

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
Tape Interview Data Sheet

General Topic of Interview Life in Rangely.

Date June 21, 1984 Place Rangely, Colo.

Length (Time) 1 hr. Speed _____ Side(s) 2

Narrator:

Name Leona Rector Hinricks (known by everyone as "Babe")

Address Box 414, 220 Cottonwood Dr. Rangely, Colo.

Telephone _____

Birthplace Rangely, Co. Sept 20, 1905

Occupation(s) Housewife, schoolteacher for 10 years in Rio Blanco, Moffat, and Mesa counties, bookkeeper, Civil Service - Post Office, Office manager for Colo. Well Service 13 yrs.

Name(s) Julie Jones-Eddy

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

1. Mother's arrival in Northwestern Colo.
 - April, 1889 came to Rangely from Missouri.
 - Father came in 1885 from Texas driving cattle on the Old Chishom Trail.
 - They lived at the "old brick ranch" west of Rangely on the White River.
 - Three children were born at the ranch - 2 girls and 1 boy.
- 24 2. Conditions on the ranch in the early 1900's.
 - No electricity or running water.
 - Used ice from the river for ice box. Many other settlers didn't have ice.
 - Used kerosene lamps which were hard to work by at night.
- 39 3. Birth of children.
 - For the boy, the father went to Vernal to get Dr. Hullinger. He stayed a week at the ranch waiting for the birth.
 - For Babe, a midwife came from Missouri, Addie Fitzpatrick.
 - No memory of death in childbirth.

- 59 4. Families in Rangely in early 1900's.
 - There were 12 to 13 families.
 - Hahn, Coltharp, Kenney, McNew, Welsh, Banta...
 - Nearest neighbor was 1½ miles.
 - Went to Rangely to get mail 2 times a week.
- 73 5. Early childhood memory.
 - Large gatherings at the brick ranch. It was the central meeting place for the valley.
 - Had dinners and dances with breakfast the next morning.
 - People brought instruments.
 - Skated on the river.
 - Went sleigh riding.
- 96 6. School.
 - Had 8 grades in Rangely.
 - School in town, upper Rangely school, Angora school.
 - Teachers boarded with families.
 - School was 2½ miles from ranch. Rode in a buggy.
 - They went to Grand Jct. for most of their school.
- 117 7. Responsibilities at home.
 - Housework.
 - Cooking (cooked for 23 cowboys).
 - Take care of bedrooms.
 - Feed pets and chickens. Gather eggs.
 - Chores were different for boy. He cleaned the barn, took care of stock, drove the stacker horse, plowed garden.
 - She didn't want to work outside.
- 140 8. Clothing.
 - Wore dresses until she was 11 years old. Then wore bib overalls.
 - Mother made riding habit - knickers.
 - Mother made all their clothes.
- 153 9. Went to Grand Jct. in the early years a few times.
 - Bought food supplies in Rifle in wagons.
- 163 10. Travel outside Northwestern Colorado.
 - Visited aunt in North Dakota at 5 yrs. old. Went on the train.
 - Thought N.W. Colo. was home.
 Advantages: lack of population. No crime. Free to go wherever you wanted.
 Disadvantages: Isolated. Had to drive long ways to other places. Still do.
- 188 11. Play.
 - Rode horseback.
 - Played games - hide and seek, beckon beckon (description).
 - Ruby played piano, Babe violin, Richard trumpet.
- 220 12. Teenage years.
 - Lived in Grand Jct. during the winter.
 - Lived in Rangely in the summer.
 - Rode horseback. Went to dances. Had dinners, parties. No dates until 15.
- 233 13. Marriage age - usually 18 to 20.

- 237 14. Hobbies.
 - Hand work- crochet, embroidery, quilts.
 - Girl Scouts.
- 250 15. Thoughts about life at 18.
 - Must go to college.
 -Went to Western State for 3 years.
 - Got married before graduating.
- 264 16. Met husband in Texas.
 - Went to visit fiance in Texas who was ill.
 - Fiance died and his best friend came to Rangely. She married him.
 - Husband worked in oil fields.
- 293 17. Moved to Wyoming to oil field.
- 299 18. Moved back to Rangely - 1930.
 - She taught for 10 years while husband work for Tom Iles.
 - Moved to Grand Jct. for her son's school.
- 313 19. Taught at Morapos (gazetteer spelling) Morappos (county records office spelling)
 - Lived in a one room shack in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Carrigan.
 - There was 5 feet of snow in the winter. Temp. was 25 degrees below 0.
 - Carried water to school. Had coal stove.
 - 14 children, 1-8 grades.
 - Loved the school.
 - Played pussy wants a corner (description).
 - Sang songs.
 - Children walked 2½ miles to school. Wrapped their feet in gunny sacks.
 - Husband didn't live there - he worked elsewhere so they didn't see each other often.
 - When she broke her arm, her husband came to stay with her. Went in the wagon to visit Lois and Wood Spence.
- Side 2
 26
- 33 20. Had one son in 1928, Jimmy.
 - He had to stay with her mother while she taught. He missed her (was 4 yrs. old).
 - That was during depression - she needed a job. Made \$85 per month.
- 49 21. Moved to Iles Dome, then Rangely, then Grand Jct.
 - Came back to Rangely for good in 1947.
- 57 22. Puberty.
 - Came as a surprise.
- 64 23. Attitude towards childburth.
 - Didn't worry.
 - Had problems having her child, but had doctor.
- 73 24. Cooking at the brick ranch.
 - Majestic range.
 - Baked 8 loayes of bread at a time.
 - Butchered cows and hogs, chickens, turkeys.
 - Bought staples.
 - Dried fruit - brought it in 25 lb. boxes.

- 88 25. Housekeeping.
- Washed on the board. Later had hand crank washing machines, gasoline machine,
never had electricity.
- 102 26. Housework while teaching.
- Did ranchwork and housework in the evenings and on weekend.
- Got up at 5:30 to get chores done.
- 113 27. Winters were very cold.
- Wyoming house - she was pregnant. Lived in the cook house. Stuffed news-
paper in the ceiling to keep snow from blowing in. Had natural gas heat.
- 128 28. People who were most influential.
- Parents.
- Violin teacher.
- 132 29. Most satisfied about?
- Had so many wonderful jobs.
- In later years she worked as the office manager at Colo. Well Service (13 yrs.).
- Worked a total of 30 years and enjoyed it.
- 148 30. Disappointments.
- Husband died at 65.
- That was also her saddest time.
31. Has no wish to have done anything else.
- 157 32. Medical problems.
- She was living in Grand Jct.
- Had German measles at 13 yrs.
- One summer in Rangely she got typhoid fever from drinking river water.
- 174 33. Home remedies.
- Mother took care of Indian babies when families came through.
- Some Ute Indians lived nearby. They were friends of the family.
- Indians spoke no English.
- Indians came back to White River for hunting until early 1920's.