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Oral History Collection

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Clift, Rex

December 3, 1990

Interviewed by Irene Francis and Jackie Valentine Stophy

Note: There is also an unidentified speaker, who is probably Clift's wife.

IF: This tape is part of an oral history taping series sponsored by the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities project called The Wet Mountain Valley: A Gold Mine of History. The interviewer is Irene Francis, Project Director, and Jackie Valentine Stophy who is a reporter for the Wet Mountain Tribune. The person who is being interviewed is Rex Clift. The date is December 3, 1990.

IF: I'll start out the interview by asking you, Rex, when you were born?

RC: November 12, 1904.

IF: And were you born in Rosita?

RC: Uh huh.

IF: Did you have a midwife or a doctor that helped deliver?

RC: Midwife.

IF: Did your mother ever tell you, her name?

RC: Oh, yeah, well, I don't know what her first name was, Grandma James was all she ever went by. I don't know what her name was.

IF: And did she live in Rosita?

RC: She lived in Rosita, she just lived maybe 100 yards from my folks when I was born.

IF: OK, now were your folks living at the old homestead?

RC: No, they was living right up there in Rosita. They used to call it Hungry Gulch and you have to pass where that Hobby lives, you know, going up that, not going out of Rosita, but the one that goes up around that way.

IF: Oh, the one near the schoolhouse, where the schoolhouse used to be?

RC: Past where the schoolhouse used to be and right on up around, clear round the bend there.

IF: And that's where your folks lived?

RC: That's where my folks lived, where I was born.

IF: Uh, what did your dad do?

RC: Worked in the mines then.

IF: What mine did he work in?

RC: Oh, he worked in the Bassick mine, the Querida. Then he worked at the, I forget the names of all these dang mines around here but he worked several of the mines around here. Most of the time he was working at the Bassick, Yellow and Querida. That was after I was born. They moved to Querida.

IF: Lots of people moved to Querida then.

RC: Yeah. When they struck that Bassick mine, well, Querida really come alive.

IF: Uh huh, and what did your dad do in the mines?

RC: Oh, he just done everything there was, drill holes and shoot

IF: Shoot the dynamite?

RC: Shoot dynamite, yeah, and then load the cars and push them out. Of course, that, in the Bassick, they have the shaft and then they run drifts out in different directions, following the vein, you know. And they rode their car up and bring it out and put it on the cage and then they'd be harsh, the horse to death.

IF: How old were you when they moved to Querida?

RC: I don't know.

IF: Were you, did you go to school in Querida?

RC: Oh yeah, I went to school Querida through the 3rd grade, I guess.

IF: You know any of your teachers?

RC: Yes, I had, there was a Macy Dixson that used to live in Westcliffe. He was a teacher there one time, and then, gosh dang, I can't think of that one old guy, that was something, he'd go to sleep in school.

IF: The teacher would.

RC: The teacher would. And that school would get spitballs all over the ceiling and everywhere

and when they got tired of sitting that way, why some of the bigger boys would prop him. I think he was on dope probably, I don't know. He'd go to sleep, and we'd just have a big time.

IF: Where did he, did he stay at one of the homes or did he have his own house there.

RC: No, he boarded with somebody downtown, but I don't remember now who it was.

IF: Well, did you learn anything?

RC: Not a whole lot. (laughing) Just learned how to ornery, I guess.

IF: Then did you go to school in Rosita at all?

RC: No, my younger brother went to school in Rosita, but I never did.

IF: Uh huh, do you remember?

RC: After we got the, well, I was in the 4th grade, I believe, that folks started moving to Canon in the wintertime, and putting them in the school down there at Canon. Up here, we always went to summer school because if the roads were bad and all, you couldn't go anywhere in the wintertime, so we had summer school all the time.

Unidentified speaker: In the park.

RC: Up there in

IF: Junkins Park.

Unidentified speaker: Yes, we walked to school.

RC: Yeah, my, dad helped build that school. The old school still sets there, the building, and we used to walk from the ranch over there to school. Now they won't let a kid walk a quarter of a mile, see even if they ? a quarter of a mile.

IF: Yeah, is that the school that's on Margaret Hobby's place, that used to be on Margaret Hobby's place?

RC: Yeah.

IF: Who was your teacher there?

RC: Oh, we had a Burt Mink, was one time, and then, oh I forget what that old gal's name was, by George, I wish I did remember it, but he had the stinkingist feet you ever heard tell of (laughing)

IF: He'd take his shoes off?

RC: No, he didn't have to take his shoes off. Mildred Hobby was one of the orneriest ones and he used to chew tobacco. I didn't know what he, Mildred had done but anyhow, old, why can't I think of that guy's name, but he had a little old desk, you know, about this wide, little old square deal that he put his feet under him, you know, and set there on that desk. So, he put Mildred under that desk there and then he put a foot on each side of him and lordy, you could smell his feet, and so Mildred, he took a chew of tobacco and he just spit all over his feet. (laughing)

Unidentified speaker: The kids on the other side could see what was happening so

IF: So, it was mostly men teachers that you had in the school.

RC: Well, no, just about half and half. Oh, we was ornery devils in school.

IF: What grade did you go through?

RC: Well, I was in 3rd and 4th grade.

IF: And then you moved to Canon?

RC: Then we moved to Canon, yeah.

IF: How high in education did you go?

RC: Through the 8th grade.

IR; Then you

RC: Quit. I was smart enough.

IF: There you go. Did you do ranch work from then on?

RC: Huh?

IF: Did you do ranch work from then on?

RC: Well, I've done a little of everything. I was a brick mason, a rock mason, for one year, and I worked in, one time when they re-opened the Bassick over here, I worked there, and I worked at the Ilse mine and Ilse.

IF: Did you know Mr. Sparling?

RC: Sparling? Yeah.

IF: Mm hmm, that's Betty Munson's father.

RC: Yeah. I just been a kind of a jack of all trades, and then I went to grazing sheep in 1929, and I've been at it ever since.

IF: How big of a herd do you have?

RC: Oh, we've only got about 64? We used to run around 1100 head. I've got a picture of the sheep coming up Hardscrabble down there that I like awful well that gets blown up so

IF: Oh yeah

Unidentified speaker: Before they graveled it, I mean, before they paved it, it was all gravel.

IF: We need to get that.

RC: I guess there's over 2000 head in the bunch coming up there. It shows the old sheepherder and his dog behind them.

IF: Now who is that sheepherder? Who's that?

RC: Oh, Dick Barges. He used to live in Silver Cliff.

IF: And where were you taking the sheep?

RC: We were bringing them up here and then we took them on up, we used to run the sheep up there on north and south Colony.

IF: You, there was a time when you could run sheep up into the timbers, wasn't there?

RC: Well, you had to be above the timber line with the sheep.

IF: Above timber line?

RC: Mm hmm

IF: Above timber line, cause now they can't do that because that's all government land.

RC: It was government land then.

IF: And they would allow you to do that.

RC: Oh, yeah, we had to go in on a certain time and come out at a certain time.

IF: Was this in the summer you would take them up there?

RC: Oh yeah, first of July was as soon as we could go up there and then we was supposed to come out the 15th of September.

IF: And then where would you take them then? Back here to Rosita?

RC: Back here, and then trailed them on down there where we're at now.

IF: When it got real cold, you took them down towards where you are, down that far now?

RC: No, we're right up by the highway. When they run us out down there, we had to, I built that house that I'm living in down there in 1971 and we just couldn't bring ourselves to pull up and move and it was 71 before we ever moved into the new house, but then, they give us a certain time to get out.

IF: So that's all underwater, where you

RC: Well, they've never had water and all, one time, water's a long way from it now. I swore when they took the place away from us, they'd never have water up there, but they did. They made a liar out of me.

IF: Rex, was it your great grandparents that came to this area?

RC: Yeah.

IF: And what was your great grandfather's name on your mother's side?

RC: My great, I sure don't know what

IF: How about your father's side?

RC: I don't know really as much about my father's side as I did my mother's side.

IF: All right, well, uh, give me as far back as you can remember. What was your grandfather's name? on your mother's side?

RC: On my mother's side?

IF: Mm hmm

RC: B.D.

IF: B.D. Payne.

RC: Uh huh, B.D. Payne. They all called him old B.D.

IF: Payne?

RC: Payne, yeah.

IF: And do you know why he came to this area?

RC: No, I don't. He just looking for new territory. He came from New Jersey to start with.

IF: And what did he do when he came here? When he got here?

RC: Well, right off the bat, I guess, he wasn't too long before he started, opened up that store in Rosita and then he hauled ore and stuff, and the Bassick mine and all these ores, mines around

here. He hauled ore for a good long time. I guess he done that before he started the store.

IF: He had a freight company?

RC: No

IF: Just a wagon.

RC: Just a wagon and four horses.

IF: Uh huh. How many children were in your mother's side of the family?

RC: Two, mother and her brothers.

IF: And did the brothers stay in this area?

RC: Oh, he stayed in this area for a long time. He lived over in Querida and then he finally moved to Canon city after a while and then he wound up moving out into Utah. He worked mines all the time and that's where he died, out in Utah.

IF: Are your grandparents buried here?

RC: I guess my grandmother's all that's buried here.

IF: And your grandmother

RC: Yeah, that's something else. I guess all my other, on the Clift side, I don't know, they was all buried there in Rosita and they just put up a little old rock for each one of them and there's graves on top of all of them now. There was, I don't know, a time they had scarlet fever. They lived in Querida at the time and I don't know, there was seven or eight of them died within two weeks of one another.

IF: This is their children or people in the family?

RC: It was my dad's sisters and brothers died, and his mother died all the same time.

IF: You remember what year that was?

RC: Oh gosh, no.

IF: Why I'm saying is maybe we can find something in newspapers sometime.

RC: No, I don't know. They had, the whole family I guess was sick at the same time and about two thirds of them died.

IF: And they're buried in Rosita Cemetery?

RC: I don't know how, there never were any stones or anything put up. There's graves dug on

top of all of them there now.

IF: Is your father buried, and your mother buried there also?

RC: Not there. They're buried up on top of?

IF: But they're in Rosita Cemetery.

RC: Yeah. They're right up on top of the hill where my wife is.

IF: Uh huh. When you want to ask some questions, go right ahead.

JS: What kind of house did you live in when you lived in Rosita? You were born in Rosita, and then you went to Querida. Do you remember anything about your home there?

RC: Not in Rosita because it burned down before I got big enough to remember anything and of course, I remember the house we lived over there in Querida. It was, oh let's see, it was a five-room house, I guess, and then it had a cellar dug into the hill where they kept their groceries and stuff.

JS: Is this the house up here?

IF: No, he's talking about in Querida. His father was a miner in Querida. Did you actually ever live in that homestead that's right behind Phillip Smith's? The other homestead there.

IF: Did I live there? No. Not to amount to anything. That's before I was ever married or anything. I lived there a while with the folks but I've always lived up on that other, on dad's homestead.

IF: So, this was the one that was the old homestead is, was your grandfather's. Your grandfather built that?

RC: Yeah, he built that house and everything. We filed on that; I don't know. Of course, I've got all those deeds and everything. I could find it out but when it was filed on and everything like that, both places, cause I have all the deeds and everything, but they're in the safety deposit box in Canon.

IF: Was he, did he come out here to homestead? Where did he come from? Is this the one that came – Clift?

RC: Oh, I don't really know. They came from Kentucky to start with and there was a good, big family of them and they landed in the valley down there.

IF: You know where in Kentucky they came from?

RC: No, I don't. All I know is that they came from Kentucky.

IF: Uh huh

RC: And then, my grandad, he run a saw mill over there by Querida for, oh, several years and that house that I've got up there, he sawed the lumber. You'd have to build high enough.

IF: And so, did he, his old homestead, did he build that?

RC: Well, that was my grandad I was talking about that was in the saw mill business then. My dad, he got into the saw mill business, and run the saw mill for two-three years over on Antelope, but my grandad is, he run that saw mill for a long time, and I don't know what else that he ever did do, because he died before I was very old.

IF: Where did they get their logs from? When they would run the saw mill.

RC: Over there around Querida, there used to be quite a lot of timber in around through there.

IF: That's why I asked that question because someone said that there was a lot of timber around the Rosita area and also the Querida area and of course, there's none there now.

RC: Yeah, well, there used to be a lot of timber around over some of those hills, sides was just covered with timber, you know and we cut them out.

IF: For the houses and for the mines? To use in the mines?

RC: Yes, all that I know of that happened in the lumber that was, he built a house in Querida and then my folks, they bought the house from him, and tore it down, and took it up there, and built it up up there.

IF: So that old homestead that's there now, that was your grandfather's,

RC: No, that's my dad's homestead.

IF: That's your dad's. Ok, that was moved from Querida?

RC: No, well, it was torn down and moved in pieces.

IF: In pieces. Because there's some, the boards are nice cut boards and I notice all of this nice work around the windows.

Unidentified speaker: That's not part, the other place, right? We're talking about the lower place.

RC: Yeah.

IF: Well, I'm talking about the lower place, grandfather's.

Unidentified speaker: No, the upper one is his father's.

IF: Ok.

RC: And that's the one that my grandad sawed the lumber for that house and it was built in 1913.

IF: And when was the one, when was your grandfather's built?

RC: Oh, I don't know. That was built in the 1800s sometime or other, latter part of the 1800s.

IF: So, he came and he homesteaded it?

RC: Yeah.

IF: How many acres did he homestead?

RC: 640.

IF: Did he section that all out at once?

RC: Well, to start with, he filed on 320. That's all you could get at the time and then they kept adding on until, and every time they give a new piece of ground out that you could file on, why, he filed on it and got, wound up with 640 acres. That's as much as was ever allowed to file on, you know. To start with, 160 acres is what he filed on first.

IF: And then did you, I know you have to, I know they talk about proving up on it. You had to do so many improvements.

RC: Yeah, they had to build a cabin on it, and supposed to plow up so much land within three years and if they done that and was living on the place, then they could prove up on it. You had to have a place that's fit to live in and some corrals and stuff like that, you know, before you could prove up on it. Of course, a lot of them didn't have it but they said they had it.

Unidentified speaker: They raised potatoes up there.

IF: How many potatoes, how much of the land was put into potatoes?

RC: Oh, I don't know. I suppose we, maybe 40-50 acres altogether. We used to plow the little, narrow patches (overlapping voices). Both places, we used to fill them things every fall with potatoes, but it got to where we couldn't, it got so dry and then got colder, and the last potatoes that we planted up there, we didn't even get our seed back.

IF: Because it got too cold.

RC: Well, it was cold and dry.

IF: Did you raise other things besides potatoes?

RC: Oh yeah, we raised lettuce and peas.

IF: And where would you, would you take them into Westcliffe?

RC: Yeah, they had a lettuce shed there in Westcliffe for several years there and we hauled our lettuce in there with team and wagon. I took a load of lettuce in there one time and boy, they just told me, I didn't have hardly anything coming and so the next load, I went in with, why, they started culling it, and when they got it culled, why I started loading it up, and they said, you don't have to take that, load that up. He said, we'll take care of it. No, I said, I'm damned if you'll take care of it. I'm going to take it home and feed it to my pigs.

IF: You didn't get that much from it, cause you didn't get that much from it.

RC: Well, they were just throwing it out on me, you know. It wasn't worth paying for it and so I loaded it up and took it back home and the next of lettuce I took, I didn't have it culled. What they was doing was culling that, and then after I left, why they crated it and sold it.

IF: Sold it. Oh.

RC: Had to be because I never had any more. I was taking the same kind of lettuce all the time and it had to be that, because they didn't cull me anymore.

IF: Would they put it on the train?

RC: Yeah, yeah, they loaded whole carloads of it there for several years down there, and then I don't know, the climate changed so bad that nobody could raise lettuce or potatoes or anything anymore to amount to anything.

IF: We didn't get, there wasn't as much rainfall? Is that what happened?

RC: Well, no, it just kept getting a little dryer and a little dryer and seemed like it was getting colder all the time. I don't know. It just didn't work.

IF: Is it the same way now? Do you think, are we colder now?

RC: Oh, it's a lot colder and sometimes dryer than it used to be. Lord golly, back 20 years ago, or 30 years ago, you'd have snow clear up to your neck coming back in here.

IF: There's not as much snow, not rainfall, it's mostly snow that you weren't getting.

RC: Well, we just had, heck, when I was a kid, you could plan on getting wet every dang day after the 4th of July until up in September. It rained every day.

JS: Did you ever have any encounters with Indians that were still in the area?

RC: No, there were no Indians there when I was around. There was one old Indian, too, that lived over there in Querida that he made Earl and I a bow and arrow one time. We used to go and visit him and I ate some bear meat with him one time when I [unintelligible], go up there and visit

him. He made us, Earl and I both, a bow and arrow. I don't know why I didn't keep that but then it didn't mean nothing then, you know.

IF: How many are in your family? You and you had a brother.

RC: I had two brothers. I'm the only one left.

IF: And what was their names?

RC: Earl and Clinton.

IF: And did they both live around this area?

RC: Well, for a long time, but finally, Clinton, he moved over to Natarida? And Earl, my older brother, well, he died in Idaho.

IF: And were they also miners?

RC: No, they was both in the sheep business for quite a long time. But they both went broke and then they both went into the trucking business., M

IF: And did you say you were married?

RC: Oh, yeah, I was, 29 and a half years.

IF: Do you have any children?

RC: No. We raised several, but

IF: Where did you get the children you raised?

RC: Well, this nephew of mine lives out in Oregon. He come every year. They lived in Denver, Neba's? sister. The next day after school was out, he was on his road here and then he wouldn't go home until just the day before school.

IF: So, he helped you with your sheep ranching?

RC: Oh yeah. But a lot of the others I had around was just kind of a nuisance.

IF: And your wife, when did your wife die?

RC: September 9, 1987.

IF: And she's buried in Rosita?

JS: How long did you say you was married?

RC: 59 and

JS: Ok.

IF: You said 29.

RC: I said 29?

IF: Yeah.

JS: It was longer than that.

IF: 59 years.

RC: 59 and a half, pert near to half.

IF: Were you and your wife married in Rosita?

RC: No, we was married in Colorado Springs.

IF: Uh, where'd you meet her?

RC: At a dance in Rosita.

IF: What was her maiden name?

RC: Crewett, Neba Crewett.

IF: And did she grow up around this area?

RC: She grew up in Canon.

IF: And then moved, were her family living here when

RC: They lived in Canon, yeah. They come from Missouri; I believe. She was just a little kid. They come to Canon, and her dad was a gardener, and she worked, well, she worked in the bank the Fremont County Bank, for a while and then she got a job with a lawyer there in town, was stenographer for that lawyer. That's what she was doing when we were married.

IF: And what was she doing at a dance in Rosita?

RC: (laughing) Well, her sister, Gladys, was teaching school in Rosita and she came up there to visit her sister, and so they, I forget now who it was, that gave the dance. But they gave a dance there. Of course, my brother and I and a friend that was staying with us, we was basking? Up here to find men. We went to the dance and I guess that set it off.

[unintelligible]

IF: Did they have their dances in the schoolhouse, or was there churches, or

RC: Right there where Hobby lives used to be the post office, right close there, you know, the place right across the road, there was a dance hall. An old guy, Jess Putman, had a place and he had one room where he lived and then he had this dance hall and pool hall, and they used to have dances there right along. We'd just have some big, old times. I rode horseback from the ranch over here to go to Wetmore to a dance.

Unidentified speaker: Tell them about the time you were sick.

RC: Huh?

Unidentified speaker: You said one time you were sick, and you wanted to go to the dance, and didn't figure out how you was going to be well enough to go. That was what happened.

RC: Some Stouhn's distemper medicine for horse.

IF: What was it called? Bones?

RC: Stouhn's.

IF: Stouhn's. How do you spell that? St

Unidentified speaker: ouhn, isn't it?

IF: ouhn?

Unidentified speaker: Isn't that how it is? We still got the bottle up there.

RC: And I took a half a horse pill so that (laughing) and I went to the dance. It worked.

IF: It's probably 50% alcohol in it. (laughing)

Unidentified speaker: He figured he'd rather just be dead than miss the dance [laughing, [unintelligible]

RC: It was sure good, yep, yep, not ? out of a horse, nothing ?

IF: It's got pine power?

RC: I don't suppose you could even get it

Unidentified speaker: What was the matter with you?

RC: Oh, I just had an awful cold on my chest, I don't know, I suppose at that time, nowadays, they'd have called it the flu. I don't know. I was all choked up and had a heck of a cold but I sure knocked it!

IF: What other kinds of remedies did they have for during sicknesses?

RC: Well, most generally, just Epsom salts and menthelatum and somethings like that to rub on your chest.

IF: Epsom salts? I know you soak your feet in it now.

RC: Well, that's what we did then. So, put a poultice on your chest.

IF: Poultice on your chest.

RC: Yeah.

IF: You didn't drink it though. Epsom salts?

RC: Oh, good gosh, yes, there's a (laughing)

IF: You drank it too? Epsom salts.

RC: Oh yeah, and Carter's Little Liver Pills. You ever heard of them?

IF: Yeah.

Unidentified speaker: Still around. They make your urine blue or something.

RC: Yeah. God, I used to hate them.

IF: What would you take that for? Just if you still

RC: For your cold!

IF: For a cold.

RC: Clear up your cold, yeah.

IF: Was there any kind of herbs that you can remember you used in

RC: No, we didn't. Uh, elm? Bark, I had that. Once in a while.

Unidentified speaker: That's a good stop, Madison.

IF: Now is that something that goes around here now?

RC: No, no, I don't know where it goes, where it comes from, but you can buy it.

IF: You'd go to the drugstore and get that?

RC: Yeah.

IF: Do you remember, uh, Mary in the drugstore in Westcliffe?

RC: Yeah. Old man Merriam used to have these, made a sale, and wasn't charging it or anything, he'd just write it down in his hand and then he said, that way, he never forgot it. He'd mark it down after the guy left.

IF: You know, we have some of the medicines and things that were from Marian's drugstore. It's in Fairplay now and they sent us some of those things. So, you remember, do you remember Sue Cand's father, or do you remember the grandfather?

RC: Who?

IF: Sue Canda's father was Marian. Then there was the grandfather, do you remember the grandfather?

RC: No, I don't but I remember

IF: You remember her father.

RC: Yeah.

IF: So would you buy some of those kind of things in there, like foot balm? Or whatever this is?

RC: Well, that's where we bought everything we have to have, any medicine or anything, it's Marian's drugstore.

Unidentified speaker: Where was that located?

IF: That was located where the Shining Mountains is right now. The drugstore was there. Do you remember your grandfather's drugstore in Rosita? He didn't have a drugstore. He had a grocery store.

RC: Yeah, that was a general store. He had a few hardware articles and stuff like shovels and rakes and stuff like that and he had mostly groceries, and he carried kerosene. You'd see in that book where he sold a gallon of kerosene, I think, 15 cents.

IF: And where was that located?

RC: Huh?

IF: Where was that store located?

RC: Well, where the road comes down here in Rosita, and this one comes here, right here.

IF: You've got like on the left-hand side, right hand side of the road?

RC: If you're coming into Rosita. Going out from here, it'd be the left-hand side.

IF: The left hand side.

RC: Mm hmm. There's an old piece of the cellar still there.

IF: So, it's over there near what they call the Assay Office now. Isn't there a building there now that they say is

RC: Well, it's right close, just across the road from where that used to be a filling station, that was.

IF: Ok, so it's across the road from there?

RC: Mm hmm

IF: And when you go, when you leave, you go towards Rosita, you can see that.

RC: It's all covered up now. Beyer's, he put a lid over the thing and had a cellar there for a while but that's all caved in now.

IF: What happened to the building? Did it burn down? Or get torn down orx1

RC: It was torn down. It was a stone building. We got quite a lot of the stone out there at the ranch that come out of that building.

IF: People, when they decided they were, they would move a building or tear it down and use the material.

RC: Well, I don't know. I don't remember now how, what become of the roof and all that, but stones, just different ones, hauled it off.

IF: Mm hmm. Do you remember any of the churches in Rosita?

RC: No.

IF: There was, there were gone when you were there?

RC: No, I don't remember. We weren't around Rosita too much after, oh, I don't know how old I was when the folks moved to Querida, but I put in most of my younger years there in Querida.

IF: Where was the schoolhouse there? Was it

RC: In Querida?

IF: Was it a brick building or

RC: No, it was a frame building. It was a big, long building. I don't know, it must have been 15 by 50. It was a big, long deal and it burned down. I don't know what caused it to burn but, whether somebody set it afire or what.

Unidentified speaker: You could take like from her house to town, going across.

RC: No, we used to just take off and go, no trail or nothing.

IF: There's not a wagon trail or anything?

RC: No.

IF: On that old homestead of your grandfather's, did they used to come out through cellars or go the other way?

RC: Well, years ago, that road used to go across through the, you know where that turn is to come up through Blumenau?

IF: Yeah.

RC: Well, when you turn there, the road used to go straight on across over to this place. It used to be a county road over through there.

IF: Over through

RC: I don't know that crossing there kept forcing out fellows too. Big washes that you had to cross, going around there. It just kept washing out, so we finally just started going around.

IF: He was saying there was a road that goes through Blumenau.

Unidentified speaker: Oh.

RC: One time the old guy that lived there where Stella Smith lived, Charcoal Barker, I don't know what his real name was, they called him Charcoal

IF: Why did you call him that?

RC: Don't ask me! [unintelligible] Have to, went right through the edge of his place up there, you know, I don't know, he wanted to shove off for some reason or other and he put a fence across there and my grandad, he'd come along and tear it all up. One day, he was tearing the fence off, and old Barker, he took two shots at him. But he just went ahead, he just shot those shots right around close to him, but he didn't pay any attention to that. He went ahead and tore the fence down.

IF: Doctors, do you remember any doctors in Rosita?

RC: Doctors, no. No, I don't, there was no dentists in Rosita that I got to remember, only the post office. Mrs. Hunt run the post office and she coffee and sugar and stuff like that so anybody come back especially. One time, we were snowed in up there for about three weeks and couldn't get out at all, but we run out of tobacco, so we went to Rosita, got tobacco.

IF: How did you get there?

RC: Horseback. Come right across, straight across through the hills there.

IF: Mm hmm. You weren't worried about the coffee, just the tobacco.

RC: Just the tobacco (laughing) yeah, after about 10 days, you'd tear a house down to get your cigarettes, you know.

IF: What was that you smoked?

RC: Bull Durham.

Unidentified speaker: You said they sent you a little sack and you even made a quilt out of them. You said you didn't know what happened to it, but you made a quilt out of it.*

IF: They were like a kind of a little burlap kind of thing. I know, my father used to smoke Bull Durhams. I know how to roll a mean cigarette!

RC: Even made a quilt top out of it, the dang thing, so you could tell what I smoke.

IF: Now, there's a lot of them. They're just pieces about like that., there

RC: Yeah. I don't know what the heck ever become of that. Somebody needed it worse than we did, I guess.

JS: You know, you told me about when you put the chipmunk in the schoolmarm's desk? What was her name?

RC: Oh, [unintelligible] You know, Less Schultz where he used to live out there, used to be about a mile west of there, there used to be a schoolhouse over in there. And we went to school there and Miss Boyle, she never was married. Anyhow, we'd, at noon, we'd always go down, a bunch of us boys would go down to the crick and eat our lunch and we had three or four chipmunks. They was right there to eat lunch with us every day. They'd get in our lunch buckets, you know and pick out what they wanted to eat. So, one day, we just took one of the little buggers up, in the drawer of her desk. She opened it up because that chipmunk come out, you know, and she went over backwards, went clear over, dress up over her head. And of course, the whole school just really had a ball.

IF: Who did you go to school with over there and then walked out?

RC: Oh, there was the Pilces and the Abbots and Longs. I guess that's all. Vickermans, Bill Vickerman, he went to school there.

IF: Did they all have ranches around there?

RC: Well, Abbotts did. Abbotts there where Les Schultz lived and Rice was on up above it, and Longs was down this way from it, you know.

IF: Were your folks living over in that area then?

RC: Oh, we were living up there on that place where I live now.

IF: Yeah, so you had to walk?

RC: Yeah, we walked there.

IF: How many miles was that?

RC: About three, three and a half, something like that.

IF: And then, when you got older, did you ride a horse or?

RC: No, we always walked.

IF: How long was that, what time, would you have to be there at a certain time? You had to be there at a certain though in the morning.

RC: Had to be there at nine o'clock.

IF: What time would you have to leave your house?

RC: Oh, we'd leave about 7:30, something like that.

JS: So, you went to school in the summer instead of the winter?

RC: Yeah, the snow and stuff up here, used to, in the wintertime, you couldn't have got three or four miles to school in that. We always, well, about 4th grade, I went to school every summer. Three-month school.

IF: Did you have electricity in your house?

RC: Oh, gosh, no. We didn't have no, I don't know, we didn't have electricity up here until, I don't remember now, it must have been around 55, 56, something like that.

IF: Telephone, did you ever bring telephone in there?

RC: Never have had a telephone up here.

IF: How about, of course, you had an outhouse. (laughing)

RC: Oh, yeah, we had an outhouse.

Unidentified speaker: You don't have water in the house up there. You have to bring it from the

well.

RC: It's running water.

Unidentified speaker: Yeah, but you have to bring it from the well, run it up to the house.

RC: You run get it, you run back.

IF: How far, was there, was it a pump? How far away from the house was that?

RC: 100 yards.

Unidentified speaker: As the sea gills?? (laughing)

IF: And how far was the outhouse?

RC: Oh

Unidentified speaker: The same distance.

RC: No, it's not quite as far as [unintelligible]

Unidentified voice: Seems I can walk [unintelligible]

RC: But they changed it from where it used to be. It used to be up above the house and we finally put it off down below the house.

IF: So, when it got really, snowing, deep snow, the first one that needed to use the outhouse had to shovel.

Tape stops and restarts.

IF: Cross country skis?

RC: Well, I guess you call it that.

IF: Would you make your own skis?

RC: Huh?

IF: Would you make your own skis?

RC: Yeah. We had one factory made set of skis and then we made two pairs of skis. There were three out of us and we had all homemade skis except that one pair that they bought and then we patterned after them and made, and they worked just as good as the boughten ones.

IF: Would you use snowshoes too?

RC: No, we never did have any snowshoes.

IF: They were harder to make. Probably. Recreation. What did you do for recreation?

RC: Work.

Unidentified speaker: Still does.

IF: That's not, I get that same thing. Dances were really your recreation.

RC: Yeah, we didn't miss any dances back then.

IF: Did they have anything like pie socials, or

RC: Oh yeah.

IF: Where they would

RC: Yeah, and one time in Rosita, I bought a pie and it was made of salt!

IF: They did that for a joke?

RC: Yeah.

IF: When did you find out it was salt?

RC: When I tried to eat it. (laughing)

IF: Were you already home?

RC: No, I just opened it right there at the dance. That's what you was supposed to do. You're supposed to buy your gal's pie, you know, and then they had one, they didn't know whose it was, and I bid on it and got it, and it was that salt pie.

Unidentified speaker: [unintelligible] get that for 5 o'clock in the morning. Your mom probably made it.

IF: There you go. Did they ever had what they called box socials, where you would buy the whole box and eat with the gal?

RC: My dad used to auction at those box socials a lot.

IF: Would they, how would they, would you know what was in it?

RC: Not till you bought it but there was usually good food in it when they

IF: Did they decorate them?

RC: Oh yeah, they was all fixed up real fancy and everything.

IF: And would you know whose it was then?

RC: Well, they had whoever made it, whosever box it belonged to, had her name on the front of it, you know. When you bought it and seen whose name it was, why, then, that was the gal you'se supposed to eat supper with.

IF: So, you really didn't care what was in box social (laughing) Oh, let's see what else. Oh, how about the Depression? Where were you when they had the Depression?

RC: Right up here.

IF: In Rosita.

RC: And we ate deer meat, that's the only kind of meat we had. We had the sheep then and had a few cows, but we didn't, couldn't afford to butcher one or anything, so we, every fall, we'd go out and get our winter's meat and we killed four or five deer the first good, big snow that come and so you could track them and then we just, what they call a hog dressing them and we'd wrap them in burlap and take them off to the timber up there, and hang them up on the north side of that tree, and they'd stay close all the time. Whenever we got one, needed another, we just go out and bring it and put it in the cellar over night and next morning, it would be thawed out, so you could skin it.

JS: Did your lifestyle change that much during the Depression up here?

RC: No, not too much. Course we got to where we didn't kill deer all the time, just in season and everything.

IF: Did you have to have a hunting license then? Or did they just let you kill things on your own land?

RC: They didn't let us. We just done it.

IF: You just did it.

RC: Yeah.

IF: But were there hunting licenses then?

RC: Oh, yeah, yeah. There was hunting licenses but there was three days hunting license, but at that time, if it was two early, you was only allowed one. But we'd get our winter's meat the first good snow would come.

IF: Wouldn't any animals get that hanging in the tree?

RC: The only thing you had to watch about was keep the magpies, that's the reason we wrapped the burlap around it, to keep the magpies, they'd eat it up if they could get to it. We kept the burlap on it and that kept the magpies off and that's all. We'd hang it right up in the tree, you know, quite a ways.

IF: Did you raise chickens and

RC: Oh yeah. Yeah, we had chickens.

IF: You had beef?

RC: But then they didn't, in the winter time, they didn't lay in the wintertime. They just laid in the summertime.

IF: During the war, did you, were you in any of the wars?

RC: Was I what?

IF: Were you in any of the wars?

RC: No, no.

IF: Were your brothers?

RC: No. Had some nephews in it, none of my brothers. I had to sign up for draft and all, you know, and I got my papers back and my classification, or whatever it was, and I was in the filling station down there Westcliffe one day. Hanson run it then. I was telling him about getting my walking papers, and I said, I don't know when they'll take me. I can't think of that guy's name, but anyhow, he said, oh hell, you don't need to worry. He said, they call the women and children, then they'll get you. (laughing)

IF: Did they defer you because of being a rancher?

RC: On account of being a rancher, yes.

IF: Uh huh, your brothers too?

RC: Yeah.

IF: Did you ever feel like you were deprived of anything as a kid?

RC: No.

IF: You felt like it was a pretty good life?

RC: Oh, I had a good life always. I guess we was considered the orneriest bunch of kids in the country.

IF: Why were you so ornery? Sounds like you worked hard.

RC: Well, we did. We, in the fall, we always helped dig potatoes by hand and pick them up and all that stuff. I don't know, that Miss Boyle that taught over there at Antelope. I don't know. I

always did feel kind of sorry for her, the way we treated her.

IF: How far apart were you boys?

RC: Well, there was about 16 months between my older brother and me, and then there was, Clinton was five years younger than I was.

IF: Oh, uh huh. So, you're the middle one.

RC: Mm hmm.

IF: So why did you feel sorry for her? [unintelligible]

RC: Well, the way we treated her. We just, one day, there was a flood coming down the crick and Earl, that's my older brother, he was, some of his, Bill Vickerman and Sam and some of them that was a little younger than he was, why, he made out like he was going to throw them in the flood, you know, and Miss Boyle? come a running down there. He grabbed her and shoved her (laughing) [unintelligible]

IF: What would she do when you did all that? What was your punishment?

RC: What was what?

IF: What was your punishment?

RC: None. We would get too dang ornery and

IF: You never sat in the corner or anything, or, have to stay after school?

RC: No, it was too far from home to stay after school or anything. The teacher had to get off

IF: She had to come home, too.

RC: Yeah.

IF: So, she just kind of put up with you.

RC: She just put up with us and made the best of it, I guess. A bird we brought it up and turned it loose in the schoolroom.

IF: Did they have any kind of programs at the school?

RC: Nothing, only you get your lessons and stuff like that.

IF: You mean, like a Christmas, did you have to say a piece or had to sing a song or

RC: Nope. We didn't have any of that. [To child] What's the matter with you? Go out and get you

Unidentified speaker: the white big one?

RC: Mm hmm. I didn't, I didn't have black faces there for a while.

Unidentified speaker: Still got a few. [unintelligible] They're my favorite.

RC: I don't like them buggers, so I got the white faced again.

IF: What kind did you have up here?

RC: Columbia's. Well, to start with, we had a rambouillet. Then we started crossing them with the Columbias and finally got straight Columbias.

IF: Did your wife spin and card and all that with the wool?

RC: No.

IF: Did you sell the wool?

RC: Yeah, always sold it.

IF: Where would you sell it?

RC: Well, different places. A lot of times, we sold it right there in Pueblo (pronounced Pee-eb-lo). There's not ? in Pueblo and then we'd, several times, we've taken it to Denver, over to ? just first one place and then another.

IF: Where would you get your sheep when you first started raising them?

RC: We bought them from old Tony Buside? Down at Gardner.

IF: He had a lot of sheep down there?

RC: They did at that time. There isn't many down in that country now but that time, pretty near everybody had a little band of sheep. Old Tony, he had, oh, I don't know, he must've had 3-4000 head around. He had them leased out and everything and we bought 300 head from the old bugger. In the spring of the year, we bought them in May, and we's supposed to have bought ewes, going to bring lambs and we bought 300 head and I think we had about 50 lambs, a whole bunch. I think what he done, he was about through lambing when we bought them and I think [unintelligible] lamb or anything, he put it off herd together and we went, of course, we didn't know anything about sheep or anything and we just went down there and bought them. We give \$12 a head for those dang sheep in May in 29 and heck, by fall, you couldn't have sold them for \$5. Boy, we had a rough time there, keep going.

IF: Was there a conflict between cattle ranchers and sheep ranchers? Like you see in the movies.

RC: Nothing like that, no. We never did have.

Unidentified speaker: That's not what they tell me.

RC: We never did have that trouble with cattlemen.

Unidentified speaker: We had a few down yonder where my folks are.

IF: Now, where are your folks?

Unidentified speaker: Downwards.

IF: Oh, down where he lives now. Up here, correct me or tell me if I'm right, it seemed to me like, we discussed this before you came, that they had, the sheep ranchers ran their sheep up into the timber and the cattlemen had the plains.

RC: On government land, that's right.

IF: Yeah, so they really didn't interfere with one another.

RC: No.

IF: Didn't put a bunch

Unidentified speaker: Just getting them from that place to this place.

IF: To the other place.

Unidentified speaker: Well, the main problem, it sounded like to me, was

IF: Herding them and

Unidentified speaker: They told me the ? was so tough when he was little, nobody messed with him. [unintelligible]

IF: You can have anything you want. (laughing)

Unidentified speaker: They'd tell me, all the old boys down there said: He was a man you just didn't mess with.

RC: Well, one time, we really had a good one here in Rosita, a dance, everybody was hoping everybody to come close.

IF: Why did they do that?

RC: Just a little too much bootleg, I guess.

IF: Oh, you had bootleg here! Who made bootleg?

RC: Huh?

IF: Who made bootleg?

RC: I did! (laughing)

Unidentified speaker: He's still got his still, but it's all in different pieces.

IF: You made your own? What'd you make it out of?

RC: It was pure corn. It was made out of sugar. Just pure corn whiskey. I'll tell you a good one. I had a banker down there in Canon, oh, he was good for about a gallon a week and I took him a gallon one day and took a taste of it. My God, he said, that's kind of raw, ain't it? Well, I said, it's probably a month or two months old. Oh, that's just awful, he said. Well, I said, I've got another gallon out here that I brought down for another guy that's five years old. I said, it'll cost you more money. I was getting \$10 a gallon for it then, and I said, it'll cost you \$14 for that gallon. He said, bring it in and let me see it. So, I went out, drove around a little while. My younger brother and I, Clinton, and we put some more coloring in it and made it look a little darker and drove back in and well, he said, that's more like it!

IF: What did you color it with?

RC: Burnt sugar. (laughing) And he give me \$4 a gallon more for just that little teaspoon full of burnt sugar.

Unidentified speaker: Guess he thought it was aged.

IF: How many years did you do that?

RC: All during the Depression. That's how we lived.

IF: I see. Wasn't the sheep at all.

RC: No, we wasn't making anything out of the sheep. We had to have ways to support the sheep out of that.

IF: All during the Depression and then prohibition. Did they come after you ever, out here? Did you ever have any government men come after you?

RC: No, never had no, we used to furnish the sheriff in Canon, but we never did sell nothing less than a gallon. We never did sell it in bottles here or anything. That's where you get into trouble. That's what we figured anyhow.

IF: Oh, the smaller bottles.

RC: Yeah, whenever we start cranking? Cork and like that. We always just made it a point to just, if they didn't buy a gallon, they couldn't get it.

IF: Were there other people around here that sold it too?

RC: That you sold it to?

IF: No, were there other people around here who bootlegging too, also?

RC: Yeah, there was a guy by the name of Jack Gale in Querida. He was making it. Shorty Robison, he was making it.

IF: Wasn't there a woman in Rosita, too? That was making it? A woman?

RC: No.

Unidentified speaker: [unintelligible] Morgan

RC: Mrs. Smith over there on, Stella Webb, she made it.

IF: Her mother-in-law.

RC: Her mother-in-law, yeah.

IF: So, she was making it too.

RC: Yeah, she'd, I don't know, somebody said that they'd pour lye in their still to make it cook quicker but I don't know why that would make it cook any quicker.

IF: You just had to make it and then age it.

RC: No, no, we made it and sold it. A lot of times, we'd have an order for it and we'd run it off one night and that morning, we'd take it and deliver it.

IF: What they were doing was drinking pure alcohol, huh?

RC: Well, we never sold anything we didn't test on a hundred proof.

IF: Huh.

RC: The stuff you get now, 86 proof's about as much as you can get. We never sold anything under 100.

IF: So, you knew Mr. Putman. He was a miner.

RC: That's the guy that had the post ore?, but Nance called there in Rosita.

IF: Uh, and so they would serve drinks and beer, too?

RC: No, he didn't though. He sold some pot and stuff like that there, but he didn't sell any whiskey.

IF: Who would play for your dances? Kind of, what would you

RC: Well, Rob and Alfred Abbott and then cousins of mine, Roy and Richard McKinnon, they played around for dances.

Unidentified speaker: And Rex called the square dances.

IF: You did!

RC: Oh, yeah, I used to call square dances, and we used to have broom dances, that was a lot of fun.

IF: One person had to dance with a broom.

RC: Yeah, whenever you saw a gal you wanted to dance with, you'd give the guy the broom.

IF: The broom. (laughing)

RC: Boy, you'd have a lot of fun. Some guys get mad.

IF: You know, they would have a lot of square dances. Is that mostly the kind of dances you did?

RC: No, they have waltzes, fox trots and two steps.

IF: Could you advertise we're having a dance, or just kind of by word of mouth?

RC: Just by word of mouth.

IF: Was there a special time you had it? Like every Saturday night or

RC: Oh, no, maybe once or twice a month, we'd have a dance.

IF: You'd just decide, we're all getting together and we're going to do this.

RC: Yeah.

IF: You didn't have any telephones, so how would you know, how, would you see each other on the street?

RC: See somebody, and tell them, hey, we're going to have a dance Saturday night. Or maybe at the dance, they'd announce when they was going to have the next one or something like that.

IF: I hear the kids a lot of times say they're bored today. Did you ever think you were bored?

RC: I never knew what that was.

IF: Never knew what that word was.

RC: No, never heard of it just

Unidentified speaker: They think about being bored and they'd go get a bull and watch a bull fight.

IF: Oh, you'd watch a bull fight?

RC: Oh, my brothers and I, we used to, this all up through here used to be open country.

IF: Uh huh.

RC: And there's everybody, there's cattle kept in Gardner and off down in there up in here in the summertime. We'd drive a dang bull 10 miles to see a good bull fight.

IF: You'd take it over to somebody, somebody else's herd and just

Unidentified speaker: His grandad's.

RC: Well, you know, my grandad had a dadgum bull that he just looked, we'd drive a bull anywhere to get to him, to watch him whip it.

IF: And then, what would happen to the whipped bull? You take him back home?

RC: No, no

IF: Was it to the death? Of one or the other?

RC: Oh, no, maybe just trying to quit and run and run and we'd just go up and let him go back to where he belonged or whoever owned him come

Unidentified speaker: [unintelligible] robbery

RC: We had a fifth, we had a round of straw up there. We'd run in a bunch of those dang horses, put them in a round corral and one guy'd get out in the middle of the corral and get them horses started around and then the other would jump on the horse and ride it round the corral. Clinton's wife, Carmen, we had them just, they were sure we was going to get killed.

IF: So, you had your own rodeo.

RC: Yeah, we had our own rodeo.

IF: Did you ever go and do any rodeos in town?

RC: Yeah, I entered a rodeo down here in Westcliffe one time for amateurs, and the only thing I won was a quart of whiskey.

Unidentified speaker: Just what you needed.

RC: I had a mare that would get about ready to have a colt and I don't know, I went in down there, and of course, they give us a number to put on our back, you know, and a friend of mine from down at Wetmore, Carl Dunsmore, and he said, Rex, what the hell are you going to do? And I said, well, they want one of these calves to run this corral down to that one, and I'm going to run one down. Well, he said, you can't catch nothing on that old mare. And I said, well, I'll tell you what I'll do, I bet you the best quart of whiskey you can buy in Westcliffe that, I don't say that I'll catch it, but I'll be close enough to catch it. By gosh, he said, I'll take that and heck, I caught my calf, tied it in 17 seconds and it went clear through the loop and I got one hind foot and there's a guy down there from close to where I live now, Pueblo, was one of the judges, old Andy Ally? And we'd have ? trouble over the sheep and I didn't like him and he had two kids or three, I don't know, entered in the deal, and all I was hoping for was to beat them, and I did because neither one of them ever got close enough to catch theirs. But old Andy, he said, the calf didn't go through the loop. But it did, it went through the loop and I caught it to the hind leg. Still, I tied it in 17 seconds and I'd had first deal if it hadn't have been for him, saying it didn't go through the loop.

IF: What year was that?

RC: Oh, good gosh. I don't know.

IF: Were you married?

RC: Oh, yeah.

IF: Did you ever ride the railroad? Out of Westcliffe?

RC: Yeah, one time I took it.

Unidentified speaker: The train?

RC: The folks. They weren't mine, at that time. They was the folks, they shipped some cattle to Denver and I rode the caboose from Westcliffe to Denver and there was a couple of old guys from down Walsenburg on the train, too, and they were both bald headed and we's riding that boose and we went up, we got up just about to Palmer Lake, you know, why I thought now they'd laid down on the benches and was a sleeping there, just about that far, and I was just tickled pink cause I knew when we started down, you know, there'd be a, cause I'd rode that train before, there'd be quite a jug when they put the brakes on, and I figured those old guys [unintelligible] Buttrees woke them up. So, it spoiled my whole thing.

IF: You are ornery!

Unidentified speaker: Tell them about the time you and your brothers tied the steers together. Put bedsprings on them.

RC: We got a bunch of steers in up at the ranch when ?'s folks were gone and we tied three of them together, their tails and their heads, then put a set of bedsprings up on top of the steers and then, my older brother, he got on, and told Clinton and I to open the gate and we opened it. He didn't go nose dusting, so how in the devil he got down in under the springs and in between the steers, I don't know.

IF: You could have killed them.

RC: He finally fell out and they tromped on him a little, but we took the rest of the day getting the, finally come off the one steer just had a bedspring tied to him, [unintelligible] and then to get the bedspring off.

IF: I bet your mother had fun with you boys.

RC: Oh, yeah, she did.

IF: Ok, if the teacher didn't punish you, what did your mom do?

RC: Oh, she had a board about that long, handle and holes bored in it and she really poured on us every once in a while. Once in a while, she'd give us a choice if we wanted her to whip us or dad, and of course, we'd take him. He'd, wouldn't hardly feel it, but we'd holler and hoop like we were being killed.

IF: She really would. She really did it to you.

RC: She'd really pour it on, yeah. And by golly, it beat anything I ever saw. She, when she was made, she wouldn't whip us, but she'd say, I'm going to whip you at 2 o'clock, 3 o'clock, You know, for a while there, you thought, well, she'll forget it. Come 3 o'clock, you got it.

Unidentified speaker: Let you think about it for a while, huh?

IF: Did she make her own butter and things like that?

RC: Oh, yeah, bread and butter, and we had our own eggs.

IF: How about clothes? Did she make her own clothes?

RC: She made a lot of them, yeah. Patched our clothes, a lot of times, we were just about all patches.

IF: Different colors of everything, huh?

RC: Yeah.

IF: You have your mother's old side saddle?

RC: Uh huh. She won it on a horse race.

IF: And where was that at?

RC: At Custer City.

IF: Tell me about Custer City.

RC: Well, all I know about it is that horse race. There used to be a lot of buildings and stuff up in there, but they were celebrating the opening of Custer City and they had this 4th of July celebration up there and they had this side saddle and they put it up as the horse race prize and she won it, and I've still got it.

IF: Did she ride side saddle to win it?

RC: Yeah. Yeah, that's the only way she and her grandmother ever rode was side saddle. It wasn't right for a woman to straddle a horse.

IF: They always wear long dresses.

RC: Yeah. The dresses clear down to their ankles.

IF: And what I've known about Custer City was that that was supposed to be a land development

RC: It was.

IF: But they, it never really materialized.

RC: No, it didn't. It didn't go through. There's, they built several houses and stuff up there, but well, right after that, the mine run out of ore and everything started crumbling and they never did go ahead and finish it or anything. There was several buildings up there and they was celebrating a little early. It never did.

Unidentified speaker: Is that why it's called Custer County, because of that development?

IF: No. It was Custer County for how long? Uh, page

[unintelligible] RC: Join them but ha ha, I didn't figure out how to do it. A friend of mine joined them for a little bit but he didn't stay long.

IF: The KKK came in this area and solicited people to join them?

RC: Not up in here. Canon was where they was headquartered but I never heard of them getting up around Westcliffe or anywhere like that.

IF: Uh, were there a lot of lodges and things like that around here at one time? Like

RC: No, not that I know of.

IF: Uh, like some that were lodges for miners or masons?

RC: No, not that I know of. Can I use your bathroom?

(break)

RC: There was three other girls, Neba, Gladys, Alma, Frida. Four of them. Neba was the oldest.

IF: And which one is James' mother?

RC: Frida.

IF: Frida.

RC: She's the youngest.

IF: Now who is digging these?

RC: Huh?

IF: Who is digging these holes?

RC: Henry Hinges was his name.

IF: And was he trying to find gold?

RC: Oh, he had gold. He wasn't trying to find it. He had it.

IF: He was finding it.

RC: Yeah. They's all rich, but nobody knew how to assay it and get it out. There never was anything. We found some real good copper up close to one of his holes but it was just a, I don't know where Kelton Kremmer? Had got there but if we just plumb rich copper, but it just played out and there were, getting nothing out of it.

IF: Did you ever go over to the Rainbow Trail and do any exploring up there? In the Sangre de Cristo? Did you go over there very often?

RC: No, we used to run sheep up there in north and south Colony. In fact, we stopped those lakes in north Colony. We packed the fish in there, packed that much.

IF: Oh. Were you hired by the Forest Service or?

RC: No, we just done it.

IF: You just did it.

RC: They wanted to get fish up there and we called and we'd pack them up there and so we did.

And I don't think we lost fish.

IF: You pack them in ice?

RC: No.

IF: Put them in buckets?

RC: They was in cream cans, 10-gallon cream cans. We had six 10-gallon cream cans total that we took up there the first time. That one time's all we ever took them up there but they sure did do good in there.

IF: Who wanted you to take them up there?

RC: Well, the ranger down there, can't think what his first name was, Truman was his last name, was the ranger at the time that we took them up there.

IF: Did you know A.D. Hess? That helped with

RC: Yeah, yeah.

IF: Crale?

RC: Yeah, I knowed him.

IF: Tell me who named the Hardscrabble.

RC: Jim Pringle and Jack Astler [unintelligible]

IF: And how did they name?

RC: Well, they come up to the Hardscrabble. They was ten days coming up through there with team and wagon.

IF: Now tell me who these men were? Who was Pringle?

RC: Well, I don't know, Pringle's all I know about it, if he mined and everything here and Rosita for years.

IF: So, they were miners.

RC: Yeah. Yeah, they were all miners, prospectors they called them in them days. But when they got up through the canyon and all, and they said, well, that was a damned hardscrabble, and they said, well, let's just call it Hardscrabble and that's what, where it got its name, is what I heard. But I used to talk to old man Pringle. He used to live right on the south side of Rosita, up there on the hill, that hill right back of us called Pringle Mountain, I don't know. He lived right on the north side of it there and I used to haul wood, all my brothers and I, we hauled him wood, team

and wagon, got \$5 a load for a load of wood.

IF: What would he do with that wood, for the mines?

RC: No, for their house. That's what they used for heat, cook, keep the house warm.

IF: Oh, so you were, you were hauling lumber mostly for burning.

RC: Yeah, ? and poles is what we took him.

IF: Mm hmm.

Unidentified speaker: He had a saw mill, too, Rex did.

IF: Rex did. Where, now where would you get your pinon, where would you get your

RC: Log dried up there off the place.

IF: Mm hmm.

RC: Up there, the upper place is where we got it, and then I have a school section leased there that I cut timber off of it.

IF: That was aspen?

RC: No, spruce, pine. I never cut any aspen. It was all spruce and pine. I still got quite a pile of lumber up there.

IF: So, do you still sell that for burning?

RC: Oh, no, no that's good lumber. I just keep using a little of it, here and there.

IF: Mm hmm.

RC: She uses something.

Unidentified speaker: I built my horse and my house with it.

End of tape.

Note: • Tobacco sack quilts were very popular during the Depression. The little muslin (not burlap) bags served as pre-cut fabric squares for thrifty quilters.

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