

## Oral Histories

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Initials: DP

Interviewee: Clarice Schmid

Interviewer: Bunzy Bunsworth

Abstract: Side A

00-38 Clarice's date of birth, family history of parents and brothers and sisters. Her father was an engineer for the D&RG Rail Road. Speaks of riding the train and Galloping Goose. Tells of freight carried on the Galloping Goose.

38-83 She attended summer school on Wilson Mesa in a 1-room school house with 13 other children She mentions different schools on the mesa at that time.

83-110 Describes why they moved to Wilson Mesa in early 30's and how they made a living by selling milk and cream from the dairy cows.

110-131 She describes Vanadium, the houses and businesses that were there in the 30's and speaks of all the houses along Bear Creek that the miners lived in at one time.

131-220 Tells of meeting her husband and speaks of different people that was living on the mesa at the time of her marriage. Describes social life there and her courtship on horseback. She was married on Dec. 11, 1935 in Montrose. Her early years of marriage and how they made a living. Describes the long, hard winters and

buying groceries in the fall to provide for the winters. Grew their own vegetables and meat. She had a gas washing machine and they had their own power supply.

220-319 Two of her children were born on the mesa and one in Montrose and one in Telluride. The doctor came on horseback when their oldest daughter, Jane was born. Husband was sick one winter and part of next one. She did all the chores and ran the ranch with help from husband's brothers. Names different families on the mesa and where they lived. Names different families on the mesa and where they lived. All the neighbors liked each other. It was a real farming community with some mining. Dances were held in the schoolhouse on Saturday nights and church service was held there on Sunday mornings.

319-370 The depression days was mostly over by the time she moved to the mesa. They used horses for all the work, as there were no tractors up there. Describes how they stacked hay and bundled grains and oats in shocks. They threshed hay with the old fashioned thresher that is still on the mesa.

370-424 After the Vanadium store closed, they got their mail at Fall Creek and later at Placerville. Mentions different prices on items when the Placerville store sold in the 40's. After that they ordered most of needed items from Montgomery Ward. Describes freight office in Fall Creek and tells stories about the little old lady that ran it.

424-476 The young people attended dances in Sawpit in the winter rode down off the mesa on sleds pulled by horses. They kept their feet warm by heated rocks. Describes runaway team during one trip.

476-539 People started moving off the mesa and only the Schmids stayed. She speaks of the amount of acreage owned and describes

the boundaries of their property. They still own most of it. Husband's parents homesteaded the ranches and were very hard working people. Give dates of their deaths

539-597 Clarice and family skied a lot and talks about some of the experiences they enjoyed.

Side B:

07-111 Recollections of the war. Paul and Orville did not serve, but Everett served overseas in the Air Force in South America and England. He contracted jungle fever, but reinvested for a second term. She talks of rationing stamps. They raised large gardens and canned their own foods. The war seemed very remote to the people on the mesa. Recalls the story of hearing the broadcast on the radio by Orson Wells, of the "War of the Worlds".

111-145 Her husband's father hauled supplies to the hard rock miners in the Silver Pick Basin and the Bear Creek area The Vanadium mine closed before she moved to the mesa. Paul worked in uranium mines in Uravan after they moved to town in 1951.

145-189 They decided to move to Telluride so the kids could attend school, after Jane boarded out her first year of high school. The kids brought home all the childhood diseases they hadn't been exposed to before. Paul took correspondence course in Civil Engineering and made one of the highest scores, ever. He got his college degrees by correspondence courses.

189-269 They moved into Kelly McKnight's house at the old brewery in 1951, then they bought their house on Oak and Galena in 1952. They rented their house in town in summers while they were on the ranch. They would stay on the ranch until the weather got bad and Clarice drove back and forth to bring kids into school. Raised chickens and sold eggs for 50 cents a dozen. Clarice cooked breakfasts at Sheridan Hotel before getting the kids off to school.

She also took a barber course in Grand Junction and cuts men's hair at the beauty shop.

269-424 She remembers the town being very friendly. They were involved in different social activities at the lodges. She and Paul called square dances and formed a square dance club. Held square dances in Ophir, Sawpit, Norwood and various buildings in town. Names different businesses in town in the 50's. Speaks of the kids school events. Speaks of Eino Pekkarine's store and talks about a German couple that worked for the Pekkarines.

424-617 Memories of helping Dr. Donesky during the snow slide at Smuggler. July 4t was a big celebration in earlier days. Speaks of the changes in Telluride. Memories of churches, theaters and the post office. They moved to Hesperus when kid started college. Paul worked for the State Highway Department.

Description: sound cassette ( 90 minutes)

Subjects: Side A

Early history/Galloping Goose

Vanadium

Wedding and early years of marriage

Life on Wilson Mesa

Dances

History of homesteading

Skiing

Side B

World War 11

Live in Telluride

Different Memories