

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
Tape Interview Data Sheet

General Topic of Interview Life in Meeker and Craig

Date April 15, 1984 Place Colorado Springs, Co.

Length (Time) 1 hour and 5 min Speed _____ Side(s) 3

Narrator:

Name Margaret Jones

Address 3330 Templeton Gap Rd. #44 Colorado Springs, Co. 80907

Telephone

Birthplace Meeker, Co. March 15, 1915

Occupation(s) teacher, homemaker

Interviewer(s)

Name(s) Julie Jones-Eddy (daughter)

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

1. Her mother - Fannie Wear Tagert - came to Northwestern Colo. in about 1889.
 - They first settled in Juniper Springs.
 - At that time, the only settlement was the Lay stockade in that area.
 - Fanny's father made twice yearly trips to Rawlins for supplies. He was gone one month.
 - The Bear River (Yampa) had to be forded or traveled in a flat bottomed boat.
 - Fanny's mother had to climb out into the river on a fence to retrieve the boat which had broken loose. She told Fanny (8 years old) that if she fell into the river while getting the boat to take the two other children and go 7 miles to the nearest neighbor.
- 23 2. Lay stockade.
 - Provided safety for surrounding homesteaders from the Ute Indians who returned to the area periodically from their reservation in Utah.
 - Story of the trip to Lay one day after the birth of a new baby.

- 91 3. Mother's delivery of Margaret's younger brother, Bill.
- Margaret didn't know her mother was pregnant.
- Describes feeling about new baby in the family - difficult for mother.
- 114 4. Margaret's knowledge of puberty - her mother explained it at about age 12.
- Many friends didn't know about it.
- Her mother didn't know what was happening to her when she began to menstruate. She thought she had been cut.
- Margaret had very little knowledge of male - female relations.
- 152 5. Birth control in Fanny's time.
- Finally had diaphragms in about 1920. They didn't work very well.
- Her mother should not have been pregnant the last two times - she almost died because of poor health.
- Abortions were performed to save the woman's life - but not talked about because it was illegal.
- 182 6. Chores for Margaret during childhood.
- Did all the dishes for 7 people. Had to boil the water on the coal stove.
- Was responsible for her younger brother most of the time. Brother would sometimes get away - once left on the grandfather's horse and was away for a day - everyone was frantic.
- Brothers did not have responsibilities at home. They worked on ranches from about 12 years old. They spent their spare time on sports.
- 238 7. Played as a child with dolls most often alone.
- 249 8. Illness in the family. Medical attention.
- Little help available even though there were doctors.
- No antibiotics or aspirin.
- At age 5 she lost a friend to diphtheria.
- Brothers got scarlett fever as teenagers. It resulted in a loss of hearing. They were isolated in the backyard in a small cabin. There was no treatment.
- 312 9. "Tent House" was a small cabin in the backyard where her brothers lived.
- 319 10. Heat in the winter.
- Coal stove on 1st floor.
- Stove didn't do well when temperature was 40 degrees below 0. It was often 0 degrees in the house in the morning.
- Description of tent house.
- 338 11. School.
- 3 blocks from home.
- It was near an old Indian burial ground and they found beads there.
- Liked all subjects except arithmetic.
- Remembers walking through the snow and mud. No graveled streets. Lots of mud. Wore overshoes.
- 388 Side 2 12. College education.
- Wanted to get out of Meeker to see more of the world.
11 - Education would provide a better quality of life.

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13. Ranch on Sulfur Creek was where they lived in the summer.
- Father was allowed to raise hay and run cattle.
 - Had a crude cabin.
 - Remembers pack rats.
 - Arid country.
 - Beautiful spring - clean, pure water.
 - Margaret was 7 years old and took care of her brother.
 - Churned butter for her mother.
 - Mother cooked for hay men (8 men). They carried the lunch to the field and one day dropped the potato salad in the dirt.

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14. Travel outside Meeker.
- Remembers a trip to Arizona when she was 4 years old to see her uncle.
 - Went on the train. Stopped at Harvey Houses to eat where they had wonderful food. Saw a great variety of people.
 - Went from Meeker to Rifle (50 mi.) in a Model T Ford (1919).
 - Mother went on honeymoon in 1901 and rode the stage to Rifle (2 days), then train to Denver. Took a trunk of clothes.
 - Her mother went to Leadville in 1896-97 and lived there one winter. Went to several grand balls in the Ice Palace.
 - Margaret remembers visiting an uncle in Aspen. Description of Aspen - a ghost town.
 - Little travel in the winter months.
 - Description of roads.
 - Trip to Fort Collins - road was a "sea of mud". Trip took 2½ days (1935). Road was gravel only from Craig to Walden.

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15. Work
- No allowance.
 - Had job in the library as a high school student.
 - Description of the library - located in old fort.
 - Home was in fort building next door.
 - Also had job in dry goods store.
 - Spent money on practical items.

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16. Entertainment during teen years.
- Weekends - got together with friends.
 - Took many walks - 3 miles outside Meeker and back.
 - Mostly girls.
 - Boys drove by in cars and picked the girls up.

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17. Crime.
- One memory of child sexual abuse. She was a classmate. The community dealt directly with the father who was responsible.

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18. Attitude in community towards divorce.
- Had no friends whose parents were divorced.
 - Only single parents were because of death of spouse.
 - No thought of divorce when married. Few contemporary couples divorced.
 - Discussion of courage needed for divorce.

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19. Attitude toward married working women.
- Women who worked had to contribute to the family income - need.
 - Widows needed jobs.
 - Women often were unskilled and did menial work.

20. Hopes for daughters lives.
 - Get a good education.
 - Do what was right for times in which they lived.
- 330 21. People who most influenced you.
 - Teacher - Basil Salzman - literature - High School.
 Interpretation of literature.
 - Mother gave love and understanding.
- 353 22. Things in life most proud of.
 - "Proud" denotes society's opinion - would rather use "sense of satisfaction,
 well being."
 - Reading, travel.
 - Family - two girls.
- 389 23. Advantage of homemaker role.
 - Volunteer work in the community. Learned about people.
 - School help.
 - Camp Fire group leader.
 - Church camp counselor and teacher. Added to her knowledge of psychology.
 - Gained knowledge of human behavior.
 - Served on school board.
 Learned problems of rural people.
 - Red Cross chairman. Gathered gifts and sent to Vietnam soldiers.
 Received letters from soldiers.
 - Women's organizations had projects for indigent people. She came to under-
 stand how these people felt about welfare help. It was hard for them to
 accept.
- 46 24. Major disappointments.
 - none.
- 50 25. Saddest time in life?
 - Mother died when Margaret was 23.
 - She felt not very mature and losing her mother left her alone before she
 was ready. Her mother was only family member with whom she was close.
- 62 26. Nothing she wishes she had done in her life that she didn't do.

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Side

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