

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
Tape Interview Data Sheet

General Topic of Interview Life in Northwestern Colorado

Date August 20, 1984 Place Craig, Co.

Length (Time) 45 min. Speed _____ Side(s) 2

Narrator:

Name Velma Burdick Deaver

Address 595 Ledford #209 Craig, Co.

Telephone _____

Birthplace Meeker, Co. Dec. 31, 1901

Occupation(s) Retired teacher

Interviewer(s)

Name(s) Julie Jones-Eddy

Subjects covered, in approximate order (please spell out names of persons and places)

1. Mother and father came to Meeker in 1896.
 - They had been married one year.
 - Parents were raised in Vernal, Utah.
 - Father worked for wages in Meeker.
15. 2. Stories mother told of early years on the White River.
 - Lived on the Vaughan ranch the first year.
 - Fed deer and elk when they came into the yard.
 - Mother had 11 children. Velma is third child. Born in 1901.
 - Mother didn't talk about the births of her children.
 - Moved to town for several years.
 - Moved to Powell Park ranch when Velma was 5 years old.
49. 3. Early childhood memories.
 - Went to neighbor's house and was a broken glass dish which she wanted, but didn't ask for.
 - Walked to school 1 mile in the winter. Wore dresses and long stockings, overshoes.

- 69 4. Childhood responsibilities.
 - Cooking, dishes.
 - Oldest daughter had the most chores.
 - Worked outside in the hayfield, She drove the team of horses to rake, drove the stacker horse, and the bull rakes.
 - Raised cattle. Had chickens, horses, pigs.
 - Wore dresses at home and working outside.
- 89 5. Play as a child.
 - Ball, baseball.
 - Tag, hopscotch.
 - Had neighbor children - Howey family, to play with.
 - Dolls, paper dolls.
- 110 6. Christmas.
 - Family dinner.
 - Presents - stockings - orange, candy, nuts. One toy each.
- 120 7. Mother's births.'
 - At home.
 - Neighbors came to help.
 - Doctor came.
- 129 8. School - Powell Park.
 - Liked studies.
 - Enjoyed other children.
 - Had 8 grades in the school.
 - Remembers Crawford and Ruckman families.
 - Usually were 20 - 30 children in the school.
 - Went to high school in Meeker. Boarded with families in town. Did housework, babysat, cooked for board and room.
- 154 9. Days on the ranch.
 - Washing. After Breakfast, they began washing on washboard. Took all day. Hung the clothes outside. Heated water in a boiler on the stove. Put clothes through three tubs of water. Rinse water was cold because they had to change it often. In the winter they hung the clothes outside. Took 2 days to dry.
 - Ironing - mother and Velma did it all. Had several irons on the stove at once.
- 195 10. Adjustment to Meeker high school.
 - Not hard. Knew many of the students.
11. Fun in high school.
 - Picture shows. One year she boarded with the family who ran the movie theater. Could go to movies free of charge.
 - School activities.
 - Dances - in town and in the country schools. Whole family went.
 - Her father played the violin at the dances.
 - Some dating.
 - Often groups of young people gathered in friends homes.
- 237 12. Marriage age - usually 25.
 - Women usually worked or went onto college after high school (most often took teacher training).
 - Men usually stayed home to work on the ranch.

13. Went to teacher's school because she had always wanted to be a teacher. Elsie Wear was her 1st grade teacher and very influential. Velma went to Western State in Gunnison.

271 14. Velma never traveled outside Northwestern Colo. until an adult.
 - She did go to Grand Jct.
 - When going to school in Gunnison she went to Rifle by car, took the train to Grand Jct., on to Montrose, and a narrow gauge railroad to Gunnison.

15. Attended Western State for 2½ years and then began teaching. She finished college during the summers.

303 16. Clubs in high school.
 - Epworth League - youth group of the Methodist Church.
 - Went to Methodist Church because there was no LDS (Mormon) Church in Meeker.

319 19. Mormonism.
 - The family lived the principles in the home.
 - Her grandmother taught church practices to the children.
 - Few families in Meeker were Mormon.

18. Work as a teenager.
 - Only as a boarder.

344 19. Sports.
 - Physical education in school.

20. Travel outside Western Colo.
 - Went to Idaho to spend the summer with her aunt at age 20.

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25 21. Thoughts about Northwestern Colorado after travel away.
 - Most beautiful part of Colorado.
 - Liked Craig better before energy boom.

39 22. Married at age 25.
 - Finished college in summers after marriage.
 - After B.A. went to Adams State for further education.

49 23. Schools she taught in.
 - Thornburg. Taught 7th and 8th grade. Boarded with the Lough family.
 - Taught in lower White River at Rangely for 3 years. Had 34 children.
 Met husband there - Hoyt Deaver. He was a cowboy.

65 24. Lived on ranches where husband worked.
 - She always found a teaching job.
 - Her lowest salary was \$75 per month.
 - Sometimes her husband couldn't find a job because she had a job.

85 25. Husband's occupation.
 - Worked in coal mines at Axial.
 - They moved to Craig. She taught in Craig for 25 years.

- 103 27. Children - one boy.
- 106 28. Working women.
- Worked because she liked it.
- Household chores weren't bad with only one child.
- Child didn't mind that she worked.
- 124 29. Puberty.
- Had no preparation.
- Asked a girlfriend. Couldn't ask her mother. They never discussed menstruation after she started.
- Her Aunt Frances Burdick told her about male female relations.
- No birth control.
- No fear of childbirth or death.
- 154 30. People who most influenced her life.
- Elsie Wear - 1st grade teacher.
- Mother and father.
- 168 31. Most satisfaction in life.
- Teaching.
- Marriage - 56 years.
- 175 32. Disappointments.
33. Saddest time.
- Husband's death.
- 185 34. Things she wishes she had done.
- None
35. Life with husband.
- Traveling - Florida, St. George, Utah, Nevada.
- 203 36. Husband joined the Mormon Church late in life. They worked in the temple in St. George. Enjoyed those years.
- Was very grateful husband converted to Momonism.