

BEN FADENRECHT INTERVIEW

Tape 1, Side A

Today is May 18, 1976. This is Timothy J. Kloberdanz. I am about to interview Mr. Ben Fadenrecht at his homestead north of Joes, Colorado.

TJK: When were you born, what month and day and year?

BF: 1888, December the 21st.

TJK: Where were you born?

BF: In Nebraska--around there, between Hampton and Brechtel, up there somewhere, I--I couldn't tell you what the place was where we got our mail, or anything.

TJK: Yeah. What was the county?

BF: York County.

TJK: York County. Okay. Now, what were the names of your parents?

BF: My father's name was Edward Fadenrecht.

TJK: And your mother's name?

BF: Shalotte. But I don't know her last name. I think Hendrick's her last name before she was married.

TJK: Oh, Hendricks

BF: I think she said Hendricks, you know.

TJK: Okay, now where did your parents come from? Were they from Russia?

BF: Yeah.

TJK: Where at in Russia, do you know where they came from in Russia?

BF: I'll tell you, I got a paper up here, if you'll wait a minute I'll go and get it.

TJK: Okay.

BF: (leaving) If I can find it [inaudible].

TJK: (laughter)

BF: ... in Russia, how old they were (they have the Fadenrechts on there?) I'll find it ...

TJK: Oh, yes.

BF: It's in there somewhere.

TJK: Okay, like Edward Fadenrecht?

BF: Yeah.

TJK: Thirty-three years old?

BF: Yeah.

(Unidentified female voice; hereafter UFV)

UFV: You don't happen to know Leroy Workenteen?

TJK: No, huh uh.

UFV: That's my sister's son, course he's a lawyer in Boulder. They've gone to that Mennonite church in Denver, too.

TJK: Hmm. Leroy...

UFV: His wife, yeah his wife, is very interested in Dad's background. So she said they got a book when they were in the conference at Henderson, I think Nebraska, and then she took out all that information...

BF: This is [photostatic (?)]copy from out of that book, you know.

TJK: Oh, yeah. Right.

BF: She sent me that you know. We've had it...

UFV: Whenever she's here she wants Dad to tell...

TJK: Okay, yeah, because it has Edward, a farmer, he was thirty-three years old-- that was your dad...

BF: Yeah, that's my dad.

TJK: And he came over in 1884.

BF: Yeah.

TJK: It has here. Okay. Yeah, and then his wife and then Rudolph, son...

UFV: That's his brother.

BF: That's my brother, he's dead, you know.

TJK: Yeah, and then Maria? That's the Mary?

BF: Yeah.

TJK: Okay. Now there's another one, there's a Ferdinand.

BF: That's my dad's father, that's my...

TJK: Your grandpa, then.

BF: Yeah, my grandfather. I have seen him, but I was a little fellow.

TJK: Oh, I see.

BF: I can't, I couldn't tell you just, seems to me like he was pretty thin, and uh, when we lived in Nebraska, you know, my Uncle [Ben? Dan?] Fadenrecht lives there and he was with them that time. And when we drove up there with the wagons, he helped us boys out of the wagons when we got there, that's all I can remember from, now I wasn't over three-four years old, if I was that old then, you know. I...

TJK: Uh huh, sure.

- BF: ...pretty young, but I can remember that yet when he helped us out. But I couldn't tell you how his face looked or whether he had a beard or anything, I couldn't tell you what he had or not, you know.
- TJK: Yeah.
- BF: That's...I don't remember that.
- TJK: Okay. What did your parents, or your grandfather ever say about why they left Russia? What was the reason? Why did they leave and come to America?
- BF: Well, it wasn't there, they couldn't have nothing there. It was, it was awful bad, you know what, after...his mother died, his father and he had two brothers yet and one sister, the sister died, and they had a wagon made, you know made a wagon, and they traveled on foot from Russia to Germany. And then they was in Germany and I think they traveled back again to Russia. You know they's nothing, they couldn't get nothing, you know, they's, they didn't have nothing. They's poor...and hard, he had them three children, you know, with him and, and I don't know just how they ever got along. Then finally he probably got married with my mother there in Russia. Then Rudolph was born, that's my oldest brother. He was twelve years older than I am. Then my sister's four years older...than I am. The one that was up here. Then I had a brother, he got killed by lightning--he was just...oh, he was seventeen years, he was a little over two years older than I--he got killed by lightning up here in the barn, and he's buried over here.
- TJK: Now, how long ago did that happen?
- BF: That was in...hundred, hundred and three.
- TJK: Hmmm.
- BF: In hundred and three...nineteen hundred and three.
- TJK: Right. Hmmm. That happened here then, not in Nebraska?
- BF: That happened right here in the barn, yeah. They brought him home at night.
- UFV: (undecipherable)...by the river over here.
- BF: Yeah, by the river.
- TJK: Oh.
- BF: Yeah, right here by the river. You know, you know turn to the road to Yuma?

TJK: Oh, the Erickery?

UFV: Yeah.

BF: Yeah, on here on the Erickery then.

UFV: On our ranch.

BF: On that side, right on the Rickery, by that house on that side there.

TJK: Oh, was he working out?

BF: Yeah. My father was, and my sister was, and my brother was, and they was making hay. The 24th-5th of August. They saw this cloud come up, you know, and they all went to the place, and my brother, he had a saddle horse, so he rode off in the pasture to get the milk out. My oldest brother, Rudolph, you know. And they's come in with the horses. They let the horses all go in the barn, you know, before the storm come up, and then they had a team of mules, my brother was clear over on that end, the stall was this...standing this way and this with the horses, you know, and at that end, the lightning come through that and through the hay and come down there where they throwed hay down and killed the horse, and then he, my brother was on this side, and killed my brother and there's two mules standing right in the, in the driveway, you know. And my dad was there. And killed both the mules and knocked my dad down.

TJK Mmmm.

BF: Then the, the mules was dead. That day they took him, you know, and buried him in the dirt, you know, to draw the electricity--but he was dead. He had a scratch like here...

UFV: He was how much older than you or younger?

BF: He was older,he...he was, well I'll tell you, if he'd of lived this was in the, uh August. If he'd of lived to October he would have been seventeen years old, then. And his hat, you know that leather in the hat, it was burned and the hat looked like a fellow shot with a shotgun through there--all full of little holes. His back was skinned and up here he was dead right away.

TJK: Hmmm.

BF: That happened in the, on the evening on the next day after, around two o'clock he was buried. Already. You know we couldn't keep nobody

there, you know--especially if it's burned or lightning, you know. It seemed like a fellow rots, or whatever it is, you know...

TJK: Um hum.

BF: We couldn't keep them any longer you know, he was...

TJK: Yeah. And then he was buried by the church there.

BF: Right here by the church. You know I've got my father and my mother and my brother, two brothers and my wife, and my brother's wife, and they're all buried there, they're all in a row there, all...and there's a grave, the stone is for me and my wife both. Gravestone with my name. And some of...

UFV: You forgot Heinrichs too.

BF: Huh?

UFV: Uncle John and Mary's, your sister's husband died.

BF: Yeah, so is John, my brother John is too, you know. They're all buried there.

TJK: Um hmm. Hmmm. Now did your parents, did they ever talk about Russia? The Old Country? Did they ever...?

BF: Oh, they didn't talk much.

TJK: Didn't they?

BF: They didn't not much about Russia, but they were done.

TJK: Were they glad they were over here, then?

BF: Yes, they was glad. They didn't have, I guess, cared much for Russia anymore, you know. Their people was there, and I'll tell you when my mother was a girl yet, so she worked out by some places, and they had a hired man...and uh, he done something, he had to sleep in the barn. It was cold you know, and he done something what they didn't do anything. The next day all them tree fellows, whatever they is, they come together and they take a rope and put that in the water, and then they take him and then beat him just as hard as they could. And so, that fellow was locked in the barn, and he asked my mother if she would lock the door if he'd get out at night. She went and let him out and locked the door, and they never found out that she'd done that.
(laughter) He got away but she didn't know what...

UFV: (undecipherable) away.

TJK: Yes, yes.

BF: She never knew that they ever found him. Afterwards, she didn't know that they did find him after she let him out. But they just didn't know where the water was. That was bad, you know, she had to get up early in the morning, and the hired man, six miles, they had to go there and haul feed before breakfast--at 4:00. They had kind of a funny way hauling it. I don't know. They come in and when they come in she had to go and get breakfast for the whole bunch yet, after that. When they unloaded it, they must have had a different...she said they had it on the stick. They must have had like bundles, straw bundles. And then get up on the ladder and then lift it up there in the barn, or whatever, on the stack. She said she had that, and had that on her fork, or on her stick, she went up there, almost up to, that thing [all fell down?]. Then she come back, got it again, and got up there about that far again, fell again, and then she took that stick and threwed it right in front of the boss. She said that's the last of it. (laughter) She had nerve, I tell you, she'd do that. (laughter) Lot of people wouldn't of did that, but...it helped her a lot that she done that, you know.

UFV: She was braver than [undecipherable] my mom's mom. She was more timid. But Dad's mom, boy she was a regular...

TJK: Oh, she sounded brave...(laughter).

UFV: [undecipherable] get married, she was always [inaudible] brave too. (laughter)

BF: My wife's mother, you know, when she was a little girl, well she worked out...she carried a, oh, one of them jar's full of cream, you know. It slipped away and fell on the ground. Boy, that lady took the butcher knife and would cut her up here, she pretty near bled to death, cut her arm here, you know. The blood squirted all over. Then she got scared you know, and she kind of got the blood stopped. She took that cream, [inaudible] everything and put that back in the jar, and churned it and sold the butter, you know. That's the way they, uh, then, she, her folks were poor too. They had a dress. One, through the week she wore one side and for Sunday they turned it around, then for Sunday

she had to wear the other dress, you know. They were hard times, you know.

TJK: Now, who were they working for, were they working for Germans? Or Russians?

BF: Was some people lived there, I don't know whether they were Germans or Russians that lived there, I think they was all alike, that lived there. They wasn't really Russians, they was Germans.

TJK: Oh, they was...

BF: After they went to Oklahoma, you know, that when all them war started out there, you know, they come up there and took everything that was Freezen where she worked for.

TJK: Oh, the name was [Freezen?] Yeah. Yeah.

BF: That one, I don't know whether, I think that's, his second wife, you know. He....[begged?] and wrote letters and asked money from her, that they couldn't live anymore, they was starving in Russia, you know. They come up the Russians, or whatever they are, Bolsheviks, or whatever they call them, come and took everything, you know. He wrote letter to her, and ask her for money, you know. He found out where she was, you know. A fellow wouldn't think that, you know, as rich as he was...

TJK: Hmmmm.

BF: Well, I tell you, this...Wakenteen, that preacher we had here, he said they had an awful nice place there, nice horses and cows, and everything. Just [pooled?] everything. Then they come in and they took the best horses they had, the best cows, and everything. Took everything away, until they had everything gone away, [inaudible] and all. Took every bit, and I guess they got so they's all poor finally, and he come up here and he was our preacher here. You know...over five years. Wasn't he? Wasn't he?

UFV: Oh, longer than that.

BF: Five or six years. He was...

UFV: T.W. Wakenteen. Did you know them?

TJK Umm. T.W.?

UFV: Um hmm.

TJK: No, huh uh.

BF: T.W. Wakenteen.

TJK: Hmmm.

UFV: Oh he was, they were good.

BF: They was sure nice people.

TJK: And they're where now, did you...

UFV: He, he's dead, he's dead. She's back in Denver, now.

TJK: She's in Denver?

UFV: Yeah.

TJK: Hmmm.

UFV: Her name is Bethy.

BF: He had two, oh this was his third wife he had now. One died when he come across from Russia, and they throwed her in the water, you know. I guess one already died before he left up there, and then he got married here, where is it? Missouri?

UFV: California, Missouri.

BF: California, Missouri. He got married with this wife that he has now. She's living now in Denver. He died there. He was a good, good old man. He was scared, you know, to be alone much at first, you know, way, way they been scared there and shot around, you know, trying to kill him, and everything. He, I think he finally could sneak away, you know, to the States, you know.

TJK: Oh, he was there during the Revolution, then? In Rus...oh yeah.

BF: He was there, he was there while all that was on there. He seen everything done, you know. (pause) That's the way they was treaten in Russia, and that's one thing, you know, my folks come to United States, course his brother; Dan, his oldest brother, he was here already, in Nebraska. They come up there and then they got settled in Nebraska, lived there in Nebraska. Then we moved from Nebraska to, up here, you know, he homesteaded this place right where I, we're on here now. That's his homestead.

TJK: I see.

BF: We come up here then. Well, the way they co...we come, you know, I, we had a sale, a little sale there. We had two horses and a colt and a

cow, and a cultivator, and a wagon and a corn planter, that we shipped to [inaudible] Nebraska. Then we come up there, why we come on the train here, why that was my dad come with us. We come on the train. We come up here. He was here, ahead here, had a little shack built, twenty-four by twelve. We come up here, you know. Then we stayed over here at the Brown's till he, till we, and then when he started out with the horses, and wagon, and that one horse died before they got half way up here. One of them nice team of gray horses. One died. So they finally got in here, had that colt live. I don't know, he must of got somebody else to help him with another horse to move up here, with this stuff. Then we started, that's the way we started here. Then we plowed a little strip, we just had a little shack here, and we had the horses and cows tied to the wagon, you know, up here. A big, that was in March, a big snow storm come, and we, they had to stand outside there in the cold. Then when it warmed up we finally started in plowing. We plowed a little strip right up north here, you know, and he planted it in corn. Then him and my oldest brother went way up to Lamar, in harvest time and worked there. My mother and we kids, we stayed up here and the corn didn't grow very good on the sod, you know. We cut it, cut it off with a corn knife. [undecipherable... knife?] that was all open. That's her boy.

UFV: That's my baby.

TJK: Oh, I see. How do you do... Tim, it's nice to meet you.

BF: We cut it off for feed. There was all range cattle, there was no pastures [fences?] up here, clear to Yuma, no fences. Big ranchers and they had big lot of cattle, and they all drifted up here, and my brother, we had to night herd our crop, all night you know, one of us all night. We just had about oh about 8 or 10 acres you know.

TJK: Why was that? Why did you have to night herd?

BF: The cows all in there.

TJK: Ohhh .

BF: The cattle is all in there, strange cattle is come all up there, you know, we had to keep them...

TJK: Oh, because no fences.

BF: No fences, and we didn't either, you know. Then we cut it off with a corn knife. About that time we already had a little bit of uh, barn built, where we could put that horse in. We piled it alongside that barn. I had the old, had the cultivator and the corn planter and the wagon and everything around it, you know, right next to keep the cattle out, and then we had to night herd them yet, you know, they come in there. They never put them up in the wintertime. Some of them in the wintertime, they run the year around, you know, they come up here. You just have to watch it pretty close, there, that you could save anything. Finally, we built a hen house, and then we had, my mother had some chickens. Then that was after we was here quite awhile, that wasn't right after it. It was a year or two so after it. Then my father, he went to meeting that night. We didn't have no church. It was in the school house, you know, church, and we had a dog and, always barked, the dog barked, the dog barked. My mother wondered what was the matter. She had the pitchfork. She went over to the barn, to the hen house. She talked to the dog, you know, and the dog kept barking. Then afterwards there was two fellers, they had stole chickens, you know, they had a big dance up here, and they stole chickens. They took [undecipherable] chickens. They found that out, he, one of us, he said, he stood behind the door, behind the door while she was up there, she didn't see him, you know, in the night. He said she, he always went, that my mother would of stuck the pitchfork in him, you know. (laughter) But they brought some, afterwards, you know, they kind of joined church, or some way and they brought some chickens down, but some of them looked like...pretty near half dead, some died. That's the way it started, you know. We had an awful time, you know, starting up here.

TJK: Oh yeah, now how did your folks find out about this area, you know, how did they find out about...

BF: Up here?

TJK: Yeah.

BF: Oh, they's some others up there, uh got in here, you know. They got acquainted too, and they come up here. Dister Henry's, that's uh, well,

his dad's grandfather, he was up here, he was one of them. Then a Brown. Abe Browns. They was up here. They helped them, you know. Then we had to go to Akron, and homestead, or file on it, you know. To get the land. That's the way we got, they got started here, you know. Some others, you know.

TJK: Oh, I see. Who were the earliest German people here then? Do you know?

BF: Well, I think that, what I know is Hendricks, and Preasons, that's [Jake?] Preasons, the preacher Preason, used to live over there by...from the church the second house right where George [Past? Fast?] lives, you know. There's where they lived, that's a preacher. And Berstel. He lived right from the church the first house over there. That...Virgil Berstel. Then see, the Browns lived up here close.

TJK: What about the Clausen's, were they here early?

BF: Oh, no, they came way later.

TJK: Oh, they did?

BF: Yeah, they come way later.

TJK: Hmm. Now, when was the old church built, before this one, the other old one? There was an older church, wasn't there?

BF: Yeah.

UFV: A sod church.

TJK: A sod church? When was that built?

BF: Well,...

TJK: Was that before you came?

BF: No,...

TJK: No?

BF: My dad helped build them. They hauled the sod from way over there in the Riperee, built that, that was built out of sod, that was a oh pretty sized church, I don't know, I think it was anyhow about 40 feet long and oh, it was wide, it must of been, oh, pretty near 30 feet wide, the way it looks to me you know, I don't remember anymore.

TJK: Yeah.

BF: I know there was a, they had a door at both ends, on one end there to let the women folks in and on the other end the man folks come in you know. (laughter)

UFV: We used to have ours that way until they...

TJK: Were the women on the left, was that...or was it the other way?

UFV: Yeah, the women...

TJK: The women were on the left...

UFV: Yeah, the men walked, yeah, we had [spats?] on each side.

BF: Well, they had...

TJK: It isn't that way anymore here?

UFV: No, they changed it, no.

BF: No. They had, where the women come in you know, they had a little room up there for the ladies there, where they go in with their babies, and they got, they had their seats up here and the man there. Then later on they put a curtain in between it, and then had the school on that end. That one end, they had a partition through like this here, you know. One side was English in the morning and then in the afternoon German. Then the teachers changed, you know. It was English teacher was on one side half a day, and then on, then on the other side, you know. One side, that's the way they changed. For a year. That's the way, then they started in building the school houses, you know.

TJK: Um hum. Hmmm.

UFV: Yeah, but that church was on the cemetery.

BF: Yeah, that was on that side.

UFV: By the cemetery.

TJK: Which, south of the cemetery?

UFV: Must of been, I don't know.

BF: Not this one, that was on, the road grows through here, our church sets up on the hill...

TJK: Yeah.

BF: That was in there on that side. That sod church, you know. That was on that side there, by the cemetery...where all them graves are, right on the south end there, there's where the church was and up here, there was an old barn. When the people come with their horses, you know, on

Sunday, they put them in the barn there out of the storm. Several of them had, we never had a barn.

TJK: Were those sod barns, out of sod?

BF: No.

TJK: No?

BF: No, that was all boards, just nailed up with boards, you know.

TJK: Yeah.

BF: Not a fancy barn, just a kind of a barn where they could keep their...

UFV: Kind of a shelter, I imagine.

TJK: Yeah. Now how old were you when the church was built, the sod church? How old were you about?

BF: Well, I...it must of been, we come here in (pause) in 1893, we come in here and in a couple years or so they built a church, that must of been in uh (pause) that was 1893, it must be about '94 or so, that, we wasn't here so very long, they built a church. I remember being in the other church, we was all kids, we didn't have no clothes to go wear and watch you know, and barefooted in the summer time and...

(Unidentified male voice; hereafter UMV)

UMV: Yeah, but you were 6 o'clock, I mean six--six o'clock--I mean 6 years old when you come up here, weren't you?

BF: No, 5.

UMV: Well, you were 5 then, so you must have been...

BF: Yeah. Oh, about 6, six-seven years old, something like it, when they start building church. I know when they cut across from there, they got the sod over there by the Riparee, the river, you know, where the grass was thick, you know. The wagons just go back and forth and haul them sods there, you know. My dad did...

TJK: How far is that? Now, from the river to here?

BF: From up there?

TJK: Yeah.

BF: Well, right straight here it would be from the church, one, two, three, four--about, just about 5 miles up here, and that was way over further, that must of been anyhow where they hauled it right close to 10 miles.

I think, where they hauled that. Way from up there, you know they hauled it...

UFV: Doesn't look like they'd get many loads a day does it?

TJK: No, no. That must have taken a long time to build the church then.

BF: Well, they was quite a few wagons. They went pretty steady, you know, they didn't shirk around any you know.

UFV: Not like the kids do now...

TJK: (laughter) How many German families would have been here, would you say, at that time, in 1893? How many? (pause) More than 20?

BF: Oh no, I don't think...

TJK: No?

BF: No, I don't think there's that...that many.

UFV: Name some of them, Dad, maybe you can kind of get, you know...

BF: Well,...

TJK: The Hendricks were here.

BF: Hendricks, and Freidens, and the...

UFV: Wardenfelts.

BF: Well, there was uh, that, the preacher Freiden, and one of his boys, that Jack Freiden, and my brother Rudolph, and my dad, [inaudible], you know, and...

UFV: Yeah, but I mean, he means [inaudible] of families, how many families that were in the church here.

BF: Well, that was Hendricks and Freidens, and uh, well two Freidens-- Dick Freiden and his dad, his folks, and Berktote, and Tanner, and Warkentein and Brown and...

UFV: Would Danny Nichols.

BF: Yeah, Nichols, and uh, I think another Hendricks. Uh, Ben Hendricks and Croaker and the Trunk,...

UFV: [undecipherable/Named off 16?] the families [inaudible].

TJK: Yeah.

UFV: That was about 10 or 11 already.

TJK: Sure, sure.

BF: There was some more now. (pause)

UFV: [inaudible]

BF: Dick I think, a fellow named Dick.

TJK: Um hum.

BF: And uh, three Hendricks, there's another Hendricks, a different one.
(pause)

TJK: That's, yeah, that's quite a few already though. Yeah.

BF: Yeah.

TJK: Were the families pretty big in the early times, or not?

BF: Well, some of them was. You know.

TJK: Were they?

BF The Hendricks family was pretty good sized. Freison's there was, course some of them wasn't here, they was stayed in Nebraska, they was married already, you know, some of them Freisons. Hendricks, there was uh, Ed Hendricks, John Hendricks, Jake Hendricks, Maggie [?] Hendricks and uh, Mary Hendricks, and Pete Hendricks, and Ed Hendricks, and Chris Hendricks, and Dan [DAD?] Hendricks and Sam Hendricks, and Freida Hendricks.

TJK: Oh. (laughter)

TAPE 1, SIDE B

TJK: Now, uh, you came then in 1893, right?

BF: Yeah.

TJK: In '93.

BF: In March.

TJK: In March.

BF: Ja.

TJK: Okay.

BF: In 1893, in March.

TJK: And that was you and your folks and Rudolph and your sister Mary, right? (pause)

BF: That was uh, Rudolph, Mary and Everitt, and me and John. (pause)
And then Henry and Tina, they's born up here, my brother Henry he lives right here and my sister Tina, she's in Denver, she lives in Denver.

TJK: Um hum. Huh.

BF: They was born here, they were born here. Them two.

TJK: Yeah. And then you came by wagon from Nebraska here?

- BF: Well...we come, no, we come in the train, but my dad come with the car, in the car, had the car loaded, you know, and loaded. They come up to Hedwood, Nebraska, that was the closest we could come then, you know, and from there on they come with the wagon.
- BF: I can't remember for sure how, just how we got here, I think [this? Chris?] Brown come and got us. He took us up there, we was up there a couple of days before we got up here on our place, you know, before we got with the stuff up here that we could move in our house, you know. We's up there a couple of days with them. They was a pretty good sized family too. There, was (pause) see, there was uh, have you been around Anderson very much?
- TJK: Yeah, a little-bit, yeah
- BF: Did you know Petker?
- TJK: Petker...no. I just knew the Heeds and the Heeds and the Heeds, that's mostly...(laughter)
- UFV: Petkers were out here too.
- BF: Huh?
- UFV: There were some Petkers around here.
- BF: Yeah, but this was uh [Browns? Brauns?], [girls?], Petkers, she was a Brown girl, and that was Mary Brown, and Ed Brown, Isaac Brown, Jake Brown Keith Brown, Sarah Brown, Lena Brown, Tina Brown and Suzie Brown. That was all their kids, but they wasn't all here anymore. Some already stayed in Nebraska. They all [inaudible] when they moved up there, they wasn't home anymore you know. Like, Lizzie Brown, Abe Brown, and Mary Brown, they wasn't...Ike Brown, he was up here, and Jake Brown, and Pete Brown, but Ike Brown was oh pretty good size already. He must have been anyhow twenty some years old, he worked out right away, he wasn't around home much anymore. But that was that family. They Warkentein family, they was pretty good size too. There was Bernard Warkentein, Mary Warkentein that's uh...
- UFV: [inaudible –someone arriving]
- BF: ...mother to uh, uh, Dave, to her husband, you know, Mary Warkentein. She was there and Abe Warkentein, Ed Warkentein, and uh, (pause) John Warkentein and Suzie Warkentein, and Herbert Warkentein, and

George Warkentein, and uh, Anna Warkentein and Lydia Warkentein and Eric Warkentein. They was, they was all able to [inaudible] kids, living together all the time, you know. On Sunday if they wasn't here maybe we was there, you know. We's always together, you know.

TJK: Yeah. Hum. Now, when did the Klausens come?

BF: I couldn't tell you what year it was.

TJK: But they came later though, right?

BF: Oh, they come way later. They come after the church was built, way later, you know. They come. Then there was another outfit, there was a...

TJK: Where did they come from, the Klausens?

BF: They come from, really from Kansas, somewhere, and I think then they lived over here somewhere south in uh, oh, Lamar, or up in there, a little while. I think they were. But they come from, the main place was from Kansas, where they come from.

TJK: Um hum. Hum. From Kansas then?

BF: Yeah.

TJK: Well, most of the families came out of Nebraska then, right?

BF: Yeah. Well, no. There's like Workensteins [Warkentein?] and Nichols, they come from Kansas. Like Reeds, and Browns, and Preasons, and Hendricks--they come from Nebraska.

TJK: Ah. None of the families came straight from Russia here, then?

BF: No.

TJK: No, okay.

BF: No, none of them.

TJK: None of them did.

BF: None of them did.

TJK: Okay. Now, when you first came here did you build a sod house?

BF: Nope.

TJK: No?

BF: We never had a sod house. We had a frame house right away.

TJK: Oh, did you build it?

BF: Yeah.

TJK: Oh, you built it.

BF: Just a little--just my father went here and homesteaded and built that little house and then he come back and then we moved up here, you know. He come up here and sat it out here on the prairie. A house 24 x 12. Just boards nailed up, you know.

TJK: Yeah.

BF: Boards nailed up.

TJK: Now, where was that homestead at, the first homestead was where? Where did he homestead the first time?

BF: Right here.

TJK: Right here where we are now?

BF: Yeah. It was right on this quarter, right the house where I live, there's where they lived.

TJK: Oh that's the old frame house?

BF: That's the house. That's the house, part of that--house. Well, the first house that they built that was a little one. Then we built one on--to 16 foot and a little higher, had a little upstairs there, where we could sleep up there. Then they died and, no--and then they built this--part of this that we got now. That new part--on there. Then they, after they died, we tore all of them first buildings all away, you know. And built onto this other--good--new part, a lean, a kind of a shed-to, like we've got it new. We built that, I built that myself, you know. There.

TJK: Yeah.

BF: Now we got two rooms upstairs on that place that they had--on the first that they built. We got one big room below and two bedrooms, on that that they had. Now, we built on--just that 28 feet long, we built on 28 feet and 12 foot wide we built on that. We got, on that end we got a kitchen off up there, and on that end we got a bathroom, you know. On that end, and this is a big room in front where we got our, where we eat and generally sit around if we are alone, you know. If we got company we can go in the other--we can go if we want to, but we generally sit in this room where you've got the table and everything, there's where we generally sit.

TJK: Yeah.

BF: And that's--we had company we went in the other room, where we got more fancy, oh not fancy, handy place to sit, you know, we haven't got no fancy stuff, or anything.

TJK: Yeah. Uh, what was the first thing you remember, because you were old enough to remember when you came from Nebraska to here. What's the first--do you remember anything about that trip? Do you remember the country?

BF: I don't remember so much of country, but I remember when we, I, got here, you know. We [inaudible] got over there at Browns, you know. We, and my dad probably, the horses and with the machinery, he couldn't bring that all at once. You know they had to leave the cow and go slow. One horse died before they got here. He had a nice team of grey horses. Nice big ones. Had a horse and a mare--both white ones. One died before they--got something wrong and died before they got here. The colt was a yearling, you know, they couldn't use it. How he really got here with the rest of them, they helped him. One helped another, you know. There's some others coming in that time. They helped him move in. We got in. After we's here a while we finally bought another team. We didn't have no water--no well, or anything, you know. We hauled water from, there was a neighbor right over here on--on that quarter there.

TJK: How far away was that? You had to haul...

BF: Oh, that's uh (pause) little better than a, not quite a half a mile. Where we hauled the water from. We hauled water awhile. Then I don't know that give out and then we hauled water from this place where my brother lives now. Cornelius Hendrix lived there then. We hauled water there. Then we got a well drilled. Then we, he bought two horses and then he traded the one horse to the fellow that made the well, you know. He give one horse and we had the two left. He farmed with them two. Then we started in raising some horses and finally we got a few more, we bought a few more, it got so that we had quite a few horses. Later on we always had quite a bunch of horses. We generally, after a while we generally had about from 5 to 6 colts a year you know.

TJK: Oh, my.

- BF: We boys got older, you know, we kept breaking them, you know.
- TJK: Oh, you were breaking horses, then, huh?
- BF: We, uh, all my life, that's what I did. Riding them and working. We raised them--when they's old enough, you know. When I got married my brother next to me, John, we got a homestead across the river up there and we had open range and we each had a half section, you know. We had our stuff there, and we had the horses there, and when they come past two year old--we took and hitched them up, and some that we thought that made pretty good saddle horses, we'd break them to ride, you know. Then we got them broke, you know, and didn't need them, we'd sell them. Some buyers come around and buy them. We generally, we broke a lot of horses, my brother John and me. Right along every year, there for years we always had about from 5 to 7 colts coming that age, you know.
- TJK: Um hum.
- BF: Then we broke them. Then we sold them. We farmed a little, you know. Take them, hitch them to the wagon, and drive them. Take them to dister or lister wherever we want them. Work them till we had them broke good. Some buyer would come around and we would sell them.
- TJK: Hmm. Did you ever break horses for somebody else.
- BF: I--yeah.
- TJK: What was, what did you usually charge? What kind of a price?
- BF: I done that for fun.
- TJK: Oh. (laughter)
- BF: I done that for fun. Yeah...
- TJK: No charge.
- BF: ...we took a horse in for Warkenteins, they bought one--it was a wild one, pretty wild one. They got it home and the boys was afraid they wouldn't ride him, you know, they wouldn't tackle him. So I rode him for them. Couple of times. We, they got him so they'd ride him. Then I worked for Gerts, and when I worked for Gerts, he had a--two awful nice ones. He wanted to, he used them for his driving team. He was a, always had a nice driving team. So, one day he wasn't there, he used to [inaudible] Yuma. He'd generally have 4 or 5 fellows working for him.

One day we caught that horse, and they had both of them, (coughing throughout), nobody seemed like wanted to ride them. I rode him. I rode him all around, and then the other one, one of the Warkentein boys, (coughing) he rode the other one, the gentle one, this one is one of the snaky one I rode. Then they turned him loose and nobody rode it, and then afterwards--I got something in my throat, a scratch--and afterwards there was a fellow working of them, and he got on him and that horse started in bucking. He bucked and he never quit and that fellow, they said he spit up a pint of blood, after he finally got off of him. He tried to knock him down, and he couldn't knock the horse down. He spit up a pint of blood. Then this Nichol boy, one of the Nichol boys (coughing)--he was younger than I. He went up there, he wanted to get that horse to break it, you know. So Gerts let him have it--to break for fun, you know. He got him, he got him so he'd ride him all over. He come with me to harvest a year. He come up here--I worked in the harvest, I haterbared all day. Then he wanted me to ride him that night. I was tired, I didn't want to get on him that night. Then, he'd been hitching him to a cart. Driving him single everywhere. Then my-- John Hendrix, my brother-in-law, he had a blacksmith shop. He had a little what they called just two reels, you know in the seat, in there, and he want the [tire set?], iron tires. He took that horse, hitched it up and drove up there, and we's threshing. He left it up there, and he took and tied that harness on the side that's [inaudible], on top of it. He got up to the gate and the horse started in bucking. And throwed him off and hung him up in the harness, and drawed him uh, oh, not quite a half a quarter of a mile. He's just about dead and then the horse run off. His brother lived up there. There was a gate across the road. He couldn't get any further. He seen it and he went up there and boy, they was just about dead and they picked him up, and he never come to and he died. His watch and everything was scattered from where the gate up to--that was on the [inaudible] where they found him. That horse killed him, you know. I guess they took him back, I don't know what ever become of that horse, again. But I tell you, I never seen a man with a hat on like that in my life. When he was dead. His head was

about that big, you know. Tromped, you know, horse tromped him all to--he rode under the horse, you know, he got hung up in that harness. They, he got killed.

TJK: Hmmm. What happened to this fellow you talked about earlier, who was coughing up the blood, did he live?

BF: Yeah, he lived.

TJK: Did he?

BF: He got, he got alright again. He got alright. But he didn't ride it any more. He didn't ride it any more. Nobody ever rode it till that boy took it up.

TJK: Hmmm. (pause) Now, what kind of crops did you raise in those early years? In uh...

BF: Well, at the early--we didn't raise much, you know, just like I said, we planted corn on sod. It never grewed very tall. We cut it off, and piled it up along the [inaudible]. Afterwards [inaudible] got a little more worked up, you know, we raised some, finally we got plowed a little more, a little more all the time. We got so we raised quite a little bit of corn.

TJK: Hmmm. Corn, huh?

BF: Yeah. Raised corn. You know the first team that we bought, he bought it on time. We raised enough corn to pay in the--pay for that team.

TJK: Um hmmm. Hmmm. You did then, huh?

BF: Yeah. (coughing)

TJK: Hmmm. But you didn't raise anything that first year, huh?

BF: No--no, just [barley?]

TJK: Did you want some water? I can get you some water here.

BF: No, I don't think so.

TJK: Oh. (laughter)

BF: I've got a, I've had a sore throat now for--oh, almost a month. I've got something in my throat here and my ear. My throat and ear both hurt. I've been to the doctor. He give me some pills. Seems like if I talk much it will scratch, you know.

TJK: Oh, I see.

BF: If I talk very much.

TJK: Yeah.

BF: But it seems like it just keeps on (cough) sticking there. When I touch it here it's all sore. I don't know what's the matter, and he don't either, seems like. This whole jaw is.

TJK: And water doesn't help any?

BF: Oh, it might help for a little bit.

TJK: Yeah, go ahead and...

BF: But not very long.

TJK: Oh. No, that, that may help.

UFV: Would you like some coffee?

TJK: Oh, that's alright. Don't go to any trouble.

UFV: I'll warm up some, I've still got some here.

TJK: Well, if you've got some, but don't...

UFV: Yeah.

TJK: ...make a new batch or anything.

UFV: No.

TJK: There was no crop that first year, though, huh? That you came.

BF: Not to sell. No. The second year we didn't have any too much either, you know. We didn't have enough plowed ground, you know. We didn't have enough horses to do much. My dad had to go to work out to make a living, so we could live, you know. No way, we didn't have no income at all, you know. He worked. My oldest brother, he worked too, you know. They both went out and worked so we could keep a going. We kept a going.

TJK: When did you, did you ever start growing wheat then? When were you...

BF: Well...not just right away, a couple of years after that. But we [sprayed (?)] we never [sowed? sold?] this winter wheat, what they call it.

TJK: Never, huh?

BF: No. Just spring wheat, you know.

UFV: Use cream or sugar?

TJK: Yeah.

UFV: Okay.

- BF: We didn't raise very much wheat, we didn't have no way to put it in. All my dad did, you know, he took a sack and tied it round his neck and had it open, you know, and had his hand in there and broadcast it, that's the way he, and then we had the disk and disked it under. That's the way he done it.
- TJK: You never used the Turkey Winter Wheat then, huh?
- BF: Not that time, no.
- TJK: Not at that time.
- BF: No, that come in later.
- TJK: How much later?
- BF: Oh, long time later. Long time later. When we had corn, when we planted wheat we heard them little drills go between the rows you know. Just them little drills. My father took, we had two little drills. He'd take two little drills and have two little horses...
- UFV: One horse before a drill.
- BF: Go on the rows. I asked him, we kids got bigger, we took them little drills and had a terrible horse and right behind. But we had to be awful careful when we turned around, them drills was that fast, you know.
- TJK: Oh, yeah.
- BF: You see. Tip over, you know. They just had them disks on there, you know. You turn it a little bit, you know, that thing a going, you like spill all your weight, you know.
- TJK: (laughter)
- BF: You have to be awful careful. Ever once in awhile we had to jump over the horse and get a hold of the handles so they wouldn't go clear down, you know, if them tipped over then we had to straighten them up before we could go any further, you know. But he generally had that, and he never used any other drill, my dad didn't. Always used them. After he got older, you know, we, well we had no other way to drill it, you know. We generally, only way we planted in the corn stalks, you know. Later on, we started in summer plowing. Then we had big drills, you know. And the horses just drilled, drilled it in, you know.
- TJK: Did you raise any other crops, did you try cane? Did you ever try...

BF: Yup. Cane for feed. And corn. Well, we raised, after it was a couple of years old, the ground, we raised corn, pretty good corn. The wheat was pretty good for that kind of years we had then. We didn't have very much rain--the ground couldn't be farmed like we farm now, you know. Not early. But since I farmed, when we was kids we was already in shape so we could farm different.

TJK: What about rain in those years, did you have enough?

BF: Well, we didn't have any too much. We didn't have very much. Sometimes we get an awful big rain, and that would wash out, you know, wash under. We had quite a bit of trouble with it that we...

TJK: Hmmm. Was there ever a year when you lost all the crops?

BF: Yep. You might say all the crops.

TJK: When was that now?

UFV: [inaudible]

BF: Well, that was, see that was in...I think I was about 21 years old. I went to Nebraska. 21 or coming on 22. We had awful nice looking corn and everything, you know. Big ears, and everything. Then...I wasn't home. We got an awful big hail storm and it hailed it all down. We had a different barn than we got now. It, layed up,...mud, you know. And then a frame on that, and had a hay loft in there. Boards layed on there, you know, and not nailed very tight. We had a stud horse in, they had it partitioned off there. We had two stalls up here and two up there and had, on that side where we had the colts generally you know, here's where that stud horse stood. My brother Henry, I was in Nebraska then...I didn't see it. Then an awful big hail storm come. He was just ready to ride to get the cattle, you know, and had the horse saddled in the barn. He just closed the door and was turning the horse loose in the barn. After the storm the horse was upstairs in the hay loft with the saddle on. And no hole to get in there. No way you couldn't tell where that horse ever got in. Way up in the hay loft...(laughter)...the horse, the other horse, the stud, he stood tied up there. The barn wasn't tore down. Not clear down, but it, the horse was up in there in the hay loft. They had to saw a hole through the end some way to get that horse off. The only way that we can figure out

they ever got, you know, that boards wasn't all nailed. That horse must of kicked that board up, lifted the boards up, and they fell back on there. And that horse couldn't get up.

UFV: Well, how come...what did that guy say then?

BF: Then this fellow lived up there, he says he never thought anything--but they tell me now if they find a chicken in the crock I'll believe it. (laughter) I'll believe it. If they tell me they find a chicken in the crock I'll believe it. (laughter) Well, this was kind of funny, you know.

TJK: Why, sure.

BF: And ours there, chickens, and stuff was washed clear to the river, you know. Stuff you know, with that hail and whatnot knocked off the branches and everything. There wasn't a thing left, you know. That's the way it hailed out. Then we didn't have nothing...

TJK: How big were the hail stones?

BF: I don't know, they were pretty near like hen eggs. They were big, you know. When we, after I got married, we lived across the river, I and my brother, one time a hail storm come up there, we had our cows in the corral over there. Had a [inaudible] wire corral, you know. It hailed. Them cows got through that corral and they had blood all over on their backs the next morning, you know. That hail took up, then the crops was gone too. We had that awful bad, you know. Some places the hail come early, you know. We'd get a little feed yet. Last year we had hail, we didn't have much [inaudible] grain.

UMV: Oh, no, it took all the kernels out of the wheat.

BF: Pretty near all of it. Yeah, they took, they shattered out there...

TJK: When was this, this hail storm?

BF: Now, I'll tell you, I had 40 acres, 40 acres of wheat, 42 acres of wheat. Mine turned, the wheat was a-good price, my wheat wasn't quite \$200. \$190 some dollars, my share. My share of the wheat you know--rent, the third. That, we didn't have hardly, it didn't pay hardly to cut it, but...we got so we had a little seed left and a little bit...I didn't get enough to pay my taxes. I didn't. But some years it's better.

TJK: Yeah.

BF: I have had...wheat here 45 bushels to an acre on dry land. That don't come very often.

UMV: I remember even when I, you know, when there was a real bad hail storm, that the wheat, it was just laid flat. There wasn't nothing left of it. You couldn't of even gotten a kernel out of it. With the combine.

TJK: On the average how often does that happen around here though?

UMV: Oh, not very much.

UFV: Well, we get a hail almost every summer.

TJK: Oh, you do?

BF: Little...

UFV: Yeah, a little bit.

BF: Sometimes a little earlier and sometimes...we get it right when the wheat is just about time to harvest, you know. Then it goes down and shatters, you know.

TJK: What about winds, a lot of wind here?

UFV: Yeah, there...

UMV: Quite a bit. [several people talking at once] This year we've had more wind than what we've ever had I think. I mean for this long a time.

BF: We haven't had hardly any snow this winter, though. We had one awful good snow storm and then a few little ones.

UFV: We haven't had hardly any winter really. Seems like we didn't have any winter...

BF: It's dry up here now.

TJK: Do you usually have a hard winter here?

UMV: Hum umm.

TJK: No?

BF: We generally have...

UFV: Not too bad, really, but it's...hard.

UMV: No.

TJK: Hmmm.

UMV: It was about, probably about three years ago when we had our worst one. There was, I mean there was snow on the ground all summer--all winter long.

- BF: This year, I think it went a couple of times it went, quite a little below zero, but not very often. Are you catching all we're talking?
- TJK: Yeah, I'm catching all that. (laughter) Yeah. When you lost the cattle-- that was last year wasn't it? Out here, that one late...that was two years ago, wasn't it?
- BF: What?
- TJK: I mean the winter that, where the blizzard hit in the spring.
- UFV: ...like cattle.
- BF: Oh yeah, but we didn't lose any.
- TJK: Oh, you didn't lose any?
- BF: No, that was big ranchers, you know. [several people talking at once]
- TJK: Oh...
- BF: Them big ranchers lost a lot of it, you know. They did. They even fed them with the airplanes. Up here in the hills a couple of years ago, they seemed like they got on top of the hill and they couldn't get there with no tractor or nothing. Finally they got airplanes and they got feed and they flew over there and fed them with the airplane, and scattered hay for them with the airplanes.
- TJK: Hmm. But that wasn't in this area?
- UFV: Further south.
- TJK: Burlington?
- BF: No, that was here up in the hills...
- UMV: Yeah.
- UFV: South too from Burlington.
- BF: Where they lost so many now, that was last year, you know. That was hell. But this was quite a bit a years ago when this up here, where they fed them with the airplanes.
- TJK: Hmm. Hmm. Now, in those early years too now, like the Mennonite people, was this the only area they came to, like Joes and the Kirk. Were there any other areas in Eastern Colorado.
- BF: Do you mean the Germans, or...
- TJK: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- BF: Well, not that I, well, not our kind.
- TJK: Yeah.

BF: Over there by uh...Bethune, there's what they call, we call them [inaudible]. They talk like high Germans. But we can't understand them hardly, you know.

TJK: Because you speak low German, right?

BF: I can talk high German.

UMV: They've got a different accent. On their...

BF: They talk, once in a while I can catch some words from them. But not always (laughter). They call them Germans too.

TJK: Yeah, um hum.

BF: We...our folks always, they come from the Old Country, them come from Russia, oh most of them they...them Burkens and the...

TAPE 2, SIDE A

TJK: ...in German, did they hold German services?

BF: Not now...

TJK: Not now.

BF: ...not for years, for years we haven't had...

TJK: When did that go out, what year did that go out? The German went?

BF: Oh, I don't know just what year...

TJK: Do you remember German--in the church, or not?

UFV: Oh, maybe uh...yeah, a little bit. But I couldn't understand it.

TJK: Yeah.

BF: That's been quite a while.

TJK: Well, like 25 years ago, or...

BF: Oh, longer than that. Longer than that, yeah.

TJK: Longer than that?

UFV: Yeah. It must of been, it's at least, uh, well see we...

BF: They haven't had very much German in this church, in this new church.

UFV: Yeah, we had a lot of German here, too, Dad.

BF: Not too much. We had to have English and German. Sometimes we had, sometimes English and sometimes German you know.

UFV: Lot of them still call it the German church.

BF: Now it's all English, for years now.

TJK: Really? Hmmm. What about like German singing, or anything? Do you still have that? No, that's out too.

UFV: Oh, yeah. We don't have nothing German here anymore.

TJK: And it's been gone that long then, huh?

UFV: Oh yes, at least, well Virginia, our daughter, is about thirty years old now and it's been...way long...

BF: Yeah, well, I can sing German yeah. We used to sing German.

UFV: [inaudible]

TJK: Hmm. But no one sings German any...I mean people getting together, do they sing anymore?

UFV: No.

BF: [inaudible], he played his guitar, and I played, I played my harp--in church you know. But that was German song, but they don't need uh, you know we don't say no words, it was just the tune, you know. That...

TJK: Oh, I see.

UMV: But they [inaudible] that, translated it into English.

TJK: Yeah. Oh, it's the old German hymns...

UFV: Yeah...

BF: I don't know. Can you find that in English, the one that we played? (speaking German)

TJK: Oh, I see. Now what year were you married?

BF: I was married in 1913, in March, the 11th day of March.

TJK: In 1913. Here, in the church here?

BF: No, in Oklahoma, in Corn.

TJK: In Corn, Oklahoma?

BF: No, it...really in Kado, in my wife's mother's and father's home.

TJK: Oh. Now how did you meet her, she was in Oklahoma, how did that happen?

BF: My cousin...you know, his father married my wife's mother. So there was cousins together, brought together and they was no relation at all. Then we got to writing each other and he went up there and had a visit with her. That, he come up here and he was telling me everything. He said. Then we finally got to writing, writing, and writing. Sending pictures, [several people talking]

BF: ...closer together. And closer together. And finally I went up there. I was up there a couple of weeks, and we got married. We come right up, you know, after we was married, the next day and we come right up here and stayed over here at my folks about a week. Then we moved over there into my place up in the hills, in my house, and my brother went, did with us. He wasn't married then. We lived up there. Then he built a house, all his, right north of us. He lived up there and we's kind of together. My brother's wife, well, the way it come, my brother married a Braun girl. No he did first. Married, how was it anyhow? [inaudible] My brother married a Braun girl. Thelma Henderson. And then, they moved up here and then that we lived up, out there and then...they're both dead now, both of them is buried. We lived up there in the hills and him and me was the one was breaking horses and working together all the time. We took in cattle for other people, you know. For so much, so much a year, for the summer. A dollar a head. Then we looked after them and whenever they wanted them, we rounded them up. We had our own saddle horses and everything, you know. We took bunches in from several fellows. Some fellow picked the head, some about around oh a hundred, and some about maybe ten, twelve, and we had them up there, had them all mixed together. They could go clear to Yuma, if they want to. We, every morning we rode out and [inaudible] they'd come to my place for water, you know. Whenever they wanted them, we rounded them up. We got a dollar a head for having them. That was for all summer you know, that wasn't really nothing, you know. (laughter)

TJK: No, not at all.

BF: That's how we made our living.

TJK: But now, like your wife, she had never been here then, until she married you, right?

BF: No, no.

UFV: She come here married, they were married and she didn't go home at all, did she? How long was it when Mama went back?

BF: In the sixty years she's been married, four times, I think she's been back home.

TJK: That was all then?
BF: Four times, and that's just the...
TJK: Think she must have liked it here.
BF: ...might [inaudible] one night, you know.
UFV: ...couldn't go, I mean they didn't have no money, and...
TJK: Oh, yeah.
UFV: ...no way to go, you know. The cars weren't fit enough to go, and
TJK: Well, how far is that? To Corn, now. Is that quite a...well it would be all the way to...?
UFV: Oh yeah, it's...
UMV: It would be about 600 miles...
BF: It takes an awful good day of driving, and early...we drove over there with the car twice. [inaudible – several people talking] (laughter)
TJK: You met and married your wife in Corn, then, and then you came...
BF: In Kado, really...
TJK: Oh in Kado, right.
BF: We got married one day, and then we was up there one day, and the next day we started on home, you know.
TJK: Right. Hmmm. Did it take her a while to get used to the country here, or...? No?
BF: She liked it. She liked it better here than there in Oklahoma.
UFV: They had to pick cotton.
TJK: Oh, they had to pick cotton.
UFV: [inaudible]
BF: Picked cotton, something like that, in the heat and everything like that.
UFV: Mama was always kind of the head of the house, Grandma was always sick, so Mama was the oldest, Mama always had to try and take care of the home, and...
TJK: Oh, I see.
BF: Then we had saddle horses, and everything you know.
UFV: So lazy they didn't do nothing. And she had to do all the work.
BF: Then we had saddle horses and we got a riding around way up in the hills, reckon we'd ride about 5, 6 miles at a time, you know, before we'd

ever get them, ride around, and run cattle, starting the cattle and she was right with us, you know. Riding along. She enjoyed it.

TJK: Oh, my.

BF: Always enjoyed it.

TJK: Now, how many children did you have then?

BF: We've got 5. We've got two boys and three girls.

TJK: What are their names? The oldest...

BF: The older one is Edgar, and this one here is Edwin, and then Matilda. That's the Warkentein. That's the one that's got a lawyer and a dentist for their children. One is in California, dentist in Fresno, and the other one is in Boulder, a legal lawyer. Then, that's her's. The other girl, she is in the...Aurora, in Denver. She's got two boys and one girl and her oldest boy is in...what is it now?

UMV: Greenville, South Carolina.

BF: South Carolina, now, going to school. Going to school. She's up there. She lives up here, we live up here, you know.

TJK: Um hmm. And what is your first name Mrs. Hendrick?

UFV: Ruby.

BF: Ruby Fadenrecht, used to be.

RH: I'm the caboose.

TJK: Oh, you're the caboose (laughter). That's a good place to be. (laughter)

BF: Yeah, that's Ruby, and then Alice, that's from the youngest, and then Matilda, and then Edwin and then Edgar.

TJK: Now, did you and your wife speak German at home?

BF: Yeah. We always speaked it. All our children speak German. We always speak German.

RH: We still speak German.

EF: Oh yeah.

TJK: Really?

RH: Yeah.

EF: Yeah, we still speak it also.

RH: Well, all my kids can, they...

TJK: Oh, great.

- RH: ...at least understand it, and everything. They could speak it but they don't, you know.
- TJK: Yeah, well, it's hard, if you don't...
- RH: Well, I kind of, when he does I kind of laugh, and he don't like for me to laugh, at all, because they do speak it a little bit different than we do. Course we always, Dad and I we always speak German, of course we speak more English now than we ever did because our son-in-law is English, and...
- TJK: Oh, well that makes a difference...yeah, right.
- RH: Yeah. So...
- TJK: Now, do you speak the high German or the low German...?
- RH: Oh, the low.
- EF: Low, low.
- BF: (German)
- RH: [inaudible]
- BF: Don't you talk [plowbeech?]
- TJK: (laughter) No. Not plowdish no.
- BF: High German?
- TJK: Yeah. Yeah.
- RH: My husband speaks the high German. Their family always spoke the high German, and my family spoke the low German. Oh, when his mom and his sisters would get together and talk to him in high German, wow! I couldn't understand them.
- TJK: Yeah, it's a lot different. Oh yeah.
- RH: [inaudible – several people talking]
- BF: I can understand it, I can talk it, I can read it.
- TJK: Yeah, but it's so different, for instance like Deutch and like Deetch (RH talking), like to low German when you go to Deetch. That's so much different.
- BF: But lot of words are almost the same though.
- TJK: Oh yeah, oh yeah.
- RH: I think my husband, I think he can still write German. I can't even read it.
- TJK: Uh huh. Now did you have German in the school here at all?

- RH: Yeah, I went to Bible School, German Bible School.
- TJK: Now, was that part of the church?
- RH: Yeah, that was in this new church.
- TJK: And they would teach German at the same [inaudible – several people talking].
- BF: Just a week or so...
- RH: Bible School.
- BF: ...and then it would have to be over after the other school is over. Like they go to [inaudible] now. (several people talking)...5 days.
- EF: Summer vacation bible school. Like from Monday through Friday.
(several people talking)
- RH: ...bible school maybe the first Monday in June, or whenever it comes. Or sometimes they start, if the school lets out here usually on a Friday and then they start a week bible school, about [inaudible] English now.
- BF: This year it's just going to be from six till nine in the evening.
- RH: Oh, again--that's the way they had it last year.
- BF: From six to nine.
- RH: Then it's adults and everybody.
- EF: Yeah.
- RH: Adults and everybody.
- EF: But they, I don't see why they have to change it.
- RH: Because we had a lot of little kids when we had it here in church. Had a lot of lit...you know the whole church.
- TJK: Oh, sure, I bet.
- RH: ...and different churches going together.
- TJK: Right. Hmmm.
- RH: But one church that don't want to do nothing with these churches, and that's the Baptist. They don't join this group at all.
- TJK: Yeah.
- RH: There's two churches in Kolb, and then uh...
- TJK: Baptist churches, now?
- RH: No.
- BF: Other churches, though.
- RH: The Community and the Family of God is in Kolb.

EF: Then there's the Four Square.

RH: Four Square Church.

BF: Nazerene.

RH: And the, Nazerene, well there's isn't a Nazerene around here. In Yuma.

BF: No, but they, they...

RH: Yeah, but then uh...oh...

EF: Baptist.

RH: United Methodist I think they call it. E.U.B. went to the United Methodist.

TJK: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

RH: Those churches all get together, but the Baptist just won't. They don't want nothing...

TJK: Other than Denver, this is the only Mennonite Brethren Church anywhere in Colorado, isn't it?

RH: No, Burlington.

TJK: Oh, there's one in Burlington?

RH: But I...

TJK: Oh, the Church of the Open Door, is that...

RH: But I...

TJK: Yeah.

RH: I think it's about, of course they've got a different minister up there.

TJK: Well, right. I talked to Father, uh, Reverend Unrowe, was that the name? Yeah. I talked to him. Yes, right.

RH: But then there's another--I never did meet this other young couple.

EF: Yeah, he left. Now there's another couple.

RH: Yeah, but this young couple is gone now too.

EF: Yeah.

RH: And they've got another minister up there now. He said he thought he didn't liven the church up, I guess, it was just about ready to close the doors.

TJK: Oh. Hmmm. Yeah. Now, Bob, in your Sunday School did they have German or not?

EF: No.

TJK: No German there.

EF: No, see, all it was was just us kids. That's all it was. And it was in the morning.

TJK: Um hmmm.

EF: [inaudible] without having our parents [inaudible].

TJK: Do you miss the German at all? Like in church, or school, or...

EF: No.

RH: No, he don't know enough from German.

TJK: Oh, okay. No, that's...

EF: Everyonce in awhile, see there's a girl over here in school that can talk German a little bit.

RH: Cleaver's girl.

EF: Yeah, so...

TJK: Oh yeah, yeah.

EF: So I talk a little bit to her, a little bit once in awhile.

RH: Bobby and this Cleaver girl are the only uh, well, Kam. I don't know if Kam can speak it or not, but Bobby and Dan [Kam?] they're the only Germans that have...

EF: Background...

RH: ...that can speak the German.

TJK: Oh, I see.

RH: That can speak the German. Because you can't...

EF: Sometimes we just rattle it off, and we talk about some other kid and they don't know what I'm talking about and

TJK: (laughter) But there's no singing it, like you don't come to get it families any more, for German singing.

RH: Noooo, huh uh.

EF: Huh uh.

TJK: No? That's too bad. I think some of the songs, they sound so much better in German. The meaning or something.

RH: There wouldn't be anybody to sing except some of these old ones that are left yet.

TJK: Yeah.

RH: I couldn't sing German.

EF: We--just on special occasions sometimes, then they'll sing German.
Just sing German, you know. Just to bring back something old.

TJK: Yeah. Not even at funerals though for some of these old...

RH: Nooo.

EF: No.

TJK: No? That's unusual.

RH: When they have a funeral the whole community gets together, you know. And that's just not our people, that's the whole community. No, we don't have nothing...

EF: And people from Nebraska and Kansas [inaudible] come you know.

RH: I bet we haven't had German here for at least 40 years.

TJK: That long?

BF: That's a long time.

TJK: That certainly is.

RH: Because I know Virginia's about 30 years old...

BF: That uh...

RH: And we never had German when she was born. It must be at least, at least...

BF: That Weens, you know...

RH: Rolin Weens...

BF: Rolin Weens. He did preach some German. And then Enders. You probably know--heard of him.

TJK: Oh yeah, I've heard the name. Sure, sure.

RH: He was the first [inaudible].

BF: He was, our preacher there a while, when he was first starting, you know.

TJK: Um hmm. Hmmm.

BF: And then that other fellow lived at our place there where Edwin lives, that's old man...

RH: Strauss.

BF: Strauss. He had German.

RH: I think, well who was...

BF: That's the last one.

RH: Was Strauss?

BF: German was the last one.

RH: Strauss was then.

BF: Huh?

RH: Then they started--I know then, I bet it's longer than 40 years then.

TJK: Now, what about World War I? Did you have much trouble here? In World War...

BF: No.

TJK: No? About closing down the church? See, like in other areas of Colorado...

RH: We never have had any trouble about...

BF: Nobody ever bothered us because of the church.

RH: ...our church closed here.

TJK: Never? Oh, that is good. Hmm.

BF: Of course when it was bad before that we didn't have no flags in the church. About that time they put, they put on two flags you know, I don't know if they do any good up. I don't know why they done it, but they put it in there, they're still in there.

RH: [inaudible] United States flag and...

TJK: Yeah, are there flags in the church now?

RH: Yeah, we...

BF: Yeah, they're in there. One white, and one striped one.

EF: One of them is the Christian flag, and the other is the United States flag.

TJK: What about, like in World War I, when the draft was going on? But there wasn't any trouble then, when the draft was going on? No trouble? Hmm.

RH: Never did have any trouble out here.

TJK: People, like in other areas, would know you as Mennonites though, wouldn't they, or would they not?

BF: Yes, they did. (laughter)

RH: Dutchmen.

TJK: Oh, as Dutchmen.

BF: They always called us, the only way they called us, the German church. What they want to talk about somebody (laughter) over there by the German church. [inaudible] German church, that's what they always

called it. That's the New Hope Church. That's what used to be, when it first started, then for a long time they didn't use it, but then they got it going again.

EF: For a long time then, when I was even born and raised and then they just had just a [inaudible]

BF: A Mennonite Brethren Church.

EF: A Mennonite Brethren Church.

BF: On the old papers that I got up there from the church, it always said the New Hope Church. It was the old church. And then they, I don't know, that's when the older people all some way left, you know. One time there were twenty some covered wagons went out of here in one shot, you know. Fellows moved off here. That looked like this neighborhood was empty.

TJK: Now where were they coming from, these people who were moving in? Oh, or were they moving out?

BF: They moved all out. They all left their homestead land, you know.

TJK: Now, were these Mennonite people?

BF: Yeah.

TJK: Now, why did they leave, though?

BF: They thought that it wasn't worth living here. They could of bought land for a dollar an acre, and maybe for 50 cents and had all the land you wanted then.

TJK: What year was this when they moved out?

BF: Oh...that must of been anyhow sixty some years ago.

TJK: Okay. And where did they go, do you know?

BF: Texas.

TJK: Texas?

BF: Texas and Oklahoma. Lot of them. Lot of them.

TJK: Like what families would those of been that left? Do you remember?

BF: Brauns left, these old Brauns left. Bertchels left. And David Nichols left. And uh (pause) oh, some of the Hendricks, Dan Hendricks, I guess, they left. And uh, Zukov. And uh, oh, Panner, and Nichols. All kinds of different fellows, they all left. There was 20 some covered wagons, you know. Some had 2 wagons, you know.

TJK: Right. My, oh my. I didn't know so many had left then. And that was about 60 years ago?

BF: Something like it anyhow.

RH: [inaudible –several people talking]

BF: That's long before I got married, you know.

TJK: Oh, well, sure.

BF: That must have been right at 60, 70--70 years ago when they pulled out.

TJK: Um hmm. What part of Texas did they go to, do you know?

BF: I don't know. They went up [off?] to Texas and Oklahoma somewhere.

TJK: Hmm. I see. Was that the only time people left then?

BF: No [oh?] ever once in awhile some left to California and some went to Canada. (pause) Like Hendrickses, they went to Canada, my brother went to Canada.

TJK: Oh, where at in Canada did he go?

EF: Where was it Ed where your grandfolks went, huh?

EF: I think to Hefferin, I believe.

BF: Yeah, I think Hefferin.

TJK: Oh, Hefferin, yeah.

EF: I believe so. I still have one uncle living out there, in...

TJK: In that country there?

EF: It's in British Columbia.

TJK: British Columbia.

EF: Yeah.

TJK: Farming?

EF: No, he's retired.

TJK: Oh, I see.

EF: He used to work in the (pause) in the lumber mills.

TJK: Um hmm. Hmmm.

EF: He's retired. What I'd like to be. (laughter) But I don't want to be that old.

TJK: (laughter) Not yet, not yet, huh?

EF: No. (laughter)

BF: Three or four Freisons left.

TJK: Freisons left?

- BF: Went to Canada. And Plythus went to Canada. Oh, there's a whole bunch moved to Canada after these others moved out. After these moved up there too. These went when the war started. About when that war started. A lot of them went then.
- TJK: Um hmm. Oh, I see. What about the depression now in this area, did you feel...the depression here?
- BF: Well, they had us down so we could buy only that much sugar for awhile, you know. And flour, they had that way down for a while, but...that seems like it didn't last so very long.
- TJK: You didn't really suffer too bad out here then?
- BF: No, we never suffered any, we always had plenty to eat. Never suffered anything.
- TJK: What about the weather, how was...did you have the drought? Here?
- BF: We had uh, we had some good weather you know and just like it is now and maybe some years we had pretty good crop and some years it, something came in there, either too dry or a hail, or something. Lot of it wasn't so good, and then other years were better. On an average we haven't had it so bad.
- TJK: In these early years when you came, this was a pretty wild area yet, wasn't it?
- BF: Yeah, yeah.
- TJK: Were there like wild animals--rattle snakes?
- BF: Yeah, there was quite a lot of snakes, and quite a lot of coyotes. We had to watch our chickens awful close you know. They'd come and sneak right into the yard and get them. When we went up north here, we generally picked chips to burn, you know. We generally went over on the other side of the river where they had so much cattle, where they were close by the water. We picked, we see antelopes, bunch of antelopes, every once in a while dig a bunch of antelopes. In the early years.
- TJK: Hmm. That was your early fuel then, the cow chips, then?
- BF: That's all we had. That's all we really burned when I got married yet. But we'd get some coals, that would be something new. Or cobs, you know.

TJK: Yeah. How long did you burn the cow chips, then--up to about, uh, let's see, you started using coal and the other?

BF: Oh, we, ever since we've been married, ever once while in the winter we had, we bought some coal for the heating stove, you know. But the cooking stove, we generally picked chips. Burned chips, and when we raised a little corn, we used the cobs. We didn't have no wood to cut up there. (laughter)

TJK: You talked about when you built your frame house, where did your lumber come from in the early years then?

BF: We got it from Yuma, mostly. That for the barn and the house, we got mostly from Yuma. We got some from Stratton and some from Burlington, but the most of it come from Yuma.

TJK: I see. What about prairie fires? Did you have any of those in the early...

BF: We had plenty of them. Plenty of them. We've had fires way from the railroad and they come up here, up into our country. We fought all night lots of times, prairie fire. One night I know, it come pretty close up here. Oh, I think it way on this side of Yuma road. Way on this side. And Warkenteins they lived up there, all at once Mr. Warkentein got, his mother's father, you know. He says, we got to go home and save our farm, we got to go home and save our farm. They went home and they took their plows and plowed around close by that, so the fire wouldn't come up to the house. He left that fire and went home, it coming so fast, you know. Tall grass and no plowed ground and it wasn't so very far off anymore, you know. It could have come up to there. He was scared. They got it out before it got that far. It didn't hit his place. We got it out before then. One night we fought fire until almost morning. It come almost up to Joes here. It come from over there by Lying. They said it come from the train. The engine, you know. And that was...

END OF INTERVIEW