

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Tape Interview Data Sheet

General Topic of Interview Life in Rio Blanco County and Moffat County

Date July 1, 1984 Place Meeker

Length (Time) 70 min. Speed _____ Side(s) 3

Narrator:

Name Eleanor Service

Address 235 Park Meeker, Co. 81641

Telephone

Birthplace 3-11-04 Appleton City, Mo.

Occupation(s) teacher

Interviewer(s)

Name(s) Julie Jones-Eddy

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

1. She taught school in Missouri.
 - Wanted to come west to make more money. There was a great demand for teachers.
 - First taught at Pagoda school on Williams Fork in Moffat Co. 1927.
- 23 2. Pagoda was snowed in all winter and she was lonely. Only person her own age was a deaf woman.
 - She boarded with the Scott family ½ miles from the school.
 - They played cribbage every night.
 - The school was one room. She was responsible for the fire.
 - Remembers lots of snow.
- 50 3. There were no automobiles.
 - They used sleds.
 - Didn't go to town often. They went during Christmas vacation.
 - She snow burned her eyes during the long trip.
 - She was 19 years old that year.
- 69 4. Neighbors were 4 miles away.
 - They saw neighbors at community gatherings - holidays and dances.
 - Sometimes they went to Hayden.
 - When traveling by sled they put heated rocks in the sled for warmth.

- 83 4. No groups of women's activities.
 - Story of party for old woman on her birthday.
 - Story about old couple.
- 97 5. What she thought about Northwestern Colo. when she arrived at age 19.
 - She liked it only after she had lived through a summer.
 - She taught summer school in Rio Blanco County at Lime Kiln school.
 (Explanation of name). Snow was too deep in the winter for children to get to school.
 - Most rural schools were held in the winter.
 - She went home for a visit, but returned.
- 127 6. Teaching memories.
 - Story of pet deer following her to school.
 - The deer, "old bumps", didn't want the children near her. Children were frightened of the deer.
 - The deer went to town with her sometimes. Disappeared on one trip - probably someone shot her for meat.
 - Story of child's encounter with "old bumps".
- 186 -Teaching materials she made. Early copy machine - a hectograph. Eliminated the use of carbon paper.
 - She met her husband while teaching. He was a rancher.
- 210 7. She continued to teach after her marriage. Stopped teaching when children were born.
 - She was asked to finish the term (6 weeks) for a teacher when her youngest child was 2 weeks old. She said she would if she could take baby and nurse it at the school. She was allowed to do so.
 - Her pupils worked hard and liked her.
 - She had no discipline problems.
- 235 8. Didn't want to stop teaching.
 - She volunteered at the Meeker elementary school after she retired.
- 251 9. Taught at the Axial school for 17 years. Taught at Hamilton 2 years.
 - Her certificate ran out. To renew it she would have to attend classes on campus. With children at home she couldn't go.
 - Later she was asked to teach art in the Meeker schools. Did for 2 years. (Several stories about her art projects.)
- 313 10. Lived in Meeker and drove to Axial every day in the winter (about 25 miles).
 - Seldom had trouble.
 - When coal mine expanded the student population got too big. They hired a teacher to help her. time
 - She needed to spend extra with the 8th graders so that they could pass the test into high school.
- 348 11. Marriage.
 - Just "slipped off" and got married.
- Side
 2
 22 13. Working at home while teaching.
 - Don't tell you husband if you know how to milk the cows - because then you will have to do it.
 - Her husband had to be gone one time, so she finally told him she could milk.

- On Saturdays she did baking, canning, washing.
- Had no time for leisure.
- Story about fresh peaches (for Canning) she had brought home from Grand Jct. They were stored beside the house and the cows got into them and ruined them.

- 51 14. Clubs, hobbies.
- Crochet.
 - No time for clubs.
- 54 15. Births of children.
- In Palisade she had a doctor and a maternity care woman.
 - Had problems with the second birth. She couldn't wash clothes on the board so they got a gas clothes washer.
 - She raised two children who were not her own. They were students at Axial who had poor home conditions. The children's mother had died and father wasn't very good parent. These were Sam Love's children, Sammy and Sharon. Mr. Love lost his ranch and moved to unsuitable quarters. Eleanor devised ways to keep the little girl with her through the summer. Sammy had to go home to work until he finally ran away to Eleanor's. Eleanor then applied through county welfare to be the foster parent.
- 158 - The application required a physical exam. The doctor discovered beginning cancer. She was treated in Grand Jct. for 6 weeks. The school was closed while she was gone.
- 218 - Sammy and Sharon are like her own children. She sent both to college.
- Sammy wanted to go to college even though the Supt. said he was not college material. He got a master's degree and taught math in Meeker. Is now a rancher.
- 245 16. Hopes for her natural daughter.
- That she would enjoy husband and children.
17. People who influenced her life.
- Parents.
- 264 18. She is most satisfied about her children.
19. Disappointments.
- None.
- 271 20. Saddest time.
- When parents died.
21. Things she wishes she had done.
- Have a college degree.
- 291 22. Experiences which were memorable:
- One year she was asked to finish the school term at the Strawberry school.
 - They provided her with a house during the week. She went home to Meeker on the weekend.
 - Roads were bad with snow and mud. She got stuck one time on her way back to school and had to walk a very long way to the school. Her feet were swollen for a week and she had to wear house shoes.
 - The job was welcome because her husband was out of work.

363 - Story about living in Palisade and raising tomatoes. They couldn't sell second crop because of the depression.

Side
3

- 23 23. County Fair.
- She always has taken garden produce to the Fair.
- Had early fairs in the school.
- Purpose of the fair was to display the best produce and crafts.
- Rangely always did well in the fair because their growing season is longer.
- People brought produce, flowers, baked goods, quilts, crochet, sewing, etc.
- 35 24. Only one rural school is left in Rio Blanco Co. - Rock School in Piceance Creek.
- 39 25. Comparison of rural and town schools.
- Rural schools made children independent, self reliant, encouraged leadership.
- Rural school children received more individual help.
- Children who had trouble with reading and math were helped until they were able to do it. Not allowed to slip through the grades.