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Oral History Collection

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Jones, Marie Wagner

September 22, 1986

Interviewed by Irene Francis

IR: The date is September 22, 1986. I am here with Marie Jones and I will ask her questions about her life in the Westcliffe area. This is Irene Francis.

IR: Give me your maiden name and what year you were born.

MJ: Marie Jones, uh Wagner, and I was born in 1908 in the city of Westcliffe.

IR: Your mother's maiden name, what was her maiden name?

MJ: Marie Anna Dickman.

IR: And that was a family that was, that had come over with the colony.

MJ: No, they didn't because they came later than the colony. But they came from Illinois. I think one of my uncles was born in Illinois.

IR: And he came over with the colonists, did he?

MJ: No, he was born in Illinois.

IR: He was born in Illinois.

MJ: Yes.

IR: But that colony originated from Illinois, so-

MJ: Well, I imagine they did, they stopped off there in Illinois and some of them maybe stayed because one of them maybe the mother was carrying a baby and just couldn't make the trip.

IF: I see. And so, they knew people here and that's how they came.

MJ: Yes.

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IF: Now what did the Deickmans do when they came here?

MJ: My grandfather was a farmer and he farmed a little place up above where Tartans live now.

IF: Ok, did he homestead that?

MJ: I couldn't tell you for sure. Many years, I believe he could have but then they moved from there to Silver Cliff and my grandma was quite ill for quite a long time with an ulcerated leg, but she made butter and we sold butter and cream and eggs and that's how they really got in.

IF: Is that, I think I heard something about her from Betty Munson. Did Betty Munson live in, near there in her home?

MJ: No, I don't think so. I think that would be before Betty's time.

IF: Betty's time.

MJ: Yeah.

IF: Uh huh. But she made, even with this bad leg, she made the butter-

MJ: Oh yes, and she was a wonderful cook. Her soup was just delicious, and the prunes she cooked was good.

IF: Prunes! (laughing)

MJ: Yeah, really.

IF: Now your mother or your father, where did your father's parents come from? They come from Illinois too?

MJ: No, they came from Germany.

IF: They came directly from Germany.

MJ: They did. Yes, they did, except the father came first, and then the mother came later and my dad had three sisters. But only two came over with him and the mother. The other one and, was Maries who came across and Angelina, which was Walter Hanssen's mother, and the other one was Bochmam, Lina Bochmam.

IF: How do you spell that name?

MJ: Bochmam.

IF: Did they homestead when they came over?

MJ: Yes, they homesteaded on that place, well, I don't know when my grandfather died. He died before my oldest brother was even born.

IF: Ok, give me the location of the, where they homesteaded.

MJ: Up by Kastendick's.

IF: Near Kastendick, and we have a picture of that, and they built this little log cabin out of loose logs.

MJ: Cute dogs.

IF: And, as I told you before we started to tape, that that house is now out by William Moore's house. They've made a cabin out of that. Did your, did they, did the Wagner's ranch? Did they farm?

MJ: Yes, I think so. I can't say for sure. I think first when they came, my dad lived up at those cedar, you know where the brewery is?

IF: Brewery was?

MJ: Yeah. He worked there-

IF: Some of that has, some of the, stones are still there from the brewery.

MJ: They sure are.

IF: And he worked there and they lived there in Rosita?

MJ: Oh yes, they lived there for a while and then my father went to the steel mill and got 50 cents a day is what he got working at the steel mill.

IF: Now the steel mill's where he, down in Pueblo?

MJ: Uh huh.

IF: I see. He commuted. He went back and forth all the time.

MJ: Yeah, he really did and then, I don't know just how old the children was when my father was a forest ranger here. For years, he travelled the mountains with two horses, but he still kept the farm.

IF: Did he work on the trails, is that what he did?

MJ: Yes, he did. He worked on trails, and then he rode all the time, the East hills and also the west mountains.

IF: Was he like a game warden too? Or did he-

MJ: Well, yes. At that time, they did use them as game wardens because they had a right, if they found anybody killing anything, they had a right to arrest them.

IF: Now, did we say what his name was, what was his name>

MJ: Frank H. Wagner.

IF: Frank H. Wagner. Ok, we talked before this and now I have to go back and ask you things. Ok, you were born in, were you born at the homestead or where were you born?

MJ: Right here in Westcliffe.

IF: You were born and your parents had moved to Westcliffe at that point. Where was their home?

MJ: Well, dad was travelling in the Forest Service then.

IF: Uh huh, and what house did you live, did your parents live?

MJ: Well, we lived in different houses here.

IF: They rented?

MJ: Yeah, and I was born in the house on 4th St like I told you next to-and then they moved to the house-

IF: Next to Rosco's, isn't that where you said, on 4th St.

MJ: And then, they moved to a house I remember that it was, I think the [unintelligible] living in it now.

IF: Oh, ok.

MJ: And that one is a garage in front of there, there's no garage of course no more, which is a change to it, used to be a boarding house.

IF: I see.

MJ: Yeah. And that's right across the street where that, the cabins are now, the Voses' cabins, I don't know what they name them now. That was also a woman that boarded people from that.

IF: Did they have boarding houses for miners? Is that what it was mostly?

MJ: Mostly for miners.

IF: Now, tell me what schools you went to.

MJ: Well, I went to the Willows school and that's about-

IF: You remember any of your teachers?

MJ: Oh yeah, Mrs. Dawn Geroux was one of my teachers.

IF: I see.

MJ: and then that's Irene Curtis was a teacher, and I started to school when, oh gosh, what was his name, he was postmaster later on, but he wouldn't let me stay. I was too young, he said. So, we, I had to stay another year and then we had Sudoris and a sister to Mrs. Hobby, which was Frances, oh my, what was her name, Frances, can't think of her name. I remember most of them.

IF: Now did you go to high school?

MJ: Yeah. Two and half years.

IF: Did you have to go down to Canon to high school or they had the high school here.

MJ: We started in, up above the, where the store is now. That's where they had the high school at first.

IF: Up above Jennings, wasn't it?

MJ: It was up above Jennings.

IF: I remember. You did go to high school because you went with Marie Erps.

MJ: Yes, I sure did.

IF: And she said something about, of I remember, she said tell her that, about the time when she played, when you played basketball and then you got married.

MJ: Yeah (laughing)

IF: And you were with their basketball team!

MJ: They was going to have a ball game that night and I, my first husband, Guy Loat, and they was all made at me because I used to guard Marie and she was a tough one to work with.

IF: She was taller than you.

MJ: Yeah, yeah, and then she was strong. I liked Marie real well and I got along just fine with all my schoolmates.

IF: Now was your husband, your boyfriend then, did he go to school with you?

MJ: No, he didn't. He was ten years older than I was.

IF: I see. And so, you just decided you were going to elope instead of play basketball.

MJ: That's right.

IF: Ok. Now, since we're to that-where did you go elope to? Where did you go?

MJ: Well, we got our license in Canon and got married in Florence and then we went to Casper, Wyoming!

IF: I see. Was he working there or?

MJ: No-

IF You just went there for a honeymoon.

MJ: For our honeymoon, and then after we was there, we went to Montana but I don't even remember the name in Montana where we was and he worked on a ranch there with horses and that, and then we came-

IF: Was that a big surprise to your family when you just went off?

MJ: Yes

IF: And eloped?

MJ: Yes, it was.

IF: You didn't come home from the basketball team? (laughing) Ok, now tell me the names of your children.

MJ: Lester Charles Jones, Ralph Edward Jones and Betty Darlene Jones.

IF: I see, and they were all raised here?

MJ: Yes, they was, the big house out there, I had my first child out there.

IF: Now the big house where?

MJ: At Kastendick.

IF: At Kastendick!

MJ: In that big one.

IF: Your husband was working there for-

MJ: No, he was working for Schwab's out here where Dr. Bora has the ranch now, and I stayed with my folks that summer and picked peas and bought me a bedspread and a curtain and doilies and all the time I was waiting for my first baby.

IF: Oh, well tell me where you picked the peas.

MJ: Right on the ranch.

IF: And then they, at that time, they-

MJ: Lettuce and pea shoots here.

IF: And so, the railroad was still there too.

MJ: I think it went out in '38, I believe, the railroad did.

IF: Uh huh. Can you tell me some of the people you went to school with? I know you went with Marie Erp.

MJ: Well, Marie Erps, Auggie Menzel, I don't know what I did with Auggie Menzel or not, Marie Erps, I got a picture, I found it the other day.

IF: Ok.

MJ: I thought-

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Tape stops and restarts.

IF: Oh, let's see now. Here's a picture of this 19, out of the paper, it's 1974 but this must have been a publication they had out, huh?

MJ: Yeah.

IF: Oh, 50th year reunion of one of the classes!

MJ: Yeah, which I think would have been their first year. I think it says 1924, making it the 50th year reunion.

IF: Now, let's see. Which one of these are you, Marie?

MJ: I'm not on it.

IF: You're not on there.

MJ: But I did go to school, I didn't think I did with him. But I did with Earl Cress and Mrs. Kugel's son, which was, now what is his name> Edward Kugels, and then the teacher was Alexander.

IF: This one's the teacher

MJ: Yes.

IF: I see. And this was Earl Crest here?

MJ: Yes, sure is.

IF: Oh wow! I'm going to make a tape with him in a few days.

MJ: Oh, are you?

IF: Mm hmm.

MJ: And, let's see, Earl Cress, and this is the professor and Auggie Menzel. I must have went with him because he was close to my age and then went to school with June, Carrie Canda. We called him June all the time. We're here, let's see, Dorothy Graybill, I went to school with her. She took her own, I don't know if she took her own or her sister, and Annie Hanssen.

IF: I heard Annie Hanssen was a good basketball player.

MJ: Oh yes, she sure was, uh huh. Tricia Falkenburg played, Iris Plank, went to school with her and she married a Higgins, well, I think she, her husband's, and Hazel Roberts. Her brother was Welfare Office and Teresa Falkenburg and Betty Beeman, went to school with her, and then there's Miss Kettle was the schoolteacher. Clara Herwagner, her husband, her dad was a minister here in the Lutheran church.

IF: What was her name?

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MJ: Herwagner

IF: I see.

MJ: Wait a minute, see what teacher, there, Herwagner. And Florence Wilshow. She was related to me. Mother's aunt or something in law.

IF: Tell me what you, as a young person growing up in Westcliffe, what was the favorite thing you liked to do?

MJ: Well, I liked to play, I was a great one for sport, and my mother was a great sport player.

IF: Did they have a football team?

MJ: No but, and he went to Pueblo, to high school in Pueblo. He graduated here and then went to Pueblo for more education.

IF: So, the high school was only a two-year high school.

MJ: No.

IF: Or you just went, oh you went for two years and got married. That's right.

MJ: It was a four year and I went to school with Dora Kastendick and, which her name was Bly, and that was a teacher there, and then, I can't remember Roger Bonneal.

IF: But the first year you went, you went to high school up over Jennings.

MJ: Yes.

IF: And then they built the high school.

MJ: Yeah.

IF: And somebody told me that up where Grandma's house is now, that used to be a dance hall on top? Was that a dance hall at one point>

MJ: Both of them was. The one over Jennings Hall was a dance hall, store, and was a dance hall, and the one over Grandma's House was a dance hall.

IF: And what was down below at Grandma's House?

MJ: Well, I think it was a restaurant at Grandma's House, but I just, seems to me part of it was a restaurant and there was a barber shop in there and I think it was also an ice cream parlor at one time.

IF: They make their own ice cream?

MJ: Yes, they did.

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IF: And also, where the movie theater is now, was there a pool hall or something in there?

MJ: Sure was. A man the name of Klutz run it.

IF: Uh huh. And so, there was really a lot to do in town?

MJ: Yes.

IF: Someone else was telling me too something about a skating rink. Where was the skating rink?

MJ: Well, that was over above Jennings there when the dance kind of, when there wasn't as many people, used to be too many for one hall, so they had both halls for dancing, and then, after that, they turned it into a skating rink.

IF: About how many people were living in Westcliffe and Silver Cliff about that time? There were a lot more than there are today.

MJ: Oh yes, uh huh. Oh yes.

IF: And were the mines going at that time?

MJ: Not too much, no, not when I was small, but it was some but not a whole lot, just people prospecting of course.

IF: Uh huh.
Tape stops and re-starts.

MJ: I did part time and then my mother went to be Christian Science.

IF: I see.

MJ: And then, her and dad agreed that I, he take the boys and go to the Lutheran church, and I would go to the Christian Science which made me very unhappy not to be with my family, my mother and dad and the boys.

IF: Was there a Christian Science group here in-

MJ: No, just was some woman, was a Chesley, had their motel now. There was a woman lived in there that was a Christian Science, and mom and dad interested with her and there was a few other ones, not too many. I doubt there was any more than five, and then after, well, after my husband passed away, then I joined the Lutheran church.

IF: Went back to your roots.

MJ: Yeah.

IF: Tell me about the, we're talking about when you were younger, was the Lutheran, was away from

town. They hadn't built the church then at that time?

MJ: When I was younger, yeah, that's when we'd still like, go with horses and spring wagon clear out to the country there, and the Menzel family, they practically were the whole congregation. I still can see them at all the tables.

IF: So, Sunday was a big day. When you went to church, you didn't just go to church and come home, you went to church and had eating on the grounds, so it was, and I could see where that would be hard to leave that.

MJ: Oh yes, because the horses, you know, would be tired and they needed resting. Then it would be cold and we would heat rocks and bricks and put by our feet to keep warm when we travelled.

IF: So, it was hard for people to go to church at that time.

MJ: Yes, it was.

IF: Do you remember what year it was when you were confirmed? Were you confirmed in the church?

MJ: I was baptized in the church but I wasn't confirmed until, let's see, I think it must have been the year '60, something like that.

IF: So, you were confirmed as an adult. You went to, and that was in the church that was here.

MJ: Yes, we lived in town.

IF: And can you remember the year that they had the school there? Did they have a big school?

MJ: Well, see, they used to have it down in the basement of the church, and then they, my father was against that, very much so, to build that, and they never turned out very good. Then Mr. Perk bought that and turned it into a, well, it's a kind of apartments.

IF: Yeah, it is now.

MJ: Uh huh, but I don't know if that picture of the church that I showed you?

IF: Now the picture of the church has just the church. It doesn't, yeah.

MJ: Yeah. It don't say nothing on it, no.

IF: Yeah, it, but you said the young people are outside of the school playing.

MJ: Looks like they're snowballing.

IF: Yeah, sure does. You mentioned your aunt Matilda? And it was, her name was Wagner.

MJ: No.

IF: No.

MJ: No, her name was Dickman.

IF: Oh, that was your sister's , your mother's sister.

MJ: Yeah.

IF: And then she married Brandenburg.

MJ: Yes.

IF: And went out to live on the ranch with them?

MJ: Yes.

IF: Had you been out to that ranch, was it a working ranch?

MJ: Yes, I sure have. See, that's where the 'Saddle the Wind' was taken.

IF: Where what?

MJ: 'Saddle the Wind' was taken.

IF: That's right. Do you remember when they were making that picture?

MJ: Yes, I sure do. Yes.

IF: That was a big thing.

MJ: Oh yes, it really was, and then they also made one up by Rosita with, no, that was Cat Ballou out there.

IF: That's right, Cat Ballou. Saddle the Wind was out in Rosita.

MJ: I went out there too, to watch them. Dan Mix was the blacksmith at that time, and then there was, I think some of that picture was taken out where Johnny Canute is.

IF: I know they built some houses in Rosita for that film.

MJ: And of course, then after that they'd take a real nice house was burned down after that picture was taken, and then Cat Ballou, they went up over that prairie down here by, oh, I can't, John Cook owned it part of the time but I can't think that man's name that sold it to them, and that was a pretty picture. That's where the girl falls in this hearse and they take off where they're going.

IF: Oh, yeah, yeah.

MJ: Then also in Saddle the Wind, part of that picture was taken of going up to the, not the Alpine, but

the Pines when the flowers was so pretty.

IF: Oh, yeah. I didn't realize. I saw that but I didn't realize that was up towards the Pines.

MJ: Yeah, that sure was, uh huh, it was just beautiful that year.

IF: Do you remember the Pines was first built, when they first built that house and had people out there?

MJ: No, I don't remember when they built it.

IF: But when they had people coming out there to-

MJ: Yeah, I worked up there.

IF: Did you?

MJ: Yes.

IF: How long did you work up there?

MJ: Oh, one summer.

IF: And they had people coming from I think, Louisiana and-

MJ: Oh yeah, they had lots of, and things are so much different now. We had to wait on them, you know, and now, I think they put the food right on the table and everybody helps themselves.

IF: Oh, you had to, it was individual server, and did they just stay? They had cabins, I remember.

MJ: Yes, they had cabins.

IF: They, were you a waitress, is that what you did?

MJ: Uh huh, and I even for Betty Scaab, I cooked for one summer up there.

IF: Mrs. Menzel ran it for a while too, didn't she? Mrs. Menzel, Menzel?

MJ: Menzel, yes, but I didn't work for her, yes, but Mrs. Menzel and her daughter, McIntosh, they run it for a while.

IF: I was talking to somebody one time that was talking about the Alpine and how they used to, when that was first built, they had people coming out from the train, a regular excursion. Is that the way the Pines did too?

MJ: I think so, a lot of it was, and then lots of them was just coming out for vacation and maybe they'd have to meet them at the train, and the Alpine, really the first that started up there, down below there were a lot of them houses being built, there was a place called Oakland.

IF: Oakland. That's near the Pines?

MJ: Yes, right below the Alpine.

IF: Oh, the Alpine. It was near the Alpine. Did that have a dance hall in there.

IF: Yes, it did, a big dance hall in that, and then, there was Ruth Lange and Ruth Bull. Both was, came up for the summer and I think they built some cabins up there, the two of them, and then they married. Ruth Lange married, by the name of Lange, and Ruth married Tooney Bull.

IF: Now that's, is that the same person that built the hotel that Mike Pearl lives in now? That's different.

MJ: Yeah, that's different.

IF: Because that name is the name of Wolst.

MJ: Yeah.

IF: Are you talking about Rath Lange, is that the one that was superintendent of the schools?

MJ: Uh, yeah. I kind of think she was.

IF: Yeah, they came out from the city and

MJ: Back East

IF: Yeah, and I think she also was social services.

MJ: Yes, she was.

IF: And so, they came out from back East and rented the cabins and got acquainted with this area.

MJ: Well, we didn't have much of a high school, they hardly ever went to grade school even.

IF: The boys

MJ: The boys,

IF: but the girls had education.

MJ: Why, yes, and we had Anita Frank that came from ? married Frank, and he was crippled, carried his arm all the time and oh we, have the other people that way. I'm going to get you the book, show you some of the pictures of the-

IF: Marie has brought out a ledger that her father kept, an expense account for 1949. It has, it's a Farmer's pocket ledger, complements of Mercier Hardware Company, Westcliffe, Colorado. It'd be kind of fun just to see how much some of the things cost. Let's see – apples .50, ice cream .66, coffee .56, and there was a Safeway store here?

MJ: Yes, where Grandma's House is.

IF: His total bill was \$2.48.

MJ: It was hard today.

IF: Bread and donuts, that's both of them for .32, meat, wonder how many days the meat was, but it was only \$1.09.

MJ: Yeah.

IF: Fruit .57, let's see here, if I can find something else that he paid for, bakery .30, stove repair, \$5.32. You couldn't get them to walk in the door for that, right?

MJ: That's for sure.

IF: Fire insurance \$10 (laughing), Gamble spray gun, .95, well, that was kind of expensive, donuts .18, watermelon and ginger ale .98 for both of them, gas \$1.20, car inspection and muffler \$9.38. Wonderful, how he kept everything.

MJ: Yep.

IF: Telephone \$4.16 and gas \$2.32.

MJ: Do you have a phone now?

IF: No, but it's coming. We're getting it. Well, let's see now. Here's some pictures and this is, you said, Blizzardeen?

MJ: Yeah.

IF: That's down south, isn't it?

MJ: Yes, south on the range, and we lived there till the kids, well, Lester had to stay with my folks that was living out here where the Emmell place used to be.

IF: Now did you have a ranch here or what?

MJ: Yeah, we worked for a man, Harry Schwab and took, wintered the cattle, fed hay to the cattle during the winter there, and let's see then

IF: Now here's, this is a log cabin.

MJ: Yeah, that was on the Schwab place. This is my brother that was killed, and that's me and of course, you see, I have a dog peeking out of the basket and here he is here. And this is a picture of us going to school 1915.

IF: 1915! I'll have to have a picture made of that. 1915. Ok

MJ: And I kind of think that was up at the Pines. I think-

IF: Sure, it is. That's a picture of the Pines.

MJ: And that's when they must have been building there.

IF: That's the, that was a kit when they had that made, wasn't it?

MJ: Mm hmm.

IF: OK, need a picture of that too.

MJ: And let's see, that's my first husband, the first baby of course.

IF: Uh huh.

MJ: And here I was scolding them, by taking a picture of me when I was pregnant. (laughing)

IF: Those dresses are so baggy you could hardly tell. We're back to that again. The baggy dresses.

MJ: Yeah, we are. And that's the Pines too. And that's some friends I had that I palled around with, and I can't remember who the baby was. That was up in Wyoming. There's some, Mr. Cusack.

IF: Now, who's that?

MJ: The head cook and he was

IF: He was the head cook up at the Pines.

MJ: Yeah, and that's who owned all that up there then.

IF: Oh, he got it in and had it, and here's their little houses. I wish they would have left those.

MJ: Oh yeah. Now this building, well maybe this is it, but this where he stands, they burned that all down too.

IF: Oh.

MJ: And the ones they're having I think is the old place. This is my oldest boy and this is Carl Kelling that works at the, I better get that dog in, I can't take it any longer.

IF: Marie, tell me about living in Blizzardeen. How, were there times when you didn't get into town?

MJ: No, we got into town most of the time but driving a team to the top of the hill and then we tied them up and left our car there and would get in the car and come to town. When we went home, we'd leave the car there, hitch up our horses and drive to the house which would be about a mile and a half.

IF: How deep would some of that snow get sometimes?

MJ: Well, lots of times, it got to 2-3 feet deep.

IF: Cause different people were going to build things out there and so forth and then that, so the county would never come out plow your road.

MJ: No, the county would never come out.

IF: How about the regular highway? Was that

MJ: It was off of the highway. See, it's 22 miles from Westcliffe and it's at the foot of the mountain what they call Snowslide Mountain, has a ditch down where snowslided down.

IF: Right, right.

MJ: Sometime and we put cattle up there for the winter. We'd take them up in about February and feed them what hay we'd raised up in there and put up for Mr. Schwab. But the children was never sick, never had a day of sick, moved out of there into a little house in the lane what used to be a post office and the first week we was down there, the kids was all sick with colds.

IF: Oh, this is in town you're talking about?

MJ: No, it was about ten miles down from Blizzardeen.

IF: I see.

MJ: So, I said, just don't seem like, and of course, my folks worried about us up there, but we got along just fine. We put in there a supply of sugar and flour and that and never worried about anything, coffee, we had our coffee.

IF: Did you have lights out there or-

MJ: Lamps.

IF: Just the lamps, so when it got dark, you went to bed.

MJ: Yeah.

IF: Well, I don't know. Maybe some of that-

MJ: And we also milked a bunch of cows. Joe would work in the summertime for Mr. Schwab, putting the hay on his lower place, and I stayed up there and milked 23 head of cows, fed the calves and the pigs and the chickens.

IF: And you had children then.

MJ: Yes, I had the three and I have to tell you about the time that my husband coming in with two buckets of milk and the pigs are following him, and he come to the door and I was excited, I said, don't let the pigs in. But he just let them in and the pigs followed him, and he carried the milk and put it on the table. Well, they couldn't get at it and then I was chasing the pigs, and one pig went under the high chair that Darlene was sitting in and he took her all over that kitchen and never upset her. (laughing) It was a ball, we was happy. We really was.

IF: And you didn't need a lot of things.

MJ: No, we didn't need, there was nothing that we wished for or anything. We had no entertainment, only ourselves and but we had a lot of snow to play with, that's for sure. And lots of times, it snowed up there when it would be clear down here and we used to go up there hunting, and one night, we was hunting-

IF: Now, what would you hunt?

MJ: Elk and deer.

IF: Would they come pretty close-

MJ: Pretty close

IF: So, when you wanted to hunt them, they wasn't too hard because they were your friends. (laughing)

MJ: Just one time, the stars were shining and everything. We went to bed, had a big tent set up there, and was other guys staying in the tent. In fact, it was some from California and next morning, it was a foot deep in snow.

IF: You were up in the mountains, you were up further in the mountains.

MJ: Yeah, just about three miles further up.

IF: Music Pass near there?

MJ: Right close, uh huh. Very shortcut to Music Pass and we, the man, Garrett Cody had a tent up and he just dropped that tent down. He told the California guys to do this and do that and Bob said, well, gosh, Garrett, well, let me get my pants on at least. And we moved out. He had a small trailer that we pulled and my son was driving the Bronco and we's coming out of there and pretty soon, the trailer was setting there and he was a going on, it had unhitched, but he backed up and hitched up and got out of there.

IF: So, you got out before the snow was really bad.

MJ: Well, we had quite a time. We went on down to where Hess' lived and instead of them taking to left, would have been, was a road, he went around the house there at Hess' and we, I told the boys then, I said, why don't you guys, one of your guys drive Garrett's pickup out. No, he said, they won't let me. He won't let us. I said, by gosh, I bet I'll drive it out of here.

IF: So, did you?

MJ: Yes, I told, him, I says, get over, I'm going to drive this out of here, and I did, too.

IF: Did you get an elk that time?

MJ: Yes, we did.

IF: Now, how did you keep the meat that you got?

MJ: Well, it was cool up there It would cool off and then we would bring it down and have it cut up then.

IF: Now was there a meat locker in town that you put it in?

MJ: Yes, at that time, Candas had a meat locker here.

IF: Was that where Grandma's House is now?

MJ: Yes, it was.

IF: And that's all gone too, that meat locker but you didn't have any refrigeration out there.

MJ: No, none at all, but you had good mountain air.

IF: Now when you would milk the cows, what would you do with that?

MJ: Well, we separated the milk and brought the cream to town.

IF: Would you have to do that every day?

MJ: No.

IF: How did you keep that cold?

MJ: About once a week or ten days, we could, why, it was cool enough that it never soured.

IF: It was cool enough there that it would never sour.

MJ: Yes.

IF: Oh, even in the summer? It got that cool?

MJ: Yes, that's right.

IF: Did you have a certain place to keep it, like a dugout or anything?

MJ: No dugout, no, it was a little place, we had a little shed there where we had our separator and everything, and we'd keep it in there. Never had no trouble souring. It was really wonderful.

IF: Those were good days.

MJ: Once when I was working with milking, that was when I had the first child, and my husband and I went out to work, and we came in and he was pouring flour in a can and poured syrup, and he was working his hands back and forth-

IF: Just like mama

MJ: Sure was.

IF: Yeah, kids kind of had to take care of themselves when you were busy.

MJ: Sure. They sure did but he was enjoying himself.

IF: Now when you went to the willows school, how far did you have to go to school?

MJ: A mile and a half.

IF: Would you walk that?

MJ: Yes, most of the time. We got to ride horseback once in a while and my dad had a horse by the name of Tom that he rode on Forest Service and whenever we'd get to ride Tom, we'd get to that bridge at the corner of the muddy lane and hit that bridge, and we'd have a race from there to the school.

IF: He wanted to get there. And then would the horse stay outside all day?

MJ: No, they had a shed for the horse.

IF: I see.

MJ: And so, then, Dad drove the horse one time and he come home and he said Well, he said, I know what you kids have been doing. You've been racing with the horse, when he hit the bridge, he run away with me. So, we was in trouble. We didn't get to ride him for quite a while.

IF: Now how about, was there times in the winter when you just had to stay home?

MJ: No, we booked that all the time, we just went every day, was never no-

IF: Horses would go, didn't make any difference.

MJ: Yeah. Appreciate every bit of it.

IF: Wouldn't change it, huh?

MJ: No sir, I sure wouldn't, no.

IF: That's wonderful. Well, Marie, it's really been wonderful talking to you.

MJ: Well, I enjoyed you too.

IF: I just hope that what we said today will help some of the young people coming and living in Westcliffe to appreciate it.

MJ: Well, yes!

IF: So, they'll know what has gone before them.

MJ: That's right!

IF: On this tape, Marie mentioned the Brandenburg family, spelled Brandenburg. Maritz Brandenburg's parents came to America from the Ponson River area in Germany. Maritz and Matilda Dickman which is the person that Marie mentioned as being her aunt, was married in 1899 and homesteaded in the Willow district where Wildemere lives today. Marie gave us a picture of Waldemere as a child and also of Matilda Dickman Brandenburg. They had five children, Waldemere John, Henry who died young, Cecilia, who married Ralph Foreman and Larleia who married Alva Sammons. These children attended the Willow School. Waldemere and Marie Ireland were married in 1929 and they have one son, John William. John married Sally Randomnyna Fields. The second name is spelled Randomna. In 1960, and they have two sons, Rodney and Kenny, now residing in Arvada. The house on the Brandenburg ranch was originally a two-room log house moved from Rosita. Later, two more rooms were added from the Hugo place and still later, two more rooms from the Sibley Young place were joined on the main house. When John was remodeling the kitchen, he decided to move the door between the kitchen and dining room to the north a few feet. When Waldemere returned home late that night, he thought he knew his way around the house in the dark. Needless to say, the door was put back in its usual place the next day. The Brandenburgs still use Aladdin lamps for light. Scenes from the movie Cat Ballou were shot on the Brandenburg ranch in 1964. Moritz was killed in 1925. His name is spelled Moritz. While driving a team on a dump rack, and Matilda died in 1962 at the age of 82.

Marie also spoke of the Deickman family, Vivian Taylor Deickman came to teach school at the Willows School in 1935. The school had nine pupils in first, second, fourth, sixth and eighth grades. Vivian stayed with Willard Walker's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Walker and walked back and forth to the school. Vivian came in on the railroad, leaving Louisville, CO at six am and arriving at her lodgings at 6 pm. On hand to meet Vivian was Harry Deickman, a bachelor who had appointed himself to check out all the new lady schoolteachers. Harry promptly invited Vivian to go out with him. Henry Deickman had come to Custer County in the late 1800s from Germany and was followed by his half-brother, Fritz Deickman, who later married Frances Frank. Harry Leopold Deickman was born to Fritz and Frances and he became a legend in his own time. In 1936, Harry and Vivian were married and had the biggest wedding chivarie dance ever held in the valley. 500 sandwiches, 60 gallons of beer and everyone had brought a cake to start off the evening. Soon, the small Willows school was bulging at the seams and the dance was moved to the Canda dance hall in Westcliffe. The latest of the 78 cars were just leaving the Willows when the first car pulled into Westcliffe. Harry and Vivian had three children, Margie, Alice and Roy. Harry worked the government trails for 20 years and knows the mountains better than anyone else. During the railroad days, he freighted lumber, hay, lettuce and potatoes to the Westcliffe depot where he says, 'there were nice girls'. He also says, where the girls were, that's where I was. Harry has the distinction of being the oldest packer, outfitter and wrangler in the county. He began by packing salt and provisions into the early sheep camps above timberline.

Marie also mentioned the Willows school and that she attended that school. Here are some poems from the Willow school. This one is written by Albert Hunt, third grade.

The boys in our school have such a lot of fun
That I am always sorry that the school is done.

And this one is by Marie Wagner, 8th grade. Wagner is Marie's maiden name. It is Marie Wagner Jones. This is a poem that she wrote.

Chickadee

Chickadee, chickadee
Come sing to me.
My heart is longing now for thee.
Chickadee, chickadee,
Come sing to me,
You fill my heart with melody.
O chickadee, chickadee,
You teach us the glad song of life.
You make us forget all worry and strife
When you fly to the south from all winds and chill
We will love you and think of you still.

Seems to me that that sums up Marie's life. These readings are taken from the Reflections book, Bicentennial Centennial 1976, Custer County, CO, Custer County Women's Club, the publishers.