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Green, Marie

October 24, 1985

Interviewed by Barbara A. Hard

BH: This is Barbara A. Hard for the Fremont-Custer Historical Society. I'll be talking to Marie Green at her home on Four Mile Lane. We're going to talk about her family history, the Hall family. The date is October 24, 1985.

Marie, what is your full name?

MG: Marie Daniel Green.

BH: Ok. And can you tell me the names of your family members of your family? Your husband's name?

MG: Alonzo George. His nickname was Bounce.

BH: Bounce. You know where he got that nickname?

MG: Yes, his dad looked at him and there was a Billy Bumps in the cartoons and he said, he put a little silly hat on him, and said, he looks like Billy Bounce, cause he had little round rosy cheeks. They called him that all his life.

BH: And were people on here in Canon City?

MG: Yes, at Holmes Hospital.

BH: And the date of his birth.

MG: February 7, 1918.

BH: Can you tell me your mother's full name?

MG: Mabel Rosita Wilson.

BH: We'll go through and get these vital statistics and then we'll come back and get a little more detail on each one of these people. Your children's names-

MG: Well, Richard ? Green. He was born in 1942. His name is Frederick George Green and he was born in 1944. Then the youngest boy is Jerry Marvin and he was born in 1949.

BH: Your brothers and sisters, their names.

MG: Margaret May Hall and she is married to Jim Sanders. Roscoe David Hall and he married Jane Aiken from Victor. My youngest brother's name is Kenny Francis Hall and he married Dorothy Callaway.

BH: Were your parents natives of this area?

MG: No. Neither one of them was. My mother came to Colorado when she was seven years old and she had lived in seven different states before coming to Colorado to live the rest of her life here.

BH: And her name?

MG: Mabel Rosita Hall or Wilson.

BH: She was born in Kansas, right?

MG: Yes, uh huh. At Walton.

BH: Right. And your father, where was he born?

MG: He was born in North Carolina. Grandpa came here and lived for three or four years and decided to go back and find a bride, so he went back and brought Minnie Barnes back when he was, when she was only 17 years old.

BH: She had an early start.

MG: Uh huh.

BH: What brought the Hall family here, do you know?

MG: I haven't any idea. I really don't know. I believe, after the Civil War, that times must have been very hard and of course they lost all their money, so it was an adventure for Dave and Merimon to come when they were quite young.

BH: Now they came from North Carolina.

MG: Yes.

BH: Do you know what county?

MG: Yes, it is now called McDowell, but at that time, it was, no that isn't right. It's now called McDowell but it was called Burke County at that time when they came.

BH: And they came, we put down on our paper, 1883.

MG: Yes.

BH: And Dave was 25 years old.

MG: 23 years old.

BH: 23?

MG: And Merimon was 21.

BH: That was quite an adventure for them, yeah.

MG: They came on a train.

BH: And what did they do when they first got here?

MG: They had always had, must have been, good farmers back there. The soil been very rich, ah, and I'd like to know whether the soil back there was red because when they came here, they did double them and flat-out red canyon where the soil was red.

BH: I'll bet it was. I'll bet that's what they looked for. So, they were farmers.

MG: Yes, yes.

BH: Were there other people from North Carolina here?

MG: Yes.

BH: Maybe that's one reason-

MG: There was quite a settlement of people from there and they kept coming. The older, one of the brothers, the other brother of that family that wasn't half brothers were Gus, and he came with several children, four, I think. And he also farmed. He farmed all of his life. So did Merriman. But Dave went into the cattle business.

BH: Was this Hall family related to the Halls that had the salt works?

MG: No.

BH: That was a different family-

MG: Yes.

BH: Cause I've always wondered if they were the same.

MG: Now, I don't know whether those Halls came from North Carolina or not.

BH: It wasn't close relatives.

MG: No.

BH: Now, how did your parents meet? Wait, let's go back just a little bit. You said that they came in 1883 but your father was born in North Carolina.

MG: Oh, when he got moved back, why, she was so homesick, when she got ? with child, why, she went back and he was born on January 6<sup>th</sup> and then he brought him back as a baby.

BH: They came back on the train?

MG: Yes, and as far as I could remember, she never went back. But I asked ? she said, yes, she went back but she never did stay very long.

BH: That's a long ways to go from family.

MG: Younger sisters come often to see her.

BH: Do you remember?

MG: Aunt Kay and there was another sister that came quite often, Ellie. And Ellie came. I remember, oh, I would say, half a dozen times when we were kids.

BH: Was this rough ? country different from what she was used to? In North Carolina? Do you know?

MG: No, no. I haven't any idea because I have read history books of North Carolina and there were Indian settlers there and pioneers had to fight the Indians to establish that country. So, I imagine that her parents-

BH: Her parents were pioneers, too.

MG: Uh huh.

BH: How did your parents meet?

MG: Well, they were at a, well, I guess it was kind of like an apple day in Generose and my dad was riding a merry go round and his cousin was a good friend of mother's. So, she said, who is that cowboy riding the horse and Chester Hall said, oh, well, that's my cousin. Come on and we'll meet him. So, they introduced him and dad asked mom she would stay for the dance that night. And so, she said, she was so bashful, she didn't know whether she ought to or not. I kind of think it was really the first date she'd ever really had by herself. So, she had come down with the people that she was boarding with. She was teaching school at Beaver Creek at that time and she said that they had a good time and she really didn't know how to dance but he was a good dancer and he was a good sport, so they had a good time and she let, he let her ride the horse home was old Irene and this horse is the horse that we learned to ride on. He took her home and mother didn't know how to ride so the worse come, kind of willing to go home in some way, went into a fence and dumped her off and she said she wore her panties showed and everything, she was so embarrassed.

BH: She probably didn't dance very much or have really good times like that when she was growing up coming from a Methodist family that didn't believe in those things.

MG: Those things were really taboo, playing cards or recreation of that kind was-

BH: But the Halls always had a good time-

MG: Yes, everything. They danced and-

BH: And your mother was teaching school at Beaver Creek.

MG: Yes.

BH: Is that where your father lived?

MG: No, by that time, Grandpa had begin to buy land and become a cattleman rather than a farmer and because Grandpa always had Negroes as help in the field as a boy and so he said, he hoped he never had to bend his back again, and that's why he went into cattle breeding.

BH: I don't think we mentioned which one of the Hall boys was your grandfather.

MG: Dave Hall was the grandfather.

BH: And after that first date, I suppose they started getting together-

MG: Yeah, there was 15 miles ride for dad one way to go and court her, so he kept the horses pretty well in shape going back and forth.

BH: How long was it till they were married?

MG: It was the May of the second year before they were married.

BH: That was a lot of horseback riding. (laughing) And where did they live when they were married?

MG: Below grandpa's place, grandpa's place was on the road to Phantom Canyon and Dad homesteaded and got, is it 80 or 60 acres, a homestead is?

BH: I don't know.

MG: I think it's 60 and he homesteaded that and fixed it up before they were married. Their house was made of a, the Kramer, uh, railroad station house. They moved it down and then they, that's where the kitchen is now. Then, they built on and as they had children, they built another room on.

BH: And is that the house where you were born?

MG: Yes.

BH: Did you live there all the time you were growing up?

MG: Till I was married.

BH: And that's in Phantom Canyon?

MG: Uh huh. On the Neighbor Creek Road.

BH: Tell me what you remember about the neighborhood. Who were your neighbors that lived there when you were growing up?

MG: Well, we was best friends and this friend was Mamie Clark and she lived on Fever Grade, and they were married the same year that the folks were, and then, Lonnie Higgins' wife, Minnie, was another

good friend of mother's. They both were community minded people. They liked to get things together, organize things and so they were the founders of the different programs that the people would put on in the community and, oh, I suppose we'd call PTA now. But they would get the mothers all out together when, for, whether we had to make our costumes and whatever. They founded the Extension oil demonstration clubs. Those three ladies were the ones that started that. So, they were all community minded people that she really cared the very most about. And Ethel just, but she later married Eric Gavely. She was a good friend of mother's. They were friends and sister in laws.

BH: And did they speak ?

MG: Uh huh.

BH: Did you go into Canon, excuse me.

MG: And another good friend was Ida Howdershell and her husband was a miner up in Cripple Creek. Because of her health, she had to move down, so she, they built a house where, right at the mouth of Phantom Canyon and Ida Howdershell was more a worldly lady than these other people. She had seen more of the world and so she brought a lot of culture to art.

BH: Where did your family go to shop? Did they go into Canon City?

MG: Never thing to measure with Canon, always went to do her shopping. If Dad went, he liked to go to Florence because Grandpa and Grandma always went to Florence, at that time was a little bit shorter and they knew more people down in Florence. So mostly, when we kids went, we came to Canon. So, Canon seemed to be our town where the others were just neighboring towns.

BH: It was quite a trip. How often did you go?

MG: I don't remember. I don't remember anything before we had a car. So, that eliminates, my husband can remember going to town in a horse and a wagon. But I don't remember that but I know they did. Dad had an old surrey and I'm sure that that's how they went to get their groceries and supplies. Of course, if they needed heavier produce, why, they would take a wagon.

BH: Probably the roads were dirt up there and that would probably do away with going to town too often in the winter, wouldn't it?

MG: I would think so. However, one way that Dad would pay his taxes at that time, they had a road tax, and you worked that out. You weren't paid for it. And you could not pay for it. You had to either hire someone to work your road tax out or, now I may be wrong. That's the way I remember it.

BH: They worked on the road.

MG: And so, Dad worked on the roads. The county gave him a, lent him a grader that he could work the roads and he was responsible for them, and he did this all for Uncle Krafts and for Grandpa.

BH: What did they do for recreation? You mentioned these, especially these three ladies who were good

friends-

MG: Well, it was always a, I don't remember them ever just getting together themselves. They always had small children. They always brought their children and they always brought, it was a family thing, sort of thing. Their Christmas programs, why, the mothers would sew up cheesecloth bags to put the Christmas treats in, candy and nuts and an orange, and they'd all get together then and they would allow kids to help fill those bags with the candies and nuts and things and that was a privilege. We got together and then they liked to play cards. Oftentimes, why, in the winter time, when the evenings were long, why, they would make fudge or candies of some kind and those dances was a big thing in my dad's life. He'd rather dance than eat and so we'd travel from, to Garden Park and we would go down to Swallows down on the river and over the ? towards Colorado Springs. If anybody had a dance in town or lots of times, people would go in their own homes. I remember especially Ed and Vivian Watts would hold them at their homes. They had nice hardwood floors and we would have dances there. Oh, it seemed like, probably every month during the wintertime, we would go someplace and have a dance at their house and then on Saturday nights, why, it was usually someplace that we went.

BH: What was your music?

MG: Usually, it was a violin, a piano and guitar. The McAllisters used to play music. Beverly Blackwell's mother used to come out and play the piano for some of the people. It was just people that liked to get together and they would be paid maybe five dollars a night. They wouldn't be paid very much for this and all the ladies brought either cake or sandwiches and there was coffee made and at midnight, that was served and then they'd dance for another two hours maybe before they'd go home.

BH: What kind of dances did they do? Did they square dance?

MG: They square-danced and waltz and two step and schottische, a few would schottische and always, I don't know what the dance is, maybe you know, that they, coming through the rye, is that the schottische?

BH: I think so.

MG: Well, they always played one, Coming through the rye.

BH: Did the children go to it?

MG: Yes, a family thing, and the young kids were put to sleep. It was, the schoolhouse was quiet. There were desks that were pushed up against the wall and those always had a little shelf that you could make a bed for your child right there and it had a ridge on it so they wouldn't tumble off. It worked very nice, those little beds.

BH: Have a lot of picnics?

MG: Not a lot. In the summertime, we were pretty busy. They would, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Decoration Day and, those two were really the only holidays that I can remember or that we went, and as far as

vacations out, there was no vacation. Dad liked to fish and hunt and Uncle Franz was known for his hunting and fishing abilities and so always, after the first cutting hay, why, Dad and Uncle Franz would go fishing. Sometimes, the families went. Sometimes they would stay home. But that was two or three days that they would get away and then at dinner season, they always went on Trouper Mountain and they always were a group. My mother's brother Kenny would come down and he usually brought two, Franz, Doc Miller, who wasn't a doc at all. He was a meat cutter, but he drank and so they called him doc because he had to have his medicine all the time. (laughter)

BH: That's a good one. Let's get some names down here. You talk about Uncle Clarence. Was this your father's brother?

MG: No, it was mother's, dad's sister Ethel.

BH: Her husband?

MG: Uh huh, her husband. And he, Franz Chess was raised in Garden Park. He came from an old settler family up in Garden Park, one of the oldest ones, other than Freek, why, I'm sure Freek's and Chess' came about the same time to Colorado.

BH: Can you tell me your father's brothers and sisters?

MG: Uh, Aunt Laura was the oldest child and she was known for her beauty. She died when she was 21 because of a ruptured appendix. She died when my sister Margaret was just a baby in arms. Then, my dad, and then the youngest sister, Ethel. Grandma lost a twin boy and girl and they're buried over on Garden Park. They didn't, they were immature babies. They never lived.

BH: And Mary never married.

MG: No.

BH: That wouldn't have happened today probably.

MG: No, probably not.

BH: And Ethel, she's Ethel Gate.

MG: Yes, uh huh, and she's still alive.

BH: And that, was that the only family he, the only sisters he had? What do you remember about your dad?

MG: Oh, he liked jokes. Sometimes, his jokes weren't in the best of taste but, and he loved to laugh. He was a happy person and he enjoyed life. He was the kind of person that, if it wasn't fun, it wasn't worth doing. So, he would put fun in everything.

BH: He probably even put fun into his work.



MG: Uh huh, he enjoyed it. And he loved horses. The cattle is what kept his family, bread and butter on the table, but he loved horses and he always had one or two special horses. Old Irene, of course, was just a young horse when they were married and all of the kids learned to ride on Irene. He loved to horse trade. He liked to go in and Jew people down, regardless of where he went, clothing store or to somebody's house to buy a horse or anything, he liked, that was a challenge to him.

BH: And he rode a lot for his enjoyment as well as his work.

MG: Yeah, he never really did anything for a job, just did ? time why, he didn't do anything for hard work. Like I said, they don't take a vacation. They just, but he did like to, he was a good horseman. He took good care of his horses. Were you going to ask him about rodeos-

BH: Mm hmm. That's what I-

MG: But he never, he never rode any livestock at all. But his sons did.

BH: What are ? You told me about places back in the hills they called ? that he built when he was older?

MG: I don't remember that.

BH: One time, we went for a ride and you told me about him building these little-

MG: Oh, yes! Yes, yes, yes. Well, he wasn't a carpenter but he loved to carpenter, and he made all the barns and all the house which had two bedrooms, a porch and a big kitchen and a couple lean to's on to the bath. He did all this out of used lumber that he would go and tear down, uh, Grandpa, they way he built his kingdom was to buy out the homesteaders and so he'd go and tear these homesteaders' houses down and use that used lumber. Mother said she did more straightening nails than she did anything He never bought nails. He always used the used nails. And then, as the family all left, why, he would build a little shack and, to cover that, he would, collected license plates, so he had license plates. Rather than use anything new, why, he would do that, and then, after he ran out of license plates, why, he cut tin cans and covered these little shacks. They represented, they looked like a little outhouse and he would put them different places where he would ride and he'd get cold and he'd get off and get warm and out of the wind and then go on with his riding that day or wherever. He built one for the grandchildren so that they wouldn't have to wait out in the wind for the busses. And that's what you were talking about.

BH: That's what I was talking about. Do you suppose there's any of those still up there in the hills?

MG: Yes, yes. He made those in later years so I'm sure they're still there.

BH: What do you remember about your mother?

MG: Well, she was a very serious-minded person as far as I was concerned. I was amazed when I talked to my husband's aunt one time and she said, she was always such a happy person, and I until she passed away, I really had forgotten that she was happy a lot of the time. She was the kind of person that took serious, she was a shy person and she was easily offended. If people did things, why, she would assume that it was pointed at her and oftentimes, it wasn't. She was just that kind of person. Throughout it was

to her writing, she could sit down on occasions and write poetry that was very touching. She had a sense of value to people. She saw beneath them some way. She saw the kindness of their, their humor and things that oftentimes people didn't see, very special things.

BH: Her writing was special to a lot of people.

MG: I think that was one of the qualities that, why people have enjoyed her writing. She did see into people, what was physical to most people.

BH: She worked hard-

MG: Yes.

BH: As a young homemaker, didn't she?

MG: She would go out and help dad with the older men, come back and finish up the dinner that she put on to cook earlier in the day. She was quite resourceful. She could, if company happened to fall in, or come in and of course, without a telephone, why, there was no way of knowing when you were going to have company. So, she always had so full of food that she could resource for. She canned venison and pork and beef so that we had a variety of that kind of stuff. She raised chickens, so that the meat problem was no big problem if people came in for a meal and she loved to entertain. She was a very gracious host.

BH: People were different in those days, I think. They would just drop in on someone and spend the full day and sometimes stay overnight.

MG: Mm hmm.

BH: They sure don't do that today.

MG: No, no. People would resent that now. They really don't appreciate it if you don't call and let them know that you're going to be by that afternoon and that-

BH: In the first place, you couldn't, you know. In the second place, guests were always welcome. I think we miss a lot by being busy.

MG: Another tradition that my folks had was they helped everybody celebrate anniversaries and birthdays, and we always went to help them with the families on their anniversary and had a big family dinner. And the Halls had a lot of, with the tree feathers, big families all of them had bigger families than Dave had. So, they, there was always several family get togethers during the summer, probably two or three a summer.

BH: Would they dance?

MG: No, that was usually in the daytime. The men would ? shoes and the kids usually, you know, played hide and go seek, and ring around and all those sort of type games and the women would just visit. And it usually was on a Sunday. At ? they played cards because they liked to play cards.

BH: In one of your mother's books, she mentioned something about taking pride in keeping her kerosene lamps clean and always ready to use.

MG: That was when she was first married and that was before they, kind of forgotten about that. When they were first married, they lived in that house not far from Grandpa's house. Must have been just a month or two, but at that time, one of the hired men's wives had a child and it was at night and so, the doctor said he needed light, and so Mother went and got her light and brought it to help the doctor with the care of the woman. I don't remember, seemed like a childbirth, but if it was, it was, I think it was. I'm sure it was and I think the child was lost. It was a long birth and it was a ? through it anyway. But she did remember that and Mother did always wash, those chimneys were washed every morning. It was just routine. The same as the separator, you did the chimneys the first thing when you did dishes and you did the separator the last thing.

BH: Well, part of that was taken care of when you got electricity. You remember when they got electricity?

MG: Well, yes.

BH: Were you at home?

MG: No, that was after everyone had left, except Kenny, and of course, Kenny was in the Navy at that time, Seabees, and she had got up to see Uncle Kenny and Uncle Rassen and Ethel who lived in and around Denver and when she came back, why, she saw the light poles to begin to be planted along the road and dad had not said anything about this, so it was really a neat surprise for her when she got home and she realized she was going to have electricity. And that was in the war, probably in '62.

BH: Did it make a big difference in her life?

MG: '42, not '62.

BH: '42?

MG: Uh huh. Yes, of course, the irons. She got electric iron and she no longer had to have the irons heated on the stove. She got, she didn't have an electric stove right away, but Grandma got an electric stove because Grandma had heat deeper in the summertime and the heat bothered her so. She got the first electric stove. Of course, everybody was really pleased that she was able to do. I think the thing that Mother enjoyed of electricity the most was her electric saucepan that could put on food and cook without having to build a fire for. She did use the electric skillet too, but I think that saucepan was her delight.

BH: So, you were already married when your parents got electricity. Do you remember when you got electricity?

MG: Yes, we lived up in on Hyde Park till the kids got old enough but they had to go to school, so Richard was only six when we moved down, and the house we lived in was the old Ryder place down on the

highway there where, a stone house that they built-not very far from the old county farm, right north of the old county farm.

BH: You lived there at one time?

MG: Mm hmm. When we first moved out from the house, we rented that for the winter, and there wasn't electricity in there, until about in May. Tom Runner's brother-

BH: Palmer?

MG: Mm hmm. He owned that house at that time and he had electricity put in it while we were living there.

BH: What difference did that make to you?

MG: Well, it was all the difference in the world because after that, then, he had a telephone put in. So, with a telephone and electric lights, you know, why, it was really quite a difference. No more batteries for your radios and you can see to do things, and before, why, of course, we used gas lights and the gas lights give fairly good light. There was no cleaning of those and all that sort of thing.

BH: What about the first radio? How old were you when you got your first battery radio?

MG: I imagine I was about six. The folks really enjoyed it. The news, being able to hear the news and every day and stock reports and-the favorite program was Amos and Andy and so we would play in the wintertime. I don't remember what we did in the summertime about Amos and Andy but I know in the wintertime, we never missed Amos and Andy because it came on at quarter to nine and so were allowed to stay up and hear that and then everybody had to be ready for bed by the time it went off.

BH: Did you get music on the radio?

MG: Yes. Uh huh, and of course, Mother enjoyed that a lot. Dad enjoyed the country music and that sort of thing but Mother liked other kinds of music too.

BH: Did they restrict the use of the radio with it being on batteries? You didn't turn it on in the morning and leave it all day.

MG: Uh huh, yes, you'd turn it on for the news and then it was turned off. You just didn't let it keep running.

BH: What do you remember about the Depression? Did it have an effect on your family, the ranching-

MG: Uh, we thought we were rich kids. We didn't know that it was any different because everybody else in that community was the same way and so, we really thought that the whole world was that way. So, when the Depression came, we heard about it a lot, but we had all the meat we needed. We had all the eggs and vegetables and everything. I don't think it would have affected us at all had not the drought come at the same time that the Depression came. The drought was what broke the farmer because at that time then, why, there was no grass for the cattle. Grandpa had to, they drove all of the cows up to

South Park one summer and then shipped them to Denver and kept a few of the cows. Then, the next year, why, they, I don't know if it was the next year, one year they rented pasture from Bill McKenzie and his pasture wasn't any much better than what was out on the farm so the government said that they would give \$1 a head if they would truck them out and so, Grandpa, I don't know how many, it seemed like probably 50 to me at that time, but as now, I expect it was more, a bigger amount of cattle that we drove down to Florence and loaded on the train and then they were just disposed of then, and the government got paid \$1 a head so that they would be destroyed because otherwise, they would have starved to death.

BH: Well, that was a terribly small price for the cattle. That hurt worse than any other thing during the Depression.

MG: I remember we were at Naomi Lucas' house the day that the banks went broke. It was on a Sunday that we heard about it. Of course, undoubtedly, it was before that but we didn't know anything about it and when we heard about it anyway, why, yeah, I remember driving home and my dad, my mother said, well, aren't you going down to the bank and see what can be done, and my dad said, no, there won't be any use. The doors are locked and there won't be any use.

BH: Did they lose a bit of money, do you know?

MG: I'm sure they didn't have very much. Regardless of how large an amount, \$25 was a lot to them.

BH: But if it was your life savings, it was a lot regardless. What school did you go to?

MG: I went to Kramer school. It was often referred to as the Eight Mile school because it is on Eight Mile Creek. But the county, it was district 31 and it was called Kramer. At that time, it was a red frame house and that burned in about '33, I think. It was in the fall and all the men were hunting up on Cooper Mountain and we saw a reflection of the fire in the sky and about that time, we saw Grandpa going to the place, in that direction, so Mother knew that it was a fire and she told us kids to find some blankets and some buckets and for us to go down there. But the time we got there, why, it was almost totally burned. They didn't know what caused it. They suspected that someone had gone in and tried to light the gas lantern and didn't know how and it exploded and they just got out because it was never any report of anybody being badly burned or anything. But it was totally destroyed. So then, mother opened up a little bunkhouse beside our place and a teacher boarded with Mother at that time and she had school for, at that time, there was only in Ethel's, four children and Margaret and Roscoe were driving back and forth to Canon to high school and then there was a boy that lived down on the old Jones place right close to the schoolhouse, there at the gap. I don't remember what his name was, Billy, but I forget what his last name was. But that was the only children. Then, before the schoolhouse was built, Alex Anderson was living over in Webster Park and his three boys were school age and they came there to school. Then, the next fall, I think the schoolhouse of cinder blocks was built and my grandfather financed the county money enough to build the schoolhouse and then they, of course, was paid by the school tax.

BH: What do you remember about school? Was it a one room schoolhouse?

MG: Yes, it was heated by a old oak pot belly stove. There was, seemed like all the teachers took pride in maps. It doesn't seem to me now like the kids are shown maps when they study history, geography and things because they can't identify with things that, all the teachers seemed to be able to make us realize where we were studying, whether it was in geography or history or where. We used maps and the globe a lot. I remember the picture of Washington that was always in the front of the building, schoolhouse and the blackboard was always on the west or north side. It seemed like the windows were affixed to where the sunlight would be, with school hours would benefit from the sunlight, the warmth and the light, both. The flag was always here. There was a big ceremony of raising the flag and taking it in at night, and lining up, before we went into the school, the school bell, the programs. We had one teacher that made curtains for the windows and would decorate for every month. Every month, she had a theme that the school was always decorated in and that was a nice tradition. She taught there for three years and it made you more aware of the beauty that was in the world rather than just bare walls and things. That was, she was a ?

BH: What was her name?

MG: ? (overlapping voices)

BH: She was the principal of the grade school when I started to go to Jefferson.

MG: That was her mother.

BH: Was that her mother?

MG: Uh huh.

BH: Ok. Then she was a good teacher.

MG: Yes, yes, she was a good teacher. She had my husband too.

BH: Did she?

MG: One time when George took a, he took a kitten to school to play a trick on somebody and she caught him. So, he said, well, I found it and I'm taking care of it. So, she told Clarence why, he is a kind boy because he found a little kitten and wanted to take it home and take care of it, and ? him because he did take it home, scared him enough that he knew better than not to.

BH: What other teachers do you remember?

MG: Oh, there was a Miss Lines that I had in the second grade, that married Claude Higgins and the folks, I get the undercurrent that they felt sorry for her, but she was good to me and I liked her, and I felt like I learned much from her.0- I don't remember any other teachers before I went to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade into town that I remember.

BH: How many years did you go to the-

MG: 8<sup>th</sup> grade, through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

BH: 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and then you went into town.

MG: Yes.

BH: How did you get into town?

MG: I rode with the Halsteins for three years and then, by that time, when I was a senior, Kenny was old enough to go to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade so we rode back and forth the last year.

BH: There wasn't any bus.

MG: No, no, they didn't start a bus line until they consolidated the schools.

BH: Tell me about your brothers and sisters. Let's take them one at a time. What about Margaret?

MG: Well, Margaret was a small boned, tiny person and so, I tried to be the opposite of everything that she did. She liked to cook and she liked to sew and she liked indoor things and I liked to be out with Dad and be a tomboy. Just the reverse. Margaret was more shy than any of the other kids. She liked to have things organized and I remember one instance especially when, that was before I started to school, why, they always rode Irene to school, and so, Arthur Higgins thought a lot of Margaret and Roscoe and he would start early from school. He lived clear down, oh a couple miles below the schoolhouse but he'd drive up that far and then he come on and meet Roscoe and Margaret and ride to school with them. So, this morning, he got there early and Mother didn't have the horse saddled yet, so Arthur went over and saddled the horse and took the kids to school and then, on the way home, why, they were running their horses like all kids do, and the saddle had slipped and Margaret broke down, broke her arm. Arthur just felt so responsible for that because he saddled the horse and the saddle slipped. Of course, this probably wasn't true, probably, during the day, the horse had just gathered up a little bit and that's the reason that the horse, they didn't tighten it. Anyway, we learned from that, that when we got on the horse at night, we tightened the cinch. (laughing) Tightened the cinch real well.

BH: Has she always lived close, enough where you didn't get to be friends?

MG: Yes, she and her husband always moved. When they worked, when they were first married, they worked for Rathguys and they went back and forth but they all branched down to our farm and so we visited quite often then. Then she, one time, they lived up in Estes Park and one time, they lived over on San Luis Valley and then for, during the war, they went to California and worked a couple of years. So, they've done a lot of moving. But they have settled in Florence now.

BH: How about Roscoe?

MG: Well, he was in the army during the war. When he came home, he was, had been married to Jane and they established for a while, he, the first winter he was back, why, he worked for someone up on towards Struffy for winter, and then he bought his father and Craw's place out on, above Skagway dam. They lived there. Jane was raised on that place and Roscoe has always liked cattle and has always been in the cattle business. And he's like Mother, he likes, he's a hard worker. He belongs to the Elks and he's

gone to a lot of work for the Elks, Foundation for the 4H up there and he spent a lot of time with the 4H and he's been on the school board and anything community-wise, why, he's quite a worker for it.

Jimmy is about the same way. He lives rodeos and things and he sees that his kids get to go to all the rodeos and things. BH: He isn't the cattleman that Roscoe is, but he's always had a few cattle, but he is like that. He likes horse and he likes to trade horses. They, his youngsters came a lot about when he goes to a sale, he has to sit on his hands or he finds himself bidding, he likes to trade horses.

BH: Does your family get together often, your brothers and sisters?

MG: Not very often. Not-

BH: Did you, when you were younger? When your parents were alive?

MG: Well, the folks always liked to celebrate anniversaries and birthdays and things like that and we always got together then, but not more than that.

BH: Your mother was a good cook. What were the, your favorite foods? You told about all the things you canned. Did she bake a lot too?

MG: Yes, baking was her long suit. I, she liked to make cookies, especially as she had grandchildren. Why, I think from the grandchildren, will remember her molasses and sugar cookies because she always made both of them when she thought that any of them were coming. And of course, with Kitty's family so close, why, she had to keep the cookie jar full pretty often.

BH: Did you have any home remedies?

MG: Yes, she, Dad, coming from the South, had all kinds of home remedies. He always insisted that if you eat or drank gizzard tea, it would make you better, and they always quarreled about that because she never thought that did any good. But Mother made a white liniment that she would use the white of an egg and she put the white of the egg and then she would fill a bowlful of kerosene and a third full of thick cream and she would shake this up and of course the cream and the egg would keep the kerosene from burning. So, it was the same thing that many people use for kerosene, for different things. It was healing. They used it for sprains and that sort of thing. We didn't know that there was anything like Absorbine Jr. and all the other things cause all we ever knew was white liniment.

BH: Did you make it in the pop bottle?

MG: Yes, uh huh. And then, of course, peppermint oil and a little sugar, that was, and my sister still uses that whenever anybody's upset to their stomachs, why, she used that. And ginger tea, for cramps. That's all I remember. That's all I use, maybe that's why that's all I remember. Because I'm sure they used other things.

BH: You mentioned a lot about being involved in the community. I think your family's probably always been very involved.



MG: Going back to the home remedies – if you sneezed at Mary's house, you was made to drink soda water. This would stop a cold and if you did catch it then, you got greased with lard and turpentine and an wool rag put around your neck and if you didn't have a wool rag, you got to put your own soak around it.

BH: Did you have a cure for hiccups?

MG: Yes, a little sugar on the end of the tongue. Now, about the community, go back to that.

BH: Your mother was instrumental in starting an extension homemaker's group. She was involved with that all her life, wasn't she?

MG: Yes, uh huh. She, they started in about 1921, before I was born. So, I felt like I'd been in Extension all my life.

BH: You've been a member since you-

MG: Been married. One thing that Minnie Higgins, we always called her Aunt and Uncle, but they loved to have plays and so, every time the schoolhouse children had a program at Thanksgiving or Christmas and sometime during the spring, probably was Easter but I don't remember. But anyway, there was several times whenever they did, the women would get together and they would put on a skit of some kind for the whole community too. And we lots of women doing that. It was really, it would involve as many women as they could in the community and of course, the men were delighted with that sort of thing.

BH: I'll bet they were. Now, were they part of the Four Mile community group?

MG: No, I think all, Ethel and Mamie Clark and Mother and Lottie Higgins, Minnie Higgins and all those, probably belonged to Four Mile Club too but it was a different group.

BH: Where did they have these plays? At the schoolhouse?

MG: Uh huh.

BH: Did they have dances at the school?

MG: Yes, after the programs, they put the benches away or stacked them up and they'd dance. It was pretty much better for the community.

BH: Uh huh.

MG: At Thanksgiving, they'd always have a money raising project by everybody bringing the box lunch and having a box social. Then, they would spend that money for the Christmas treats for the youngsters in that community.

BH: There anything else we need to talk about?

MG: I can't think of anything more than. On Sundays, if people didn't come by 10 o'clock, why, we usually went to somebody's house and I don't remember of ever taking a covered dish when we would leave. If we were going to go, say, to, when the Higgin's lived up in Garden Park or where we were going to some of Dad's cousins or Minnie didn't have too many, any family around. So, we would go and we didn't take food. It was always taken for granted that we'd have a big meal prepared for us. I guess we went early enough so we'd get our name in the pot, I don't know. (laughing)

BH: I'll bet your mother helped prepare it.

MG: Yes, when they got there, they all worked together. But I remember one time, we went over to Fred Bean's over in Wetmore and we got there early enough so that they went some place to get ice and make ice cream and I thought that was just the biggest deal in the world to see them make ice cream at home, you know. After that, why, it became the practice in our home too. But that was the first time that I had even gone some place and somebody made ice cream and I could see it frozen and the whole works, you know. I really was impressed, so I must have been pretty small. But I do remember that.

BH: Tell me about your children.

MG: Well, they all graduated from Greeley College. They all went into the teacher's profession and now Rich isn't a teacher. He got discouraged with the teaching profession, mostly because of having to fight the administration office in the towns and this sort of thing more than the youngsters themselves. So, he is a truck supervisor up in Denver. His wife is a business teacher at Monument, where they live. The kids go to school there and Rich is good with figures and he loves computers. So, this is where he really should have been all the time rather than spending the time trying to find a, he liked coaching. They all liked ball. I used to say we're a good balling family because it was from one season to another they were into ball. First, George liked softball. Morehead said if it hadn't been for softball, George wouldn't have anything to live for, and he really, he was really centered in softball when he was a young person.

BH: Now, your second-

MG: Well, Fred is quiet, reserved sort of person that, he quit college first year after he went, he went to BYU and he quit college and then he went to Pueblo for a little while, junior college, and he quit that after hardly a semester and then he went out to California and he stayed there for about nine years. Then, he came back and started college all over again and graduated and he's challenged with doing for others so teaching really is a good profession for him.

BH: Where does he live?

MG: He lives in Cripple Creek right now. But he's taught in Nebraska and he got his student teaching in Westcliffe. He's pretty restless. He's hard wanting to put down roots. He hasn't yet which makes it hard on the rest of the family, his family.

BH: Where is Jerry? Is he teaching too?

MG: Yes, he had a hard time settling for different places and his aim is at higher education and he just

hasn't got into it yet. But he has taught in Springfield and some town around Greeley. Can't remember the name of it now. And then he went down to Mulamar and was there a year and then he's in Bahonda now for three years and he is, he likes things organized. He's a good organizer and so he, I really think he'll go on to higher education, high school, as time goes on-

BH: Administration?

MG: Uh huh.

BH: School?

MG: Uh huh.

BH: Do you have grandchildren?

MG: Yes, we've got six, four boys and two girls and we enjoy them a lot. The oldest one is only 14. The youngest one is two. We have three that's nine years old, the twins and the first girl So, they keep us really entertained.

BH: You spend a lot of time with them?

MG: Yes, and they come here quite often.

BH: I'll bet they love to come here. Tell us about this place, Marie. How long have you lived here?

MG: Well, we moved when Jerry was six years old, just before he started school. When we were first married, we lived up in Hyde Park and then when the kids got older, we lived down on the Ryder place and then over on Orchard Park and then we moved up on Ott Place above the Greens here and then, we lived across the creek and then after George's grandfolks passed away, and they cleaned out this, why, we moved here. So, this is A.J.'s home that he built for his wife after all his family was raised and that was about in '23 or '24, I think, that this house was built. It was built by Lancaster who made the bricks and it, he, his homes are scattered all through because he did make the bricks himself and they're his own art.

BH: Uh huh.

MG: He built the fireplace which is pretty but it's less useful. It smoked and it wasn't a good thing so that's why we put the insert in. And we had a big barn that when we moved here, it needed repair and we simply didn't have the money enough to raze it and take care of it so we had a real heavy snowstorm, it weighted it down, took it away and so it had to be ? But the Greens were known for their good horses and keeping their good horses and they had that barn too. Their horses, keep their horses' hay dry.

BH: Can you tell me what you think about your life today?

MG: Oh, I think it's a pretty good life. I wouldn't want to give any part of my life over. I'm glad I live in the age where there's hope that cancer will be controlled. I live in the age where airplanes, I remember the first time that he flew across the Pacific-

BH: Lindbergh.

MG: Lindbergh. Yeah, and Lizzie was in our house at that time and she marveled to think that she would live to an age when she could know, and of course, we've seen a lot of adventure in space. I can't get too excited about it but I'm sure, and this comet that's going to be showing up, I'm kind of excited about seeing that, because that's going to be something to remember.

BH: Did you ever see Haley's Comet that came 40, that they were talking about?

MG: No, I never remember any of them talking about it till people begin to talk about it now.

BH: Alright, I think that's about all.

MG: Ok.

End of recording.