

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
Tape Interview Data Sheet

General Topic of Interview Life in Northwestern Colorado

Date July 20, 1984 Place Craig

Length (Time) 50 min. Speed _____ Side(s) 2

Narrator:

Name Lena Stoddard

Address 439 West 6th St. Craig, Colo. 81625

Telephone _____

Birthplace Mineral, Ill. Dec. 17, 1894 *2-18-1894*

Occupation(s) homemaker

Interviewer(s)

Name(s) Julie Jones-Eddy

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

1. Lena came to Hayden as the wife of a teacher. Ferry Carpenter wrote to them and asked them to come to Hayden. They came from Ill. in 1921. They traveled on the train through the Moffat Tunnel over Corona Pass.
- 20 2. Chuck arrived first in Hayden and found there was only one room left. He and Frances Golly, the Home Ec teacher needed a room, so Chuck had to room with another male teacher.
- 28 3. There was no house available when Lena arrived and the baby was born. She lived at the Hayden Inn. She thought it was very cold.
- 30 4. The Stoddard's took up a homestead. Charles was in W.W.I, so they only had to live on the homestead for 7 months to get the 740 acres.
- 33 5. Hayden was a small town of 300-400 people.
- There were two bathtubs in town - one at the barber shop and one at the Inn.
- 41 6. They moved into a house next to the Hayden Inn. It had a water pump inside and an outdoor toilet.

- 41 6. Moved into house next to the Hayden Inn.
- Had water pump inside.
- Outdoor toilet.
- 48 7. Skiing party.
- So much snow they skied over the fence posts.
- 54 8. Eunice and Ferry Carpenter were good friends.
- The women had a reading club.
- 60 9. Bridge Club - included men.
- 76 10. Homestead.
- The pet lamb was eaten by a coyote.
- 68 11. Mr. Stoddard traveled to town by car to teach.
- They had 2 children when they first moved to the homestead (only in the summer).
- Ferry Carpenter gave them a milk cow.
- Name of the homestead was "Lone Bush Ranch"
- 91 12. Lived in Hayden for 6 years.
- Sold ranch to Ray Smith.
- Ferry Carpenter was not happy about Smith's sheep moving into cattle country.
- They used the money from the sale to buy the Empire Courier newspaper in Craig.
1927.
- 98 13. Had second child in Hayden before the hospital was built.
- Her sister and a nurse came from Ill. to be with her.
- The telephone was out of order, so someone had to go to Bear River to get the doctor.
- Although they usually turned the lights out at midnight in Hayden, they had to leave them on the night Lena delivered the baby.
- 123 14. Had 2 girls and 3 boys.
- The Hayden school children sang a song to Chuck when the 1st boy was born.
- She went to the Hayden hospital to have last two boys.
- 150 15. Story of trip to Craig from Hayden in the car following a bobsled. Sled made a difficult track for the car to follow.
- Sleds were still in use in the late 1920's and early 30's.
- 170 16. Lena's present house was on the edge of town with poor streets. Sometimes in the spring, they had to walk from Taylor street because of the mud.
- They woke up sometimes to the yard filled with sheep. A sheep trail went past their house.
- They ordered groceries which were delivered from Sheley's grocery.
- During the depression people paid the newspaper with vegetables.
- 194 17. Telephone.
- The operator knew who was calling and where people they wanted to call were because her office window looked out on one of the main streets.
- 202 18. Babies' clothes were hard to wash in Hayden because all she had was a small stove and basin at the Inn.
- In Craig she sent her washing out.

- 259 20. Mr. Stoddard decided to teach because there were few jobs.
 - He came from a newspaper family.
 - He wanted to become a newspaper man.
- 314 21. He bought the Craig paper from the Duprees.
 - Their subscription list was out of date.
 - They had two papers - the Empire and the Courier.
 - Chuck needed help with the telephone, reading proof, and collecting social news - Lena did those jobs.
 - Someone took care of her children.
 - Later they hired a woman to do her job at the paper.
- 333 22. Craig weather station was maintained in their garage for 8 years.
 - They both took weather readings and ran the station.
 - Readings were taken every three hours. Lena did it in the daytime. Chuck did it through the night.
 - They had three children in college and the money came in handy.
 - They measured the high, low, dewpoints, wind, precipitation, and looked at the clouds.
 - Stan Stanfield took over after they quit.
- Side
 2
 16 - Sometimes they had to call Phippsburg.
- 22 23. Women's Book Club.
 - Lena had pieced a quilt and needed a group to quilt it.
 - They decided to quilt while one woman read to them.
 - Mrs. Cowen and Lena's sister Alta Pughe were in the P.E.O. group which did the quilting.
- 35 24. Lena belonged to other clubs also.
 - DAR and Republican Women.
 - Republican rallies were held in the rural schools.
 The people danced and gave speeches.
- 41 Book Club - read good literature and met once a month.
 Also belonged to the Navy Women's Auxillary.
 Volunteered once a week for the Hospital Auxillary.
 Worked once a week in the school lunch program. Helped cook, clean up.
 Worked with PTA. (Story about Rev. Best reading the Christmas Carol which was taped).
 Played golf in the cow pasture.
- 88 25. Her impressions of N.W. Colo.
 - She loved it when she first came. It was beautiful.
 - Had fun during the winter with outdoor activities.
- 118 26. Went to Denver often.
 - Went to Central City Opera.
 - Saw baseball games in Denver.
 - Trips took all day. Story of teacher's meeting in March in Denver. They had to come home through Wyoming - lots of mud.
- 138 27. Attitude toward's divorce.
 - Knew no one who was divorced.
 - Women accepted their way of life.

- 149 28. Hopes for her daughters.
- Daughters grew up and found jobs during the war.
- Stories of daughters in their jobs.
One was an air traffic controller and another was a weather station operator.
- At one time all of her five children were in jobs related to W.W.II.
- 201 29. People who were most influential in her life.
- Mother.
- Rev. Best - Congregational minister.
- Stories about her mother.
- 230 30. Things she feels most satisfied about.
- Raising 5 children.
- One son died this year.
- Spent weekends on the ranch. Price Creek.
- Her whole life has been happy.
- Would have liked her husband to have lived longer.
- Enjoys grandchildren.
- 271 31. Lena was born in 1897.
- Almost 91 yrs.
- 13 great grandchildren.
- 287 32. Birth control.
- Planned 5 children.
- Stories of great grandchildren.
- 317 33. Disappointments.
- Illness of husband. Death at 73.
- Story of travel with husband.
- Husband typed stories of their travels and they were published in the Craig paper.
- 356 34. Saddest time.
- Death.
- Shock of son's death - heart attack.
- 372 35. Home remedies.
- Painted sore throats with iodine.
- Caster oil.