

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
Tape Interview Data Sheet

General Topic of Interview Life in Rio Blanco County

Date June 2, 1984 Place Meeker

Length (Time) 40 min. Speed \_\_\_\_\_ Side(s) 2

## Narrator:

Name Katherine Rector

Address 6D Fairfield Apts.

Telephone

Birthplace Meeker, Co.

Occupation(s) Retired rancher

Her father settled on two forty acre tracts which he received in a pre-emption in 1891. Katherine lived and worked on this ranch for seventy years.  
-telephone conversation 1/3/88

## Interviewer(s)

Name(s) Julie Jones-Eddy

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

1. Her mother lived on the Mesa south of Meeker. Her father came to Meeker from gold mining in Georgetown in 1882.  
- Mother didn't talk about her early life in Meeker.
- 24 2. First childhood memory.  
- Fell down the stairs.  
- Spent her life on her Miller Creek ranch for 73 years. Husband worked the ranch with her father.
- 35 3. Chores as a child.  
- Mother left when she was 12 years old.  
- She became the housewife.  
- She washed on a wash board until 1938.
- 46 4. Washing clothes in the winter.  
- Hung the clothes outside if it was warm, inside if cold.
- 58 5. Had two brothers.  
- Youngest brother didn't do too much work.

- 66 6. Worked outside and inside.  
- Hayfield.  
- Milked cows.
- 70 7. Came to town very seldom.  
- Rode horseback 12 miles.  
- Saw neighbors often because relatives were close by.
- 80 8. Country school.  
- Teacher boarded with her family.  
- Teacher sometimes lived in the schoolhouse.  
- Winter school, 8-9 months.  
- 1918 had no school - flu.  
- Went one year to high school in Idaho ( where her mother had gone).  
- Didn't finish high school because children had to live in town.
- 104 9. She worked on the ranch.  
- Her father died on the ranch. He had strokes. She and husband took care of him.
- 116 10. Home remedies.  
- Had doctor for births. Second time he got to the ranch too late.  
- Used kerosene for various things.  
- Mustard plasters - chest.  
- Teas were used for poltices and to drink.  
- Tea leaf poltice was used for sunblindness and pink eye.  
- Father used Harlum oil in sugar for kidneys.  
- Drugists usually had some kind of medicine to give out for illnesses.
- 150 11. Accidents  
- Brother fell off the haystack and drove one of the iron bars on the stacker through his leg.  
- Doctor came and operated on the kitchen table. Boy recovered.
- 171 12. Teenage activities.  
- Fished.  
- Dances.
- 182 13. Met husband.  
- He was cleaning the ditch on her ranch.  
-(Nellie Parks is her older sister).
- 194 14. She married one year later.  
- During their dating period, they went to town in a car. It broke down on the way home. It was very cold and they had to walk to the ranch. Nearly froze.  
- Because they wore dresses, their legs got very cold.  
- Got married at her cousin's house.  
- No honeymoon.  
- He returned to the Moffat Tunnel job.  
- She went to live in Fraser, Co. to be with him for part of the winter.  
- They lived in a shack put up for the workers. Very flimsy. 50 degrees below zero and lots of snow.
- 237 15. Her first trip outside N.W. Colo. was to Idaho. She caught the train in Rifle.
- 248 16. Cars in Meeker.  
- Didn't use them much in the winter.

- Her father never had a car.
  - Used sleds and buggy.
- 259 17. Thoughts about her future at 18.
- Too busy to think.
- 267 18. Memories with husband.
- Hunting.
- 276 19. Women's Clubs.
- In later years she belonged to some.
  - Finally gave up because she had to go to town and something always happened to prevent her going.
- 291 20. She had 2 children - girls.
- Youngest daughter died at age 29 of a blood clot after surgery.
  - Oldest daughter now lives in Meeker.
- 304 21. Births on the ranch.
- Second was worse than the first.
- 310 22. Women's concern about becoming pregnant.
- Most accepted it.
- 319 21. Knowledge of birth problems of other women in the community.
- Her sister, Nellie Parks.
- 331 22. Puberty.
- Came as a surprise.
  - Mother didn't explain.
  - Her cousins helped her.
- 350 23. Hopes for daughters.
- Youngest daughter had rheumatic fever and was in the hospital in Grand Jct.
- 381 24. Typical days activities on the ranch.
- Got up at 7:30 and helped feed stock.
- Side  
2
- 5 25. - Fed sheep and cattle with sled and horses, later jeep.
- Washing wasn't quite an all day job.
  - Liked the electric iron because when she had to heat the irons on the stove it took too long to get ready.
- 18 26. People who influenced her.
- Father - she was his "hired man".
  - Not mother - she left them.
  - Mother came back at the end of her life.
- 31 27. Things about which she is most satisfied.
- Ranch life. But she can't do it anymore.
  - Her daughter and grandson live on the ranch. It is leased to someone who works it.

- 47 28. Disappointments.  
- Losing younger sister at age 50.
- 62 29. Things she wishes she could have done.  
- Husband and she wanted to go camping for a long time and never did.
- 70 30. Travel.  
- Went to Alaska several times.  
- Comparison of N.W. Colorado with other places. "It's nice here".  
- Hasn't been in cities much. Went to Denver for the hospitols several times.  
"It's a noisy place".
- 92 31. Story about her father going to Marvine to ranch - rode on horses.
103. 32. Picked rasberries at Sleepy Cat.  
- Put jars in pockets made of gunny sacks.
- 119 33. Canned lots of food on the ranch.  
- Does't like 'crispy' vegetables as young people now do. Canned ones were soft.
- 129 34. Meat.  
- Raised pigs, chickens, turkeys.  
- 'Snitched a deer' - people needed it for food.