

West Custer County Library District Local History Collection
Oral History Collection

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Hood, Leona

No date

Interviewed by unidentified interviewers

UI: What is your full name?

LH: What is my full name? My full name is Leona Laura Hood.

UI: And what was your middle, I mean, your maiden name?

LH: My maiden name was Eickelman.

UI: What are the names of your family members?

LH: What family members do you mean, sisters?

UI: Well, from your parents. Your grandmother was-

LH: My grandmother was a Molly Smoots. She was the first white woman born in the valley. She married an Eickelman and my father's name was Oscar Eickelman. My mother's name was Alma Voss and her family also came with the German Colony. Let's see, I had three sisters, Bessie Miller, Neville Christoph who just passed away, and Wanille Turner who passed away some years ago. No brothers.

UI: What brought you or your family to this area?

LH: They came with the German Colony and settled here.

UI2: Leona's here from forever ago.

LH: Forever, forever, forever, that's the road, forever.

UI: What were your neighbors like when you were growing up?

LH: We didn't have any.

UI2: What part of the valley did you grow up in? Right here.

LH: Right here. We lived down on Ralph Cook's place till I was six. Then we moved up to Grandma Eickie's place which was just west of here.

UI2: So, you've always been on this end of the valley.

LH: Yeah, until we moved to town when I was in the 7th grade.

UI2: Did you live in town full time?

LH: Uh huh.

UI2: So did your dad stay at the ranch and do the ranch-

LH: No, he was a carpenter then when we moved to town. One year, we lived in Silver, my little sister and I lived in Silver Cliff with my grandma and went to school in Westcliffe.

UI: Was the reason that you lived in town because like it was closer?

LH: It was because my father was a carpenter and I think there was enough to do on the ranch for my grandma and him and-

UI2: How big was your ranch? That's not a good question.

LH: I don't know. (laughing) I suppose it started out as 160 and then got down to 80.

UI2: That's what most of them did. They started out with 160-

LH: Uh huh, uh huh. However, it was not a homestead because my dad was born in the town that's covered up by Lake DeWeese.

UI2: Dora.

LH: Uh huh.

UI2: Oh. Dora.

UI: What is your, like, your favorite vacation memory that you've ever had?

LH We went to [unintelligible] once. When I was growing up, one 4th of July, I can remember we had some friends come from Pueblo and we walked about four miles over to a house that was empty and stayed there overnight.

UI: What were your schools like when you were growing up and what did you study in them?

LH: Ok, they were one room schools, had all these grades if there were kids in all the eight grades.

UI2: Which country school here did you go to?

LH: I went to Canda and I went to the Adobe.

UI2: Canda was like, on Horn Road?

LH: Uh huh, uh huh, it's still there.

UI2: And the Adobe is-

LH: Is no longer. It was there at the corner of Macy and Schoolfield.

UI: Oh, I know where that one was.

UI2: Yeah.

LH: And it fell down.

UI2: Yep.

LH: But when I went there, I went to the 1st grade two years. They sent me when I was five to get rid of me, I guess, and of course, then, you couldn't go on until you were six. We lived up on Grandma Eickie's place. We moved up there and we walked three and a half miles to school and I can remember my little legs wouldn't carry me and my sisters would make a carrier like this and they would carry me home.

UI2: They'd carry you home? Oh, wow! Three and a half miles for a five, six-year-old is a lot.

LH: I only did that until, it was in the spring when we moved up there. And then, we went to the Canda School. We walked all the time and it was two miles, two and a half miles.

UI2: And did you have a lot of snow at that time?

LH: Yes, we did! We didn't have four-wheel drive. If it was really, really bad, my dad would take us in the horse and sled but sometimes if we could walk down as far as Ernest George's, and the road was plowed, they might take their kids by car and then we could hitch a ride with them. But we was bundled up. When the first ski pants came out, they were really heavy wool front and around. We thought we was really with it when we could wear those ski pants. We didn't get quite so wet. But we took claws around our faces and-

UI: What kind of jobs have you held?

LH: Well, let's see. When I was 13, I worked for Bernie Bowers, just helping her out with the kids and cooking. Then, when I was 14, I went to work at The Pines in the summer, and I worked up there for four summers, and then-

UI2: Who did you work for there?

LH: Hemingway's.

UI2: Hemingway's.

LH: Then I went to work for the telephone company in Westcliffe and I transferred to Pueblo.

UI2: And is that time when you worked for the telephone company, they called up-

LH: Number please. (laughing) It was in Pueblo too.

[unintelligible]

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LH: In the Pueblo one?

UI: Uh huh.

LH: I worked at the one on D Street and stayed at the Y, and would walk from 8th Street where the Y was down here again to D Street.

UI: What kind of jobs did your parents and sisters do?

LH: Well, my dad was a carpenter. My mother took care of cabins at Chesley Village and places like that. My older sister worked at the drug store. She was a telephone operator and she-

UI2: Which one was your elder sister?

LH: Bessie.

UI2: Bessie.

LH: And she worked at Jennings.

UI2: That needs to be said so we're clear on the tape.

LH: Myrtle started out as a beautician but then after she was married, she worked with her husband, an insurance agent. My little sister worked at the telephone company in Durango.

UI2: Your little sister, Lenora?

LH: Lanille.

UI2: Lanille.

LH: Uh huh.

UI: What effect did World War II have on you?

LH: All the rationing! Couldn't get sugar, couldn't get, I remember the rationing stamps that you had to have to buy this and that and something else. Gas, sugar, shoes, tires and that's why margarine first came out. It came in a plastic sack. There was white and it had a little bubble of yellow coloring in it and you worked it and worked it until the yellow bubble broke and pretty soon, you had yellow margarine. (laughing)

UI2: Make your own.

LH: We didn't ever go anywhere by vehicle, I mean, by cars or anything.

UI2: Do you remember when the train ran to Westcliffe?

LH: Yes, I do.

UI2: Did you ever ride the train?

LH: No. I still haven't ever ridden a train.

UI2: You still haven't (laughing)

LH: We were living where Ralph Cook lives now and we raised peas and lettuce and I can remember taking that [unintelligible] full of peas and having them put on the train.

UI2: Oh, that was work-intense, labor.

LH: Uh huh. We just had, what do I call them? Mexicans! From Gardner, come up to pick the peas. That's improved recently, cause every time there's a hail would come-

UI: What connection have you had with the armed services?

LH: Not much. I had an uncle in World War I. Not having any brothers, I escaped all that and I had one brother-in-law who was in World War II.

UI2: And we haven't heard anything about your husband.

LH: Oh! He was infantry in the Korean War and so-

UI2: He was too young for I and too old for the next.

LH: Yeah, yeah.

UI2: My dad was that way too.

LH: They were both about the same age.

UI2: Uh huh.

UI: So, like, how long have you been married to your husband?

LH: Well, if he were still alive, I would be married 56 years.

UI: That's long.

LH: Yeah, it is. But he's been dead nine years so-

UI: So, like, how old were you when you first got married?

LH: 20, we were both just turned 20.

UI2: Where were you married?

LH: In Hope Lutheran Church here in town, and I look at my grandkids now and think, at 20, and they're going to get married?! Way younger than them. (laughing) They would not have had the, I mean, would

not have the responsibility that we had back then.

UI2: They don't have to.

LH: No, I would like to transport them back for one week the way we-

UI2: What would you have them do if you had one week back then, with your grandchildren? What would you do?

LH: I would put them in a house with no electricity, no running water, no toys-

UI2: No computer games.

LH: No computer games, no radio, no television. Here you are!

UI2: Grow your and food.

LH: Can't go to town every night, maybe once every two weeks, maybe only once a month, we went to town.

UI2: That seems like a hard life for kids nowadays with everything they have now.

LH: Yes, I think they wouldn't survive.

UI2: It would be hard.

LH: But, you know, we didn't really care. I mean, we had our imagination and we had a swing and we had jacks and we had a deck of cards.

UI2: You made your own clothes on the sewing machine.

LH: Had a doll my uncle made of [unintelligible] and here's the irons that I learned to iron with.

UI: Hmm. Small.

LH: You heated them on the wood stove and-

UI2: What about Sunday School?

LH: Ok, went to Sunday School, had my Sunday School pens. First year, [unintelligible] through A.

UI2: At Hope Lutheran Church?

LH: Mm hmm. That's right, graduated from that school there.

UI2: The Lutheran school.

LH: Yeah.

UI: Did you participate in any church groups besides that?

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LH: Uh, Wellesley League, which was the group for young people, went to that twice a month and that was our socialization. Unless you could scrape up a quarter to go to the movie.

UI2: What was it named then? It wasn't Jones Theater yet.

LH: Canda, Canda Theater.

UI2: Canda Theater.

LH: Uh huh.

UI: What was your first memory of a car or a telephone or another modern convenience?

LH: I really, I don't have my recollect first telephone. You had to crank them but you know, we'd get, we didn't use them. We didn't communicate that way.

UI: So, you basically used, like, letters?

LH: Yeah! We didn't even get mail but three times a week and then we had to walk two and a half miles to get it.

UI: No!

LH: We did a lot of walking.

UI: Your feet got tired, didn't they, after a while?

LH: No! Not really,

UI2: You didn't have Nikes.

LH: (laughing) No! We had high top shoes. You could think of all sorts of games to play and places to walk on the roads to tell them spring creek was coming down and just walk through the water and-

UI: What kind of recreation or entertainment did you participate in as a child?

LH: My little sister and I had a playhouse in the chokecherry bushes, and we played jacks and we played cards with my grandma. She taught us how to play blackjack. She taught us how to dance. We used to get a big rock and some little rocks and that's how we would set up hens to raise, made chickens out of rocks. (laughing) We'd take our cherries and things and play like we were canning them in jars and, but we didn't have a wagon. We didn't have a tricycle. We didn't have a bicycle.

UI2: Tell me about summer and canning season.

LH: Oh my.

UI2: What did you can? Canned your own meat, I suppose.

LH: Yeah, well, in the winter, you ate venison or rabbit. In the summer, you ate ham because you would

cure it, chicken.

UI2: And any beef you had was?

LH: Didn't ever would cure beef. We always had a big garden and-

UI2: Did you have milk cows?

LH: We had a milk cow, two milk cows. We had chickens.

UI2: So, you made your own butter and you had cream-

LH: Milk, doesn't have a refrigerator to keep it cold then, so more often than not, it was sour. But-

UI: When did you, like, first get your first refrigerator?

LH: I was in high school.

UI2: Were you in high school when electricity first came in?

LH: I don't know, because we lived in town then and so we had a little bulb and I can't. At first, we did not have a refrigerator when we moved to town. We had a box like on the north side of the house and we [unintelligible]

UI2: Hmm.

UI: What role did music and art play in your life?

LH: Music played a big part because my grandma played a harmonica and she played it all the time and taught us how to do the barsouvian and waltz and she had a phonograph that we couldn't touch but when we begged, she'd put a record on, wind it up and, but art? When I went to school, we got two pencils and one little big tablet and it wasn't a Big Chief tablet and a package of eight crayons. I can remember one teacher wanted to teach us how to paint and my dad said, can't afford to buy that type of paints.

UI: What kind of pets did you have?

LH: I didn't ever have any.

UI2: No dogs?

LH: My grandma had a dog but we didn't have a dog or nothing. Got a lot of them now. (laughing)

UI: About your homes, the ones that you lived in, which ones were special to you?

LH: I guess they all were because they had four walls and a roof. (laughing) When we lived with my Grandma Eickie, they had built the house, her husband had built the house and built it with dance hall in

it. Big, big, big room with a dance hall and had an upstairs where the orchestra could sit and play and-

UI2: Where was this house?

LH: Right up the road-

UI2: Directly west of your-

LH: You see that roof that's up there?

UI2: Is that house still standing?

LH: No, no, there's one little piece of it standing in town, yeah.

UI2: Well, I interrupted, go ahead. It was a big house with a dance hall-

LH: Yeah, and an upstairs where the musicians [unintelligible] prohibition and of course, they were like everybody else, they made their own booze, and-

UI: When you were growing up, did you have to share a room with your sisters or did you have your own?

LH: Never did have a room of my own. My little sister and I, my mother and dad, I was used to same bedroom when I first grew up, and when we moved to town, we didn't have bedrooms or nothing, so we had a couch in the living room that opened up and that's where my little sister and I slept. Never did have a room of my own.

UI: So, you were basically pretty close with your sister when it come to, like, talking at night?

LH: No, because everybody in the house was right around and we just shut up and went to sleep.

UI: Would you share a memory or two about your wedding? What was it like?

LH: Well, it was very small and simple. We had it at church here. Pastor Kretzman was the pastor, Chuck Kastendick sang the Lord's Prayer and Because. My little sister was my bridesmaid and a of Pueblo of Merwin's was the best man. Afterwards, we had a small reception at my parents' house which is where Dr. Fee's house was, or Lois Crow's or-

UI2: Just across from the Texaco.

LH: Uh huh. Just across from the funeral home.

UI2: And it's not that anymore either. It was across from the Menzel Funeral Home.

LH: Uh huh. And then, we went to Canon City, and then we went on a three-day trip to Colorado and came back home and moved to a farm east, southeast of Pueblo. Well, we had no running water, no indoor plumbing, we did have electricity, lots of rattlesnakes and that's where we started our married life.

UI: So, it's basically like a small wedding that you didn't spend that much money on?

LH: Yes, very little, a white long dress that was my wedding dress and we made the little veil.

UI2: Who made your wedding cake?

LH: Gladys Elzy.

UI2: Gladys Elzy.

UI: What makes this county different from the other counties here in Colorado?

LH: Well, I'm real partial to it and I'd like to lock the door. (laughing) to keep it the way it is, because the people coming in have changed it so much. It just isn't like it used to be, and I'm just glad I'm as old as I am and don't have to face [unintelligible]

UI2: You've done your part of preserving your neck of the woods.

LH: Yeah, trying hard to preserve this area.

UI2: You've done a lot towards preserving your ranch.

LH: Did not have a really tidy life but enjoyed every minute of it.

UI2: Talk about your garden. You've always had a wonderful garden.

LH: I still have a garden. I rototilled it last year. I had grandkids that came down and planted it and I said, ok, if you plant it, I'll weed it and harvest it. I have to do it on my hands and knees cause I can't stoop over and that's how I weed in this. We had peas and beans and spinach and lettuce and carrots and lots of raspberries and strawberries and chokecherries and apples and-

UI: So, do you keep that for, like, your family or do you sell it?

LH: We eat it all.

UI2: One thing I remember you being very involved in always was 4H.

LH: Yep, always involved with 4H. We started the kids in when they were, I think it was nine back then. They all four were in 4H, they all went back to Washington, D.C. They, my grandkids were all in and I don't have anybody else.

UI2: You know, when we were talking about your family, we didn't talk about your children.

LH: Well, let's see. Keith lives here with me and he is the guy who comes in in the morning and says, here's the mail, are you ok? I'm not awake, he shakes me to be sure I'm not dead. (laughing) I could, Dennis, saw him every day, him and his friend and I told them today they couldn't come till 2 and he said that's fine. We won't be through sorting the cows till 2, and then, he comes back in the evening and brings my [unintelligible] and he's got a granddaughter that we're really proud of. She's got two

engineering degrees and a business degree.

UI2: That would be Keith's daughter, Autumn.

LH: And she works for Ditch Witch.

UI2: She's an engineer for Ditch Witch?

LH: I don't know what she is right now. She just came back from Florida and then she has to start Montana and Oregon and California and then, have Jackie, who was in Wellington, Texas, who has been keeping track of the fires aren't getting too close. She is Vice President of a bank and she has two children. Wendy works for the college in Clarendon, Texas and Jackie has Brandy and Shane and Shane, two years ago, was killed very tragically in a car accident and that devastated everybody. He was a senior at a college in Texas, Canyon and was real interested in raising registered Angus and [unintelligible] and then, there's Ken, who is now the assessor in Rocky Ford.

UI2: He's the county assessor in Rocky Ford?

LH: Mm hmm. And he's married and has a daughter, Lacey, who is a senior this year. Then there's Donna, who's married and lives in Eaton, Colorado and works at a bank in Windsor. She has our fighting boys, swim boys, Cody and Tyler who look after their grandma, and Trevor, who we raised ever since he was three months old. He stayed with his grandpa and grandma down here. Even when he started to school, he said, I have to have a vacation to go to grandma's house.

UI2: That's wonderful.

LH: And that during the summers, we would have all six grandkids here, most of them all summer. Brandy and Shane because their mother works would come up here, Trevor would be down here if they had their 4H animals here and they had a blast. They would take the little red wagon and go across the field to go fishing and we wouldn't see them all day.

UI2: They helped you [unintelligible] fields.

LH: Yeah, they weren't really quite big enough for that, but then after Roland passed away, Tyler was a junior in high school and he moved down here with me and they are real close. Every week, I hear from them.

UI: So, what kind of animals did they take to the 4H fair?

LH: Uh, beef, pigs, sheep. The kids up north took rabbits and [unintelligible] and Autumn went to state fair with hers a number of times. Sometimes, they even took them to stock shows.

UI2: Autumn showed horses too.

LH: Oh yeah. Brandy did too. They were, and they turned out really to like pigs, not Autumn or Brandy. But the other boys liked pigs real well.

UI2: They did a good job with them.

LH: Yeah, they did a really good job with the sheep too.

UI2: Uh huh.

LH: Won a lot of championships.

UI: So, how many times do you think they've taken their animals to the state fair?

LH: Autumn, I think, went four times to state fair, got in the sale several times. Tyler took a steer to state fair. They've taken pigs to state fair I don't know how many times. But I know it gets awfully tired sitting down there on them chig benches.

UI: Did they ever take them to the stock show and ever win?

LH: They took them to stock show but they never won. But Shane had a regional grand champion pig at state fair. And they all did really well in showmanship.

UI: How have you seen this county change in lots of ways?

LH: Yes. You really don't want me to comment on that. (laughing)

UI2: It's up to you.

LH: Because it's, you know, some of the things that have happened are really good. I think, the bowling alley is great, and the swimming pool that we have. Unfortunately, I can't bowl and hate the water. So-

UI2: But it's good for the kids.

LH: Yeah, but it's just gotten too big and the people that moved in here just want to change it, change it, change it.

UI: So, are most positive or negative?

LH: Negative.

UI2: Are you thinking mostly in political lines?

LH: Uh, yeah, you know, it's gotten, you know, much too big for, and then they're wanting to raise the taxes. Pay for this and pay for that and-I realize they have to keep up with some of this but-

UI2: It's not as quiet as when we used to have just one part time sheriff.

LH: No, no, and no more can we go to the school and have a rip-roaring good time dancing.

UI2: No, no.

LH: No, I don't know, it's different.

UI: Who was your sheriff back when you were littler?

LH: Uh, Jim Isabel and Spence. Do you remember Spence?

UI2: I kind of remember Spence, yes. Mr. Kidder-

LH: There used to be people, when I was in high school, we would heckle them.

UI2: It was never a full-time job.

LH: No.

UI2: It was a part time job.

LH: Yeah, there was never anything going on either.

UI2: Tell us about heckling the sheriff

LH: Oh, we used to, Marie Kelling had a car and we'd all chipped in to buy a little bit of gas because it was during the World War, and so then, we would drive up and down the allies and try and see which one we would meet him in. That was about as serious a thing as we ever did.

UI2: Did you ever play pranks on anybody? Just little practical jokes?

LH: No. We had a walk out at school one day cause they was going to fire the principal but that was it.

UI2: Who was your principal? Was that at the Lutheran school?

LH: Uh, no, that was at high school. High school, we had four teachers. We barely were accredited and I go by there now and I read how many teachers they've got and I think, did I get an education or didn't I get an education?

UI2: Who was your favorite class?

LH: Oh, I always liked math of any kind.

UI: So, did they just teach you, like, creating and [unintelligible] in math?

LH: Oh, let's see. Algebra, and we had English and we had physics, home ec-

UI2: Did you have history?

LH: They'd alternate. One year, they'd do physics, one year, they'd do chemistry.

UI2: Oh. You know, in the old school, when the gym was down in the hole, when-

UI: So, you went to, like, a different school before they built the Custer County one? Or has it been like that?

LH: Custer County High School is always, the old Custer County High School was there, had been there for a long time already.

UI: So, is that like the two story one I've seen?

LH: Pictures of, yeah.

UI: Mm hmm.

LH: Big auditorium with a stage up front and-

UI2: That was all in the basement. They just tore that down.

LH: I have a brick from it.

UI2: Do you?

UI: What is your hope for the future of this county?

LH: I'm not going to comment on that. I just hope they can keep some of the land as pristine as it is now without building on every little bitty 35 acre.

UI: What area is the most valuable to you?

LH: All the ranching area.

UI: Why is that?

LH: Cause I think this was and hopefully will continue to be a viable part of what the community is. I don't want it to become a tourist area.

UI2: Somebody has to feed the world.

LH: Right! I think some people really look at it that way.

UI: So, when you were younger, what kind of chores did you have to do?

LH: Had to carry in wood.

UI: You never really helped cook or clean?

LH: Oh, I still did have to cook, but if you get in the way. The house was so small, you really didn't have to worry about cleaning and it was just old wood floors so you sure didn't want to scrub them.

UI2: Did you milk?

LH: No, I double milk. (laughing) Used to ride the work horses to the field when they were haying.

UI2: Did you have session crews?

LH: We didn't ever raise grain but there were threshing crews. We just raised enough hay for the horses and the couple of cattle that we had and I'm sure they must have had grain on the [unintelligible] where Ross Cook was, because, yes, I can remember the threshing crew was coming in then.

UI2: There was a lot of cooking done in the home where the threshing crews were.

LH: Oh yeah.

UI: When you were growing up, were many opportunities closed to women?

LH: Well, because it was during the war time, so you could go to work in any of the factories that you wanted to.

UI2: You don't ever remember in your time; women were always allowed to vote?

LH: Yeah! Take office or, you know, they could do whatever they wanted to.

UI2: Do you have a specific instance that you're thinking of?

UI: No. How much did women make back then when they were working?

LH: When I first started working, I made 25 cents a day. When I worked up at The Pines, we probably got \$10 a week plus if you did a good job cleaning the cabins and waiting on the tables, when the people left, they gave us a tip, \$2 or \$3. But we didn't ever get to town all summer so we didn't have anything to spend it on.

UI2: Save it.

UI: So, did you have like a bank that had savings accounts?

LH: I still [unintelligible] the bank up here. I don't know. I think the bank up here had savings accounts.

UI: Uh huh.

LH: I didn't have one till I went to work for the telephone company in Pueblo.

UI: Think of questions, Colorado history things-

LH: When you think of the progression that technology has made from the time I was born at home and now down the road here-

UI2: All your children were born in hospitals, weren't they?

LH: Uh huh, uh huh, in Pueblo. You know, no power, no phone, no nothing, no outside communication. We didn't even have radio till we moved to town.

UI: What kind of radio stations did they have back then?

LH: KOA. I remember when we lived up here, my uncle had a big old battery radio and my dad liked

Gangbusters then. Once a week we'd go over there to listen to Gangbusters.

UI2: Oh, Gangbusters was a radio station.

LH: Program.

UI2: Program.

LH: Yeah. But then, they're worried about the grader coming to grade the road. Everybody took care of their little old end of the road for themselves. We used to turn our milk cows out in the road, we had to be sure that they didn't go too far, get them back in, and-

UI: When, did you ever ride a school bus to school?

LH: No.

UI: So, like, they came out after-

LH: Yeah, after I was married.

UI2: There weren't school busses here until after the schools were consolidated in town?

LH: No, no. Kids that were lucky had a horse they could ride but we never did mind walking.

UI2: You went to school regular as now from fall to spring?

LH: Uh huh. Nine to three thirty, I think, because by the time we walked, it-

UI2: It was dark when you got home.

LH: Yeah, it was. But, in my case, most of the time, I was the only one in the class, besides then you have eight grades in the same school. You sat there and listened and listened and listened and you didn't have workbooks. You didn't have color books.

UI2: And yet, you're able to keep up with everything as it goes on today.

LH: Yeah.

UI2: Do you have a computer?

LH: If I'd use them.

UI2: So, you've gone from no electricity to doing-

LH: Yeah! Yeah.

UI2: Good for you.

UI: What was one of the first restaurants they had up he?

LH: Min's Café.

UI: What'd they serve there?

LH: Sandwiches, I don't, can't remember them selling hamburgers but I'm sure they must have. But it was on the corner of-

UI2: It's where Wild Thyme is now, with a service station and several things, it's back to a restaurant now. That same building.

LH: Yeah, it was in a part of back, in the little edge before it went back to where they kept the cars and stuff.

UI2: The trucks to be worked on, in the service station, that corner used to be a gas station.

UI: How many restaurants do you think they had over the years?

LH: Well, there was Min's and there was Susie's and there was the Red Garter.

UI2: T Bar G?

LH: That was the same as the Red Garter. No, it wasn't, and Neil's, whatever it was when Neil Foot had it. There was a pool hall that, that girls weren't allowed in but boys could go play pool and there was the hotel. We thought it was great when the hotel put in a soda fountain cause we could go down there and have a cherry coke...,

UI2: The hotel used to be where the Westcliffe Park is now. It burned.

LH: Everything. Nothing in town was the same. Nothing. We used to have grocery stores by the, oh I think there were probably six or more grocery stores, and three or four filling stations and hardware stores and drug stores, several drug stores and-

UI2: Churches, lots of churches.

LH: No, there's more churches now than there were.

UI: Was there, like, a lot of bars or was there less?

LH: Uh, the one that Angelo Christoph ran and one that Neil Quick had. No, not a lot. Probably not more than two.

UI: So, were the women ever allowed in those or was it just the men?

LH: Oh, the women were allowed. We went out of the, we couldn't go in where they played pool. Susie's was a bar but she was after my high school. I don't know what was there. It was a drug store, dry goods store. Lucy Lily had it.

UI: Did they have a library?

LH: Yes, I had a library card and would get books to read. It was where the library is now, only it's all changed. Sorr

UI: Was the library back then, like, smaller?

LH: Uh huh, uh huh.

UI: So, you didn't really have that many books there? Or did you have a lot?

LH: It had all I wanted to read.

UI2: Seems to me there were a lot of books there.

LH: Mm hmm, mm hmm, I haven't [unintelligible] with all of them. I know.

UI2: It wasn't near as big as it is now.

LH: I went in there to get a book when the kids were in 4H, when the grandkids were in 4H and it didn't really have one. [unintelligible] and a library card back here when I was in high school. Sorry, I was-

UI2: You didn't get a new library card?

LH: No, everything=

UI2: Oh. It's beautiful in there.

UI: How many hotels do you think that had back then?

LH: They had just one.

UI: And what was that called?

LH: Westcliffe Hotel.

UI: Did you get a lot of can tourists in the summertime?

LH: They would come to, like, Alpine Lodge or The Pines or Spread Eagle, but they came in by, they would come to Texas Creek by train and come up here by bus, the mail bus.

UI: So, the original Alpine Lodge, have you ever, did you ever eat there when you were younger?

LH: No. As a matter of fact, I don't know that we ever went out to eat. I don't remember if we ever went out to eat. Even on the very small times when we would go to Pueblo, we'd buy a loaf of bread and some baloney and cheese and we'd eat on the way home.

UI2: Did you? (laughing)

UI: What were used, did you get to, like, [unintelligible] Canon City?

LH: We had a old, I don't know what kind of car it was, but took forever, cause the road was not any of it paved and-

UI: Was that as like, swerved as it is now?

LH: Uh, yes. Even more so.

UI2: Ooh, it was dangerous.

LH: Even more so. It was not even paved when Keith was born.

UI2: I don't remember it not being paved but I know it wasn't.

LH: Ira probably was paved, remember?

UI2: Uh huh.

LH: That time we went to up on Hermit Lake dinner dance was the July picnic. It kind of rained and we said, oh gosh, what are we going to do now? And all of your family and all of them and my family piled in one lousy car and we went down to the drive-in. I'm sure they must have-

UI2: Oh, I do remember! They had four kids and we had four kids and then four adults.

LH: To the drive-in theater!

UI2: Yeah. IT was fun. I don't know what the movie was. (laughing)

LH: I wouldn't-I remember the forest fire that was over there.

UI2: Above?

LH: Above your place.

UI2: Above our place.

LH: Yeah.

UI2: Yeah.

LH: And everybody took off and you four kids were left in town and so I brought you out here and you stayed overnight, and the next day, I took you home.

UI2: I know when our house burned, you and Merwin were right there all the time. You helped our family out a great deal at that time.

LH: Les and Merwin were just like brothers. They were real close.

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UI: I had a question. I have to think of it again, I'm sorry. (laughing) Oh! When you were, did you ever go on picnics?

LH: Yeah, picnics were more common then than, can't get my guys to go on a picnic now.

UI2: It was a recreation.

LH: It was a recreation type thing back then. We had a big church picnic. We had family picnics and-

UI: Where would you usually go when you went on them?

LH: Down the road, wherever there was tree. (laughing)

UI2: Where there was water.

LH: Where there was water.

UI: Back then, did the boys play, like, baseball?

LH: Yes, they did. Or Chase or Red Rover or, we played all those old games when I was in high school. Yeah.

UI2: Annie I over.

LH: We played Annie I over in the Lutheran church. (laughing)

UI2: And you didn't break any windows?

LH: No, we didn't break a window [unintelligible]

UI: Did you guys ever have, like, football back then?

LH: No, football didn't come in till after we were married and then they played at the rodeo grounds.

UI: Did you ever go to, like, the baseball games? They had no competition, like?

LH: Oh, like the Pueblo Dodgers or some of those, no?

UI2: This has been great fun. But we've probably overstayed our welcome.

LH: [unintelligible] coming up to lunch, I think. Coming about 2.

UI2: We'll let you cook.

End of recording.