd call it, with lights that showed how many temples there were at the beginning and then now. Those light almost cover the entire world. So it's amazing how fast and how wonderful the development has been. And genealogy has jumped from writing with the hand with pencil, pen to, I now work on the very latest equipment that is available in the world to help people do their genealogy.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Yes. And the Internet, that people can be working on it here, or over in Europe, or everywhere on the Internet, is able, people do family history much easier. The “Church News” article that I read about you that said 14 years ago you had never touched a computer. So you came into the Family History Library and touched your first computer; that was your first experience. Was that tough to learn the computer?

PEARL WILDING: (Laughing) That was different but it was, it was great to learn, great to know that I could know and that I was able to really enjoy the computer. And as I learned more about it, I learned more and was more grateful all the time for Our Heavenly Father’s help because without it I never could’ve learned anything that was presented to me.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: I see. This month the Relief Society Visiting Teaching message was talking about being a life-long learner and searching for education all your life; to continue to learn something every day. And you are a wonderful example of that. Doesn’t matter when you start; you can just go ahead and start learning something new; to learn technology or other things. Do you use the computer at home or only in your Family History Library?

PEARL WILDING: I only use it in the Family History because I work Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in the Library, and when I get home I’m either too tired or don’t have time and I have an my oldest son and also my daughter has done a lot of genealogy, and I guess I’m leaving that up to them.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: (Laughing) You’ve done your work. I would like to know more about when you grew up, your children, what were your hobbies that you had? What did you do that helped you to be creative? Did you sew, or did you knit, or what were some things you enjoyed doing?

PEARL WILDING: Well my Aunt Yordis tried to teach me, no it was Aunt Lou, tried to teach me to knit, no not; no, anyway, I did not learn, but later I learned to knit and also to crochet and...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, you mean “tatting? Was it tatting?

PEARL WILDING: [laughing] Yes, tatting.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, it was tatting, like making lace?

PEARL WILDING: Yes.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, I see. Okay.

PEARL WILDING: But I never learned tatting very good, but when I start to learn to crochet then I did much better.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, I see. Do you still crochet now? Or what do you enjoy doing in your free time now? Or do you even have any free time?

PEARL WILDING: (Laughing) Not very much free time. I come home and my rocker is the first thing I see when I walk through the door. And I turn on the TV and I’m asleep in no time at all. And then my other days that I’m off my daughter and her husband love to travel and they’ve

taken me so many places. Too many... We went to Germany, we went to the West Coast; we've gone to Kauai, and that was a most wonderful trip. So they've really helped me to broaden my horizons and make me a better person.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, that is so great. That's really neat. I was thinking about World War II. How did that impact you and your family?

PEARL WILDING: Well, we were living in California at that time in Los Angeles, and we had to turn out all the lights when the sirens screamed, and we would run outside to see if we could see a plane, and we knew that a plane was flying over because they never asked us to turn out the lights unless there was some sort of danger. And we'd watch and see the lights cross on the plane, and the plane went right along and no trouble, so in very short time the lights went all back on. But it was an experience I never will forget. And then after we had lived in Los Angeles my husband had bronchitis and the doctor said that he would never be better until we moved away from the ocean or coastline. And so we went back home. We lived in Terreton, Idaho, then, and we moved back home. And he was home a week and he was drafted in the Army.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: So he had to leave you with how many children?

PEARL WILDING: There was three, there was two children; no, there was three children.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Three children.

PEARL WILDING: My two sons and a daughter, and the daughter was very small; she was a baby.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Wow.

PEARL WILDING: But while he was gone, he came home on a furlough and he was to be in Oregon for training, and so, that was so close. I couldn't believe that he was going to leave me again. And so I gathered up the kids and got an old pick-up and we went with him. And that was, that was something. We lived there almost a year until his training was over and we had to go back home. And he didn't have to go overseas because we had three children, and that, he was allowed to go somewhere else in the United States because we had three children at that time.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, I see. That's good.

PEARL WILDING: He didn't have to go.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: That's good. My grandfather was drafted too, but I don't remember what happened with him. I think he did go overseas, but maybe I'm wrong. Do you know where he went?

PEARL WILDING: I don't think he went overseas. I don't, I would remember I think if he did. But I remember him, he had a sports shop that was so, well, it attracted my husband and my older children, and we were always there visiting Aunt Yorgis and Uncle Dave.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Yes. I always loved to go to their store, and later they had a gun store or gunsmith shop and sort of a museum. And that was so neat: We used to love to go there.

Well, now I'd like to talk about your life now. So we know you work at the Family history Library for the last 14 years. Can you share some of your experiences about people who have found their ancestors' names or something that's happened in your genealogy?

PEARL WILDING: Every day in that Library there's people that come to me and say, "You have been here before. I'm glad to see you after all these years." And then they, they'll say, "You helped me, you helped me to find what I was looking for." And thank me. And that happens so often. There was one lady that, she became a very good friend with my daughter and my sister, we were, when we were first on my mission. We were together, the three of us. And she used to come for Sunday dinners; and she, she loved us, and I'm sure because she loved us she would someday join the Church because she was not a member of the Church at that time.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, that's great. So, do you still work on your own lines, your own family?

PEARL WILDING: No, I don't because I'm either too tired or I don't have time (laughing). I enjoy working with the people. I enjoy helping them find their own, their, and I'm working with the machines...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: The computers?

PEARL WILDING: The computers. And I have learned the old ones and knew them very, very well and helped people get the very best copy. There was one lady from Terreton said that she had been down on the other floors, and she had spent, she said, a fortune but I'm sure it wasn't that much, trying to find this, get a good copy. It was a poor copy to begin with, a court record. But she came to me and I was able to within just a few minutes give her a copy that she was proud of, and she went home and told all the people that I had helped me. This has happened so many times, I never go to work without feeling the thrill of somebody's excitement about finding their ancestors that they've been working and searching for.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: It's important work that you do, and I know that the Spirit is there because the Lord wants us to do this work, and He helps it to progress along. I can't imagine it happening every day, though. I have some friends that work there. Maybe you know some of the deaf workers who work in the Family History Library?

PEARL WILDING: Oh yes, I certainly do. George came to visit me. You know George? He's my uncle...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: That's right. He told me that, that he met you.

PEARL WILDING: Yes. And I was so excited to see him. It had been years since I had seen him.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: He was thrilled to see you.

PEARL WILDING: At the moment I saw him I knew him after all these years. He has friends that come. They have a large unit that are, the deaf unit in the Library now.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Yes, I'm not sure how many that are working at the Library now, but they have an ASL group and every time I chat with them, they're always so excited about their work. And they talk about it and discuss it. And it must be a really special place to work there at the Family History Library. I would like to do my own work, but with three kids still at home I'm a little busy right now. I'm trying to do some things on the Internet. And I heard something about a new system; they're not using PAF, or P-A-F system anymore? You have to learn a new computer system?

PEARL WILDING: Yes. But inasmuch as I don't work with the systems looking for my own ancestors, I get thrilled at when somebody comes and gets a good copy and they are so excited and thrilled. It makes my heart very happy.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Do you know the book called "The Likeness of Forever?"

PEARL WILDING: No

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: "The Links of Forever?" Have you heard of that book?

PEARL WILDING: I've heard of it but I...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: It's an old book but anyway I really enjoyed reading that book about people who worked at the Family History Library and the research they went through. They would try to find a name and they would look and somehow they'd look at a book that was just left there, and they'd look at that book and there's the name that they needed; there's the ancestor. It just miraculously appeared. So I think the Spirit is a part of that work.

PEARL WILDING: It's definitely the Spirit. We have devotionals every morning, sometimes every Monday morning, at the Joseph Smith Building. We all meet as a group of missionaries and we hear their stories and we realize how much God is helping us. He and Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost is certainly helping with this work. My sister yesterday, or day before yesterday, said that she wasn't able to do her work because the computers were down. And she works in the Joseph Smith Building. And she was very unhappy about not being able to do her work. But yesterday when she went back she was excited and she said, "I caught up on my work; I was able to feel the Spirit of Our Heavenly Father; and I was able to catch up what I had missed the day before." So Our Savior is helping us every day; every day.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Wow. That's quite something. If you are just joining us now, this is Minnie Mae Wilding Diaz on Mormon Radio and the Mormon Channel, and I'm talking with Pearl Wilding, and she's a missionary in the Family History Library. We've been having a wonderful conversation talking about your work and your life. I was going to ask you: I know you have two deaf nephews: Jerry and Gordon?

PEARL WILDING: George.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Do you remember when they found out that they were deaf, and what was your perspective on deaf people at that time, and maybe what is your perspective on deaf people now?

PEARL WILDING: I love them. I love them. I, there's one lady that comes and helps me. I have to move huge reams of paper in the morning when I come, and she comes and helps me. And she's deaf but she always comes and gives me a big hug. And she appreciates what I do. And about George and Jerry: When they were children they went to school and the teachers didn't know much about what was wrong with them. They, I don't think they were as good as they could have been because, they, but they finally came to the conclusion that these boys could not hear and that was their problem in school. And so that made a difference as to the way they were treated. Even their folks were able to give them more love, I don't know, more of what they needed in physical and mental health.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: I remember my grandma said she had to do what was right for those boys; She sent them to the deaf school instead of keeping them home. And it was tough for her but she knew that it would make a big difference in their lives and it was the right thing to do. They both went off to college; and my Dad graduated from college and became a teacher; they both became teachers. So it was hard when, when they first found out they were deaf, though, but...

PEARL WILDING: But they've done so wonderful. Jerry, I guess taught for many, many years and...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Yes. He taught for 37 years...

PEARL WILDING: Oh. Isn't that wonderful?

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: ...before he retired.

PEARL WILDING: Yes. That was wonderful.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: I wanted to ask about the perspective: How did you think people treated them at that time? You know when the boys were young. How did they treat them and how did they treat deaf people now?

PEARL WILDING: Oh. Then, there was maybe a feeling that they weren't as smart and yet they were. They had exceptional brains and they proved it with the work that they did after their schooling. Now they treat the ones that are deaf with such respect and such love, I think there's been such a difference in the attitude and love that people show to the deaf.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: I imagine a long time ago that, even still some today, they think that deaf people are being stubborn or they're not listening or they don't understand how to communicate with them. But then when they found out they were deaf, they were able to understand that it just, that they couldn't hear.

PEARL WILDING: That's right. And I can help, on my computers, I can help the deaf as well as the others, even though I don't know the language; I can still help them. I love to help them. It's such a privilege.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: I heard a story about you that something when you were able to sing, when they put the Angel Moroni on top of the Temple? Can you tell us more about that?

PEARL WILDING: When I went on my first mission there was about 50 of us in Salt Lake City for training. That was where we trained there. One of the things we did at that time was go through

the temple and that was our first time in the Temple. Then because it was so few of us they took us through all the rooms in the Temple and explained the rooms.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, that's neat.

PEARL WILDING: And then when we ended up on top of the Temple, there we sang "We Thank Thee, Oh God, for a Prophet."

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Heber J. Grant was the prophet at that time?

PEARL WILDING: Yes. Yes, Heber J. Grant was the prophet at that time. At that time there was in our classes it was a high ups the church sometimes, one of the Twelve Apostles would come and talk to us...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh.

PEARL WILDING: ...and then even I can't remember for sure but it seemed like President Grant came for a few minutes one time when we were in our class. We were in the class in Brigham Young's home, and that's where we had our classes.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh.

PEARL WILDING: And then we had our lunch, our meals in the bottom of the Joseph Smith Building—there was a restaurant there, and we had our meals there. And so Salt Lake has changed lots since I first saw it (laughing).

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Wow. How about that? Your daughter said something about a car, that when your Dad or your husband, or Grandfather, or someone, when they got their first car. Can you elaborate on that?

PEARL WILDING: Yes. (laughing) That was my father. We had seen very few cars, but the car that he brought home was a Ford with pedals that you pushed: one to start, one to back up; anyway, there were three pedals that you pushed; that was the gears was on these pedals. And then you cranked it to get it started and you had to be very careful because if it flipped backwards you could break an arm. And what we found, the first time he brought that car home, we all ran out in the yard to see him with the car of course, and we were going around, he was going round and round the wood pile and saying "Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!" Because he was used to horses and that was his first car.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: (laughing)

PEARL WILDING: And we all had a big laugh and it's a story that's come down through the family that...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: He didn't know how to stop it?

PEARL WILDING: (laughing) No, he didn't know how to stop it (laughing).

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, that's a great story; that's really cute. So you had seven children. Did you have electricity when you were raising your children?

PEARL WILDING: At first we, one ...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Light bulb?

PEARL WILDING: ...globe, and there was no plug ins. Then later we, things got better, and we had to bring the water in from a pump. But we were fortunate to have a pump, a hand pump; it was outside and we would carry that water in for a bath, for cooking, for everything we had to pump the water. And sometimes the pump wouldn't work and we'd have to pour a starter, a little bit of water in the top to start it...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, uh-huh.

PEARL WILDING: ...and then it would take hold and pump the water up. And so there was not the conveniences, no conveniences like we have today. We had an old building, it was an outhouse (laughing) but it was a one-seater and in the winter time we brushed the snow off the seat. It had a roof, but, of course, the snow would come in through the holes.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, my.

PEARL WILDING: And we'd brush off the snow off the seat before we could go. And...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: (Laughing) Brrrrr! That sounds really cold!

PEARL WILDING: And it was bad in the wintertime to run out to the outhouse (laughing).

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, that sounds very cold! Wow. How did you manage seven children without any of these conveniences? How did you manage your time; how did you keep them busy; how did you be creative doing that?

PEARL WILDING: Most of these things I've been talking about recently has been my family at home, my brothers and sisters, and my father and family. When we started our family we had a stove that had a warm oven; it was filled with water on the side of the stove. We would fill it up and then we'd use wood and coal in the stove. It was to cook on. We had electric lights. We never had a radio, nor a telephone, nor a car.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Did you still have horses?

PEARL WILDING: We had horses first when we first farmed, but wasn't long until we got a tractor. I had the first child and then three years before I had another. And then after my second child I had a miscarriage, and so...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh.

PEARL WILDING: ...there was about four years between that, them. And then between the next two girls there was two years. And then between the girl and my next one, was a boy, and there was 13 months.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh (laughing).

PEARL WILDING: And so that little girl Brenda decided to walk early because I'm sure she (laughing), I didn't have time to fuss with her (laughing).

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, you were busy, I'm sure.

PEARL WILDING: It was busy. When the family grew up so that I had a little bit of time the older ones did work and things. Then there was a shop that was very unusual shop for a small, small place. It was where we could go and do ceramics. And I loved to do that.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh. Did you paint the ceramics?

PEARL WILDING: Yes. Uh-huh. And then my daughter, was my second daughter, loved to paint, and she taught me to oil paint and I did some oil painting. Then when my littlest one started school I went into nursing. My, I broached the subject when we were at the table one day, and I said, "I'd like to be a nurse." All of them said, "What do you want to be a nurse for? Good night, don't you have enough work here with all of us?" But I was determined. I was determined to be a nurse. One of them said, "I don't think it's a good idea." But I went ahead with this idea. I had to pass an examination before I could get into nursing, and I passed that examination which my family figured Mama wouldn't be able to do (laughing), But I did it; I passed the examination and then we had to have uniforms and caps. I spent a year training to be a nurse and then I worked in the LDS Hospital in Idaho Falls.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Idaho Falls?

PEARL WILDING: Yes. About 14 years.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, at the Idaho Falls Hospital?

PEARL WILDING: Idaho Falls Hospital. It was the LDS Hospital.

MMEWD: Oh, I didn't know that. So was that while your children were growing up or were they mostly grown that you worked in the hospital?

PEARL WILDING: They, my oldest two girls were teenagers, and when I'd come home to study for that test, they would have to prepare the meals and do the housework because I was gone all day to school, and then at night I had to study, and those girls took over. And that was Patricia and Brenda, and they took over. And my husband said, "Honey, you've just got to hurry up with this because they're going to kill me." (laughing)

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: (laughing) Wow. How did they feel about you going to school?

PEARL WILDING: After they found out that there was no getting their mother to change her mind, then they all helped out. And I had 32 miles to go one way to school...

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Oh, that's far.

PEARL WILDING: ...and then to drive back after school sometimes I'd buy something that I could chew on to keep me awake until I got home. But when I first started nursing they wanted me to take night work, but I found out I could not sleep in the daytime and so they gave me a day job because of the hours that I spent on the road. I loved my nursing. It was helping people. That was the first time, well, it wasn't the first time because my mission was the first time, but it was after I was married it was the first time I was able to really help people.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: I'm sure you helped your family a lot and did a lot for them. But when you're talking about helping other people outside of your family...

PEARL WILDING: Yes, that's right. Of course the family came first. I didn't leave the family until my youngest one started school, and that kind of freed me for the hours that I had to be gone.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: You were able to do that. How long before that did you know you wanted to become a nurse? Had you always...?

PEARL WILDING: No I had always wanted to be a nurse. But until that time I thought, well, the children came along and I thought that I had my hands full, and I did: I had my hands full.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: (laughing) I'm sure.

PEARL WILDING: But when my littlest one started school and the others were starting school, and the older ones, there was two boys older than the two girls, and they helped a lot and I was able then to have some time to become a nurse. And the training took one year.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: I see. Wow. Not like today where it takes three or four years or longer.

PEARL WILDING: No. no. I was a Licensed Practical Nurse.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: An LPN. Wow. That's great. If we talk about, to the listeners of this radio channel and maybe to the people who are outside who would like to start doing genealogy work, how would you encourage them to become involved in genealogy/family history work? Maybe they have only a little bit of time, or maybe they don't have a computer or they don't have the resources. What words of wisdom would you give them to get started?

PEARL WILDING: Heavenly Father has asked us to do this work. And so that is the fundamental purpose, or the fundamental thing that should spur us into doing the work. Almost every ward now has a genealogical society which helps the people get started. And all they have to do is come to the Church house or even to one of the people that know how to do this work. They've made it so easy for people to get started and then the Internet, the people that come to the Library, they have searched the Internet and they have all these numbers; they have all these people ready to look them up on the computers; on the books that we have; books and tapes and microfiches; everything to help people to get started. But the main thing is to start with themselves and to go from there to their father and mother and then to their grandparents and then back as far as they can go before they even come to the Library. So that they know where to start. But even if they don't do that and they come there, we're able to help them. I don't know just how many missionaries we have in the Family History, but I know at one time there was 500 or more, just in the Family History Mission. And so there are lots of them that will help, and then in each ward there are missionaries, people that will help, help them get started.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Maybe I want to clarify that even if they're not members of the Church they can still come to the libraries. Is that correct?

PEARL WILDING: Yes. Most of the ones that come to the Library are people from parts, even from, we've had people from Paris, France come, and most of them are not members of the Church. And so we have, we have so many people that, as I said, we have so many missionaries, they keep all these missionaries busy helping. So if they'll come to the Ward Libraries or to the Church Library, if even if they're not members of the Church, they're helped just the same as if they were members.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: I'm guessing that there are some of our listeners on this Mormon Channel who are not LDS, so I wanted to clarify that, that they're welcome to come. Maybe our last question here today: Who is someone that you've looked up to in your life? Who is someone that has influenced you?

PEARL WILDING: I don't know. There's been so many people that have influenced me. The Church and my family and my husband, my children. Wherever you go there's a ward, and I've lived in different places and been active in whatever ward I've been, and gained from being members, is for everyone; everyone. It's such a wonderful program. You know, one lady said to me, "You know there is an awful bug that's bit me." And I said, "What?" And she says, "This genealogy bug bit me and I just cannot get rid of it." (Laughing)

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: (Laughing) The Gospel is the same everywhere. Do you think so?

PEARL WILDING: That's right.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Even when you were young until today? Do you feel that?

PEARL WILDING: Yes. Yes. It's the same. It is the same.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Well, thank you for sharing your personal beliefs and your personal experiences. As we close I'd like to ask you if you would share your testimony with us.

PEARL WILDING: I would love to. I know that the work that I'm doing is the work of Our Heavenly Father; that Jesus Christ is the foundation of this Church; and that He died for us; He, and not for just a few people but for everyone; He died for them. And so I believe and I feel in my heart that I know that this is true; that the Church is true; that the Gospel that has been taught by Joseph Smith, he brought back the same Gospel that was taught when Jesus lived upon the Earth. And I'm so grateful to be a member of it. And all the things that have lifted my, my heart and my soul, and myself has been through the Church.

MINNIE MAE WILDING DIAZ: Thank you very much for that. Really enjoyed talking with you and getting to know you. Again we want to thank our listeners on "Everything Creative." This is "The Mormon Channel" and this is Minnie Mae Wilding Diaz, and we've been talking to Pearl Wilding and I hope you enjoyed this program.

[BEGIN MUSIC]

:NANCY HANSON: You've been listening to an interview between Minnie Mae Wilding and her aunt Pearl Wilding on "Everything Creative."

[END MUSIC]

