**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Tape Interview Data Sheet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Topic of Interview</th>
<th>Life in Rio Blanco County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>June 2, 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Meeker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length (Time)</td>
<td>40 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side(s)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Narrator:**

- **Name:** Katherine Rector
- **Address:** 6D Fairfield Apts.
- **Telephone:**
- **Birthplace:** Meeker, Co.
- **Occupation(s):** Retired rancher

**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.

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.

3. Chores as a child.
   - Mother left when she was 12 years old.
   - She became the housewife.
   - She washed on a washboard until 1938.

4. Washing clothes in the winter.
   - Hung the clothes outside if it was warm, inside if cold.

5. Had two brothers.
   - Youngest brother didn't do too much work.
6. Worked outside and inside.
   - Hayfield.
   - Milked cows.

7. Came to town very seldom.
   - Rode horseback 12 miles.
   - Saw neighbors often because relatives were close by.

   - 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.

9. She worked on the ranch.
   - Her father died on the ranch. He had strokes. She and husband took care of him.

    - 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.

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.

12. Teenage activities.
    - Fished.
    - Dances.

    - He was cleaning the ditch on her ranch.
    -(Nellie Parks is her older sister).

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.

15. Her first trip outside X.X. Colo. was to Idaho. She caught the train in Rifle.

16. Cars in Meeker.
    - Didn't use them much in the winter.
- Her father never had a car.
  - Used sleds and buggy.

17. Thoughts about her future at 18.
  - Too busy to think.

18. Memories with husband.
  - Hunting.

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.

20. She had 2 children - girls.
  - Youngest daughter died at age 20 of a blood clot after surgery.
  - Oldest daughter now lives in Meeker.

  - Second was worse than the first.

22. Women's concern about becoming pregnant.
  - Most accepted it.

23. Knowledge of birth problems of other women in the community.
  - Her sister, Nellie Parks.

24. Puberty.
  - Came as a surprise.
  - Mother didn't explain.
  - Her cousins helped her.

25. Hopes for daughters.
  - Youngest daughter had rheumatic fever and was in the hospital in Grand Jct.

26. Typical days activities on the ranch.
  - Got up at 7:30 and helped feed stock.

27. People who influenced her.
  - Father - she was his "hired man".
  - Not mother - she left them.
  - Mother came back at the end of her life.

28. 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.
   - Losing younger sister at age 50.

29. Things she wishes she could have done.
   - Husband and she wanted to go camping for a long time and never did.

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 hospitals several times. "It's a noisy place".

31. Story about her father going to Marvine to ranch - rode on horses.

32. Picked raspberries at Sleepy Cat.
   - Put jars in pockets made of gunny sacks.

33. Canned lots of food on the ranch.
   - Doesn't like 'crispy' vegetables as young people now do. Canned ones were soft.

34. Meat.
   - Raised pigs, chickens, turkeys.
   - 'Snitched a deer' - people needed it for food.