

Oral History 354-01

Interviewer: Pam Gibbons

Interviewee: Anne Slones Runyon

Date: April 5, 1983

Pam Gibbons: Anyway, 1930 it was built?

Anne Slones Runyon: It just started in 1930. Completed in '34.

PG: Yeah, that's when Cliff had to ride horses in there, didn't he?

ASR: Or walk in. He walked in the (unintelligible). He never rode horseback too much.

PG: Oh, is that right? Well how far did he have to walk in from then? From Ollie ... or what was her name?

ASR: Well, from Wendover's.

PG: From Wendover's?

ASR: When they used to go over the hill to Lolo. Then that road was (unintelligible) up Fish Creek Hill.

PG: Just the road to Lolo was built?

ASR: The Lolo road was always there and it went over the hill because there was people living down there.

PG: What was that lady's... Hamilton... Ollie Hamilton. She's the one that lived up there, right?

ASR: She was one that lived up there. Down close down, that's where they used to park the cars.

PG: Yeah. There was a road into her place then?

ASR: Why, sure. That was the end of it.

PG: Did people used to ride their horses in from the other side of Fish Creek?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: That's what I thought.

ASR: There was a trail up there, yes.

PG: Yeah. That'd be quite a ride, wouldn't it?

ASR: (coughing) About thirty miles. Took plenty all day.

PG: Do you have medicine for your cold, Grandma?

ASR: Huh?

PG: Do you have medicine for your cold?

ASR: No. I haven't got a cold. Just a cough (continues coughing)

PG: Were their many trees?

ASR: Huh?

PG: Were there many trees up there at the cabin when they built it?

ASR: Oh yes. He made the cabin out of trees around there.

PG: Because the fire was in 1910.

ASR: Yeah.

PG: That's why I was wondering if there were very many trees around. That kind of wiped out that area didn't it? That fire?

ASR: Yes. That big tamarack that stands right by the trail shows ... (noise in background, phrase indistinct).

PG: It lived through the fire though?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: That must have been the edge of it there.

ASR: Huh?

PG: That must have been the edge of the fire that came down through there.

ASR: Not necessarily. I can't tell you too much about that fire since that's a long time ago.

PG: You remember it when you were living in Alberton?

ASR: Oh yes, sure. Well I've since (?) remembered. You could get up at two o'clock in the afternoon and put your lights on because it was too dark you couldn't see.

PG: Is that right?

ASR: From the smoke.

PG: What time was that?

ASR: Two o'clock in the afternoon.

PG: Is that right?

ASR: The ashes.

PG: Yeah ... It came over Lolo. Where did that fire start at? In Idaho?

ASR: Idaho.

PG: Where?

ASR: Near Wallace, Idaho.

PG: How far did it go?

ASR: It ... as soon as we got rain. We had ... there was...

PG: In July?

ASR: No. I don't know. In the middle of July to pretty close to the last of August we didn't have no rain.

PG: Is that right?

ASR: It was all so dry. We had all of our stuff out of the house and buried. Everybody took their stuff out that they wanted and buried it.

PG: Like your furniture and everything?

ASR: You couldn't very well bury everything, but whatever you wanted to save, you buried it because if the fire got there, then you'd have that much. Anyway, I was sitting out on the porch. We used to take turns and watch it. One needs sleep at night. One needs sleep. I'd sit out on the porch. I sat out there one morning and felt a raindrop. Then, finally, two or three raindrops. Then, finally, here they come, just a downpour. Smoke was clear over there in Minneapolis.

PG: I bet it did. Because the fire lasted how long?

ASR: I'd say middle of July...

PG: It did last for a month and a half then?

ASR: Yes. Because it took it that long to burn its way over. Shoot, you could go Fish Creek down, get up on them mountains, look around, and see where the fire was.

PG: I know that Pebble Creek is just scorched. Still looks like it's ... The top of it, there's nothing growing up there. It's barren.

ASR: The trees are all dead.

PG: Yeah. What else did you bury? Did you bury a lot of your stuff?

ASR: We buried our dishes, our clothes, and a few things I can't remember.

PG: How deep did you have to bury that stuff in order for it . . . ?

ASR: All you had to do was dig a hole and put something over it to hold in the dirt. Put it down in there and it would cover it up.

PG: I was just wondering if you had to bury it a certain depth so that the heat in fire wouldn't...

ASR: No. You have a lot of papers and stuff that you always have to have. You have to take care of them.

PG: Did everybody find all their stuff that they buried?

ASR: Oh yes.

PG: Because if that fire had come though, I was wondering...

ASR: Well it never got that far. It got to the tops of Fish Creek Mountain, but it didn't get down into Fish Creek.

PG: That was lucky, wasn't it? For Alberton.

ASR: Yes.

PG: How did you live with that smoke? That must have been awfully thick in the air.

ASR: Our eyes were all red.

PG: I bet. Your lungs too.

ASR: Yes. That was the year Orville was born.

PG: Is that right? Was he born during that fire? Or was it afterwards?

ASR: He was born...when?

PG: I don't know when his birthday is.

ASR: In September sometimes.

PG: So he was born right after.

ASR: Yeah.

PG: You were about eight, nine months pregnant then, weren't you?

ASR: Yes. I know we used to . . . their Dad used to go down to the . . . they used to go down to the depot there in Lothrop. He'd go down there and there'd be a bunch around. They'd talk. I used to sit up there at the edge of the hill and look down watching, wanting him to come home because I was afraid. I was scared to death.

PG: Yeah, I bet.

ASR: Because there was pieces of bark and stuff falling in front of you on the ground and you'd touch it and it'd be warm.

PG: Just blew through the air that far, huh?

ASR: Yes. Probably a mile or so.

PG: It's lucky that it didn't spark a fire somewhere else.

ASR: Well that's the way the fire starts. That's the way it advances.

PG: You must have been real uncomfortable then, being nine months pregnant and all that heat and smoke.

ASR: They said it was even . . . they had to put their lights on in Minneapolis due to the darkness of the smoke.

PG: Is that right?

ASR: Just covered the mountain, or the sun. Looked like a ball of fire, looking up at the sun through smoke. It doesn't look like the sun. It looks like a big ball of fire.

PG: Red?

ASR: Uh huh.

PG: That's interesting. That was 1910?

ASR: 1910.

PG: It even burned up around there by Kid Lake then too, didn't it? All around.

ASR: I wouldn't know. I imagine.

PG: I think it did, didn't it?

ASR: When we were up Fish Creek, hunting, we could look around. You could stand up on top of the mountain and you could look all around. The trees were all dead. The new ones are growing up in between.

PG: Yeah. What was it like up by Irish Basin when you used to go hunting? Did you used to go hunting up there in the '20s and the '30s?

ASR: No, I never went up there at that time.

PG: Probably not until the thirties?

ASR: No, because I had a baby.

PG: Yeah. So when did you first go up there hunting?

ASR: After I was able to go when there was nobody to take care of. I didn't have a great need (?) to take anybody with me.

PG: That would have to have been in the '30s, probably after the cabin was built.

ASR: We probably didn't go up there until after the cabin was built. To hunt.

PG: The trees were pretty small up there in Irish Basin? Because now it's so covered with brush you can hardly walk through there. We came down through there a couple years ago. Didn't I tell you that story?

ASR: Where the cabin is, there was small trees around. We had to cut a few to make room for the cabin. But they weren't very large. Of course those . . . what do you call them? Trees that always grow kind of fast.

PG: The lodgepoles?

ASR: Yes.

PG: You told me at one time you could see over the tops of all those trees. When you first built the cabin.

ASR: I didn't go to that cabin for a good many years.

PG: Didn't you?

ASR: No. I couldn't walk in there. They never had no road. Only as far as Wendover's.

PG: How many miles was that from the cabin? That was probably quite a few, wasn't it?

ASR: No. Down to Wendover's, it was about . . . it was probably about four or five miles to walk, finish going down the creek.

PG: So it was probably around ten miles?

ASR: No, it wouldn't be that far. It wouldn't be over four or five miles. It was quite a ways to walk at that time.

PG: People didn't walk as much at that time, did they?

ASR: You had to cross the creek. Just trails. Then when Harper's (?) got to logging up there, they're the ones that built that road down there by Pattee Creek.

PG: Oh. Down Pattee Creek?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: When did Mose (?) build his ranch there?

ASR: Moes, his ranch was there at that time.

PG: Oh it was.

ASR: It wasn't Moes. It was Lapree's (?) at that time. It was another family. They bought all of it.

PG: Now was that road into Lapree's (?) there before they started logging then?

ASR: Oh yes.

PG: Because you used to live up there, didn't you?

ASR: It wasn't a road, just kind of a trail. Used to be good enough to...

PG: Get a horse and buggy through.

ASR: Get a wagon through.

PG: You lived up there for a while, didn't you? Lapree's?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: That was about nine miles of creek then, wasn't it?

ASR: Oh yeah, about nine. Nine or ten miles. That was awful with a baby (unintelligible) ... carrying kids.

PG: So they weren't going to school yet then?

ASR: Oh no.

PG: That's good. Because that'd be hard to pack them up and get to school every day from that far.

ASR: Finally, Dad would get down for Carrie. She was first, your mom.

PG: You were still living up there when Carrie started school?

ASR: Yeah. Then we had to move down. Moved down in September. School didn't..they didn't maintain school until about from September probably until December. They had no winter school.

PG: Oh they didn't?

ASR: No. They started later.

PG: Kids lucked out back then? Had a lot of vacation.

ASR: They started later.

PG: They didn't go in the summertime, did they?

ASR: No

PG: Just from September to..They did in the spring?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: Like from April to June or something?

ASR: Yeah. The first of March or something like that.

PG: Did she start out at Alberton School or did she start out at Walter School?

ASR: She started out at the Walter School.

PG: Oh. What year did that... they started at Alberton School in 1918, didn't they?

ASR: Yeah. Because that's when we were consolidated.

PG: You only went to the eighth grade, didn't you?

ASR: That's all. That's all we had.

PG: Oh it is?

ASR: Yeah. We had no high school. There wasn't kids enough for a high school. They didn't have the money or nothing. Then when they consolidated and went to Alberton, after Alberton was built up, then they put a high school in.

PG: Did all your kids graduate from high school, then?

ASR: No. Just Carrie and Bernice was all. The boys didn't.

PG: Is that right? They only went to the eighth grade or something like that?

ASR: Orville probably didn't go too far because he wasn't interested in school at all.

PG: He didn't even go to the eighth grade?

ASR: No.

PG: How about Martin?

ASR: Martin did. Martin was the only boy who graduated from high school.

PG: He graduated?

ASR: But he went to Alberton.

PG: Carrie was in a few plays, wasn't she?

ASR: Huh?

PG: Carrie was in a few plays in Alberton High School.

ASR: Oh yeah.

PG: They have a little newspaper up there.

ASR: She was pretty smart in school. Carrie liked school. Like me, I just loved school. The boys wasn't interested. Bernice, she learned real fast, too.

PG: How did Bernice meet . I guess she met her husband in Alberton probably. Because he's Marion's brother. Milligan, right?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: Gaylord. Did she meet him when she was still going to school?

ASR: Huh?

PG: Did she meet him when she was still going to high school?

ASR: I imagine.

PG: Did they go to high school together?

ASR: I wouldn't say that because I can't remember that far. I don't remember that. I imagine.

PG: Where did Carrie meet Lauren then?

ASR: She met him later. He came in there on a bridge crew.

PG: Oh the CC...

ASR: The MP (?) bridge crew.

PG: The MP. Was the MP ... ?

ASR: She worked over there at the beanery.

PG: Did she?

ASR: That's where she met Lauren. In Alberton. That was after Alberton was built up and the beanery was there.

PG: Did she work at the beanery with you?

ASR: No.

PG: You weren't working at that time?

ASR: I worked later. You know what a beanery is?

PG: Yeah. It's where you fed the railroaders.

ASR: Yeah. They called it a beanery on account of the beans. They served a lot of beans.

PG: Lila Lovely used to work over in Avery at their beanery.

ASR: Yeah, same thing.

PG: Did you know Lila back in those days?

ASR: No. I never knew her until she came to Alberton. She came to Alberton just before she married.

PG: Guy.

ASR: Guy.

PG: Did you know Guy's mother at all?

ASR: Oh yes.

PG: (unintelligible) used to clean house for us.

ASR: Well Guy Lovely's mother lived ... owned that house. That's the one you're living in, isn't it?

PG: Uh huh.

ASR: Yeah. I cleaned that house many times with her. I used to work through Alberton, to do housework. Clean houses. Make a few dollars. Twenty-five cents an hour.

PG: Twenty-five cents an hour? Money was a little different back then.

(BREAK IN TAPE)

ASR: That's going now.

PG: Yeah.

ASR: Oh is it? God's sakes. Are those expensive?

PG: Those recorders?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: Oh yeah. That's what I use for my dance class. I had to get a nice one because I use it up in the gym.

ASR: Sure. But you can carry it around.

PG: Oh yeah. It's heavy. Sometimes I carry it up to the school. That's a little ways to walk with it. To get back to living at Lapree's (?) place, where did you live before you lived up the creek?

ASR: I lived in a little house just above Naggies (?).

PG: OK, but did you move back into that house then when you moved back to...

ASR: They kept the house until they moved into Alberton.

PG: Do you owned that house?

ASR: Yeah, until we bought the ranch.

PG: I see.

ASR: We owned the (unintelligible) because he wanted that house. He wanted to tear it down.

PG: What made you decide to move up the creek? Where Laprees (?) lived? Did your husband . . . did Grandpa work for Laprees?

ASR: No. We had another ranch up there.

PG: You did?

ASR: Yes. It was 27 acres we lived on.

PG: I didn't know that.

ASR: We lived in that little (unintelligible) log house. Then he built a new house. We didn't live in that very long until we sold it. Sold the ranch.

PG: To Lapree (?). Where did that house sit at then? The original house?

ASR: Just across the creek. As you get up there, our barn. when you come up on the edge of the hill, there was our barn. Go a little further, right around the corner, was our house.

PG: Was that kind of where Laprees' house is sitting now?

ASR: No. No.

PG: You know they live in a log house.

ASR: Huh?

PG: The Laprees . Mose lived in a log house up there.

ASR: I know, but he built another . This is only a one room .

PG: So where was your house from his house?

ASR: Right across the creek, the new house was. The outfit...Laprees didn't buy it from us. The outfit bought the house.. What'd they do? I think they're the ones to bring it down. Either burn it down or tore it down and use it for wood or something.

PG: Wonder why they did that. Because they wanted it for grazing?

ASR: I wouldn't know.

PG: Let me see, who was the next one? Fred was the next one born after Orville. He was born down in that place by where Naggies (?) were living.

ASR: Yeah. We always had to go down the creek. I wouldn't stay up there. (coughing) You know where Naggies (?) were living; across the road there in the spring, under the hill, there's where we used to all the time got our water. We just crossed the road.

PG: It's still there. Where did you live from the apple tree? The apple tree is right there close to the.

ASR: We had to live across that little stream.. .that little pond. (unintelligible) made a dam and made a little pond.

PG: Is that right? It's still there too.

ASR: Is it?

PG: That little pond, yeah.

ASR: Anyway, he built a little pause (?) there. He put a little belt on it underneath and a little trigger on it. The water would hit it. He kept figuring that would help. It drove everybody crazy, I guess. They couldn't tell where that whisk (?) came from.

PG: Yeah.

ASR: They could hear that almost way up toward Eddy's.

PG: Is that right?

ASR: Towards the little (indistinct) trestle up there.

PG: How'd you guys sleep at night?

ASR: They had an awful time, I guess.

PG: Yeah. You didn't remember it though?

ASR: I don't remember just a whole lot of things. Anyway, the operator down at the NP [Northern Pacific] Depot, he heard that commence. (unintelligible) Of course, this operator, when he was on his night shift, that kept ringing. Kept ringing and ringing. He thought, "My God, where is that noise coming from?" It hit the little bell and it just, "Ding. Ding. Ding. Ding." It would drive you nuts, if you didn't know what it was. We come up the next day to get some eggs and he said, "That's where that noise is coming from!"

PG: You sold eggs then?

ASR: Oh yeah.

PG: Eggs and butter, probably.

ASR: Yeah, butter. Cream.

PG: You had your own butter churn and everything.

ASR: Yes.

PG: I think I remember; we lived with you out there. We used it once to make butter. What happened to that?

ASR: I don't know what happened to my churn? Somebody swiped it I think. People steal at that time. They took my organ. I had an organ, a nice organ that Dad bought me.

PG: Was it sitting in your house?

ASR: Yes.

PG: Somebody took it out of your house?

ASR: You never locked your doors too much in those days.

PG: They just come right in and take it.

ASR: I was moving and somebody took my organ.

PG: Never found out who it was? That wasn't very nice. It's kind of comforting to know things like that happened back in those days because so much of it's happening now.

ASR: I guess it always used to happen and I guess it always will.

PG: Oh yeah. Probably. Lothrop, there was a lot more people out in Lothrop then, wasn't there?

ASR: Oh yeah.

PG: About two thousand people or something?

ASR: Oh no! Probably two or three hundred.

PG: Oh Okay.

ASR: Buildings was on the hills. Down on the flat was the lumber yard.

PG: There's not much trace of those buildings anymore, is there? I mean, there's no foundations or anything.

ASR: I understand the foundation of the school house is still on the other hill. I don't know. I've never been up there.

PG: What was the year that it flooded so bad?

ASR: Huh?

PG: What was the year that they had the big, the flood? That's when Alberton was born, wasn't it?

ASR: Oh no.

PG: No, it was before that.

ASR: I can't remember now.

PG: What happened to Lothrop? Was it the flood that wiped it out?

ASR: No. When the mill moved, everybody moved away with the mill. That's when Alberton started.

PG: What year was that?

ASR: Oh about 19.. .it was after Orville was born. About 1920, I think.

PG: The school... there were houses over there before that though, in Alberton.

ASR: No. It was just a ranch.

PG: Alberton was?

ASR: Yes.

PG: The railroad went through there in 1907.

ASR: I know when the railroad went through there. I used to stand out there by the road where the house was, down there at Naggies, and watch them. I watched them lay the railroad.

PG: The school was built in 1918. So that was built before a lot of the houses were built then?

ASR: Probably. Their Dad built the school house, was working on the schoolhouse.

PG: That a big building back in those days.

ASR: He built the first schoolhouse. There was just a little bit of a grain (?) building. They decided ... they moved in and got the district and they built that big schoolhouse with (unintelligible). Right down below McConkey's (?), that little flat. Right where the trees are.

PG: Yeah, where they built the new school now.

ASR: Yes.

PG: That's where the other schoolhouse sat. McConkey's (?) place is a nice house.

ASR: Yeah.

PG: They got it fixed up real nice. When you had your babies back then, you didn't go to the hospital did you?

ASR: No.

PG: They had midwives? Did you have a midwife come to your house?

ASR: Why sure.

PG: Who was the midwife back then?

ASR: Mrs. Lachelle (?).

PG: Mrs. Lachelle?

ASR: Yes.

PG: Was she there when all your kids were born?

ASR: She was there. She didn't take care of mine, but she took care of several. Finally they put in... they added a law. She couldn't do it anymore. Had to get a doctor.

PG: Oh, when the hospital...

ASR: Of course, there was a doctor in Alberton. There used to be one in Frenchtown.

PG: What were the doctor's names?

ASR: Oh gosh, I couldn't tell you. I couldn't tell you now.

PG: Never had any use from him probably. By that time you had all your kids.

ASR: Yeah.

PG: Did she have children of her own? This midwife?

ASR: Oh yes. She had a big family. But she took care of everybody around.

PG: What can you tell me about the lady who gave me that couch that I have? What was her name? Her daughter married Heckra (?). Remember that big green couch you gave me?

ASR: Yes.

PG: Who'd you buy that from?

ASR: Oh, Mrs. Thorn (?).

PG: Yeah. Mrs. Thorn (?).

ASR: I paid twenty dollars for that thing then.

PG: That's a lot of money.

ASR: (both talking) Twenty dollars was hard to get a hold of.

PG: Must have been worth it.

ASR: It was on the porch. I was delivering eggs up there and I seen it. I thought, "Gee, I wonder why she put that out there on the porch." You figure that it wouldn't deteriorate.

PG: She didn't want it.

ASR: So I ask her, "How come you have that on the front porch?" "Oh I got a new one," she says, "That's the old one." I said, "Will you sell it?" She says, "Yes. I'll sell it." Then I took two or three men to move that.

PG: I bet. I have a heck of a time trying to get that thing moved around when I try to shampoo the carpet.

ASR: That's strictly clear hardwood.

PG: It's a heavy couch.

ASR: Carrie covered it. Carrie was the one that covered it. Done over Saturdays or Sunday like they always did. She worked on that couch. (unintelligible, mumbling)

PG: Who were some of the first people to live in Alberton? Do you know?

ASR: No. I wouldn't know. I remember the Lovelies were.

PG: Was she married at the time? Did you know Guy's father?

ASR: His father was dead.

PG: He was?

ASR: She was living alone; she was a widow. She was a widow when I worked for her.

PG: Guy must have been one of the first ones to work on the railroad then, when it came though.

ASR: I would imagine. Goodness sakes! You're asking me some hard questions!

PG: We've talked about these before. I know it goes back a long time. It must be hard to remember all that.

ASR: Then there was a fellow named Wells. Ralph (?) was the operator.

PG: When did they first put the bars into Alberton?

ASR: Oh gosh, I couldn't tell you that either.

PG: Who was the first store owner in Alberton?

ASR: Teddie Martin.

PG: Teddie Martin. That's where the old mercantile is right now, right?

ASR: I guess.

PG: That's the same building probably.

(End of Side A. Start of Side B)

ASR: We went ... The roof would come down like that and then the shed roof would come off of here and go along. We crawled over on that shed roof and got down there. When we got to the edge, we had to jump down because it was too high and there wasn't any other way to get down. We had no other way. So I jumped down and I went into a... hit a board that had a nail in it and run right through my foot.

PG: Bet that hurt.

ASR: Andrew and Albert each had to stand on the edge of the board, the ends, for me to pull my foot up. I got back home. We all went to the house. Of course, Dad was out here. Andrew was using tobacco, just starting out. Mom and Dad knew it. (coughing) Anyway, Mama had a piece of plugged tobacco. You chew plugged tobacco and put it on an injury like that, it draws all the poison out of it. Did you know that?

PG: That's what you told me at one time. I didn't know that before.

ASR: Anyway, Mama says, "My Gosh!" I can remember it as though it was yesterday. She said, "I'll never ... How in the world am I going to get some tobacco now to put on that?"

Andrews says, "I can chew it."

Why mom says, "Andrew, you can't."

"Oh yes I can!"

"Well you can't eat it!"

"Oh yes I can!"

So gingerly she gave him a piece. He chewed it up fine and dandy. Went down there and it wasn't even sore.

PG: It's amazing, those old home remedies. What they'll do.

ASR: Yes. I'll never forget it. It was just like it was yesterday. We were just kids.

PG: Yeah, I know. Time flies, doesn't it?

ASR: This was back east, you know?

PG: Yeah.

ASR: I remember getting ready to move out here.

PG: How did you get out here? Did you come by... ?

ASR: On a train.

PG: On a train. You moved all your stuff on the train too? Or you just brought your clothes?

ASR: Yes. You had to; only so many tickets. (coughing)

PG: Do you want a glass of water, Grandma?

ASR: No. Anyway, that was quite a lark. Andrew had... used to take ... the fellow across the road was the one who got him to chewing.

PG: Is that right? Was he about the same age?

ASR: Anyway.

PG: Grandma, do you want anything?

BREAK IN TAPE

ASR: I mean we moved by train. You was allowed so much baggage with a ticket. Mama had to have so many tickets for all of us kids, half fare. Why, she got a lot of that stuff. They packed stuff into barrels. These little white barrels. They look just like dried lumber or something like. they're not the heavy barrels, but they're the light barrels. She packed her stuff in the barrels. I think, if I remember right, the only thing was broke was a bowl and a plate.

PG: That's pretty good for that long a distance.

ASR: Yes. I got my back turned to you.

PG: You're okay, Grandma. I'll turn you around when we get done talking. Andrew, was he your oldest brother?

ASR: He was the oldest brother, but I was older than he was.

PG: Yeah, you were the oldest of all of them. How many kids were there?

ASR: Ten.

PG: Ten of you! Gee.

ASR: Ten.

PG: I bet that kept your mother busy!

ASR: Ben passed away here just before I come to the hospital here. He had cancer of the lung.

PG: Cancer of the lung? Was he a smoker, Ben?

ASR: Ben was at one time, yes.

PG: What kind of stories do you have about Ben when he was little? Or was he born after you left home?

ASR: No. I was in and out. I was living close to them.

PG: Did you live with other families?

ASR: That and we raised Ben and Carrie together.

PG: Oh you did?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: They were the same age?

ASR: There was a difference in their age. Six months. Ben was six months older.

PG: Did Ben come over and stay at your place ever?

ASR: Oh yeah. I took care of him most of the time because Mama was working. At that time, she had to get out and work when she had a chance.

PG: Where did she work at?

ASR: Housework.

PG: Housework for other people?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: Did she do that around Alberton?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: That was about the time you were living out at .what was her name out there at Sear (?)?

ASR: Garcia?

PG: Yeah, Garcia.

ASR: It was just me that was living out there. Mama didn't live there.

PG: No, but you lived out there when Carrie was born.

ASR: The kids' Dad had the contract to put up their hay. That was the summer that the mill was on strike. There was nobody working. He had the chance to get that job, so he took it. Of course, we had the live down there in Sear (?). All we had to live in was tents. That was something. Gee wiz, that was something with a baby. Six to eight months old.

PG: I bet. Trying to keep your diapers clean and everything.

ASR: Oh goodness.

PG: How long did you live in that tent?

ASR: Just for August to put the hay up. I don't know... four, five weeks.

PG: Then where'd you go?

ASR: Then we went back home.

PG: I thought you lived up there for a while in the old house.

ASR: No. Then the mill started up again. They settled the strike, so they went back to work.

PG: How much longer did the mill work? How much longer was the mill open after it went on strike that one year? What year did it close down?

ASR: It closed down about 1910.

PG: About three years after the railroad was put in then.

ASR: Yeah.

PG: Must have saw a lot of people leave when that happened.

ASR: I saw people. I saw Alberton being built up. I saw the mill being put in and saw it taken out.

PG: I bet that made you feel a little strange.

ASR: You want that closed?

PG: It was closed by itself. I think someone pushed it open.

ASR: Anyway, gosh they were funny kids.

PG: Were they?

ASR: They wore red handkerchiefs over their heads tied. That's the way their mother wore her handkerchief all the time.

PG: How come?

ASR: That was just their way. The kids wore...

PG: Where'd they go to school at? The Garcias?

ASR: They had a little school right on the edge of the hill. I believe that building is still there. As you come along on the railroad, you'll see the little building.

PG: Was that Rivulet School

ASR: No. That was just one there for Sears.

PG: Were they the only kids that went there?

ASR: Yes because there was no other kids around. That didn't last very long.

PG: Who was the teacher up there?

ASR: Oh land, I don't know. I wouldn't know them now anyway.

PG: You mean the school didn't last very long?

ASR: No. There was the Rivulet kids then.

PG: The Rivulet kids?

ASR: Huh?

PG: The Rivulet kids?

ASR: Yes. There was kids in Rivulet. You know where Rivulet is?

PG: Oh yeah. Yeah. I know a few kids that went to Rivulet School until about 1965 and then they transferred to Alberton. That's when the closed that school down.

(Knock on the door. A man enters)

(A brief unintelligible conversation between ASR and man. Man continues to talk inaudibly in the background.)

PG: Tell some stories about your mother.

ASR: Huh?

PG: Tell me some stories about your mother. We've never. her name was Henrietta, right?

ASR: She was just an ordinary person. You've seen some pictures of her, haven't you?

PG: Yeah, I have. She looks a lot like you. How was she around you kids? I mean, with ten of you...

ASR: Oh alright. Mama wasn't mean or anything. She was gentle.

PG: She must have been a hard worker.

ASR: Oh yes. I remember one time, she cooked in a little iron kettle: wasn't but about that big around and probably so high. It had little legs on it. You don't see that any no more. She (unintelligible). She made potatoes with (inaudible) one day. Of course, they were setting out there on the back to cool. When she went to go get her potatoes, us kids had eaten them (inaudible). She never was good (?) with potatoes. (coughing).

PG: What she'd do when she found out you'd eaten all the potatoes?

ASR: Nothing. She scolded us because now she didn't have very much for the pigs. In the summertime, it was kind of hard to feed the pigs because you didn't have the grain and you didn't have ... the corn wasn't ready and other things. (coughing)

PG: So where did your father work when you lived in Alberton?

ASG: Huh?

PG: Did your father work at the mill when you lived in Alberton?

ASG: The mill wasn't in Alberton.

PG: It was in Lothrop. But where did he...

ASG: He and Brigitte's (?) Dad (coughing) went into carpentry, doing carpentry work. Built enough in town.

PG: Is that what he was? Was he always a carpenter?

ASR: He was a pretty good carpenter.

PG: Did he teach your husband then all he knew about carpentry?

ASR: No. (inaudible)

PG: Grandpa, he came from Norway, didn't he?

ASR: (inaudible, coughing) I don't know, sometime in June he came from Norway. Gee wiz, that cough is awful.

PG: Yeah, it is. Do you know what year that was? That he came here? Was it long before you were married?

ASR: Oh yes. 1900 I think. 1903 or something.

PG: About the same year you got to Alberton, then?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: How did he and your father meet?

ASR: Huh?

PG: How did he and your father meet?

ASR: Who?

PG: Your husband and your father?

ASR: He was just a mill worker. He came over from Norway. They're all educated people. They in Norway had to send their kids to school.

PG: He had a lot of schooling, then. Did he speak English very well?

ASR: Huh?

PG: Could he speak English very well?

ASR: Well, he had a little trouble, but not too bad. As the years went by, he corrected a little.

PG: When did he start wining and dining you, then?

ASR: Huh?

PG: I said when did he start wining and dining you?

ASR: Oh gosh, I can't remember.

PG: Did he take you to the dances?

ASR: Yeah.

PG: Did you go out for very long before you got married?

ASR: Oh gosh, I don't remember now. We went together for about six months, I guess. I didn't want to get married.

PG: Didn't you?

ASR: No, I didn't.

PG: Your mother wanted you to, though?

ASR: Huh? No, they didn't say nothing about it. In fact, they didn't even know it.

PG: Why did you get married then?

ASR: We went ... we had to go to Missoula. (inaudible)

PG: How'd he talk you into getting married, if you didn't want to get married?

ASR: Well...

PG: Just nothing better to do?

ASR: Yeah. There was hard times at home.

PG: Yeah. One less kid at home would make it a little easier for them.

ASR: Wouldn't it? They had two...then I... of course I wasn't away entirely. I was home as much as I was in my own home. I used to have to house sit. If Mama wanted to go somewhere, I went over there and stayed. She went back to Oregon one time to see her mother that she hadn't seen for a long time and I stayed at their home.

PG: Her mother lived in Oregon?

ASR: Yes.

PG: Is that where your mother grew up, then?

ASR: No, she grew up in Minnesota.

PG: Then how did her mother end up in Oregon?

ASR: Just moved there, you know, like you do.

PG: She must have moved there after your mother was all grown up.

ASR: Oh yes. After she was married.

PG: How many brothers and sisters did your mother have, then?

ASR: She had a That was a big family there, too, but I didn't know them. They were all in Kelso, Washington or around like that.

PG: Yeah, you never kept in touch with them, then?

ASR: No, not like they do nowadays because they didn't have the ways to.

PG: Didn't have the way to do it. How long was your mother gone to Oregon, then? Was her mother sick when she went over there?

ASR: Oh no. She went there and while she was there she coaxed Grandma to move to Montana with her.

PG: Is that right?

ASR: I do remember that. She was real happy about that.

PG: How long did she live in Alberton? Till she died probably.

ASR: Yeah, she passed away.

PG: When did she pass away? You don't remember that? Was that after Carrie was born?

ASR: Oh yeah.

PG: You don't have any pictures of your grandmother, do you?

ASR: Mama had sisters, yes.

PG: Oh your mother did?

ASR: Yes, I've got some pictures of her.

PG: Oh do you?

ASR: Sure. I got to see where those pictures are. They might be all rumped up on account of the cats. I don't know. I shouldn't have even left them in that box.

PG: They probably didn't get into them.

ASR: Now Nancy's got her cat in the house.

PG: Yeah, you have a house full of animals, don't you?

ASR: Yes, and they can destroy a lot. Hi there.

(Woman walks in)

Woman: How you doing?

ASR: What you've got? A sandwich for yourself.

Woman: Yeah, we're going to have lunch.

PG: What stories can you tell me about Nora and Theresa? How many sisters did you have? Did you just have two sisters?

ASR: Just had the two.

PG: The rest were all brothers, then. You had seven brothers.

ASR: Nora outlived (?) her sister. She's a twin. The twin died. It was born dead.

PG: Is that right? Because Nora herself had three sets of twins, right?

ASR: I know she did. She was the only one. Mama said that there was no twins run in the family when she had the twins. Grandma, she was pretty smart. Mama wasn't hardly three months pregnant when Grandma knew it. She told her neighbors that Rhett's (?) pregnant again.

PG: How did she know? She knew she was going to have twins, you mean?

ASR: No, but that she knew she was going to have them later on. Anyway, Mama blamed herself for... she was a midwife. She couldn't be beat. She was only twelve years old when she delivered babies.

PG: Your mother was?

ASR: My grandma.

PG: Oh, grandma.

ASR: Yes. She delivered a lot of them right there in the neighborhood.

PG: She delivered a lot of your mother's kids, then.

ASR: She did, pretty much. Anyway, when Mama was going to have the twins, which they were, she was mad at Grandma. She wouldn't let Grandma know about it. So she got another midwife.

PG: Why was she mad at your mother? Your grandmother. Why was she mad at your grandmother?

ASR: Because Grandma told them about her being pregnant, sore things (?). She didn't like that.

PG: She didn't like her telling the neighborhood that she was pregnant.

ASR: Yes. That she was pregnant.

PG: Couldn't everybody see that?

ASR: I suppose they could, but she didn't put (?) it on.

PG: You just didn't talk about it.

ASR: She wouldn't take her care. So when the twins was born, she was having trouble. Nora... the other baby should have been born first. Nora was born first. The other one was born dead. Then they couldn't get it. They finally had to call on Grandma. She came up there and, I'll tell you, she looked mad.

PG: Oh, I bet.

ASR: Nora, she sat down and told her (?). She said, "I knew you was going to have twins. Why didn't you say something?" She says, "I don't know." She couldn't get the baby in time and it drowned.

PG: It kind of just suffocated?

ASR: Yes. I can remember that baby. We didn't have no place to put her at ... any depth. (Unintelligible) They came in a couple days and they buried her. Because they had to go clear to Alexandria which was thirty miles, driving a team to get a casket.

PG: Alexandria, you mean out of Alberton?

ASR: This wasn't in Alberton! This was back east!

PG: Oh, Nora.

ASR: When Nora was born, she was back east.

PG: You're talking about when Nora was born.

ASR: I'm talking about the twins.

PG: Yeah, right.

ASR: Anyway.

PG: Was Nora healthy, then?

ASR: Huh?

PG: Nora was alright, then? She was healthy.

ASR: Oh yeah. She was alright, but she was awfully little. They had to put in a pillow. they put her in the pillowcase to the pillow. Put the case up all around her neck and that's the way I could carry her. I was nine years old, just nine years old, when Nora was born. I was just a little kid.

PG: That's why they put her in a pillowcase?

ASR: (unintelligible - brief side conversation). (coughing). I'm not going down to dinner today.

PG: Why not?

ASR: I've got this cough.

PG: You're going to eat your dinner here?

(Another elderly woman says something)

PG: Ben was born in Montana then, wasn't he?

ASR: Yes. He's the only one.

PG: Was she pregnant when she came over?

ASR: No.

PG: It was after.

ASR: It was after she was here.

PG: How old was she when Ben was born? Do you remember that?

ASR: Huh?

PG: Do you remember how old your mother was when Ben was born?

ASR: No. We never kept track of that stuff. I don't want to go down there and sit there and bark
(coughing).

PG: They can serve your lunch in your room here.

ASR: Huh?

PG: I've got that shut off. They can serve you lunch here in your room.

ASR: They do (coughing). That's the first time I heard that a doctor wouldn't give anybody post
(?).

PG: Yeah, I don't know why that is. When you moved to Montana, did your grandma come with
you on the train?

ASR: No. She went down South to cover her own kids.

PG: Did she? So she didn't come up to Montana.

ASR: No.

PG: How old did she live to be?

ASR: Huh?

PG: How old did she live to be?

ASR: In her eighties. (unintelligible) Could I have a Kleenex?

PG: Here you go, have a couple.

ASR: Give me a couple of them. (unintelligible). Who's your boyfriend? I got all these questions to ask but you wouldn't tell me.

PG: He's just a friend, Grandma. He's not necessarily a boyfriend.

ASR: Huh?

PG: He's not necessarily a boyfriend.

ASR: If that's true he was...I've seen him. I've seen him a lot around.

(Brief conversation about boyfriend.)

END OF TAPE