

Smith, Frances Seevers/ Grosso Ruth&Louie

Tape Catalogue Card

Phone 000-0000

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Sep Mike No

Time **Names & Places** **Subjects covered**

012=167 Wilber(Billy) Smith, Mary Neeley, Wm. Neeley, H. Crawford, G. Henson
 History of parents. Father moved here from Texas in 1887. Worked around mines as a freighter, later moved to Cripple Creek and eventually to Hastings Mesa., where he proved up on a homestead. His sisters came out then, both taught in area schools at different times. Father married Mary Frances Neeley in 1905. Story of grandfather's death and grandmother's remarriage. There were twenty-four years difference in parents' age. Father leased homestead to relatives for 5 years. Ater that, father and brother-in-law formed a partnership to do thrashing for farmers.

167-241 Hammel
 Describes thrashing in the fall at farms on the mesa. Women had contests to see who could put on best meals for the thrashing crews. Memories of events during the thrashing season. Lonely life, but entertained themselves. The family travelled to Leonard to get mail and groceries about 3 miles. Worked 2 1/2 miles to school. Had summer school until the middle of 20's.

241-368 Esther Donell, Collins, Propers, Pritchards, Mrs. Hasting, Lytha Proper, Myers
 Ruth describes second year of school and speaks of her teacher. Nlne children in the family--7 boys and 2 girls. Two schools on the mesa. There were twenty-two students in their school, with all 8 grades in one room. Describes funeral procession. Speaks of school experiences. They caried lunches to shcool. The school building was heated with a wood stove. They attended classes April throught December. Rode horseback in summer and rode sled pulled by horses in the winter. Ruth took 2 years of corresponce classes from Montrose High School, under Mrs. Propers supervision. She attended the last 2 years of high school in Ridgeway, where she graduated. Ruth was the only girl in while attending on the mesa.

368-417
 Some of the area residents sent their children to Denver to school. The farms on the mesa raised hay and barley. Their fathter sold seed barley. Children spent time in winter cleaning the grain. Father won prizes for clean barley at the Iowa Fair. They had a battery radio with ear phones, and later had a windup Edison phonograph with cyliner records.

417-489 Collins, Daniels, Whiteley, Jones
 Collins and Daniels had farms on other end of mesa; they sold hay to dairies. All farms shipped cream to Eckert. The Smith family did not have a car until 1926. Before then, their father would take grain and pork in the wagon to Placerville and trade for food he needed. Describes accident when Frances almost drowned in bucket of water. Memories of childhood activities.

489-536
 Winter activities included coasting parties. Tells about their house burning down when Ruth was 9 months old. The family moved the children to safety in the hay stack. Ruth had the measles at the time.

- The two story house burned completely to the ground and they lost everything. Neighbors pitched in to build a small shed for them to live in. They stayed with neighbors until the new place was built. Father lost a large collection of guns in the fire.
- 536-575 T. Wilson, Grosso Describes dances at the log hall on the mesa. July 4th celebrations were held there , also weddings and community events. Names musicians that played at the dances and describes the dances.
- 575-588 Willim, Rose Israel Collins Louie talks about his move to Hastings Mesa. He and father worked for a sheepman named Williams. Father was also a bootlegger. Describes how he met Ruth while delivering bootleg to Rose Israel's cafe in Ridgeway.
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00-44 R. Israel, E. Collins. Louie talks about Rose Israels' cafe in Ridgeway. Ruth tells story of E. Collins driving Louie's car into the ditch.
- 44-152 Finnegan, D. Holt, Sodie Beam, Alice Ross, E. Short Ruth describes riding to dances at Sawpit with Louie and friends. Stories of incidents that happened. Describes dance hall at Sawpit. Louie and Ruth talk about "free for alls" at the dances. Louie describes fight that 2 women had at private party. Speaks of Sodie Beam's cafe, bar and dance hall at Old Placerville.
- 152-169 E. Lavendar, D. Manison There was a very large shipping depot at Placerville. Ranchers from all over area shipped livestock from there.
- 169-253 F. Wilson, B. Collins, Zurich Louie talks about his family moving to Hasings Mesa when the was 16, where he first met Ruth. He woked for Bob collins haying. He was too bashfull to talk to girls. Speaks of when he and Ruth started going together and how she broke other boys heart when they married. They lived on the ranch on the mesa when first married. Louie started working for Hiway Construction and they moved to Placervill, Ouray, Ridgeway and finally to Sawpit.
- 253-342 Bishop, Whiteley, Dr. O'Connor Ruth and Louie bought the store in Sawpit in 1946 which they owned and operated until 1972. Describes the business which consisted of a general store, liquor store and gas station. Story of how they bought the store from Bishops for \$2900. Ruth ran the store and Louie woked for the County. They gave credit to customers. Describes the kind of merchandise they carried. Stories of different people that traded with them .
- 342-429 Wade Carmical Ruth describes credit system they used. Louie tells story of how storekepper in Ridgeway helped them get a start by giving them a tent, stove and linoieum when they first moved to Sawpit. Stories of various customers. Ruth talks about long hours they spent in the store. Stories of "Oakies" that came every hunting season. They made many friends through the store.
- 429-470 Stella Short Louie worked for the County most of their married life until they retired. Ruth ran the store most of the time by herself until the last few years , when she hired help. They bought supplies from salesman. Story of car on the train jumping the track and tipping over, spilling all the coal.
- Jenny Schmid,
Clarice Schmid, Francis talks about her last year of high school and then attending

470-535

Egrey

Fort Lewis College at Hesperus. She taught school on Wilson Mesa her first year of teaching. Story of burning the school house down. She had 2 students and they attended April through Dec. Frances then taught at Naturita. Mesa families were isolated most of the winter. Louie describes how they kept the roads open during the winter.

535-603

Frances speaks of parents going to Montrose in the fall every year to buy clothes and supplies for winter. They raised vegetables in the gardens. She describes how they preserved foods for winter. They made their own lard and soap and smoked their own meat. Describes gas powered washing machine mother used. Their house was heated by wood stoves and had gasoline lanterns for light. Neighbors had carbide lights. They cut wood in fall and left to dry to be used for fuel.