

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Tape Interview Data Sheet

General Topic of Interview Life in Northwestern Colorado

Date January 21, 1984 - Feb. 7, 1994 Place Denver, Colo

Length (Time) 1 hr. 50 min. Speed _____ Side(s) 4

Narrator:

Name Catharine Coles

Address 5820 S. Windermere, Apt. 264 Denver, Colo.

Telephone

Birthplace May 21, 1901 Canon City, Colo.

Occupation(s) Teacher, Housewife and mother.

Interviewer(s)

Name(s) Julie Jones-Eddy

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

Resident of Craig - 1916-1940

- 10 1. Born in Canon City, 1901. Father came to Colo. in 1859.
- 19 2. Mother came to Canon City in 1893.
Father met mother and married in 1896.
- Lived on a ranch near Canon City.
- 33 3. Three children born in Canon City.
- Mother died when Catharine was 3 years old.
- Lived in Garden Park - small rural community.
- Description of role of school in the activity of the community.
- Learned to love nature and the mountains. Still likes to live where she can see the mountains.
- 79 4. Move to Steamboat Springs.
- Father went with sons in an immigrant car on the railroad.
- Catharine stayed with stepmother in Canon City with 2 small children.
- Went to Steamboat on the train. Stayed overnight in Wolcott.
- Next day they rode in a spring wagon from Wolcott to Bear River where they boarded the Moffat train. Went to Steamboat.

- 113 5. Lived on a rented ranch on Butcher Knife Creek.
 - Beautiful country - mountains. Flowers - Deer Foot lilies.
 - Difficult living conditions.
- 126 6. Rode "Old Squirrel" into town for mail and groceries.
 - Met Rosie Homer and they became friends.
- 138 7. Father and brothers exposed to measles.
 - Brother Mills contracted it and was very ill.
 - Dr. Frank Willet couldn't do much, but came every day to see Mills who was in a coma. Resulted in some nerve damage.
- 159 8. Moved to Woolery ranch for 5 years.
 - Horsepower did all ranch work.
 - House was not well insulated - cold.
 - In 1917 grandmother came to live with them.
 - Maude (stepmother) was pregnant with another child.
- 185 9. Maude and father, Joe Craig loved each other very much.
 - Maude's third birth was in a make-shift hospital in Steamboat.
- 214 10. In 1921 they moved to Craig.
 - Stayed at Baker Hotel annex.
 - Moved to Hughes ranch. Made trip on sled thru snow and mud.
 - Hughes ranch had a good house. Still had to haul water from the river in barrels.
- 238 11. Roger Saunders called her father and asked if she could teach school. She had a 2nd grade certificate.
 - Needed teacher for Pagoda School.
 - She got the job and lived in the home of a family who ran the Pagoda store. It was a difficult situation.
 - She loved the job.
 - After the 1st month, they got her a horse and buggy and she rode each day from home and picked up Gretchen and Cora Saunders on the way.
 - Pupils:
 Flora Heran, Mary Robson, Cora and Gretchen Saunders, Ada and Joe Craig, Alfred and Juanita Saunders, Virginia Dunston, Howard Dory.
- 319 12. School house was at fork of the Williams River.
 - Spanked only one child in whole teaching career. Older boy was unkind to Howard Dory.
- 343 13. Description of students in the school.
 - School term was April 5 - Nov. 24.
 - School program.
- Side 2
- 11 14. Went back home to the Hughes ranch in Nov.
 - In June she had met a young man at the Wyman ranch named Rowden Russell Coles.
 - They went to a dance at Wattle Creek when Catharine was with the Wyman's.
 - She and Russell double dated with Russell's friend, Mr. . . , who had a car.
 Nathan E. Coles, Russell's father, was the county judge.
- 36 15. She went to a dance at Willow Creek with Hank Saunders and saw 3 young men do clog dancing.