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Hanssen, Frieda Entz

March 28, 1990

Interviewed by Irene Francis and Ara Weimer

IF: We're in the home this afternoon of Frieda Hanssen in Westcliffe, CO. The date is March 28, 1990. We're going to just sit here and chat with her and find out about her, how she came to the valley and her parents and, that's what I'll ask first of all. Give me your full name and then your parents'.

FH: Frieda Entz Hanssen.

IF: And what were your parents' names?

FH: William J. Entz and Nellie B. Entz.

IF: And your mother's maiden name?

FH: Was Haus.

IF: Haus.

FH: Mm hmm.

IF: And they, to that marriage, how many children?

FH: There were five children born.

IF: And can you give me their names?

FH: Yes.

IF: Starting from the oldest, if you can.

FH: Blanche Entz Lawrence, Lawrence J. Entz, and next, and then Iowa Elizabeth Long, Dora Mae Tranty.

IF: And you were married to, your husband's name?

FH: Walter W. Hanssen.

IF: And what year were you married?

FH: In 1933.

IF: And did you have any children?

FH: We have one daughter, Donna Nell Hall.

IF: Where does she live now?

FH: She lives in Gunnison.

IF: Now, tell me how your parents came to this area?

FH: Well, my parents came to the Wet Mountain Valley in a covered wagon. All of their belongings were in two wagons and they came from Western Kansas, around Lincoln, Kansas in 1918.

IF: And why did they come to this area?

FH: They came here, they were not happy in Kansas. It was hot and windy and they decided it would be wonderful to live in the cool mountains of Colorado.

IF: Had they, they came up here and visited before they came?

FH: Yes.

IF: So, did they, they picked out a section of property and did they homestead it?

FH: Yes, they did.

IF: So, when you came in your covered wagons, did they have any buildings built yet?

FH: No. No, at least I don't think so because we lived in a neighbor's cabin for a while and then, later, they built a one room, they called it a shack, a one room shack. And it had a dirt room. But they did have a floor in it-

IF: A sod roof?

FH: Yes.

IF: And you were how old when they came?

FH: I was three, three and a half, to be exact.

IF: So, you don't remember too much of that.

FH: No, I remember just a little of the trip. I can remember we children riding in the covered wagon and of course it had a round opening in the back, you know, and we would sit there and look out the back as we travelled down the road, and I think it was in the Lamar area where one of the horses sprained an ankle. So, we had to stay over a few days for this ankle to heal so they could travel again, and I can still see my father doctoring this horse's ankle. I think that he was taught or something on it and I can still see my father doing that.

IF: Did they know any people in the area or just kind of stopped and camped

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FH: Just stopped and camped and they set up the range in the covered wagon and when Mother went to cook, they put the tarp back and put the stove pipe on and my Mother would cook. And then they had fixed our beds in the wagon too and my parents, they had a double bed, you know, like a lot of beds and my parents' bed was fixed up above and we children were underneath. It was only four of us then. My youngest sister was born after we came to Colorado. She's ten years younger than I am.

IF: Do you remember any of when she was born, the doctor that was here?

FH: No, I don't, not sure of that.

IF: Ok. Was she born at home?

FH: Yes, do you know where the building is on the golf course down>

IF: Oh, yes.

FH: She was born in that house.

IF: You were living, that was part of your ranch in that area?

FH: No, my father was working for the man that owned the whole and we lived there.

IF: So, did your mother have any help? Was there somebody there with her?

FH: Yes. A neighbor lady, mm hmm.

IF: Was there with her and you remember when the baby was born?

FH: Yes.

IF: Now you went to school in this area. What were the schools that you attended>

FH: Just Ula, in this area.

IF: And how did you get to school?

FH: We went in a buggy, horse and buggy or horse and sleigh.

IF: Would your father drive you there>

FH: No, my brother did the driving. We went alone.

IF: Do you remember any snowstorms or anything that you had problems with>

FH: Well, if they were too big, we didn't always get to school. I loved those days. I could play with my doll all day. (laughing)

IF: Were there many that you were snowed in?

FH: No, I can't recall that there were many.

IF: Uh huh, and what were some of the names of your teachers?

FH: Well, the one at Ula was Mildred Callahan. She was the main one. Let's see, was there another one?

IF: Was she married?

FH: No, she was not married. She was Miss Mildred Callahan.

IF: Did the teacher live near the school?

FH: She lived in town, Miss Mildred lived in town and she usually walked to school. That would be a couple miles or more.

IF: I think so. Did she come to the area from somewhere else?

FH: No, her parents lived here. Her father was postmaster here in Westcliffe and her mother was assistant to whatever it was. She was his helper.

IF: So, she grew up here and went to school also, do you know if she graduated from school.

FH: You know, I don't know when they came here. They came from Missouri, so now, I wouldn't know about Mildred and where she went to school.

IF: And so, you went to Ula School and then, you went to high school here.

FH: Yes.

IF: Did you have a graduation from Ula or did you just go from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade right into high school like they do now?

FH: We had a graduation. My brother and I were in the same grade and we had a graduation. We came in, I believe, I'm sure it was held at high school and there was a graduation and we, let me see, now we got diplomas. Did we come in for, maybe we didn't come in for graduation. Maybe we just received our diplomas. I'm not sure.

IF: Uh huh. What were some of the activities you remembered at school>

FH: Well, we played baseball. We played hide and seek and what was the one where – Echo?

IF: Echo? How do you play that?

FH: Well, you all hide and then there is someone who is it, as a rule, we said, and everyone would get hidden but then someone would call You hoo! Or Echo, whichever one, and then we would try to find them, so that was pretty fun.

UI: With dishes and rocks and-

FH: Yes, like that.

IF: Tell me where the Ula School was.

FH: It was, it's about a quarter of a mile from Nellie's Camper's house and it is east of the Ula Cemetery. Don't know the distance.

IF: Then tell me what happened to it. It's no longer there.

FH: No, it was, the school was converted to living quarters and they had built on to it and made it quite a large house and it caught fire and it burned completely down.

IF: Now when you, tell me a little bit about the ranch, your parents' ranch. Where was that situated? Where they homesteaded.

FH: It was eight miles north of Westcliffe. It was formerly Copper Gulch Road. It was off of Copper Gulch Road, the bottom, probably about a mile, but that was the way we got there. We went out on the Copper Gulch Road I think about eight miles and then we turn to our right off down to where our buildings were. In fact, we didn't have any property that bordered the Copper Gulch Road. Ours was all off the road.

IF: So, you had to go quite a ways off the road?

FH: Yes, it was a ways off the highway.

IF: You made your own trail.

FH: Yes, yes, and in the winter, the wind would blow it full, you'd keep moving and moving, so we could get through.

IF: Now you told me that it was called a dry ranch.

FH: Yes.

IF: What is the dry ranch?

FH: Well, a dry ranch is where they ranch and have to depend on Mother Nature for all of the moisture and all of the water.

IF: There's not a stream running through it.

FH: No, of course, they dug a well. We had Ater for house use and our animals and so forth. Mother did irrigate her garden a little bit but none of the other crops was irrigated.

IF: Do you remember how they dug the well?

FH: Yes, with a pick and shovel was enough. The wind was so-

IF: It was open. Was it open or was there pipe in the ground?

FH: Oh, they closed it. It was 40' deep.

IF: They dug down with a pick and shovel 48' deep.

FH: Mm hmm.

IF: And then you took your buckets and lowered it, that kind of a thing?

FH: They did that to begin with.

IF: To begin with.

FH: And then they put on a pump and we pumped it, and it was a good well. Good water.

IF: But, at the time, they really didn't know if they were going to get any water, did ya?

FH: No. I think they did. I think someone had witched and said there was water there but they did have to go awfully deep and I think the first 12 or 15' was just dirt but the rest of it was solid rock, so they didn't have to wall, only this upper part that was dirt because it, of course, they put the rock purpose, that would not cave in, so they didn't have to wall that part of it.

IF: Is there anything there now for your ranch?

FH: Oh, yes, and the well is still there and there's a huge tank there. It did belong to the Clevinger, but I don't know who owns all of that now.

IF: Did they bring animals with them, cattle or anything?

FH: No, just the horses.

IF: Horses.

FH: That was all they brought.

IF: Were they ranchers or more farmers?

FH: They were farmers. When they came here, it was more farmers. Later, my father ran some cattle and later, we had cows and milked cows and my mother would, she'd churn butter and make butter and brought to town and had her customers and sold butter and cottage cheese and buttermilk and cream.

IF: Did you help make some of that?

FH: Oh, yes, yes.

IF: Chickens, did you have chickens?

FH: Oh yes, yes, my mother had lots of chickens.

IF: How about produce? What kind of things did they raise?

FH: Now, do you mean in the garden?

IF: Yes.

FH: Well, in our garden, we had the usual things, lettuce and radishes and carrots and beets and turnips and rutabagas and squash, peas and beans and corn and cauliflower.

IF: And that was the only way it was irrigated was just as it rained.

FH: Well, now this garden part we're talking about, Mother did irrigate. They did water some of that from the well. The garden was close to the well and they did irrigate some of that from the well. But now, the big farm that my father did to make money, well, he planted peas and we picked peas and he would haul them to Hillside and they were put on the train in those cars that were filled, you know, filled with ice and they were shipped away then. So-

IF: Was that his main crop, peas?

FH: Well, it was to begin with, yes, and that was our early crop, and then he raised potatoes for the later crop. There was a couple of years we had real good potato crops. But then, they got this disease, this bug or whatever it is, and then, of course they didn't find out what to do for it, to begin with, so then, he didn't do well on the potatoes at all

IF: Once that got into the ground, he couldn't-

FH: I guess it gets into the ground, mm hmm. I think so, and then he planted like corn feed for the horses and the cows, and he planted oats that made hay. He didn't let it ripen. He cut it, too, for hay for the livestock.

AW: Garden produce, was that just for your own use or did you sell some of that-

FH: Not much. I would say that was more for our own use.

IF: When he had these crops, did you ever remember a year where the hail knocked it out?

FH: Oh yes, yes, we had years when the hail ruined the peas and if they got any spots on the pods at all, they wouldn't take them at -

Tape skips to a different section.

IF: Would they have, the high school, did they have any plays?

FH: Yes, we had plays, as they do now, the junior and senior class both had plays.

IF: Band? Did you play an instrument?

FH: No, we didn't have band then.

IF: Art, did you have any art classes?

FH: Our home ec teacher taught us some art, about putting colors together and that kind of thing. But not the way they have art now, no.

IF: So, you took sewing?

FH: Oh, yes, and cooking.

IF: In your home ec class. What was your home ec teacher's name?

FH: Frances Kettle. It's her picture that's in the-

IF: Is this before she became Principal?

FH: Yes.

IF: She taught home ec first.

FH: Yes, you see, she taught home ec way back in the late 20s. I started high school in '28, I guess.

IF: When you got out of high school, what did you do?

FH: Well, I went home and helped at home, and then I helped a lady that lived on a ranch. I helped her cook for her men. I did that for about a year and then, I was married and I got married.

IF: How'd you meet your husband?

FH: Well, he was the best man and I was, we stood up for Blanche and Johnny when they got married. That's what stock is.

IF: So, he was friends with Blanche and-

FH: Yes, and Johnny. They both worked at Johnny and Lammy, Lammy was my husband's nickname. They-

IF: How do you spell that?

FH: LAMMY.

IF: And why did they call him Lammy?

FH: I'm not sure. He said he got that name when he was a small child. So, I don't think he was sure why he got it. But it stuck with him all of his life.

IF: And, so where did he work?

FH: They worked for Hanssen Truck Line, Hanssen Filling Station. That's where, that Hart building, the big garage and filling station there. That's where they worked.



IF: And did he, for was he a mechanic or did he drive a truck?

FH: He drove a truck.

IF: Where would he drive the truck to?

FH: They trucked from here to Pueblo and also to Canon. To begin with, they made the trips once a week but later then, they made the trips to Pueblo every day except the weekends.

IF: What type of things did he carry?

FH: Well, they hauled groceries for the grocery stores, and-

IF: Did they haul any hay?

FH: I think they hauled some hay.

IF: Or cattle. Did they haul cattle?

FH: Later, they hauled cattle, not when my husband worked for the, you see, the train was still coming. We still had the train here so they hauled the cattle by train.

IF: So, this was mostly for provisions, for the stores?

FH: Yes.

IF: To get back to your parents a little bit, they ranched and then, for how many years did they ranch, we should almost say, farm, right?

FH: Yes, it was farming.

IF: Farming.

FH: Yes, that was farming.

IF: And so, how many years did they farm? Just approximately.

FH: Well, let's see. They started in 1918 and I think it was '42 when they moved off the dry ranch.

IF: And when they moved off the ranch, where did they go?

FH: Well, they moved out in the valley. They lived there a year or two. It's where, let's see, it's Crook, Buster Crook, but it's real name, but it's out-

IF: Crook Ranch?

FH: Yes, mm hmm.

IF: They just lived there, retired, or-

FH: Oh, no, they ranched.

IF: There too.

FH: Yes, mm hmm.

IF: And they sold their place, is that-

FH: They didn't sell till later. I think it was about '44, maybe it was '44, '45.

IF: They just wanted a smaller place or bigger place?

FH: Well, they couldn't make a living on the dry ranch, so they had to do something else was the reason for this.

IF: And this ranch had more water?

FH: Oh, yes, this one was irrigated.

IF: That was probably the biggest reason, had more water.

FH: Yes.

IF: And then when they left there, where did they go?

FH: Well, my father worked a while. He ran heavy equipment for the Soil Conservation District and they lived in Florence one winter, and they lived in Westcliffe down here a couple of blocks for a while too. But, from Florence, they moved to Silver Cliff. There was living quarters in connection with the store in Silver Cliff.

IF: Ok, she he bought a store.

FH: Yes.

IF: And what was the store called?

FH: We called it the E and H grocery.

IF: And E and H stood for?

FH: Entz and Hanssen.

IF: And was this your husband that was in business with him?

FH: Well, yes, we were, but I was the one that worked the store, just when they walked to store when my husband got his job with the Soil Conservation Service, so it put an awful lot on us to begin with. So, we only stayed in the store for a year. It was too much. Of course, I had to work all of the time and it was busy otherwise too, and our daughter wasn't happy for Mother to be gone all the time, so-

IF: How old was your daughter then?

FH: Well, let's see. She was born in '37, that was, she was about eight or nine years old.

IF: About the time they need Mother at home.

FH: That's right.

IF: What kind of a store was it?

FH: It was, they called it General Merchandise. There was groceries and meat and there was some drugs and some-

IF: Clothing?

FH: Yeah, well, not clothing but, oh, well, maybe a bit of clothing but like, thread and buttons and things like-

IF: Oh, notions.

FH: Yes, more notions, yes.

IF: Were there other of those types of stores in the area at that time?

FH: Probably not. A general merchandise like that. There were stores here in Westcliffe but they had their dry goods stores, a grocery store, and they had the different stores without up there, sort of combined a bit of all of it. But the larger part of it was the groceries and the meat.

IF: When, about that time where Clevers is now, what was in there?

FH: Mrs. Sumner had her honey business in there. You know, Mrs. Sumner had bees and worked with the honey and she had, that's what was in there when we were in the store.

IF: Now, that's Lois Farran's mother.

FH: Yes.

IF: Where were her bees? Were they out in the valley?

FH: Yes, she had them out in the valley.

IF: She'd go collect up honey?

FH: Yes.

IF: And then process it and put it in her store, and that's all that was in here was honey. The whole store had just honey in it.

FH: uh huh. They lived, they had their living quarters in the back part of it.

IF: What was it before that, do you remember?

FH: No, my husband would know but I think it was a drugstore but I don't know.

IF: What other places were there at that time? Do you remember any other stores?

FH: When we were up there?

IF: Uh huh.

FH: No.

IF: It was Mr. P, had the laundry there?

FH: That was-

IF: '44.

FH: Yes. That was when my husband was a boy and they lived in Silver Cliff.

IF: What year was this that you had the store?

FH: In, we took over in '45, May of '45. So, we were in until May of '46.

IF: What was in that building before?

FH: Well, we bought it as a store. It was all equipped and we bought it.

IF: Do you know who you bought it from?

FH: Yes, it was, the last name was Garrett.

IF: I see. It was the same kind of store?

FH: Yes, yes.

IF: And then, later, your brother bought the store?

FH: Yes, from my parents.

IF: And how long did he run the store?

FH: Well, he bought it in '48. You know, I can't give you all of those dates. You see, he's the one that moved the store down where Harold is.

IF: Into Silver Cliff, into Westcliffe.

FH: Yes.

IF: And then, later, gave that up, his son in law.

FH: No, a while later, he sold it to, I think it was Arapaho from Pueblo and then it sold again and the man went broke and so it went through small business, and you know, settling it and selling it and then that was when Harold got it, when it was sold by the Small Business.

IF: And he's doing a good job.

FH: Yes. He has a good store.

IF: So, it's good to keep it in the family there, I guess. Now, tell me a little bit about your church affiliations. You, well, first of all, I need to ask you when you had met your husband at the wedding and then, how long did you go with your husband?

FH: 18 months.

IF: And then, what year did you get married?

FH: In 1933.

IF: And your daughter was born when?

FH: 1937.

IF: So then, I'll ask you about your church affiliations. Did you, what church were you married in?

FH: We were married in Aztec, New Mexico. We were married in a Presbyterian church. The Methodist minister was out of town so we were married by the Presbyterian minister.

IF: Your parents, did they go to the Methodist church here in town?

FH: Yes.

IF: So, they started, did they start going as soon as they got here or did, they wait a while?

FH: No, no. It was later, in fact, they started sending we children to Sunday School before they went, started going to church very much. It wasn't easy to go to church and do those things.

IF: Cause you have all your chores and things-

FH: Yes.

IF: So, people really made an effort on Sunday mornings.

FH: Yes.

IF: To get there and, tell me about being in the Methodist church. What positions did you and your husband hold there?

FH: Well, he was Chairman of the, oh, he was later, for a long, long time and at that time, Lay Leader in the church was just almost the minister's assistant, and he was that for a number of years and he sort of

overseen the building of the church and getting funds together for the church.

IF: And, did you teach Sunday School or-

FH: Yes, when our daughter was small, well, I taught Sunday School for many, many years. In fact, I taught Sunday School before I was even married, I was teaching the beginners before we were married. My husband was a Lutheran. He was not a Methodist but he was a Lutheran. But he was not active, he wasn't going to church, he was not active in his church. When we were married, and later, he joined the Masonic lodge and of course, you cannot be a communicant member of the Lutheran church, or this Lutheran church, and belong to a secret organization. So, then, to my great happiness, he joined the Methodist church.

IF: Was your daughter married there also?

FH: She was married in the Methodist church, yes.

IF: Where did she meet her husband?

FH: She went to college at Western State in Gunnison and that's where she met him and they were married. She's still living there.

IF: I'll ask you, out of the six children that your parents had, uh, five children that your parents had, how many of them, what type of schooling did they have?

FH: 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Lawrence and Blanche both graduated from grade school, then Iowa and I had high school, Iowa had high school plus two years of college at Western State, and then Dora Mae, the younger one, had high school.

IF: And, we need to say that, you know, when you're, at the time when you were all growing up, a high school education was almost like a college education. It was really, it took a great deal of effort to just get to high school, and guess many people needed to help out-

FH: That's right. And when my sister and I went to high school, why, my mother would rent us a room in town and we stayed in town during the week and batched we went to high school. Then we would work evenings to make extra money.

IF: Where would you work?

FH: Well, we worked for Miss Frances Kettle. We worked some at the school, helping in the domestic science room and then we worked in her home on Saturdays, did cleaning and her laundry, that type of thing.

IF: So, you pretty much stayed in town.

FH: We didn't go home until Saturday afternoon usually and then we came back in usually either Sunday late afternoon or Monday morning.

IF: Would you do your own cooking?

FH: Oh, yes, our own cooking.

IF: Self-sufficient. Depression years. Tell me something about the Depression years. What was it like in this area? Were people, do you feel like people were as hard hit during those years here as they were in the cities perhaps?

FH: Well, the only thing living in a community like this, I don't think there was many hungry people as there might have been in the cities because, well, so many people here were ranchers and farmers and they raised their own food, so perhaps that was better than it was in the big cities. But it was hard here and they had government WPA work projects where some of the people, the men that didn't have other work, this provided them with work and they did community things. For instance, the bridge out at the edge of town, that was built by the WPA.

IF: Now, which edge of town are you talking about?

FH: Just right out edge of Westcliffe, well, there's a bridge right down-

IF: Going towards Canon City?

FH: Yes, uh huh, going up north, oh, and they graveled the streets. That is all I can think of right now that they did. Then there were commodities for the people that needed help were able to get some food to help.

UI: Did they do anything with the park and along with that?

FH: Not at that time. That came along later.

IF: Was that a government project at the park?

FH: No.

IF: Or was it city?

FH: City.

IF: Something the city did.

FH: I think Miss Frances Kettle had something to do with the park.

IF: She had a great many things to do with a lot of things around here.

FH: She was a good woman. She was too good. I mean, for her own good. She would just spend too much on people.

IF: During the second World War, do you remember during the second, well, do you remember the first World War?

FH: Not very much. I can remember a woman telling we children that our father would have to go to war. But he didn't. It was settled. They made peace before he had to go.

IF: And then, the second World War.

FH: Well, as I said, my husband was too old to go but it was hard. Things were rationed Gas was rationed. Meat and sugar. So, some things were hard. Some things we had plenty of. Of course, we planted gardens, had our own gardens and canned and that type of thing.

IF: It wasn't anything too unusual. I mean, you kind of did that anyway.

FH: Yes.

IF: So, it was the sugar and possibly the meat, gas that affected you.

FH: Yes, however, if you needed to make trips to Canon to see the doctor, you could get extra gas for those trips. But ordinarily, you were just allotted so much. I can't even remember how much but you were just allotted so much gas. When that was gone, you stayed home. We stayed home anyway. Couldn't afford to go anyplace.

IF: I'd like to ask you about some of the buildings in the Westcliffe area when you were growing up. Do you remember the bank?

FH: Oh yes.

IF: And who had that bank?

FH: It was Beardsley.

IF: What was his full name?

FH: George Beardsley.

IF: Was that the first bank they ever had here? Do you know that?

FH: I can't answer that. I don't really know.

IF: But it was the one that was in town when you were.

FH: It's the only one I ever remember.

IF: Why did the bank go out? We have one here today, but there was a time when there wasn't any.

FH: Evidently, it was the Depression and all of that probably. You know, I'm not real sure about that.

IF: Ok. Where the Village Shop is now, what was in there?

FH: That was a dry goods store that I remember in there, a dry goods store.



IF: And by the, it's closed now, we don't have a movie, but there was a period where they was a movie, before there was a movie, what was in that place?

FH: I think it was a pool hall.

IF: And then, who first brought the movie in?

FH: I don't know, because there was a movie upstairs, up above Grandma's House first. So, I don't really know who started the movie here.

IF: When it was up above Grandma's House, was it, were they talkies?

FH: No.

IF: Did the movie talk?

FH: No.

IF: You just went and there was-was there anybody playing any instrument, organ?

FH: Yes, the piano.

IF: The piano. Who did that, do you know?

FH: Mrs. Fee, when I remember it. We had a Dr. Fee here and it was his wife and the doctor and Mrs. Fee lived where the George Crows live now and he had his office, they fixed a room for his office in part of the house.

IF: And do you remember how much you paid to go to the movies?

FH: I don't really remember. It seems to me that during Depression, we paid, I think it was 50 cents. Maybe that's too much. I'm not even sure I-

IF: Wasn't it just once a week kind of thing?

FH: Yes.

IF: The one man said that it was skating, people skated up, now where was that at?

FH: It was up above Jennings Market. That was a big hall up there. Of course, it's partitioned off now and made into apartments up there. I don't know that anyone lives up there right now, I'm not sure.

IF: Did you ever go skating up there?

FH: No, no, that was before I was around town. I've heard my husband speak about skating up there. But we lived up there when we were first married in one of the apartments up there, for a few months.

AW: Where did the Jones Theater get its name? Was that from the people that owned the building or?

IF: I think Lawrence Jones ran it for a while, didn't he?

FH: Where, the movies?

IF: where did it get its name, Jones Theater?

FH: It was Lawrence Jones.

Recording stops and restarts.

IF: Questions about the train.

FH: Well, really, my first recollections of the train to much extent was, it passed close to Ula School out there and this was interesting to we children and in the winter, when the wind would blow the snow, it would blow the, there were cuts for the track out there and it would fill those cuts full of snow and they'd have to come and clean it out before the train could get through.

IF: They'd have to do that physically? A man out there shoveling?

FH: No, I think that they had a piece of equipment or something on the front of the engine of the train that would do that, I think was how that was, and I can remember that spark sometimes from the train would fall on the dry grass, you know, when it was winter or spring and set it on fire. It burned it black.

IF: Did you ever ride the train?

FH: No, no.

IF: Why didn't you ever ride the train?

FH: Well, I don't suppose we could afford to ride the train, never went any place on the train. (laughing)

IF: So, how did you get down to Canon or Pueblo?

FH: We didn't, till later, later when we had a car. That, when we had just horse and wagon, horse and buggy, why, we didn't get to Canon.

IF: How often did you come into when you were on the dry ranch, how often did you come into town?

FH: Our parents usually came in on the weekends, usually Saturday once a week.

IF: Was that really a big outing for you?

FH: It was for them. We didn't usually come with them.

IF: They left you there and kind of made a day of it.

FH: We, yes, and of course then, they did, they visited with the people around. That's where they would get acquainted maybe with people from out south and so forth when they would visit them the one Saturday.

IF: Now there was, I had heard tell, that the community building, that that's how that started was that there was a lady that left that building so that women could come in and visit Have you heard that story?

FH: Mm hmm.

IF: And while the men were getting groceries or some of their supplies-

FH: Tending to business, yes.

IF: So, the women would go in there. Do you ever remember going in there as a young person?

FH: No, now I was living in town at the time the community building was started. I was married and living in town so no, I never used it. I was on the library board at that time. You see, she bought this building and it was to house the library and was to have this community room for the women and people of the valley to go in and read or rest or whatever they wanted to do while, as you say, their husbands were shopping or tending to business or whatever.

IF: So, you were on the first library board?

FH: The first one and the board was down there in the library that was down there but there had been a library at the courthouse prior to that. It was moved, the library was moved from the courthouse to that building downtown.

IF: And, at that time, who else was on the library board?

FH: Well, let's see. There was Mrs. Beeman, Mrs. Louis C. Beeman, and Mrs. Catherine Bly, Mrs. Gertrude Hemingway, Mrs. Ray Adams and myself. That's all I can think of.

IF: You were a pretty young woman at that time.

FH: Yes.

IF: When you were on it.

FH: Yes.

IF: What were some of the businesses that these women that you named, Hemingway, what did they do?

FH: Well, they were in The Pines.

IF: Ok, and Bly?

FH: Well, they lived on a ranch out near the ski course. I think that the ski course bought their ranch out there. And Mrs. Ray Adams lived where the Dick Wilson's lived down Hillside. And, let's see, who else did I, and Mrs. Lucy Beeman was the Superintendent of Schools at one time but when I worked with her on the board, she was retired. She was just at home and you know, doing these extra things that she was interested in.

IF: Would you man the library at certain times?

FH: We had a librarian, and-

IF: Who was the librarian?

FH: Ruby Paxton, and the library was open, I think, Monday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon and Saturday, a while, morning and afternoon, I believe was the hours that-

IF: Was she a paid librarian?

FH: Yes, we paid her some.

IF: And how did you get the money to pay her?

FH: Well, of course, they charged for the cards and for books, overdue books, at the library and then, we had trouble making ends meet, so Mrs. Hemingway and I met with the Commissioners and asked for money every year, for it to be put into the budget, to receive money for the library, and I think they gave us \$150 a year to begin with, and occasionally, we would have a bake sale or something to help raise some funds for the library.

IF: That must really do your heart good now to see how it's grown.

FH: Yes, it's wonderful.

IF: To think you were the start of that.

FH: Yes.

IF: Thank you for telling us all of this and I hope that what we've said today can help some of the young people know what it was like to live in the Westcliffe and Custer County area in times past.

FH: Thank you.

End of recording.