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Kattnig, Helen

December 8, 1990

Interviewed by Irene Francis, plus Ben Gregor, Ara Weimer, Eula and Mike Strayer

IF: Today, we are in the home of Helen Kattnig HELEN KATTNIG. The date is December 8, 1990. The interviewer is Irene Francis. We also have here Ben Gregor and Ara Weimer; Eula and Mike Strayer and we're going to have a conversation with Helen. Helen, when were you born?

HK: 1901.

IF: And where were you born?

HK: In Rosita.

IF: Do you remember, did your mother have a midwife or a doctor?

HK: No, a midwife.

IF: What was her name?

HK: Let's see, Bell was her last name.

IF: Her last name was Bell?

HK: Uh huh.

IF: Did you live right in Rosita?

HK: Yeah.

IF: What did your parents do?

HK: My dad was a miner there.

IF: What mine did he work in, Helen?

HK: He works in the, well, practically all the mines, the Leavenworth and the, let's see, the Leavenworth and, I'll think in a minute. I know it.

IF: We'll come back to that. Maybe you can think of it later and tell us later, tell us. Did you go to school in Rosita?

HK: Uh huh.

IF: Do you remember any of your teachers?

HK: Oh, there was Helen Glenn, teacher, taught us a good number of years up there.

IF: What was her last name?

HK: Glenn.

IF: Glenn?

HK: Uh huh.

IF: What did the building look like? Was it a-

HK: It was a two-story building.

IF: Was it right on the main street?

HK: No, not on the main street, back from the main street.

IF: Do you remember what the name of the street was?

HK: No, I don't know.

IF: What was your maiden name, Helen?

HK: Helen Hobby.

IF: How many children were in your family?

HK: In my family? There was six of us.

IF: Can you give me your sisters' and brothers' names?

HK: It was Thelma, Aaron, and Willard and Johnny and Freddie.

IF: And what was your mother's maiden name?

HK: Clara Hamill.

IF: Hamill.

HK: Mm hmm.

IF: Did your grandfather, did your father come out here and did your grandfather come out first?

HK: First? My grandfather come out first, I think.

IF: And was he also a miner?

HK: Yes, uh huh.

IF: What was your grandfather Hobby's name?

HK: His first name? John.

IF: How about your grandmother's?

HK: My grandmother? Clara.

IF: Clara Hobby?

HK: Mm hmm.

IF: Do you want to go any further back than that, Ara?

AW: Her father's name was John.

IF: Did your grandmother's parents come out here also? Or were your grandmother and grandmother (sic) married when they came?

HK: Yeah, they both all were married when they come out here. They come from Minnesota out here.

IF: To mine.

HK: In the mine.

IF: In the mine.

HK: Yeah.

IF: And how about your mother's parents? Did they-

HK: They were miners too.

IF: They were all miners. Then, they all came to the Rosita area?

HK: Yes, u h huh.

IF: And lived there?

AW: What were their names?

IF: What was your mother's parents' names? Your grandmother on your mother's side?

HK: Hamill.

IF: Hamill.

IF: Hamill. What were their first names?

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IF: Joe Hamill and let's see, I think, Annie Hamill.

AW: You know what her maiden name was?

IF: You know what your grandmother's maiden name was?

HK: No, I wouldn't know that.

IF: Ok. Do you know what year they came out to-

HK: I don't know exactly. It was in the early '80s.

IF: Do you know your mother and dad's wedding date? When they got married?

HK: 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

IF: Do you remember what year?

HK: No, I don't remember that.

IF: Were they married in Rosita?

HK: Yes. They grew up, they went to school in Rosita.

IF: They also went to school in Rosita.

HK: Yeah.

IF: When you, what grade did you go to in Rosita?

HK: I think the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

IF: 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Did you go on to school at all?

HK: No.

IF: Anymore? How did you meet your husband?

HK: Oh, I just can't remember how. (laughter) Some of those wild dances they had. (laughter)

IF: Wild dances? (laughter) You know, a lot of people met each other at those wild dances, yeah. Where were they held, the dances, Helen?

HK: Different places, home and they had dance hall in Rosita. But they held the dances throughout the town too, just part of a family's.

IF: In different houses? They would have a party and they would just have a dance.

HK: Pardon?

IF: In the different houses, they would just say, let's get together and we'll have a dance.

HK: Yeah, mm hmm.

IF: Who would play for the dances?

HK: Oh, just the neighbors around there. Different ones would play the violin and other instruments.

IF: What kind of dances would you do? I mean, was it like square dances or-

HK: It was square dancing, the round dancing, all the dances was like that.

IF: Mm hmm. What year did you get married?

HK: 1920.

IF: In Rosita?

HK: Uh huh, in Westcliffe here.

IF: You got married in Westcliffe. Did you come to a church and get married?

HK: No, married by the-

IF: Catholic priest?

HK: No, administrator, let's see, the county clerk.

IF: Oh, the county clerk. A Justice of the Peace kind of person. What was, do you remember who the county clerk was? What was his name?

HK: Let's see. I can't think right now.

IF: Did you go right to the courthouse?

HK: Yes.

IF: Where was the courthouse then?

HK: It was on the, up on the, in Silver Cliff but I don't know the street.

IF: Yeah, ok. Tell me some of the, do you remember any of the businesses that were in Rosita?

HK: Oh yes, it was a bank and there was three log houses that have the [unintelligible] and then there was a green store and hay store, things like that.

IF: Tell me what a green store is?

HK: What?

IF: A green store. What's a green store?

HK: What'd she say?

ES: Grain.

IF: Oh, grain! Grain store. So, they would-

AW: Feed store.

IF: It was like a feed store where they would come. Were there any grocery stores there?

HK: Oh, there was two of them there. One was Easton's-

IF: Easton?

HK: Eastont.

IF: Ok.

HK: The other one, I don't remember the name of it.

IF: Were there any other kind of stores, like drug store?

HK: Oh, there was a drug store and there was a shoemaker's, little things like that.

IF: Would the shoemaker make the shoes? Or would he repair-

HK: I guess he did. I don't remember.

IF: How about churches? What churches were in Rosita when-

HK: Oh, there was this little church over here. It was right here, was one was in there, and the other churches, I can't tell you, but they was five of them in the town.

IF: Five of them.

HK: Mm hmm.

IF: Tell me about this one over here. When they moved it, do you remember when they moved it?

HK: Yeah, I remember when they moved. They moved to Silver Cliff and some way or other, Miss Kettle got it moved down here.

IF: When they moved it from Rosita, did they put it on wheels or did they take it apart and put it back-

HK: No, they put it on wheels and put the logs on the wagon wheels, and put the church on the logs.

IF: And pulled it, by horses?

HK: Uh huh.

IF: To Rosita?

HK: No, down here.

IF: From Rosita to Silver Cliff?

HK: Yes.

IF: And then, do you remember how they moved it from Silver Cliff here?

HK: Well, evidently, I wasn't here at the time, but evidently, they used horses.

IF: Mm hmm. Is it similar, does it look the same inside as it did then?

HK: Well, they've done some remodeling, I don't know what's it been now out there, but it was just a regular, normal church.

IF: Did it have a bell? In Rosita, did it have a bell?

HK: Yeah, and over here too.

IF: Is it, do you know if it's the same bell?

HK: It's the same bell with the church.

IF: That it was when it was in Rosita?

HK: Yeah.

IF: Now, this is a picture of the Kattnig family and we're going to start from the top row on the left, and see if you can't tell me who that is.

HK: That's Tom.

IF: Tom Kattnig?

HK: Uh huh. That's Charlie Hinn, was John, my husband, and there's Frank, and this is Tony over here.

IF: Right now, we're going to go down to the front row, starting at the left, and it's a woman.

HK: That's Mary Kattnig. This is Elizabeth here and this is her parents. Yeah, that's the parents.

IF: No, this isn't the parents yet. This is another boy.

HK: I don't remember who that is right now. It's a Kattnig boy but-

IF: There were one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. There were nine?

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HK: Yeah.

IF: Nine? Children?

HK: Yeah.

IF: Ok, and what was the mother's name?

HK: I've forgotten now.

IF: Ok, maybe you'll remember later. What was the father's name?

HK: I don't remember him either.

IF: How about the girl on the very end?

HK: Annie.

IF: Annie.

HK: Uh huh.

IF: Ok. What year was your husband born?

HK: I can't tell you.

IF: Ok. Do you know when the Kattnig family came to this area?

HK: Oh, it was long before my time. They come here early in the '80s to this country.

IF: About 1880.

HK: Mm hmm.

IF: What did the family, what did the father do?

HK: Well, he was a miner in the coal mines. Then, he come to the ranch later on.

IF: In the coal mines. Where were the coal mines?

HK: In Fremont County.

IF: So, they lived in Canon first.

HK: No, in the coal camp.

IF: Oh, they lived in the coal camps.

HK: Yeah, Rockvale.



AW: Mm hmm.

IF: Ok. Then, they came to this area?

HK: Yeah, uh huh.

IF: Did they homestead?

HK: They homesteaded south of town hereabouts, maybe 15 miles south of town.

IF: Then, your husband, they all grew up on the ranch?

HK: Uh huh. All of them.

IF: Then, when your husband got older, then he came into Rosita and was a miner?

HK: Well, the Comanche was a farm people just come from all over to that place there.

IF: Mm hmm. We'll put this back up on the wall, so it won't break. Ok. Did Millard stay in this area?

HK: He passed away in this area.

AW: Yeah.

IF: Did he pass away young? Was he young?

HK: Yes.

IF: How old was he when he died?

HK: He was 17.

IF: Where is he buried?

HK: Rosita Cemetery.

IF: How did he die?

HK: Pneumonia.

AW: Yeah, John must be, John, or what's his name? Ben Hobby's father, he's John-

HK: John is Ben Hobby's father.

AW: Father, because he had, yeah. Who did he marry?

HK: He married Margaret.

AW: Yeah.

HK: Let's see.

IF: Oh, Margaret!

AW: Margaret Hobby! Yeah, you know, Margaret.

HK: She was Margaret Seiling.

IF: Seiling?

HK: Uh huh.

IF: Oh! Ok. You know that ranch that you wanted to get a picture of that they, that was the Seiling Ranch yesterday.

AW: But you didn't get a picture of it before they knocked it down. How do you spell that?

AW: Seiling. There are still Seilings in school.

IF: People are going to raise buffalo and elk, and there's some kind of, they take the horns off of the elk and they send it overseas somewhere.

MS: Oh, that's from-

HK: He was a child-

AW: Child when he died. Yeah. Is he buried in Rosita too?

HK: Yeah.

IF: Ok. How old was he when he died?

HK: Six years old.

IF: Now, what did he die of?

HK: Well, it was never determined. But he died, he died real suddenly.

IF: Huh!

HK: He was sick quite a while, and the doctor come to see his, him, and he gave him some kind of [unintelligible] and the doctor didn't get out of town till he died. So, it was either medicine or something else.

IF: Hmm.

AW: Ha!

ES: Just trying to recall his first name.

IF: Hmm. What was Thelma's husband's name?

HK: Pen Penfold.

IF: Pen.

HK: Pen was his first name.

IF: Oh, Pen!

HK: Then his last name was Penfold.

ES: Pen. Now, see, that house is where Jeff and Donna Hobby were living, was down west house, and then there's one down in the-

AW: Back of us.

ES: Back of you, back this way from you that was also where Thelma had lived.

HK: In Rosita?

ES: Yeah, it was down, yeah, back of Holy Hill.

HK: No, she didn't live in Rosita with [unintelligible]

ES: Well, then, who lived in the one that's down in the hollow?

IF: There's one-

ES: That's north of where Irene lives. You go back-

IF: It was next to Stella Smith's land.

ES: Yeah. Was that Penfold's?

HK: No, that was Morgan. Penfold had a [unintelligible]

ES: Oh, ok.

IF: The story behind that is, she traded that land for liquor (laughing)

ES: Ok!

IF: The guy had it, and that was the only [unintelligible] that, uh, what's his name, has it now.

ES: Margaret Richard?

IF: Not Richard. The other one.

ES: Bud owns the land that-

IF: Bud owns it.

ES: Yeah. Bud owns it. Yeah, he's had it quite a while.

AW: Now, your husband's father's name was Paul?

ES: You should know this. (laughing)

MS: Sounds like a good one.

HK: What'd you say?

AW: Your husband's father's name, was his name Paul?

HK: No. My husband's name, my husband's father's name was Paul.

All: Yeah!

AW: And his mother's name was Celia?

HK: Uh huh.

AW: Rozelle?

HK: I guess so.

(overlapping voices)

AW: Well, she's been taking these depositions for-

IF: Right.

IF: Wait, wait, we're not done yet.

MS: Yes, we are.

IF: Oh, we are?

MS: Yeah, you've been on, I think.

IF: We have?

AW: To the liquor store, you never know.

MS: When you were married, did you just move right, immediately take, did your husband have some land at that time?

HK: Yes, he had a ranch in Silver Park.

MS: Now how did he get a hold of that land?

HK: Bought it, of course. (laughing)

MS: But he had earned his money by working for his family.

HK: That's right.

MS: So, he had been able to save up some money and then he purchased that. Yeah.

IF: Uh, Silver Park. Did he ranch then?

HK: Oh, he done all kinds of jobs. He ranched and worked in the mines and everything that was around to be done.

ES: Specifically, where in Silver Park?

HK: Well, [unintelligible]

ES: Whereabouts in Silver Park was he ranching?

HK: East of Westcliffe.

ES: East of Westcliffe.

HK: Uh huh.

ES: Who has it now?

HK: It's a Pueblo man has it now, let's see what his name is. I don't-

ES: Is it on the highway?

HK: Yeah. It's just above the McKenzie place.

ES: Yeah, ok, ok.

MS: So, he, even after you moved out there, your husband John still worked the mines occasionally, huh?

HK: Yeah.

MS: So, and then, on the ranch itself, you did a lot of the stuff, huh?

HK: We all did.

MS: But of course, first there was just the two of you.

HK: Yeah.

MS: You had cattle?

HK: A few, yes.

MS: And then you raised some things, I know.

HK: Yeah. Well, we finally, when the cattle ranches, we could afford to buy them, we'd run the cattle then. But we

IF: Where would you buy your cattle from?

HK: From the neighbors round town.

IF: Did you raise anything like potatoes or lettuce or anything out there?

HK: Oh yes, we had potatoes and lettuce and peas all in the fields. But we, our cattle market, we took it to sell.

IF: Did you ever bring any of the peas or the lettuce in to Westcliffe to sell at the railroad?

HK: Well, we sold them to Westcliffe, but they came out to the ranch and picked them up. So, the lettuce for the truckload, peas, how many they want and things like that.

IF: And did we ask how many children they had?

HK: What?

IF: Did we ask about her children?

ES: Uh uh.

IF: How many children did you and your husband have?

HK: Let's see. We had two boys.

IF: Two boys, and their names?

HK: Floyd was one.

IF: And what's the other one's name?

HK: Leonard.

IF: Leonard. Who did they marry?

HK: Leonard married Wilma Miller and Floyd married Mary Cider.

IF: When your boys were born, did you come in to Westcliffe or did you have-

HK: No, we had help at home. A doctor come out there. The doctors would come.

IF: You had both of the boys at home?

HK: Yeah.

IF: In Silver Park?

HK: Yes. Junkins Park later on, we traded our place to my dad for that doing down there and we moved to Junkins Park.

IF: So, did your boys go to school then in Junkins Park?

HK: Mm hmm. In Westcliffe to high school, all that there.

IF: Who was the teacher out in Junkins Park?

HK: Well, there was one by the name Mink.

IF: Mink.

HK: I just can't remember.

IF: How far away from the school did you live?

HK: We lived about, maybe a mile. Teachers boarded with me.

IF: They boarded with you?

HK: Uh huh.

ES: Now, did Lila teach in Junkins Park?

HK: Yeah, Lila taught there. That's her first school.

ES: That's what I thought, yeah.

IF: How would the boys get to school? Would they-

HK: Horseback.

IF: Did you have school in the winter time too?

HK: No, the summertime.

IF: From about what month?

HK: Oh, I don't remember what month it started. Maybe, I can't tell you the date.

IF: Just like, during the nice weather.

HK: Yes.

IF: Did you used to get a lot of snow out there?

HK: I say so. (laughing)

ES: How much is a lot?

HK: What?

ES: How much is a lot?

HK: Six foot was the last we got, last big snow we got.

ES: How long were you confined at the house?

HK: Three weeks before they could plow us out with the grader and then we fed, our feed is home and the cattle were at a pond where they, we fed them there.

IF: Could you get to the cattle right away or?

HK: Oh, no, not right away. They'd come back and forth to the house from the barn and they made us a trail and we were going through that.

IF: Did you lose any in that storm?

HK: Never lost a thing. It wasn't the coldest, it must have been in April or May when it happened cause it was warm weather, you know. It settled down pretty fast.

IF: But still, it was three weeks?

HK: Yeah.

IF: How often would you come into town, into Westcliffe?

HK: Whenever we needed anything.

IF: I mean, like, once a month or once a week or-

HK: Well, I couldn't say what day we come. We come one day and turn around and come back the next day. (laughing)

ES: When did you buy your first car?

HK: Our first car we bought in, oh, it was Model T Ford and it was bought in the spring of the year, I couldn't tell you exactly when.

ES: Was it shortly after you were married?

HK: No, quite a while after we were married.

ES: Quite a while after, so you used team and horses right at first?

HK: Yeah, and then hired our help to haul our produce up to town.



IF: Would your help haul it in trucks or?

HK: In trucks.

ES: Do you remember when you saw your first car?

HK: No, I don't.

ES: You don't.

IF: Did you ever take the train out of here to Canon?

HK: No, I never took it out of Westcliffe, out of Pueblo at a time and place.

IF: So, you would drive down to Pueblo.

HK: Yes, uh huh.

IF: And take it out of there.

HK: Uh huh.

MS: You pretty well made everything yourself in terms of what you ate, didn't you? Your own bread, stuff like this, your own-

HK: Oh yes.

MS: Butter, and then soap, maybe? You make soap?

HK: No, I never did make soap. My sister made soap all the time.

MS: And then, you used ice to preserve things, didn't you?

HK: To preserve?

MS: You have an ice cellar?

HK: No, we didn't have an ice cellar.

IF: How would you keep things?

HK: Oh, we just kept up with, ate all we can (laughing)

IF: In the wintertime, you could keep things.

HK: Yes.

IF: You put it outside.

HK: Oh, yes, you could put it outside but it would be good after it was thawed. We got along with our

food.

IF: How would you, what would you do with the meat, for instance?

HK: The meat? I'd have smoked hams, make the bacon and such as that out of, some sausage and things like that.

IF: So, you had pigs?

HK: Always lots of pigs.

IF: Chickens?

HK: No. We had chickens, yes, for quite a long time.

IF: But you would buy your pigs and slaughter them?

HK: Buy what?

IF: Buy your pigs and slaughter them, or would you raise them?

HK: Yeah, we would raise them. We'd buy them when they were little.

IF: Uh huh.

HK: And raise them.

ES: Did you keep the ham in a barrel then or did you have a regular smokehouse that you kept them in?

HK: Well, for a while, we kept it in the regular smokehouse and then, we liked to cure it in the barrels. In the barrels we got it eaten.

ES: Yep, yep.

IF: Did you ever work outside the home or were you always in the home as a housewife?

HK: I worked right outside of the home.

IF: What did you do?

HK: Well, whatever there was to be done.

ES: On the ranch.

IF: On the ranch.

HK: Yes, on the ranch.

IF: You worked on the ranch.

ES: You drive a tractor?

HK: Oh yes, uh huh.

IF: When you planted your peas and lettuce, how would you plant that?

HK: With a planter.

IF: Was it with horses first?

HK: No, it was a hand planter. You'd use the hand planter, but when we got, later on, we got more to take care of, we did use horses then.

IF: What other kind of recreation did you have besides dances? Was that mostly it?

HK: Oh, we played cards all around the community, and there's other things like that.

IF: What kind of cards would you play?

HK: Mostly Pitch.

ES: Yep. You play Cribbage?

HK: No.

ES: No Cribbage?

IF: That's more modern.

ES: That's modern, yeah. No poker?

HK: No, yes, we played poker.

ES: You played poker?

HK: Yes.

IF: Would the women get together and, for any sewing or, when the women got together-

HK: Not very much. They's too far apart and too busy in the fields.

ES: Yeah.

IF: So, you didn't have time for that?

HK: No.

IF: Just when you got together for dances or, would the schools have any activity?

HK: Pretty much, yes.

IF: Did they have, like, box socials or?

HK: One pie suppers and various things like that.

IF: What kind of, when you would have a pie supper, what would you do? Everybody brings pies?

HK: No, they raffle them off, just like they did the boxes.

IF: Well, tell me how they did the boxes.

HK: Well, a man stood up and raffled them off and the highest bidder got them, and the pies were the same way.

ES: So, it was a money-making sort of a thing, yeah.

HK: It was. We sent a lot of boys to the war over that.

ES: Mm hmm.

IF: So, you would have these for when, during the second World War?

HK: Yeah.

IF: When the young men were overseas?

HK: Yeah.

IF: Did you do this during the first World War?

HK: First World War.

IF: Would they, were any of the women knitting socks or scarves or that kind of thing for them?

HK: Oh, I don't know if anyone-

IF: What would you do with this money then?

HK: We put it in for the government to [unintelligible] on the men.

IF: Like, you would buy a bond or something, or you just give it to them?

HK: Give it to them for what their needs were.

ES: Yeah, during the first World War, that was part of the war effort was that you, groups made money to provide stockings for the soldiers because the government didn't, at that time, that was the first war they fought basically.

IF: That's why some of them were knitting.

ES: That's right. They didn't send money. They sent goods. But if couldn't send goods, and a lot of them

made bandages, because I've heard my grandmother talk about the bandages.

HK: Oh yes.

ES: Bandages.

IF: Who were some of the people that went in the first World War? Do you remember?

HK: Well, there was Rob Evetts and Tom's brother Martin.

IF: Abbott? Abbott?

HK: Abbott, and Martin Kastendick and let's see, there was some Lund boys, I don't remember what their names were. One of them was Fred, I know, Lund boys that went.

IF: Lund?

HK: Uh huh.

IF: LUND? Lund.

HK: Uh huh.

IF: Were they from the Rosita area?

HK: Yeah.

IF: And the men, were there a lot of men that stayed on, that didn't go because they had to stay on the ranches?

HK: Uh huh.

IF: They got deferments from, because they were ranchers?

HK: Well, if they weren't, weren't, seems like they got to stay at home, but other than that, they sent them all, I think.

ES: Uh huh. Did John serve?

HK: No, he had an injured hand.

ES: That's right, that's right.

IF: But good enough to work on the ranch. (laughing) Probably worked for years for the injury.

ES: How did he injure his hand? I remember him telling-

HK: Birth-

IF: Birth defect?

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HK: Yeah.

ES: When he was born, yeah. Cause I remember him showing his hand. He had the biggest hands; largest fingers I think I've ever seen and Michael has the same hands. Have you noticed Michael's?

HK: I've noticed him but he don't have the crippled hand?

ES: No, but they're large. His hands are large.

HK: He's large all over. (laughing)

ES: Michael is only in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

IF: Now who?

ES: Susan and David's son, Michael.

HK: Uh huh.

ES: You mean, your great grandson.

MS: Do you remember Prohibition pretty well?

HK: Prohibition?

MS: Yeah.

HK: Oh yes, I do. All that went on.

ES: Were there a lot of people around here making their own?

HK: Oh, yes, everybody. (laughing)

ES: Back in the hills. Was Junkins Park a pretty good place to buy bootleg whiskey?

HK: Oh, yes.

ES: Oh yes! Did you make any?

HK: No, we didn't but our neighbors did and we bought from them.

IF: Did you know Rex Cliff?

HK: Oh yes, I went to school with Rex Cliff.

ES: Did you?

HK: Uh huh, we were raised together.

IF: I talked to him the other day.

HK: Uh huh.

IF: And he said that he made more money on the whiskey that he made than he ever did on his sheep and cattle.

MS: I remember John telling me that there was some guy down at Hardscrabble that made a lot of that stuff too. Big business. Do you remember who that was?

HK: Bill, what was his, oh I want to say Thompson, but it wasn't Thompson. He lived just below our place down the canyon. I can't remember his name.

IF: Rex said that they sold their whiskey in gallons so that they weren't, they didn't sell it in a small bottles, and they weren't caught that way because they sold it, you know, they would sell a big amount of it.

HK: He'd drink a big amount.

IF: Drink a big amount! (laughing) Yeah, he said he was pretty wild in school.

HK: Yeah, we was all in the same habit.

ES: Tell me about some of the things you got into in school.

HK: In school?

ES: Yeah, when you were little.

HK: Hitting a girl over the head with a reading book.

IF: You did that, Helen?!

HK: Yeah, we had to sit with her and she'd take my books and then my back on me, and we had, that's when they furnished the books, you know, and each desk got a book for that age and this girl always was, would take my book away from me, and I hit her over the head. (laughing)

ES: Good for you!

IF: What did your teacher do to you?

HK: I had to stand in the corner for-

IF: For what, the rest of the day?

HK: Yeah.

MS: What was the name of the book?

HK: I don't remember what it was. (laughing)

IF: Was school pretty tough, or was it-

HK: Oh, it was at times, yes.

IF: Did you like school?

HK: Yeah, I liked school very much.

IF: And when you lived in Rosita, where did you live?

HK: Well, I lived in Rosita and I lived in Junkins Park. Summers we'd go to Junkins Park, winters, we'd live in Rosita.

IF: Where would you live in Rosita?

HK: We had a house.

IF: You had a house?

HK: Yes.

ES: Is it gone now?

HK: Oh, it was burned down. The whole town's gone, only two houses left from that time.

ES: But your house burned. They didn't move it to Silver Cliff?

HK: No, they didn't, but they moved Thelma's house, oh no, not Thelma's house, whose house, I don't remember. The ranchers got most of the lumber off.

ES: Did the house you lived in burn just recently?

HK: No, it was, it burned when the town burned.

ES: When the town burned.

IF: What year was that, do you know?

HK: Oh no, I couldn't tell you.

IF: Do you know what caused the fire?

HK: I don't know that either.

IF: Was it in the winter or the summer?

HK: I don't know that either.

IF: You weren't in the house.



HK: No.

IF: You were out at the ranch when that happened.

HK: Well, I wasn't going up to it, probably home with the folks at the ranch.

IF: How about the Depression? Did you, was times any harder during the Depression out here?

HK: Well, on some things, but we never suffered over it. Some things people couldn't have, they kind of suffered.

IF: Why didn't you suffer over it?

HK: Well, we just ate the food we had.

IF: You were raising your own food.

HK: Mm hmm.

IF: So, you didn't notice much difference. Did the prices go way down on your cattle?

HK: I can't remember that far back.

IF: How about clothes? Did you make your own clothes?

HK: Yeah, Mother made most of our clothes.

IF: By hand, or did you have a sewing machine?

HK: Had a sewing machine.

IF: A pedal kind of sewing machine?

HK: Uh huh.

ES: When did they get electricity in Junkins Park and Rosita?

HK: Well, it was kind of, Junkins Park, I don't know when they got now, it was in the early 20s, I think. But the date I couldn't tell you.

ES: Uh huh. So, after you were married then, you generally had electricity?

HK: Yeah.

ES: Yeah.

IF: How about, how did you heat your home?

HK: Wood, some coal.

IF: Where would you, did you have trees on your own land that you cut?

HK: Oh, we had plenty of trees.

IF: So, you would cut the trees on your own land.

HK: Yeah.

MS: You have a privy?

HK: Yeah. (laughing)

MS: Two roller?

HK: Yeah, I remember this.

IF: Did you ever have an indoor bathroom?

HK: Yes. [unintelligible] in the ranch.

IF: Did it have a bathtub too?

HK: Yeah.

IF: Was there running water inside right away or did you?

HK: Yes.

IF: So, when you got married, you had running water and electricity in your ranch.

HK: Yes, we did.

MS: The house you moved into when you were married, it had been there a while?

HK: It's still there.

MS: Still there? But it had been there for a while when you moved into it.

HK: Where the old Kattnig [unintelligible] McKinley's place.

ES: Yeah, that's old. That's probably way over 100 years.

HK: [unintelligible] no, not [unintelligible] on it now. Someone from Pueblo owns that.

ES: Yeah, I know who it is. I'll think of it.

IF: Where is the ranch from-

ES: It's part of Elizabeth's, Geroux was born, you know, you come up McKenzie Corners and there's a gatepost?

IF: Yeah.

ES: Ok, on the right-hand side as you're coming up, you pass McKenzie and just a little ways, you know, as you're starting up that long slope and off to the right, there's a gatepost.

AW: Where those cabins are?

ES: It isn't a cabin. It's a big house, a big house. It's this way from McKenzie Corners.

HK: I can't think of the name.

ES: I can't either. If I could see a phone book, I could tell in a minute but it's where, it was the Kattnig place, where all those Kattnig's were born. Have you interviewed Elizabeth?

IF: No.

ES: You haven't. She was born in that house, I'm assuming, where all the Kattnig's were born in that house, weren't they?

HK: Yes, they were.

ES: Yeah. So, it's a pretty, it's probably way over 100 years old.

HK: Oh yes, it could be cause several of the brothers is gone and sisters [unintelligible]

IF: Where did Martin marry?

HK: Martha.

UI and IF: Martin! Martin Kattnig. Did he live past the war?

HK: Yeah, he was in the war.

ES: Uh huh. Did he get married then?

HK: Yeah, afterwards, after he come back here, he married Maybelle Meen.

ES: Did he go on living here or di?

HK: No, he war still single when he come back. He were a young man.

ES: Yeah, yeah. So, where did he live then?

HK: In Florence.

ES: In Florence. So, he would be, ok, that figures.

AW: Mary. I thought she was a May but maybe she's with Mary.

MS: You think people are happier now, Helen?

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HK: Oh, I don't think they are as happy.

ES: Yeah.

HK: Must be where they've got a good job and working, but it's been pretty hard on a lot of poor people.

ES: That's probably what the name was.

MS: You were a lot happier when you were on the ranch, right?

HK: Yeah, and more friendly, you know. Now, you got the big car and you drive it around.

IF: You kind of feel like you needed each other.

HK: Yeah, that's right.

IF: At Christmastime, was there any special things you did at Christmas?

HK: Oh, we'd have programs round at the schools we went to and then, of course, we always have family dinner.

IF: A family dinner. Whose house would you gather at?

HK: My mother's house and then we'd gather at other peoples' houses. Yeah, they'd look forward for Christmas.

IF: Santa Claus come?

HK: Yeah, with small gifts and things like that. They was happy with them.

IF: Would you hang your stocking up?

HK: Oh yes, we would hang our stockings up.

IF: Would you just take a stocking that you had? Did you have a special one or you just took the one you were wearing?

HK: No, not the one we war wearing. (laughing)

IF: Did you have a special one for Christmas?

HK: No.

IF: Or it just the ones that you wore, regular stockings that you had? Yeah. And what would Santa Claus leave in them?

HK: Oranges, nuts and candy.

ES: That's what Santa Claus leaves them today.

IF: Right.

MS: Did you have, like, when the flu went through, there were a lot of people, a lot of babies died, a lot of people didn't make it through that. There were certain times that way, weren't there?

HK: Yeah.

MS: And there wasn't much that could be done.

HK: No, they couldn't do very much with them. Most of them only done with this one. My brothers went with us.

IF: Mm hmm.

MS: There were a lot of medicines to them that they don't use now, huh?

HK: Oh yes, a lot. They have more medication now.

IF: What would you do for a cold when you were younger?

HK: Oh, use a grease of some kind, like turpentine, lard and things like that, if you had to have a plaster on you.

IF: You put that on your chest?

HK: Uh huh.

IF: Turpentine and lard.

ES: So, it was thick.

IF: Mm hmm.

ES: How about a mustard roll?

HK: Very little mustard roll. It blistered mostly.

All: Yeah! (laughing)

IF: But the turpentine wouldn't do that?

HK: No, it didn't hurt, didn't put that much on.

MS: Cod live oil?

HK: Oh yes, a lot of that.

MS: Yeah, I remember that. (laughing)

IF: I can remember steaming.

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ES: Oh yeah! Put a tent-

IF: Put a tent over your head and steam.

ES: Did your mother build a steam tent sometimes to keep you?

HK: No.

ES: No?

HK: I used a tea kettle of some kind.

ES: Yeah.

HK: A tea kettle.

IF: Uh huh. Did you ever go to Marion's Drug Store?

HK: Oh, many times.

IF: What kinds of things did you, were school supplies there?

HK: Yes, school supplies and they had a big heater there. We used to go in then, visit with the girls and play cards there.

IF: In the drug store?

HK: In the drug store.

IF: What other kinds of stores do you remember in Westcliffe?

HK: Oh, you see Douglas sitting around [unintelligible]

IF: Do you remember more than one grocery store? In Westcliffe?

HK: Yeah, I do. It was Hagan, let's see, I forget the other name now. There was two of them, there where Grandma's House was a store with the [unintelligible]

ES: How about where Jones Theater was?

HK: No.

IF: Was there anything over there?

HK: That was built as a theater.

IF: Oh, it was built as the theater?

HK: Yes.

IF: Over what's now Jennings? Do you remember the high school being there at one point?

HK: Oh yeah, they had a high school and we used to dance up there and have dinners up there at that house.

IF: And do you know what kind of store was downstairs then? Do you remember when the post office was there?

HK: There was a post office, then a grocery store too there.

ES: Mm hmm.

IF: What was the name of it?

HK: I can't tell you that.

IF: Was, do you remember when Beeman's had a store there?

HK: I remember Beeman's. I remember Casey but I can't the years is all.

ES: Yeah.

IF: Do you remember any stores down on Dutch Row?

HK: Any what?

IF: Stores down on Dutch Row? What's now Second St.?

HK: They didn't have hardly on Dutch Row. All they had was saloons on that street. (laughing)

ES: They were all saloons, huh?

HK: That's right.

ES: This one right over here then was a saloon?

HK: Uh huh, yeah, right back here.

ES: Yeah.

HK: They used to put horses in, they had a place that we, you could keep horses there if we had something to do.

IF: What were some of the names of the saloons?

HK: Oh, I couldn't tell you.

ES: She didn't frequent them. (laughing)

IF: The Westcliffe Hotel, do you remember the Westcliffe Hotel?

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HK: Yes, I remember it.

IF: Was that, are we talking about the one on Main Street or the one near where the Clinic is? Was there a Westcliffe Hotel there?

HK: Near where the Clinic was?

ES: Yeah.

HK: No, I never did know it.

ES: You didn't ever see that.

HK: Uh huh.

ES: I thought it was a boarding house more than a hotel.

HK: That's what I think. It's something like that.

ES: Because when DeGreeze lived in that house, she, Carolyn mentioned that it was more of a boarding house rather than, someone owned it and just rented out rooms.

HK: Uh huh. I can't remember what the other was.

ES: Now, what's the one about the one behind you?

HK: Oh, this was a, Crell, they was no [unintelligible] right behind me was kind of a saloon and a bar, place where they kept people upstairs.

ES: So, it was a saloon.

IF: That was the Wolff House?

HK: What?

IF: The Wolff House?

HK: Uh huh.

IF: That's Mike Pearl's now?

HK: Uh huh.

IF: There was a saloon downstairs? Boarding house upstairs?

HK: Yeah, I think so. They've got a beautiful home fixed of it now.

ES: Oh yes! Have you been in it?

HK: Not lately. They got it finished but I was in there when they were building it.



ES: Uh huh. Ok, we've been talking-

IF: Mm hmm.

AW: Where I could get dates on these children?

HK: I've got them but I haven't got them where you can get to them. One day, you girls have to get in the trunk and I'll get them for you.

IF: Ok.

ES: Lila might have that, could ask her. She might know that.

IF: Do you have any pictures?

HK: Who?

IF: Any pictures? Any picture books?

HK: No.

IF: Of your family?

HK: You got lots of Kodak pictures with, I couldn't tell you what they look like now. They're still in the trunk that I had sorted so it would keep, you know.

ES: Yeah.

HK: In the trunk, I can get them to you. I could show them to you sometime. You have one of the girls get, they know what to get.

IF: Yeah, would you do that? When you get a time?

HK: Uh huh. I'll try.

ES: Mary or Wilma?

HK: Lila may have quite a bit of-

ES: Yeah, I bet Lila does.

IF: Yeah, you got some pictures from-

End of recording.