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Vahldick, Fred and Mary

No date

Interviewed by Irene Francis?

IF: I want to know about the [unintelligible] I want to know about your grandparents. –

FV: The son that was married, I mean the son that was named for my grand-they had to serve a cup [unintelligible] and this is my mother. She was born 1879, died in 1950. My dad was William Frederick and he was born 1872 and died in 1932. He died from a stroke and my mother died with a heart attack.

IF: For heaven's sakes.

FV: And there was four sons-

IF: And three daughters-

FV: Was there four sons?

MV: That was the grandparent. There was five of them. Two of them died in infancy.

IF: Huh.

MV: One was a girl though, wasn't she?

FV: In my parents, there was two sons and three daughters.

IF: Does that mean you had a brother and three sisters then?

FV: Mm hmm. William, he had two sons and three daughters.

IF: And that was your father.

FV: Right.

IF: Ok, ok. Well, now, your grandparents came from Germany?

FV: Yeah, Nuremberg.

IF: Nuremberg?

FV: Nuremberg and –

IF: How are you spelling that, cause I'm not familiar with Germany.

FV: N- what is it? NEUENBURG in Luxemburg. He came from Luxemburg and one from Nuremburg.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: And my grandad, Frederick William, he came in with the Colony, which came in here in 1870. He took that place up down there where Drew? –

IF: It's remarkable to me, he's the only one I know of so far who's taken a place so far from the rest of the Colony.

FV: Well, there was other people that took places up from down at Hillside.

IF: Alright, but he moved with the Colony>

FV: Yes. But if you'll notice that they all took these stringers, these little cricks, streams here, but not too many came here, bottom of the, outside your John Canute and Custer and O'Grasky, all of them up in there you know all about them.

IF: Well, no, I don't yet.

FV: But there was the Cooks and my dad and a guy by the name of Schuar and I'm not too sure about a guy by the name of Browning but he might have been a colonist too. Then you see, there was-

MV: Well, your dad was a colonist.

FV: My grandad.

MV: Yeah, grandad. Ok.

FV: Am I still on there?

IF: Yeah, that's alright.

FV: Go ahead.

IF: I was just going to write down the names here. Cook and your grandad-

FV: Vahldick. I think Browning.

IF: And Schuar you said?

FV: Schuar. Schuar.

IF: I see. And those all went down to the north?

FV: Right. Then we started up here, along here-

IF: On the west range?

FV: Uh huh. You see, there was Hiltman-

IF: And how do you spell that?

FV: Hiltman, and that crick up there is named for it.

IF: I didn't know there was a Hiltman crick.

FV: Oh yes.

IF: Alright.

FV: That's the one that comes down into the Birdsley place, and down there, see, they started Hiltman and they go to Cheese Factory and then they go in Churledjurt and it's all the same crick.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: Then, there was J.P. Falkenburg, you heard of Falkenburg-

IF: Yeah.

FV: Alright, he had a place up there where John Canute lives now. The Hiltman place was where Ruth Wolf used to live.

MV: That same Snyder owns it now, Mickey's sister was, what's her name?

IF: Oh, I meant to ask her yesterday when I talked to them what her sister's name was, and I don't know.

MV: Hester or something?

IF: I should know it too.

MV: Yeah.

FV: She goes to church.

IF: Yeah. I know and I can't think of her last name. Well, I'll ask-

FV: Starts with a M, don't it?

MV: Monsarler?

IF: Marcio-

FV: Marsully.

IF: Mm hmm. They said it, Marcio. It's spelled Marsille = MARSILLE, I think.

FV: There's a Byron and Hester.

MV: Yeah.

FV: There's-

IF: Mm hmm, and where's it?

FV: Well, it's where Don Camper lives.

IF: Oh, ok.

FV: Part of that ranch.

IF: Yes, uh huh.

MV: But it's on further west, the Kitzman place is on west of where Don lives now.

IF: Oh, I see.

MV: That was a Cobb, but who, Will Schaum?

FV: No, this was before. Well, it's back there where Todd, but I don't think Todd was a colonist. But you got in the Kitzman, you got, what's that guy's name?

IF: Ketler?

FV: Ketler, and Ketler was part of what Ben Kettle's got, Ketler place. Then, you go on up and here's the Conradts place, where we are.

IF: Yours is the old Conradts homestead?

MV: Oh, well, there's the Canda place.

FV: Well, that was Ackledein and he was a colonist.

IF: Ackledein?

FV: Ackledein. ACKLEDEIN.

IF: I think I got it.

FV: And you had Henjes and you know, land just goes over there that Vickerman's got? Look on that house.

IF: Which Vickerman?

FV: Harold.

IF: Harold or Dallas?

FV: One of the two. Then, up there, there's a Dietz.

IF: Yeah.

FV: Dietz place.

IF: Oh! Now right up to the west up there?

FV: Up there where you live.

IF: Yeah, oh, you're going up to the south instead of up to the west, alright, I'll get my directions straight here in a minute.

FV: Dietz.

IF: Yeah.

FV: Then you have your two Reisters – REISTER. Then you have Conhein. That's where Carl Miller lives.

IF: Oh, and is that, is Hein the last name, or is the last name Conhein?

FV: Conhein. Chances are it was Conradt. Conrad. Then you have the Snyder and you have the Hartbauer. That's where the Kelling places are. They're all around-you have the Woolrich place where Hades is.

MV: Hades is the Oelrich place.

IF: And how do you spell Oelrich?

FV: OELRICH. And you have your Canutes, John and Bill Coleman's are.

IF: Those are both Canute places.

FV: Right, John and Bill.

IF: Mm hmm.

FV: You have your two Menzles, John and August.

MV: Were there Karmas?

FV: You bet.

IF: Yes, I remember that they were and both places were-

FV: Willa's got the John and the other one is the August.

IF: Yeah, the John Menzel place is where Willie Canute lived, isn't it?

FV: Yes.

IF: Ok. And where's the August Menzel place?

FV: That's where they took the house down, big barn-

IF: Yeah.

FV: Big barn.

IF: I'm still recovering from that.

FV: Yeah, wasn't that awful?

IF: That was terrible.

MV: That was a beautiful, was a good house too.

IF: Yes, it was sound!

MV: It was built like that house on the Fred's grandfather's. It was really built.

IF: Yes. Fred, I'm curious. Your family, your grandfather, coming into the valley, the building that he did was different from what a lot of the colonists did. He built on a bigger scale. He seems to have had more land. Was he better off financially when he came?

FV: No.

IF: was he smarter?

FV: He could have been smarter and a harder worker. You see, we have a crick, Greenleaf, alright, and my grandad, and down here is Texas Creek.

IF: Alright.

FV: And [unintelligible] my dad, my grandad's place was here. Alright, and he took out the number one and the number two holding gates-

IF: Ah!

FV: Greenleaf, but Schuar went up here and he took out ink ditches and each run one foot of water, so Greenleaf don't run that much. So then, when he run these ditches and my grandad didn't have no water anywhere, any water left. So, then he had to buy Schuar out.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: Just to protect his water right down here.

IF: Something tells me that was a rather expensive purchase.

FV: I don't know. I don't have no idea how much. I don't have any idea what he paid.

IF: Well, he must, did he get along with Schuar at all?

FV: Oh yes.

IF: Oh, I see. Well, that probably made it less expensive then, didn't it?

FV: I had a free book, Martin's got it now, he's using it, and all the enlargements on these eight, and you see this here ranch that my grandad had, it was a, it had about 1091 acres, I think, and they had about 25' of free water on that.

IF: Gee whiz!

FV: You bet.

IF: That is a bunch of water!

FV: You bet! Then there was another crick over here-

[unintelligible]

MV: You had the river there first, then we can-

FV: They had a, what they call, a bricklayer and he, BRICK, and my grandmother took up a desert claim, which you could back there, I don't know how much acreage it was, but anyway, they used this bricklayer crick and they have a decree right on into.

IF: Oh, I see. And did those rights go with the place, and well, they used to be Geroux's, just in the last month or so, that place sold again. I see. I see.

FV: But they followed the land rights, these rights followed the land.

IF: Now, these creeks are both down to the north and that's an area that I'm not familiar with at all as far as how the creek's low-

FV: And you have Texas Creek, near Texas Creek. That's up above well now Brandon rents Greenleaf and then the next one over is Texas Creek.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: It originates from the springs, it doesn't have no lake back there.

IF: Oh, it doesn't!

FV: Like the rest of these. No, it just starts.

IF: For heaven's sakes. Just happens, huh?

FV: Yeah.

IF: I'll be darned. You said that your grandmother took up a desert claim.

FV: Right.

IF: That seems a little shady. I know that it was often done. I think that I read it could certainly be questioned now, don't you? If it was still in the business of claiming?

FV: Well, you see, to begin with, we're able to take up 160 acres.

IF: And that was a homestead claim, wasn't it?

FV: Right. Well, this was good ground.

IF: Mm hmm.

FV: Well, after the good ground was taken up, when there was nothing but, we'll say second or third or what, see, then, they'd let you take up 320 acres.

IF: Oh.

FV: Then, after your 320 is taken up and there wasn't so much good, then they went to 640 which was all practically grazing, so they started, like all your bottom places here, or your bottom ground that was good was 160 and then, after that, was all taken up, why, then they went to 320 and after that, then they went to 640. See, I took up a homestead and I took up the 640.

IF: Uh huh. And where is your homestead?

FV: Up by Querida. You know where Robinson mountain is?

IF: No, I don't. I'm not familiar with the area at all, Fred.

FV: Well, but anyway, that's where it was.

IF: I see. So, if you played your cards right, and looked at the lay of the land and knew what you were getting, you could put together a pretty sizeable holding, couldn't you?

FV: Oh yeah.

IF: Yeah, what would you have to do to prove out on what they call the desert claims? Or the second and third-

FV: Well, I imagine that what you had to do with a desert claim now, this doesn't make very good sense, but you had to irrigate a certain portion of this desert claim and that's where your brick crick come in.

IF: Uh huh.

MV: Where's buttermilk? (laughing)

FV: That's it, too.

IF: What?

FV: Well, buttermilk, really, -

MV: Was Burnt creek.

FV: No. Buttermilk went into Texas Creek.

IF: Oh?

FV: It's a tributary. Buttermilk is a tributary to Texas Creek.

IF: Oh.

MV: I know my folks took up, well, they had my uncle and my mother took up some timber and stone and I think her brother took up some timber and stone too.

IF: Oh really?

MV: Yeah.

IF: Do you know the size?

MV: No, I don't. I think it was over on Grass Mountain, over on one side of Grass Mountain. I'm not sure, but I thought it was.

FV: Back when you took the desert claim, the government, Uncle Sam, if you will, was interested in getting taxes off this ground instead of having it lay out like, oh what are they called?

MV: Wild.

FV: No, what are they called now?

IF: Well, it [unintelligible] would have been, I suppose, just unimproved ground.

FV: No! What do they call that now? You know and it isn't reserved, it's -

IF: Reserved?

FV: No, no. That was [unintelligible] it's the other. You know.

IF: Uh, permit?

FV: No, I'll think of it in a minute. But anyway, there were more interesting, interesting in getting this ground taken up.

IF: Sure.

FV: So, they could start getting taxes off it.

IF: Of course. Homestead?

FV: Naw. We got a lot of it, land out here. We was going to buy that at that time.

MV: Where's the [unintelligible]

FV: Like from the government. Don't you remember?

MV: No, who was going to do this?

FV: [unintelligible] their holdings.

IF: Oh. why

FV: Don't you remember?

MV: We was going to buy some?

FV: Yeah. They rent that now for so much an acre. You know-

MV: Oh, BLM, that's what it's called.

FV: BLM. That's right. So, then they didn't have no BLM.

IF: Mm hmm.

FV: But now they have BLM and they rent that to, for stuff-

MV: This is [unintelligible] which was Fred's aunt, well, her mother had, what was it, 160 up in Rosita and so when she passed away, why, Charlie Dickson offered that to Fred for \$150. He said, well, I don't want it. John had a homestead up there.

IF: Uh huh.

MV: But we was so sick of that country, why, he didn't want it. He didn't get-

FV: He didn't have the \$150.

MV: [unintelligible] Now, gee, why, one 30 of that homestead was sold for \$40,000 for \$1000 an acre, just someone wanted it, see?

IF: Sure.

MV: So, we wouldn't give it up for [unintelligible].

IF: No. That's kind of ironic, isn't it?

MV: Yeah, it is.

IF: And how long ago was that that you were offered all the land?

MV: Oh, that was, gee, Grandma James had been dead quite a while then.

FV: I took that up before we were married, didn't they?

MV: Oh, yeah.

FV: We were married in '30 so I must have taken it up in '26 or '27 or something like that. Of course, up there, the government let you 160 acres or 320 acres before three years that you'd be starved out.

(laughing) That's a joke.

MV: He's betting too.

IF: How many times did the government win?

FV: Pretty often.

IF: Did they?

FV: I can remember this ground all on the divide that William Kettle, not Ben, cousin, and he bought that ground out there for 75 cents an acre.

IF: Gee whiz!

FV: All of this top, that divide, a lot and we're on the wurl of that 75 cents an acre. All that ground is selling for about \$300 an acre.

IF: Yes, and it's not really bad grazing if you've got some water to go with it, is it?

FV: That's right.

MV: If you had any ready cash at all in those days, and [unintelligible], or wouldn't you? Man, yes! Where would you want it? You have to take care of it so-

IF: Yeah, this is true.

FV: Taxes on it.

IF: Yeah. It's the truth. Now, when you take your homestead up, it must have been dry land homestead.

FV: Right, very much so. There never was any [unintelligible] up in there. You know where Rosita is?

IF: Sort of.

FV: Don't you know where the town is?

MV: [unintelligible] lives. Well, ours was just east of that, wasn't it?

FV: No, it was north.

MV: North?

FV: About a mile north.

IF: Mm hmm. North and west?

MV: That homestead that Mrs. James had, that Charlie wants those for Don, well, \$150 is what he wanted for it.

IF: It was about 90 cents an acre, wasn't it?

MV: Yeah. So.

FV: My dad took up a homestead and whenever back there at a certain time, you could take your mineral rights and your oil and everything that was underneath it but otherwise, the government retained that, reserved all oil and all mineral and all that. We have, the heirs, about 320 acres up there and we have the oil rights, mineral rights and everything else that's up there.

IF: And that's in the Rosita area.

FV: Yeah. You know where the perlite is?

IF: No.

FV: You know where that perlite is? You know where the big white dump is along the word up there?

IF: Yeah.

FV: That's it.

MV: That's it.

FV: On both sides of the road.

IF: Oh, alright.

FV: There's a bigger outfit hangs out over the road? Up there, what they call the four corners? In other words, if you go up to Rosita, you run out of the all there. Alright, that ground starts there and goes back up towards the cemetery and goes back in there about two miles.

IF: Oh, gosh.

FV: We had 916 acres, something like that.

IF: It's a pretty large parcel, isn't it?

FV: Yeah, it was.

IF: Now, did you use that ground out there for anything at this time?

FV: Well, we run it.

IF: Oh, do you?

FV: Yeah, with heifers.

IF: I see.

MV: And then, they sold the part with the, where we didn't have-

FV: No, they were mining this perlite. We sold that.

IF: Oh. So, the perlite mine was actually at one time on your land?

FV: Right.

IF: But you did not have any right to the perlite mining?

FV: Some of it we did. We had the mineral rights; we had the mineral rights.

MV: Fred's mother used to make quite a bit off of that. They hauled it off of her place, see?

FV: I heard about 25 cents a ton.

MV: And she got quite a big check, didn't she?

FV: Oh yeah.

MV: But after, when she died, the check that came was the last one that they ever got. They didn't mine any more. They went across wherever they had, where they, you know, just pay so much for the ground.

FV: Well, it was free.

MV: Yeah. You can't pass that, can you? (laughing)

IF: How many people had the foresight and whatever else it took to go ahead and file on the surface or sub-surface rights? It seems to me the government was able to retain a lot of those rights because people just weren't interested.

FV: All of your 160 is down in here that was taken up on 160, reserved. The government didn't, but the guy that they got whatever was down underneath. For instance, you take the so-called Compton's place that we got and the Cunard place which, then we have what we call the Evans 80 and really, see we have 480 acres up there and we have all the minerals under all of that, the whole thing.

IF: My goodness.

MV: It's got uranium too, there's uranium in our well.

IF: How exciting! (laughing) Gee.

MV: No, it's not real exciting to have uranium in your well.

IF: No, it isn't. Does that mean you have to drill a new well or-

MV: No, we just had to run it through a conditioner. We don't drink it, but we wash dishes and we don't wash clothes because it makes them about the color of this table.

IF: That's handy.

MV: It's just rusty. It was awful before we got that water conditioner.

IF: I bet it was.

MV: Terrible. The dishes were all brown and-

IF: Oh gosh. How long ago did you find out you had uranium in it?

MV: Well, it's been there when Schultze's had it. Well, they said that well was awful. But the well over by the roadhouse, that only had just fluoro or something, wasn't it? Not very much. They said that was good water over there.

IF: Is it?

MV: Yeah.

IF: Did you know Florence Austin?

MV: Florence. No, I don't know them. I know of them. They rented that place and she used to, and Annabelle Ralph lived over in the little white house and so she used to go over there. She had a washroom, she washed over there with that water. But the water that was over where we live, why, it's just, why, it's just rusty looking. It is rusty. When it drips in the sink, why, it goes through that conditioner, why it's still, it drips overnight, well, you got a big ring like that.

IF: I'll be darned. Yeah, out at the ranch, do you haul in your water or do you have another well that is good to drink?

FV: Well, we get it out of the artesian, you know where the artesian is?

MV: To the-over at the house?

FV: The artesian.

MV: Yeah, that's where we get-

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: We just take jugs and go get it.

IF: Oh! I see. What about bathing and showering? How do you-

FV: We come in here.

MV: Oh, I think about that there.

IF: Do you?

MV: Oh yeah.

FV: That's alright out there, you know, after it comes through the conditioner.

IF: Oh,

FV: It's not rusty then.

MV: you don't drink at our well though.

FV: When they built that home down there, my granddad, there was a saw mill. He's living with Harry Reid and did you ever notice that [unintelligible] down there?

IF: Yes.

FV: Alright. It was named for that.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: Harry Reid. My dad said that they put 30,000 feet of lumber in that house that he built and the barn and they hauled logs in and he sawed them for half, so really, they hauled in 60,000 feet of logs to get the 30,000 that they built the house with.

IF: I am totally uninitiated into the world of logging and that seems like an awful lot of lumber to me.

FV: Well, that house is awful big too, you know.

MV: Yes, it is.

IF: Yeah. How many trees does it take, of course, I realize it depends on the diameter of your tree and the length and so forth, but a square foot is 12" wide, 1" thick.

FV: 12x12.

IF: 12" by 12", 1" thick.

FV: Right.

IF: Isn't it?

FV: Mm hmm. Right.

MV: That's a lot.

FV: You know, there's a guy by the name of Beddows BED, I guess-

MV: Of that name I have heard.

FV: And Ray Adams used to have the Beddows place. So, my dad lived up where Julie died and so, he would go down to see this Beddows girl. Ray Adams go down to see her, so then she would tell my dad when Ray was coming so my dad would go down the night that he was. Then Beddows was quite a crib player, cribbage. So, he would have Ray go and play cribbage with him and then he would take and go build a fire in the parlor. My dad then took the girl.

IF: And Ray was left playing cribbage with his father. (laughing)

FV: So then he, Ray would change date nights, so then she would tell my dad so then he would the night that Ray did. (laughing)

IF: Well, it seems to me that your mother was a Beddows before she became a Vahldick.

FV: No, no. Her name was Taylor.

IF: After all that trouble, you didn't marry Beddows' daughter?

FV: No.

IF: Oh, for heaven's sakes. What'd he do like to do was antagonize Ray Adams, wasn't it?

FV: Seemed to be. (laughing) My dad was 28 and my mom was 21. My darling was 26 and I was 25.

IF: Oh.

MV: That's kind of a nice age.

IF: Yeah.

MV: I was a year older than he was.

FV: It's worked.

IF: Well, I would say so, for 50 years.

FV: Yeah.

IF: Please don't give up the ship now! (laughing)

FV: I don't intend to.

IF: Did it bother you ?

MV: I didn't know it until quite a long time afterwards. We're the same age on our marriage certificate. But my aunt said why, you wasn't born in 1904. I was married in 1904. She said you wasn't born then and, or you was a year old when I was married, and so she provided it. So then we went into the courthouse and I got a birth certificate while she was still alive. Well, my mother was alive then too.

IF: Did you mother get you mixed up? Did somebody else?

MV: No, I don't think so.

[unintelligible] that they do now.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: No, they didn't record them.

IF: Yeah. So, if you just happened to remember incorrectly, there you were.

MV: Well, see, I didn't know, so I thought that we were the same age but it was too late then to change it.

FV: When we went after our social security, she had to have her aunt testify before Auggie, the judge, Menzel, that her aunt testified that she was born in 1903. My mother, before she died, one time she could declare the birthdays of all her children and then she gave them to us. So, I had no trouble because my mother had signed this, like an affidavit, each child-

IF: Each child had to have a separate affidavit.

FV: Right.

IF: I see.

FV: Right.

IF: Now was this done in front of a notary public or judge or anything?

FV: Well, I don't remember where she got them, but I know I had one when I went to sign up for social security, I had no trouble.

IF: Uh huh.

MV: Vesta Vahldick, she was born in 1904 too. But she was born in February and Fred was born in May and so she had quite a time getting a birth certificate. So, she came up here to Westcliffe and she was talking to Auggie and she said, well, I was born in 1904 and she said, Fred Vahldick was born 1904 too. Well, he said, if Fred Vahldick says you was born in 1904, why, you were born in 1904. So, he got a birth certificate.

IF: I see.

MV: But, she had an awful time, didn't she? She just-

FV: Yes, she did. Back up here, you know, well and more or less right up here, but down there, they just took it for granted-

MV: Yeah.

FV: That she was trying to gyp. But up here-

IF: That's too bad.

FV: Well, I know, but up here, you know-

IF: Yeah. Up here, I guess they just sort of had thought people were more or less honest.

MV: But she was born out here where on that Lancaster, in that house-

IF: Yeah, where was the Lancaster-

FV: Well, Susie-

MV: Susie bought-

IF: Well, ok, I see.

MV: But I can't remember the name of the-

FV: Berry.

MV: Berry place.

FV: He was a judge, a county judge here for a long time.

IF: Oh, he was! I see.

MV: When Fred was born where [unintelligible] horns-

IF: You were?!

FV: Right.

MV: But they tear the house down-

IF: Yeah, I knew they did.

FV: But you see, those two babies started to cry at the same time.

IF: And they didn't know which one was you?

FV: Yes, they did. I was the boy.

IF: Oh, they would have known- (laughing)
[unintelligible]

You know Thelma Schultz? From-[unintelligible]

MV: No, I didn't. That was their homes, place where the Riester ditch is.

IF: Oh.

MV: You know, where Stanley Austin lived.

IF: Yes.

MV: Well, that was one Schultz place and then the red house was Thelma, Fred's twin sister.

IF: I had no idea that you were a twin.

FV: You didn't?

IF: Mm mm.

FV: Well, there was two of us cried the same.

IF: But I'm glad they knew the difference. (laughing)

FV: They seemed to know.

IF: Well, that's good! (laughing) I bet after an event like that, your mother really did not forget when you were born, did she?

FV: Well, no, she kept records of everything.

IF: Oh, did she?

MV: You bet. She had all girls and all [unintelligible], so there was a guy that went out of business. He was old or maybe he died and then they served his store up there at Silver Cliff. So, I don't know how many years afterwards, how come they was down here where Schultzes were?

FV: Well, he moved down there.

MV: Oh, he moved down there then.

FV: Yeah.

MV: and so, his niece and she sent her bill for \$75 that she got merchandise for and grammy run in from somewhere and she brought out that girl that Mark Purdy took it in to that girl and that was several years afterwards.

IF: Oh, for heaven's sakes. It's remarkable. So many people.

MV: Oh yes!

IF: He included, throw the receipt away.

MV: Fred does know.

[unintelligible]

IF: You were telling me before that having to switch to First National Bank in Canon from the bank up here-what was the name of the bank here?

FV: The Westcliffe State Bank.

IF: Westcliffe State. Do you remember any of the officers or anything?

FV: George Beardsley-

MV: Floyd Tomsick,

FV: Floyd Tomsick, Pauline Beardsley, was the three, and the dad-

MV: was-

FV: George Beardsley. This Beardsley place out here belongs to Boyers now, they call it Cabet Meadows.

IF: Mm hmm!

FV: You know the Cabets, Cabet Beddows?

IF: Yes, I think so.

FV: You know why they call it that?

IF: No.

FV: One of the boy or girl's name is Cathy. The other one's name is Betsy or-

MV: Elizabeth.

IF: And they called her Betsy.

FV: They called it Cabet.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: Dr. Boyer gave that to the two daughters and then this Antelope Valley ranch, the doctor, the young doctor, who was in Rapid City, you knew that?

IF: Yep.

FV: Rapid City, South Dakota. He got this out here, he loves this out here, but he rents this from them.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: They call that, well, Cathy was telling us a while back they called this Cabet. CABET. Alright, now, what did you want to ask me?

IF: I wanted to ask you why the bank closed? And when?

FV: They couldn't make a go of it. The reason that people started to go to other banks and they just, then they had, after they had this bank [unintelligible] and they had such stringent laws and they had to put up this and that, something else, so, this wasn't big enough. So, they had to close it.

MV: And then, they were getting older too-

FV: George runs a ranch in Colorado Springs and he runs rescued cattle.

IF: Oh, he does!

FV: George L, yeah, that was his son.

IF: I see. Do you remember when it was that the bank closed?

FV: No, was in the '30s though. But I think that, I don't know if you have Marvin Rankin's testimony?

IF: No, I don't.

FV: Did you ever see it?

IF: No.

FV: Did you never see it?

IF: The testimony, and I don't know what you're referring to.

FV: Well, they took, just like I'm doing to you, and Min Kelling has got that if you want to go get that from her. She's got everybody's that ever came through that they ever took a testimony of.

IF: Oh my!

FV: But I, that when we're ever going out and everything and I imagine that Marvin could tell you too.

IF: I was going to go and talk with Gary Zimmer. I have not made his acquaintance yet.

FV: He, I'm going to have to take and block off this eye and read with this one here now.

IF: Cause of my crazy writing here?

FV: Left-handed. Is that left-handed?

IF: Mm hmm.

FV: Alright.

IF: Now, what was his testimony of?

FV: Things that happened here in Westcliffe.

IF: Just hereabouts and so forth? Oh my goodness.

FV: When he hauled mail, how many years he hauled it-

IF: Oh, my goodness. This would be so interesting. He didn't mention this the other day when I talked with him but I'll be sure and ask her. Now, is this in writing or-

MV: Oh yes, it's printed.

IF: This would be something that would add so much to the tapes.

FV: See, there was Bill Falkenburgs [unintelligible] and what was her name, Parker? Dorothy Parker, she's the one that wrote them up, a lot of them.

MV: Dorothy Haley.

IF: Oh!

FV: You know Dorothy Parker?

IF: No, I know of her and she's the lady who writes for the paper.

FV: Right.

IF: Yeah. I see, but Mary has these?

FV: Yes, she's got-

MV: All pasted in a scrapbook.

IF: Oh, the ones they have, does she take the paper clippings out and paste them in the book?

FV: That's right.

IF: Oh, gee! This would be just great because I was going to talk with Miss Parker and see if I could possibly learn more about this. Now, I-Mrs. Elzy has told me that not everything that is written is absolutely accurate nor is it always written the way it was given. She explained to me in detail that she was talking about, the name escapes me, but it came out in the paper that somebody had taken a homestead that would have been directly west of the Lone Tree Cemetery. She meant down on the desert.

FV: Yeah.

IF: Well, you know and I know and Mrs. Elzy knows that you're probably not going to stake your original 160 on the desert. I know what it was. She was talking bout the Colony settling there.

FV: Yeah.

IF: And more often, was, they just got the directions mixed up, you know.

FV: Well, you know the Colony had a mill, you know where the mill pond is?

IF: Yep, I do.

FV: Up Colony Road? And I don't know why my grandad pulled away from them but he pulled away from up here and just crossed the road from where daddy lost place is. They had the church there you know.

IF: Yes.

FV: And they called it Blumenthal. Did you know that?

IF: How did you spell that? I've heard the name before.

MV: You'll have to go up to Rosita and see what's on-

IF: Is it Blumenau BLUM-

FV: BLUEM, ain't it? Is it BLUEM?

MV: What's it mean?

FV: Flowers of the field, or flowers of the meadow.

IF: That's the first I've heard of what it meant. Then I just thought flowers, FLOWERS.

FV: Up, you know where Camper lives?

IF: Don't?

FV: No. Up here in the hills?

IF: No, not really.

MV: Oh! Roger Camper!

FV: Roger, yeah. Do you know where he lives?

IF: More or less.

FV: Well, they have that Blumenthal. But they have that sign up there. Right up there where they live.

You go up through Rosita and just follow the road around and you'll come to that development where the Campers has got their house. He married the Canda girl.

IF: Yes, mm hmm. Were Barbets Lutheran?

FV: One time. But he went Mason.

IF: Oh! Alright.

FV: My grandad and my dad and my brother and me, and my grandad belonged in Rosita and moved the lodge to Silver Cliff and from Silver Cliff to Westcliffe.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: And we were looking in the rollcall book, and we run across my grandad's name in this rollcall book.

IF: Oh, you did.

FV: Yeah.

IF: Oh, yeah, I have to ask you cause I have been aware that the Masons are a rather secretive organization.

FV: Right.

IF: Can you tell me anything about them? What made your grandfather switch from the Lutheran faith to being a Mason?

FV: I guess he just wanted to.

MV: Henry Hannsen, he used to be-

FV: Staunch Lutheran-

MV: He went to school, Lenny Hannsen and in the Lutheran church you know, and [unintelligible]

Turned Mason [unintelligible]

FV: Grandad said, these guys go to these revivals and all that, and they'll set and pray all Sunday and Monday, they'll go out and steal cattle and water from their neighbor. So, he said, I'm not going to go into that kind of business. So, he went into the Masons.

IF: I couldn't really blame him.

MV: Who was that down there that they, oh, I know, should I tell?

FV: No.

MV: I guess I better not cause there's some of them still alive that-

IF: About the only bad thing about doing this, some of the really fun stories, you know, the real interesting ones, some of the people are still alive and might be hurt by speaking of it.

MV: Yeah, sure. There probably would because-

FV: Not Willie Adams, of course, he's gone now.

MV: Yeah.

FV: There was some relatives, but I don't know whether they ever knew that my dad did that to him or not.

[unintelligible]

MV: But this is bad because they'd go to church and this old guy would go and she would pray that he would get how many calves, five calves the next week or day or, something, see, they used to get cattle.

FV: They had, back there, they had a, I'm on there, am i?

IF: I can take you off.

FV: Alright, take me off.

Tape ends and restarts.

FV: They were senators, Colorado senators.

IF: Yes.

FV: You knew that, didn't you? The Beckwith place is down here where the Clemingers got it-

IF: Yes.

FV: Alright.

IF: Did the Beckwiths build that originally?

FV: I think, I think they did. But there must have been an error because we have a calendar that a cub put out and they had these buildings. Did you ever see one of them calendars?

IF: Yes.

FV: I mean, the 1980, '81-

IF: No, I have not seen the new one, uh uh.

FV: Alright.

MV: Oh, it's beautiful!

FV: But he said that they built that house in 1870 but the Colony never came in here until 1870 and they couldn't build a house like that before. But nevertheless, they had the Clevender place down there, west the road, all fenced, seven poles high and 12' panels and they employed 640 or thereabouts and they used that for just a corral.

IF: Just a corral?

FV: A corral. Not a place to put hay and stuff like that but just to prime, and they put, and what they called UA Prairie in their heyday, I mean the Beckwiths. They burned 'em 1000 calves over here on what they call the Ula Prairie.

IF: Now, would that stretch kind of north and west of what is now the Ula cemetery? Was it in that area?

FV: Yeah, yeah. Way back over here cause there was no fences in that day. If there was, it was just a small-

IF: Well, that was quite a corral!

FV: I think so, yeah.

IF: Yeah, I would think so, yes.

FV: And they run cattle from Canon City to up in here, clear on down here to Huerfano.

`IF: My word! Do you know about how many head they ran?

FV: Oh, I have no idea. They must have had thousands of them though. My dad was telling about a bog. When you grew up and going to lose place, if you walk over on that side after you cross the bridge and the crick, there's a little bog there-

MV: Higher up on the bank-

IF: Yes.

FV: Right afterward, there's a batch of bluegrass, swamp grass, and he said I've seen a half a dozen cows stuck in there and they just die in there, and he said, I've heard him say this different times that he would like to have had the cattle that died in that bog.

IF: I would think so.

FV: He asked Beckwiths one time if they'd pay him so much to pull them out and he said, you sure can pull them out alright but he, you, they're not too much slimmed by, we won't pay you nothing. He said, we don't know but what maybe you were know what I mean there.

IF: Oh dear, yeah, that'd be terrible, wouldn't it?

MV: For you to see something-

FV: Cattle would come in off the dry hills and there would be green grass, and they'd walk out into the green grass and they were poor winter shern, and they'd get stuck, just lay there and die.

MV: We had one over at the Elzy and we would see cattle in there and we'd go home and get the, well, we had an old truck and then they'd pull them out, but you wouldn't let them die, if we saw some in there, why, we would get in there.

FV: My grandad, going back to him, when he came in here, the grasshoppers did too and they eat their wheat up and they even eat their onions, down beneath the ground.

IF: Their onions?

FV: Onions.

IF: Oh dear!

FV: Grasshoppers. And my dad said he started killing the grasshoppers and he killed to a thousand, then he didn't count no more.

IF: Four wealthy when he was killing grasshoppers.

FV: Down there on the Vahldick place where June is-

IF: Uh huh.

FV: And my grandad worked in the coal mines, in Florence or Rockvale or coaldale, wherever it was, and he would work all week up to Saturday night. Then he would have bought 50 pounds of flour. Then he would take and carry that 50 pounds up Saturday night to the people, his family on that ranch there from, come up through that Grape crick hills and be ready to go back to work Monday morning.

IF: Now, did he ride horseback?

MV: He walked.

FV: He walked! He carried 50 pounds of flour on his back. They had-

IF: Oh my!

FV: They had oxen then. They didn't have horses. They had oxen. So, he, and then, the Humboldt mine up in Rosita, you know what the Humboldt mine here is named for, he worked in that mine. He was-

IF: Still, when he was living on-

FV: Yeah, when he-

IF: That must be almost 20 miles!

FV: Maybe. But he worked up there. Maybe he stayed up there then, maybe he did, not back and forth.

IF: My word! That is quite a story! When you first pick up 50 pounds, it's not impossibly heavy but how many miles did he have to walk-

MV: 10 then-

FV: 20 some odd miles, whatever. Of course, he'd head through the hills, way down Grape creek. You see, in the beginning, they had a railroad up Grape crick. You know that, and out here where the reservoir is, was a town that they called Dory.

IF: Yeah, I've heard of the town.

FV: Yeah. My grand, my dad said that they used to bale hay and it was just a half sweep, it wouldn't go parallel, you remember the horse [unintelligible] halfway and he said they would, had a rope and when that kicked loose, they didn't have no dogs to keep the hay from springing back and so they'd have to take and get away the [unintelligible] and jerk the horses but all that jerky [unintelligible]

IF: Oh! Gosh! That was a little hard on kids, wasn't it?

FV: Well, I guess so.

IF: How old was your dad when he was doing-

FV: I don't know how old he was, maybe-

MV: Didn't they have a store up here where Nellie Camper lives? There was a hotel at some point there too.

IF: Oh really? There was a lake.

MV: Yeah, and so, they sent Fred's dad over for some bread, wasn't it?

FV: Yeah.

MV: And he traversed the horse or loped it or something [unintelligible] and then the kids worked him over.

IF: Oh!

FV: Yeah. (laughing)

IF: I'll bet they did.

FV: Grandad or my mother, grandmother died when my dad was seven years old and when he was seven years old, he couldn't talk any American or English, whatever. All German, and I felt my, if I ain't mistaken that my step grandmother kept the house for him about 14, 15 years. He figured that he had taken so much of her time up that it wouldn't be no more than right for him to marry her and leave her a legacy.

IF: Now, who was this that married-

FV: She was an English woman-

MV: Is his grandfather.

IF: I see.

FV: My grandfather married this English girl Minette was his housekeeper and my dad was only seven years old when-

IF: When your grandmother passed away.

FV: Yeah.

IF: That would have been your grandmother.

FV: Right. Right.

IF: Well, for heaven's sakes. What a marvelous ending for a lady who probably would not be expecting matrimony anymore, huh?

MV: Well, I don't think she'd ever been married, had she?

FV: No, she wasn't married.

IF: Oh gosh.

FV: She was just, whatever you want to call her, but my dad had heard in town that he couldn't talk any English when he, I mean, because I have, if I'm good, why, he was as good as I am.

IF: And he had to learn all this English after he was seven. After he started school.

FV: After, yes, the grandmother was English, so he learned his English from her.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: He went to school down at Greenleaf and Tom Bowman, you'd ever hear of him?

IF: Mm hmm.

FV: Well, Tom Bowman and my dad would ride a horse together to go to school.

IF: Aw. Now, but the Bowmans were part of the English settlers, weren't they?

FV: Right.

MV: Yes.

IF: As were the Beckwiths, weren't they?

FV: Yeah, they were English too.

IF: Yeah, I thought they were. Yeah, you know, I haven't even asked you what your family name is.

MV: Armstrong.

IF: Alright. Well, I had to get it on tape. I knew that but the tape didn't know it.

MV: Oh!

IF: But anyway, for people who are listening to this later on, I would like to get it straightened out in your minds that you and Bill Armstrong were brother and sister, aren't you?

MV: Yeah.

IF: Now, I had forgotten at the moment where you would have lived as a girl.

MV: Well, over at Elzy, over by the Elzy mine. My folks came up, our dad was a coal miner and he filed on a homestead and they came up and they stayed one summer on the 4th of July that things all froze and-

IF: Oh gosh!

MV: And so he went back to Rockvale and I don't know, he must have been pretty thrifty or something [unintelligible] because they had a nice home [unintelligible] and he decided he wanted a ranch. So, he came up and he bought the McCormick place, just below Elzy, and that was before that mine caved in. [unintelligible]

And so he had saved, I think it was \$800 or more.

IF: That was a lot of cash money in those days.

MV: Yeah, it was, and he bought this ranch and I think he had 50 cents left over.

IF: Out of \$800 some dollars.

MV: Yeah.

IF: Oh my goodness, the birth of a ranch! (laughing)

MV: But he'd saved.

FV: Tell her how many brothers you had and sister.

MV: I had one sister and six brothers.

IF: You came from a large family. Were you a tomboy?

MV: Oh, I don't know. I was always –

FV: Don't let her kid you. (laughing)

IF: Dona's told me that your parents really didn't speak about their families or much of anything like that, at least that he can recall, you know, and sit down and say, well, now my grandparents came from such and such a place or anything like that.

MV: Well, my godmother, they were, there was three brothers came over here from England and they were stowaways. My grandfather Armstrong, he was killed, I think he worked in a big plant or something and he was killed, and then my grandmother I guess she was, according to my mother, she was alcoholic, so these boys, my dad worked for, what was it, six dollars a year, or was it-

FV: \$30.

MV: \$30 a year and they had to work hard and so-

IF: Hard to imagine what \$30 would buy a year.

MV: Yeah. So, they just got on the ship and came over here and I don't know which year they came or anything but anyhow, when my dad met my mother in '93, he was 24 years old. He was born in '69 and so, I don't know how long he worked in the coal mines. It couldn't have been very long but Judge was born in '96 and I don't think he was on the ranch over there then. But it must have been, oh, I don't know when he bought that ranch, but it was a nice place and that crick, oh, it's wide and it's taken pretty near all the ground and we had, my mother had strawberries and they had a nice garden and it was really nice and you could just jump across Oak creek any place you wanted to, but now, it's, oh, it's wide.

IF: It's wide and it's kind of pretty deep gullies in some placees, isn't it?

MV: Uh huh, and then in the summertime, my uncle and aunt, which is Jean, you know, Mrs. Briar who used to live here-

FV: Mother in law-

MV: They came out later and put a cabin on our place and my dad and Mr. Plenke tried to put in dams to stop that crick from washing but such floods had come down, why they were terrible and they'd take them out.

IF: Where does Oak Creek start? Does it have a lake?

FV: No, it's just a, comes from springs.

IF: I see. Does it run all year round?

MV: Yeah.

FV: A small amount. You see, that heads, you know where [unintelligible] springs are?

IF: Mm mmn.

FV: You know where John Carpenter is? You know where the Tomsicks live?

IF: Yes.

FV: Well, there's a, starts up in there.

IF: Now, which Tomsicks are you talking about-

FV: Charlie.

[unintelligible]

FV: Yeah, right.

IF: Yeah, they live in the pink house.

FV: Yeah. Down there, and then also, not at the, uh, Oak Creek doesn't start over there where [unintelligible] live, do they? [unintelligible]

MV: I don't know where-

FV: [unintelligible] Tomsicks, all that country, heavy timber all back in there, way back, like up at the-

MV: I got it started up there by the Cutman place, and then-

FV: That's what I'm saying.

MV: Oh, that's what you're talking about.

FV: That's what I'm talking, where it goes from that little [unintelligible] from the Tomsicks, go over to Elzy, that country, and then back as far as the divide, where you divide, well, I don't know where you divide would be, maybe up there by, let's see, well, it could be up by Junkins Park, where your divide is.

IF: That's a long way. That's a big country.

FV: Yeah, that's a big drainage, but it's just springs and stuff like that.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: It's dry. You ever been out here where weeds are?

IF: Mm hmm.

FV: You ever see that water in there?

IF: Mm hmm.

FV: Well, that starts up there by Creede, as you know, part of that. You know where Creede is?

IF: mm hmm.

FV: Well, back up there, that's your divide back up there. It starts up there.

IF: I don't know if I ever stopped to think how the lay of the land was and where the water would have to come from, at the beginning of the drainage, at the head of the drainage.

FV: So that drains into Grape Creek and then Grape Creek into the Arkansas. But Oak Creek, let's see, it doesn't drain into-

MV: It goes to Canon, comes through Florence.

FV: Yeah, but it goes into the river too, but it goes in at Florence.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: Oak Creek.

IF: When you stop to think about the miles covered by that one drainage area, it's really quite a bit of country, isn't it?

MV: Yeah.

FV: That's right, it's fascinating.

MV: There used to be some big old floods come down through there-

IF: I'll bet that where it's broken country down through Grape Creek-

MV: And when they started the [unintelligible] it was prairie, started a wash and then-

IF: Sure. I want to ask you guys a philosophical question. You've been married for 50 years and both of you were a touch past 70, what do you think of the changes? Is there anything, let's talk specifically about the changes in the valley, are there things that you just hated to see but if you could have any reason to do it over again, you'd do it differently?

FV: Back when they start welling, you see, there was a lot of sheep here, you knew that, didn't you?

IF: Yes, I did.

FV: They used to ship a carload of wool out of here.

IF: That's a lot of wool.

FV: And several carloads of lambs and cattle and then they started raising peas and lettuce and cauliflower and cabbage. Then they started milking cows. But they didn't want to get rich, so they quit. (laughing)

IF: But at one time, they had a growing concern with the cheese factory here, didn't they?

FV: Yes, they did. You bet. When Ray Stewart was running it, and as I say, they looked a lot of cows here, lots of cows, but I can remember, oh gee, a carload of wool and they put about 30 fleeces in a bag. Everybody that had wool would come in and then they'd all get together and load these cars.

IF: Did they have shearers come in [unintelligible]

FV: A crew of Mexicans would come in here and they would have about six, let's see, from 6-8 shearers-

IF: My word!

FV: they had the hands.

IF: Yes!

FV: And then, afterwards, this man, Don Aborg, did you every hear of him?

IF: No.

FV: [unintelligible] yeah, they came in here and his partner was Jimmy Kuhn KUHN. They used to shear sheep in here. They had a gas outfit.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: Well, lots of these guys had sheep-

IF: Mm hmm. About how many did they run? About how many did the average family or household have? Was it just a handful?

FV: Well, different amounts. My dad run a thousand and the [unintelligible] that used to have the Cremens place, he run a thousand or better, maybe a couple thousand. The McKellers and Kress and Kastendick-

MV: Bill McKenzie-

FV: Bill McKenzie, they run them in this high range up here in the summertime.

IF: Sure.

FV: And then they would take them down and then, get them and prime prop wood about 200, thereabouts and they ran them on this place that Stan Coleman's got, and he had that oil shoot proof-

IF: Oh, all with the aluminum wire fence-

FV: No. We used barbed wire because we could stretch barbed wire but after something run through aluminum wire, then you couldn't latch it very good. But T.S. Lynch, he had a bunch of sheep-

IF: Oh, did he?

FV: Ernest Georges' had a bunch of sheep. Bill Henges had a bunch of sheep. Martin Elzy had sheep.

MV: Lancasters had sheep.

FV: The Lancasters had sheep.

MV: Just small ranches-

FV: John Canute's still got some-

IF: Yes, I know he does.

FV: And Elzy's, they had some. Kettles had some. There was lots and lots of sheep.

IF: That was a story I've not heard from the Kettles.

FV: That they never sheep?

IF: (laughing) Well, they didn't say they never had sheep. They just didn't say they did have sheep.

FV: Yeah, they had sheep.

IF: I guess the subject never came up. I never-

FV: George Sanchez took care of them for them.

IF: Oh, I see.

MV: Are you warm enough?

IF: I'm getting a little chilly.

FV: Turn the heat up.

IF: When did the change happen?

FV: Well, the comets come in here. We had got, and when they got to take the tail, and I counted the tails and that fall, I was 22 short and I only run about 200. So, the percentage was up-

IF: Wel, that was over 10% of your lamb[unintelligible]

s.

MV: Yeah.

FV: That's right.

IF: My word.

FV: It got so that you couldn't get herders. Nobody wanted to herd, so different things. They just squeezed out.

IF: Was it a gradual thing?

FV: Pretty much so, yeah.

IF: Was it?

FV: That's right.

IF: I think, when younger people think about changes happening, you know, they always think, one year, we had, must have been, close to 50,000 head of sheep in the valley, and it just seems like maybe the next year, you know, there were no sheep. Nobody raised sheep anymore.

FV: This place that Quibman's got, Stan, we were on there in 19-, we bought it in 1934 and in 19-, that would be in 1935 was our crop and we had between 60 and 70 tons of hay. So then we started to buying phosphate and we bought carloads of phosphate. I mean, we shipped it in from Pocatello, ID.

IF: Oh!

FV: [unintelligible] and we paid Ralph Austin for 384 tons in, after we started in to using phosphate, from 60 tons, we had raised that up to 384 tons.

IF: That is over a 600% increase. That is remarkable. How many people were willing to do that? How many people were willing to spend the money-

FV: I don't want to brag or anything, but I think that we were about the first.

MV: Oh, we was the first-

FV: To put any of that on. But we would have it come into Texas Creek and then we'd have it hauled and then we would spread it.

MV: But Willard Rockard put us next to us, he said, why don't you put out some phosphate and that'll earn more. So, we got, about, we borrowed the money and bought a couple of tons, or was it one ton?

FV: One ton.

MV: And so, we put it in the manure spreader and I drove the team and Fred, he broadcast it. Oh, that would be like that, you know, where those, and your-so, the next year, we borrowed the money and I don't know how many tons we put out the next year.

FV: Couple, the next year, 10 or thereabouts.

MV: We only just put about and then we got a month grow over the whole place and just about like that, and it was all over the place. There wasn't any difference. We had a spreader to spread it and that was the prettiest hay I ever saw, and there must have been 400 tons because we just had, went and we had a piece as big as this house and well, you didn't even have to rake it if you didn't want to and just scoop it up on your and oh, those timothy heads were long, you know, and gee, we had trucks coming in and hauling-

IF: Well, your neighbors must have been envious, they didn't follow your lead?

FV: I guess they didn't. See, I served on the ASCS board 17 years.

IF: Saw a lot of changes in there.

FV: Right. Then I was on the FHA for seven years.

IF: Now that is not federal housing. That's Farmer's Home.

FV: Right. And then I was on this local fire insurance every year of it. I was secretary-treasurer on it for 10 years.

MV: But we made more money off of that crop of hay that paid for the ranch and got out of debt.

IF: That made it pretty worthwhile, didn't it?

MV: Yeah! But that was really a beautiful field of hay!

IF: Oh, I'll bet it was. There is nothing prettier than a healthy, beautiful growth of hay.

FV: That's right.

MV: There was no weeds or anything in it. It just was-oh gosh!

FV: We used phosphate and-but we put in straight. It was about 41% of phosphate and 10% sulphur. You don't get sulphur now.

IF: No, you don't. I suppose you could ask for it-

FV: Well, you see, up there, they run this phosphate rock in Pocatello through sulfuric acid through it, which made your sulphur-

IF: To break it up-

FV: uh huh, so the plant food could utilize it. It could last about, it would last about three years, four years, and you would get a little kick out in five years.

IF: Much longer than our modern fertilizer.

FV: Now you get a, what is it? About a 1746, do you know?

MV: 1846.

FV: 1846, ok.

MV: We put, you know where Stan Kramer lives?

IF: Yes.

MV: Well, that's where we lived.

IF: He had land all over the place!

MV: We bought that place, see? That was a place we paid for.

IF: I see.

MV: And got out of debt. But we put some out across that little crick in front of the house, you know, a few streaks down there and those cows would just lick those streaks. And they licked them for years. They'd work on those streaks-

IF: And you could still see years later where you put the phosphate? That's amazing! You put 40% phosphate and that's-

FV: It lasts five years.

MV: Yeah.

FV: When we were married, we started down here where Mike Lange is.

IF: Mm hmm.

FV: We went there for five years. We bought this place where Stan is.

IF: Oh, so you must have put fertilizer about the first year you were there.

MV: No, we couldn't. We was there quite a few years before we-

FV: Not too long, darling. Don't you remember, we started-

MV: About '44.

FV: No, before that. We started before that to put fertilizer on, before '44. And then, we bought the Kuhnright place-

IF: And where, I have this written down here-

FV: Coniright.

IF: Oh, the Schultz place? Ok.

MV: We came in here before the Colony.

FV: Yes. We bought that and then we bought the Colorose place which was Tomkins place which was the Horn place.

IF: More than 10-he had the burning bush.

FV: Well, but he and Kunradt. Kunradt came from Racine, Wisconsin. So far as we can check back, Horn was a surveyor and the 260's that laid side by side was the two first pieces of ground that was settled here.

IF: And Horn [unintelligible] bought it.

FV: Right.

MV: Harmon, his son, took one and Horn took one and his son took the other and then he sold, relinquished to Konradt.

IF: I see.

MV: And Konradt was Lizzie Schultz's dad.

IF: Where does Lizzie Schultz come in?

FV: Canon.

MV: She lived in Canon.

IF: I see. I just assumed that Konradts came in with the Colony.

FV: No, he came in from Racine, she said. His daughter said he came from Racine. He came in here in 1869 or maybe before. Horn, this peak outta here, was named for him.

IF: For heaven's sakes.

MV: [unintelligible] you could find out, they mentioned his wife who had three sons and he talked about them and one of them had fits, didn't he?

FV: Maybe.

MV: And so, he took him somewhere to a doctor but I think he died but he never mentioned his wife. We don't know who she is or anything. He never told you very much of anything.

IF: Yeah, when was Horn in here?

FV: Before 1869 and Tomkins, H. H. Tomkins started this bank. It was H.H. Tomkins and Co. and then he sold it to-

MV: Beardsley?

FV: Beardsley, and then they called it the Westcliffe State Bank.

MV: Beardsley sold that house where -

FV: Elzy's are.

IF: Oh, Mrs. Elzy told me about it. I had not realized how much I have yet to learn about the Valley. I think I made a beginning. I think we've completed the first chapter.

Tape stops and restarts.

FV: And they brought a herd of over 800 cows in one herd and them cows was strung out for about two miles. You know where Remington Cook's place is? From here, and they were going by Lyle's place, the firm were, all in a bunch, and there wasn't no fences along the side at all. Well, when he sold out, after he died, then they straightened up the estate.

IF: Yeah.

FV: They started down with these cars of cattle and down through here and Texas Creek. They spread the rails. I don't know how many cars but they spread the rails.

IF: And that is that.

FV: Yeah, that's right.

IF: Were the cars just too heavy?

FV: Sure. Too many cattle in them. Then, you know, the cattle would [unintelligible] and put all the strain on one rail to the other.

MV: How big-

FV: Maybe jacked up the cars and respiked them.

IF: Oh!

FV: Push their, push the rails back and respiked them.

MV: I'd just turn the cows out.

IF: I think I would too, Mary. (laughing) although I might have thought twice. (laughing)

FV: They didn't have, I don't know how many carloads of cattle they would take at a time. Of course, they didn't have the whole 800, I don't suppose, at one time. They'd only take, well, I don't know how many, cause this, Merv was always with second hand rails and stuff like that.

IF: Small gauge, wasn't it?

FV: No, it was standard.

IF: It was?!

FV: Oh, yeah. It was standard.

IF: I would have supposed it was small gauge.

FV: No, it was standard. No, coming up from Texas Creek, it was standard.

IF: For heaven's sakes.

FV: Yeah, standard gauge.

IF: They might have been better off if it was narrow gauge, mightn't it?

FV: It washed out.

MV: [unintelligible]

FV: Right. Down Cripple Creek.

IF: Oh.

FV: It was narrow gauge.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: But when they came up from Texas creek, it was a standard gauge.

IF: So, I did not, I guess I didn't realize there were actually two lines in here.

FV: That's right. There was. Not at the same time.

IF: No, but-

FV: After the narrow washed out, then they came up from Texas Creek with this standard.

IF: I see.

FV: They never brought a wide, big locomotive up in here. They, if they had to have more power, they always used two small ones instead of one big one.

IF: Were the turns pretty tight? Even on the standard gauge?

FV: Well, yes and no, but, did you ever see a railroad track down at Texas Creek where it goes around [unintelligible] mountain?

IF: Yeah, and it looked pretty tight to me.

FV: Yeah. Well, that's right. So they couldn't have two on that train.
IF: No, I suppose not.
FV: Maybe, well, I wouldn't have no, I wouldn't guess as to how many, I've seen it too. I don't remember how many cars they would take, I'm sure, over 20 or 25.
IF: Where'd the engineers come from?
FV: Pueblo. They lived here.
IF: Did they?
FV: They made this run every day.
IF: Do you know any of the engineers?
FV: Oh, what was Barry's name?
MV: Oh, I don't know Barry's name but there was Whalen.
FV: He was a, Whalen was the conductor.
MV: Oh.
FV: I don't remember that fellow's name.
MV: Beattie, was there a Beattie?
FV: Yeah, there could have been a Beattie too.
MV: I don't know.
IF: I suppose if I knew where to go, I could find out the names of those people-
MV: Wadleigh was the depot engineer.
IF: Who was that?
MV: Wadleigh, WADLEIGH, I think.
IF: It's sure unlikely that he's still alive.
FV: No, but his daughters are.
IF: Are they?
FV: Lee [unintelligible] that silver bell-
MV: The other day.
FV: Other day, two of them.
IF: For heaven's sakes.
MV: But I don't know which ones they were. Must have been Blanche. Blanche would be, well, she's a little older than I am but-
FV: One was-
MV: Nell, was it Nell Hannah?
FV: Hannah. Was the other one Langrely?
MV: Might have been.
FV: Could have been.
MV: But they live in Canon.
FV: Yeah.
IF: Ok. That Dorothy Parker might know too.
MV: Yeah, she probably would.
Tape stops and restarts.
IF: Five 1869 dishes.
FV: Right. We had three. [unintelligible] has one and the Lostraw place has one.
IF: Where is the Lostraw place?
FV: Well, you know where Alan Camper used to live?

IF: Mm hmm.

FV: It's right on down that valley, clear on down to the reservoir.

IF: Oh, I see.

FV: All them big meadows down in there, that was the Rostraw place.

IF: And that's-

FV: Rostraw.

IF: [unintelligible] right on 1869.

FV: Well, there's that. That's where one of the rights are and Rostraw married a Canute girl, one of either Bill's or John's, whichever it was.

IF: I see.

FV: And Teesra didn't marry one of them, did he? I don't think so.

MV: I don't know.

FV: I don't think so. But Rostraw did. But Rostraw wasn't a colonist.

IF: He was not.

FV: No.

IF: Where did he come from?

FV: Well, I guess he came in here. (laughing)

IF: This is something I was going to ask you and I intend to gab with you about the 1869 ditches. Your grandfather filed on some of the earliest ditches, didn't he?

FV: Well, I believe all of them did in here. But by them coming in in '69, before the Colony, which came in 1870, they filed these here '69's.

IF: Oh, I see. I see. Well, then explain to me when they started the Water Court, how these ditches were filed on. I just assumed there in 1869, somebody went down and said, 'I'm going to use this water,' and then told me that 'no, that's not exactly how it happened.'

End of recording.