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Summary of Oral History Interview with Josephine Cozad

No date

Josephine Cozad was born in Rockvale, Colorado, on January 4, 1895. Her family later moved to a cattle ranch in the Greenwood and Hardscrabble area around 1911. Her father, Joe Calmett, was a coal miner who maintained the ranch as a summer residence. From a young age, Josephine was interested in nursing and cared for families in the area. She worked for various ranchers and later became a companion to Miss Bartlett, who owned the Mont Evans place.

In 1914, Josephine married Ed Cozad, and they settled in the Red Creek area, running cattle and farming. They later worked for the Gamorra Ranch before purchasing a store and hotel in Greenwood in 1919.

The Greenwood Hotel became a well-known stop for travelers, including guests from the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, such as legendary football coach Alonzo Stagg.

Josephine recalled the decline of the old halfway house at Jackson Hill, which was once a common stop for stagecoaches traveling between Wet Mountain Valley and Pueblo. She described cattle drives through the area and her active role in riding and managing livestock.

She also shared memories of the Red Creek Springs, once known for their valuable water but later diminished by a flood. The area once had hotels catering to tuberculosis patients, and an old cemetery remains, though largely unmarked due to cattle trampling the graves.

Josephine and Ed ran the Greenwood store and hotel for many years, serving travelers from across the country. She recounted meeting many people in need and always ensuring that young boys were fed. She told stories about an old timber hauler, Jim Sears, who was rumored to be Jesse James and whose mysterious travels fueled local speculation.

In later years, Josephine and Ed moved to the Western Slope before eventually settling in Florence. Ed passed away in 1959. Looking back, she fondly recalled the friendly and tight-knit nature of the community, where neighbors gathered for weekly dances, often to the tune of a single violin song, "Nellie Gray."

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