

R: This is Kenneth Rock of the Colorado Germans from Russia project, and it is the 9th of February, 1977, and I am in the home of Mrs. Alice Herman Miller, at 508 West Country Road 34, Apartment Number 103, and we're talking about her experiences this afternoon. So, thank you very much, Mrs. Miller, for letting me come. Could you maybe just tell me again your full name and where you were born?

B: Alice Herman Miller, and I was born in [inaudible] Russia.

R: That was in the Volga.

M: In the Volga. On the west side.

R: On the [inaudible].

M: That's right, in 1892.

R: 1892.

M: Yeah. And my parents were Mr. and Mrs. George Herman. I have a picture of them.

R: Do you? Uh-huh. I'd very much like to see that.

M: Why don't you go into my bedroom, and, of course, I married a Miller.

R: And his name?

M: Pete Miller.

R: Pete Miller.

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh. Do you know where he was born?

M: Norka.

R: Also in Russia.

M: Yeah, in Russia. No, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

R: In Lincoln, Nebraska?

M: Yeah.

R: In what year?

M: In 18--oh, boy, . . .

R: That's okay.

M: The picture is behind the bed there, on the stand.

R: Oh, yes. This one?

M: Yeah, that's us. All of us.

R: Uh-huh. This is your family.

M: Yeah. My father and my mother, and my sister, my sister, and myself. And these two brothers. Father was married once before, he lost his wife.

R: Uh-huh. So you had two sisters, and two brothers, and there were five of you in the family plus a step-brother. Where was this picture taken? In this country?

M: In Fort Collins.

R: In Fort Collins.

M: You know, where they have a studio, steps there by the Hickman's clothing, it was [inaudible], whatever his name is, took the picture.

R: Uh-huh. Would this have been in the 19--

M: 1911.

R: 1911. Very handsome family. Did most of your brothers and sisters stay here in Northern Colorado, or did they go all the way across the country?

M: They went across the country, this one went to California. And stayed there.

R: Uh-huh. What was his name?

M: Henry.

R: Henry.

M: Henry Herman. And they were [inaudible], this last winter.

R: I see. Uh-huh. And your sisters?

M: She lives in Denver.

R: Um-hmm. What is her name?

M: Lydia.

R: Lydia Miller.

M: Post.

R: Lydia Post.

- M: She was married to a man from Salida. And this sister that [inaudible] is in Cutbank Montana.
- R: Um-hmm. And her name?
- M: Doudna.
- R: Doudna. And did all of your sisters and brothers help you in the beet fields at one time?
- M: Sure. That's where we got our start.
- R: That's where you got your start. Okay. Why, I wonder, could you tell me a little bit about your family coming to this country, and then we can talk about the beet fields, if you like.
- M: All right. Anyway, you know, when Queen Katherine married Peter....
- R: Peter the Third.
- M: The Third, why, she said that we never would be conscripted into the army. And I had an uncle fourteen years old, and my grandmother says, "Well, they're not gonna get him." And so we got ready, and sold everything we had that could be sold, and it took us three weeks across the Atlantic.
- R: Uh-huh. Do you remember what year that was, or how old you were at that time?
- M: Well, I was six years old. I guess.
- R: Uh-huh. So that would have been in the 1890's.
- M: Yeah. And then we stayed at this uncle's in Kansas, but they were anxious for us to come, because they said you'll have to work so hard here, and they pay more, make more money. And so we went there.
- R: Had he written to your father before you came? About opportunities in Kansas?
- M: When they just, and this uncle is still living in Kansas, near Hays, it is Galatia
- R: Galatia. Uh-huh.
- M: And they have, some of the boys, and he's gotten a wheat farm for every one of his boys.
- R: Uh-huh. Very fine. Yes.
- M: Yeah. But they didn't like beet work, didn't want nothing of that.

R: Your Kansas relatives.

M: Yeah. My mother said, when Great Western came out to McCook later for best the fields, everybody could work here, so my mother said, "That's where we're going." So we came in a boxcar.

R: In a boxcar.

M: In a boxcar.

R: From Kansas to ?

M: From Kansas.

R: To Colorado.

M: To Colorado. And my mother's maiden name was Funk.

R: Uh-huh, okay. And, now, do you remember when you came to Colorado, when your family.

M: 1903.

R: 1903. And did you come to Larimer County, or where did you come?

M: Yeah, yeah, we came right to the C & S depot, you know.

R: Colorado & Southern depot? Here in Fort Collins.

M: Yeah, here in Fort Collins. And then that is where a man by the name of Jensen hired us for beet work. But he was a poor farmer, and I'm sure we never did finish. It was too much wild oats, you know, in it, we didn't have the tools we have now, half dollar, cultivator was poor, you know, and so we didn't, but we stayed there. poor, And that was the time and first I was gonna say this. We lived in the Jungles.

R: In the Jungles. Tell me about that, please.

M: Father, when they built the jungles, and that year we moved and that year we moved to Franklin Moore's place out on South College, he was the minister here, and they had the flood.

R: Oh, you were lucky.

M: Yeah. And this Franklin Moore had a new shack, and [inaudible].

R: Uh-oh. So you had to clean it up.

M: Yeah, but I started school, and then at Remington School in, you know, where it was, before they tore it down. And that's where I went to school. And I just loved school.

R: You liked school.

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh. Were you able to go to elementary school, I guess, or did you have to work in the fields a lot? Did that interfere?

M: No, it didn't interfere too much.

R: It didn't interfere too much.

M: Uh-uh. Because school started, you know, or, didn't let out till about the first of June, you know, and that's when we started working beets. So that didn't interfere too much. And anyway, I just loved school. And if I had to stay home, I'd cry.

R: Is that right?

M: Yeah. And, oh, they made things for Christmas, you know, these chains out of paper, colored paper, red paper?

R: Yes, um-hmm.

M: And that was fascinating to me. And so, we had to walk all the way, across the riverbed you know, and then on up to Remington School but I liked that, too.

R: Uh-huh. Did the other members of your family, your brothers and sisters, all go to Remington School, too?

M: They didn't start there, no, because we moved in the country. And then we started at Pleasant View, Number Sixteen, on Shields Street.

R: Okay.

M: And so that's where they got started.

- R: Well, then, did you, you went to Remington . . .
- M: I went to Remington and we moved into Franklin Moore's the first year, and the next year the Ella McLellan. We worked, and we were in that district and then we had to move to their beet house up on Shields Street and he had a nice little house. Most of them, the others just put you in a shack, you know, and you had to live wherever they put you. Cause if at first, well, Jensen he had a little granary and a tent that we lived in that first year we came to Colorado.
- R: A granary and a tent.
- M: Yeah.
- R: Uh-huh. Was it cold?
- M: No, we didn't stay the winter. We didn't stay in it in the winter.
- R: That was just during the beet season.
- M: Yeah, until we got them harvested. Topped.
- R: Topped, yes. And then where did you go for the winter?
- M: For the winter, my father looked around and there was a little place for sale, 40 acres of ground, ten acres was dryland, the area to or below the Highland Ditch, and a lot of fruit trees. Cherry, apple, and then the other thirty acres, they were dryland. We raised barley up there.
- R: And where was this?
- M: It was three miles south on Shields, and then a quarter of a mile west. And when we could see Horsetooth, first thing we looked out in the morning, there was Horsetooth.
- R: There was Horsetooth. Uh-huh. And . . .
- M: Then that's when the rest of the kids, when they got ready, school-age, where they went to school.
- R: Uh-huh. And what district was that, then?
- M: Sixteen.
- R: That was Number Sixteen. Um-hmm. And do you remember about when that

M: Jensen.

R: Jensen. Okay. Or was that after you went to the McClellan Place, for example?

M: Well, we worked at McClellan's, and then Father got wind of this place for sale, and he inquired about it, and we had enough money to pay down the amount that he wanted, he saved up this nineteen hundred dollars, believe it or not, working beets, they didn't pay very much, but we saved it up, and..

R: The whole family, you mean.

M: Yeah, we moved there. And that was home. Home, sweet home.

R: Home, sweet home. For how long? Could you remember?

M: Then my father came to live with us, I married Pete Miller, we moved on his father's farm. In Weld County, my father couldn't be alone, my sister was married to [inaudible] then, and my father came and made his home with us. For seven years.

R: Uh-huh. After you were married.

M: Yeah.

R: And can you tell me what year you were married?

M: 1915.

R: 1915. And you moved then to Weld County, you and your husband?

M: Well, his farm was half a mile over the Larimer-Weld line. And so that's where we went to live, we lived there from 1920, until I came out here.

R: Oh, is that right?

M: About two years ago.

R: About two years ago. To 1975. Uh-huh. And is this the farm that I see the picture of here?

M: Yeah.

R: Oh, that looks like a marvelous farm.

M: It was, well, we raised good crops on the land, my husband was a good farmer, and we got a buggy, that's what we used to ride to Sunday School in.

R: Oh; do you call that a surrey?

M: Surrey.

R: That was a surrey. Two horses?

M: Yeah.

R: Big spoke wheels, and even a fringe on the top?

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh, yes. Now, was this near Windsor, or was it closer to Fort Collins?
Could you tell me, what is the address of the farm?

M: It's Route Four.

R: Fort Collins?

M: Yeah. Fort Collins.

R: Uh-huh. And how would I find it if I would like to go out there?

M: Prospect.

R: Go out Prospect . . .

M: East Prospect.

R: East Prospect, um-hmm.

M: And you would, cross the Eaton Ditch.

R: The Eaton Ditch.

M: And the next place, you know where Hart lives.

R: Hardin?

M: Dale Hart.

R: H-a-r-t-?

M: Yeah.

R: No, but I could find him.

M: Anyway, he lived there, and then we were in the next place. On the north side
of the road.

R: On the north side of the road. And do you know who has the farm now, or who bought it
from you, perhaps? So then I could see the name on the mailbox?

M: Well ,I sold the farm because, you know a woman running a farm.

R: It's difficult.

M: Is kind of hard. Well, anyway, I sold it to a man by the name of the Betz

that used to run the yard.

R: Betz.

M: Ezra Betz.

R: Ezra Betz. B-e-t-z?

M: Yeah. For a hundred thousand dollars.

R: Oh, my goodness. me

M: And I took the money and Bill Stoner helped me to invest it.

And the interest income from that money-helped to keep here.

R: How very nice.

M: Without having to dig into . .

R: Your savings.

M: Savings.

R: Um-hmm, um-hmm. Oh, that's a marvelous story, you and your husband and your family have done very well over the years.

M: Yeah, it's been, God's been good to us.

R: Yes, indeed. But I imagine that you've been good workers, too.

M: Well, I knew how to work, I never got tired, and I was glad to work.

R: Um-hmm. This is something about the German people, isn't it? That . . .

M: [inaudible] there in Russia. They, there was no work to be gotten that you could get money for. They helped to raise everything, you know, and put up for the winter, you know, and so on and so forth, and that was it. And if you didn't raise any garden or have anything, then you just didn't have anything to eat.

R: Yes, uh-huh. And it was probably a little different in this country, but did you raise your own garden?

M: My mother, yes, she learned to can.

R: To can.

M: Got jars and learned to can. But we still mix sauerkraut in a barrel.

R: In a barrel. That's good, isn't it?

M: Yeah.

- R: Did you make your own sausage, too?
- M: And yes, we made our sausage. And my folks weren't as much for meat as some people were, you know. But we always had enough to eat. She made her own bread, worked out in the field Saturdays she would go home and bake rye bread.
- R: Rye bread.
- M: Yeah, rye bread. And then we'd have oh, several cows on that little place the pasture, some of it was dry, and they couldn't raise much on it. So they had the cows out there.
- R: This was near Shields. That you're talking about.
- M: Yeah.
- R: Yes. So you had cattle and you raised some crops as well as beets on that place?
- M: Well, we couldn't irrigate, you know, we just had about three acres we could irrigate, and we raised beets on that. And hauled them into the Drake dump, beet dump where they used to pull them up with the horses, you know.
- R: Oh, yes.
- M: On the wagon.
- R: Could you tell me about that? Describe what you remember?
- M: Well, I would have, all my pictures just small pictures, and...
- R: This was on Drake Street? Today?
- M: No, that was on, near the Drake dump. Beet dump.
- R: Where was that? South of Fort Collins somewhere?
- M: South.
- R: There is a Drake Street in Fort Collins today. I don't know whether it might be, it must be right near that area. Okay.
- M: Drake Road.
- R: Okay, Drake Road.
- M: That's what they call it now. It's just right down from that Number Sixteen School.
- R: Yes.
- M: To where the railroad was.
- R: Okay. The C & S Railroad.

- M: Yeah. And they had to haul the beets, and after they, got, it, got so cold they froze, and I, mean, it was so cold that the men piled them by the dump and then they could just load the cars and dump them down. You did never see a dump.
- R: I, really haven't been up close to one. No. I've tried to find out about them, though.
- M: Yeah.
- R: Then, would the train cars have taken them into the beet factory in Fort Collins, or would they have gone to Loveland, or...
- M: Fort Collins.
- R: To Fort Collins.
- M: Where the sugar factory is now.
- R: Yes, um-hmm.
- M: And, you know, the first orange I saw was on the train, we came from New York to Kansas.
- R: Is that right?
- M: I'd never seen an orange. That's when I saw my first orange.
- R: There were no oranges in Russia that you remember, or in the Volga region in [inaudible].
- M: They didn't buy them. And they didn't have sugar, either. Had some lump sugar.
- R: Lump sugar.
- M: You ever seen lump sugar?
- R: The little cubes?
- M: Yeah.
- R: Uh-huh.
- M: And right in the store, and they could buy, well , they drank tea. My folks, they didn't drink coffee.
- R: In Russia, they drank tea. Did they continue to drink tea in this country, too?
- M: Yeah. That was what they'd drink for supper.
- R: For supper. Did you have a samovar?
- M: I don't remember, but some of them did.

R: Uh-huh.

M: Heat water, heat water

R: I don't suppose your family could have brought one with them when they came.

M: No. And those three weeks on the boat, well, this [inaudible], he was the only that stayed on his feet, he could bring us hot water to make tea to drink.

R: Oh, was the ocean, rough, as you crossed?

M: Yeah. The waves splashed over the ship. It was so . . .

R: Hmmm. Very high seas. Where did you sail from? Do you recall?

M: Well, we went from [inaudible], let's see, into Germany.

R : Into Germany.

M: Into Germany. And there, I think they had a harbor, and that's where, that was the ship.

R: Would it have been Hamburg? Or Bremen?

M: I think maybe it was probably one or the other.

R: One or the other.

M: That went out to the ocean.

R: Okay, yes. Do you remember, was it a German ship that you came on, or do you recall that?

M: I don't recall that.

R: You don't know its name.

M: No.

R: Okay. Um-hmm. And where did you land in this country?

M: In New York.

R: In New York.

M: Ellis Island.

R: Ellis Island. Uh-huh. Do you remember seeing the Statue of Liberty?

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh, uh-huh. How did that make you feel, when you saw this new city?

M: Oh, my, it was unbelievable.

R: Unbelievable.

- M: Yeah.
- R: Do you remember, when you got off the ship, did the customs people inspect your baggage, or did they check your eyes or anything like that?
- M: Sure. I had an aunt, she couldn't come with us, my father's only brother, his wife, she had glaucoma.
- R: She had glaucoma.
- M: Uh-huh. And so they had to go to South America.
- R: Is that right? She was stopped, then, at Ellis Island?
- M: Yeah that's right. They went to South America.
- R: Did she stay there, then, or did she . . .
- M: They stayed there.
- R: Uh-huh.
- M: And one son.
- R: In Argentina, perhaps? Or Brazil?
- M: It was, let's see, they never did come back anymore to the United States.
- R: Were you able to write letters back and forth?
- M: Sure, if you'd write.
- R: (Laughing) If you'd write. It's hard sometimes, isn't it?
- M: yeah. You put it off.
- R: But the rest of the family came in?
- M: Yeah, we came in.
- R: And how many were there, then? Do you remember? Your father and mother and you? And were your brothers and sisters born yet?
- M: The sister after me, and then the brother, Henry, he and my youngest sister were born on the little farm that my father bought.
- R: Here in Fort Collins.
- M: Here in Fort Collins.
- R: Uh-huh. Were you the oldest child?
- M: Yeah.
- R: I see. And were any of your other brothers and sisters born in Russia, or everybody else here?

- M: Everybody else here.
- R: Uh-huh. What about the half-brother? Was he already born in Russia?
- M: Yeah. He was two and a half years old when my mother married my father.
- R: I see. Um-hmm. And then you came through Ellis Island, nobody else had glaucoma, and did you ride on a train, or where did you go from New York?
- M: We got on a train, I guess it was in New York, and anyway, we got on the train there, and rode all the way to Russell, Kansas.
- R: Russell, Kansas.
- M: Uh-huh. Before we got off.
- R: Uh-huh. My goodness. You know, that's where my grandmother lived once.
- M: Is that so?
- R: In Russell--not in the city of Russell, but in Russell County, in the little town of Dorance, right near Russell.
- M: Oh, yeah. Well.
- R: How long did you stay in Kansas?
- M: We got there in the spring. My sister was one year old when we got to Kansas, and my father worked in the harvest in Kansas, and you see, there was no money then we moved to Hoisington and then he found work in an ice plant in the winter. And so we stayed there until later, until the Great Western wanted beet help.
- R: Um-hmm. Do you remember at all, were there Great Western (end of side of tape). Side 2. So your family lived in Hoisington, then, during the winter.
- M: Yeah, in town.
- R: In town. Uh-huh. And was that for just maybe one winter before you came on to Colorado?
- M: Yes. And that's where I learned to walk on stilts, you know, higher . . .
- R: Yes! On stilts. Now, that must have been fun.
- M: Oh, boy.
- R: Um-hmm. Great fun. Did your father make the stilts for you?
- M: I guess he did. I don't know who else could have made them, but him.

- R: Uh-huh. That was fun, yes. Did you, do you remember anything about Kansas in particular? Was it terribly hot, or did you like it, or did you want to move on from the beginning?
- M: Yeah, we didn't like it, and we came here to Colorado. And it was cool here, you know, and there wasn't that, so much wind blowing as in Kansas, so much wind.
- R: There was wind in Kansas.
- M: Yeah.
- R: Did you experience a tornado or anything like that? Or just general wind?
- M: No, it was hot.
- R: Yes, I agree. Um-hmm. Colorado's better, um-hmm, great. Do you recall growing up here in Colorado, the winds, the chinooks sweeping along the mountains the way we sometimes have today?
- M: Yeah. And I walked a mile going to school.
- R: Uh-huh.
- M: Every morning, unless it got real stormy and Dad, Father with his little gray horse, he would [inaudible] come to school and get us.
- R: Uh-huh, yes. Was this Number Sixteen?
- M: Number Sixteen.
- R: Uh-huh. But most of the time, you and your brothers and sisters walked.
- M: Yeah.
- R: Did it snow very much in those years? Did you remember getting cold?
- M: Oh no, I don't know. You got kinda cold, you ran.
- R (Laughing) You ran. Good for you. Uh-huh. Right. You liked school, you say?
- M: Yeah, I sure did.
- R: Did--can you tell me, did, were you speaking at home, German or English?
- M: German. My folks didn't want us to talk English.
- R: Your folks didn't want you to talk English.
- M: No.
- R: Uh-huh. And did you?
- M: But we didn't always. We didn't because, I don't know, it just came natural-like

to you, to talk English.

R: To talk English. You mean, you and your brothers and sisters.

M: Yeah. We never talked German at home after we managed the English language.

R: Uh-huh, I see. And then did you learn to read German, or did . . . ?

M: We had, the school on Saturday, when we went to German school, and I learned to read better.

R: Oh. Did that have anything to do with church at all, or ?

M: Yeah. With the church.

R: At church school, where you could learn German.

M: Sure.

R: On Saturday, not on Sunday?

M: On Saturday.

R: Um-hmm. Was it in the evening?

M: At the school. No, it was in the, well, Dad had to take us and bring us home, you know, it lasted the whole day.

R: Uh-huh. And your father probably wanted you to learn German rather than work in the fields that day?

M: Yeah, we wouldn't be working in the fields on that day.

R: Uh-huh.

M: We were a long time, we had to kneel [inaudible] over by the [inaudible], anyway, we had to kneel because we couldn't say the word in German. We'd sit and learn, we were reading something, you know, bible storybook, anyhow, we couldn't pronounce that, and he made us kneel boy, we thought that was terrible.

R: Was this in the house?

M: Yeah.

R: And in the corner or something? Or where did you have to kneel?

M: Close to where he sat.

R: Oh So he could watch. Would you say your father was strict?

M: Well, I tell you, I was thankful I had Christian parents. At least

they didn't just let you run and do what you want. And, but when he said something, he wanted it done.

R: Uh-huh, yes. Whether you wanted to right then or not.

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh. Did, what, was there something in your family about you having to work for your father until age twenty-one?

M: No.

R: Nothing like that. No. So, did your brothers or sisters ever run away, or anything like that, or were you a close-knit family?

M: We were quite close. But, you know how kids will do.

R: Yes, um-hmm. Yeah. Did any of the others like school as much as you?

M: Well, David, he was good in school, and Henry did, too. But the older brother, he only went to the fourth grade.

R: To the fourth grade.

M: And then he quit.

R: Uh-huh. And then he worked in the fields?

M: He did. Helped my father chop wood.

R: Chopped wood. Um-hmm. Well, then, you really weren't what we might call exclusively beet farmers. You had fruit, and you had the cattle and you had the horse, I guess, and where did the wood come from?

M: Trimmed the apple trees, and that, or he would get a cottonwood somewhere from the neighbor, and he'd saw it in pieces and bring it home and chop it.

R: This was wood, then, to . . .

M: Burn.

R: To burn to heat your house.

M: We'd burn it to heat the house.

R: Um-hmm. You had a wood-burning stove.

M: Yeah.

R: Um-hmm, right. Very good. Did you have music in your family?

M: And an organ.

R: An organ!

M: We bought an organ.

R: When did you get that? Or how did you get that?

M: Well , it didn't cost very much.

R: It didn't.

M: And . . .

R: But was this unusual? For families such as yours?

M: Well, I don't know. When we got it it was second-hand. And I took some music lessons from Alice Peery (?) he lived close to us. then I walked down to the Henry McClellan's cherry orchard and picked cherries to make some money, you know, and Alice Perry (?) taught me, gave me some music lessons.

R: And you liked that.

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh, uh-huh. Were there a lot of cherry orchards around at that time? Did others of your friends ?

M: No. Henry McClellan had the biggest orchard, we used to, when we lived on Moore's place, we would walk down to Henry McClellan's orchard and clip cherries, you know, they didn't pull them like they do now.

R: Um-hmm.

M: We had some, had a hold and you held your box, and then you would go get that full and put it in your crate. You know, twenty-four boxes in a crate.

R: Twenty-four boxes in a crate. How long did it take you to fill up twenty-four boxes?

M: Oh, I don't know. Not too long. We'd hurry, and anyway, it was something to do.

R: You're smiling. You must have liked that.

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh. Did you eat a few cherries on the side?

M: Yeah .

R: Did mostly girls do that, or were boys in helping out, too?

- M: Well, the boys would, we'd all go.
- R: Your whole family? Mother and father?
- M: Yeah, those who were on the work force.
- R: Uh-huh. So this would be when you were not working the beets, or the hay or something like that, you would supplement your incomes with cherry harvesting.
- M. Yeah, yeah, uh-huh.
- R: What time of year was that? Sort of midsummer, or . . . ?
- M: About July, the cherries were ripe about July.
- R: Yeah, that's about right. Um-hm. Very good. And then they sold the cherries in the stores in town, I suppose.
- M: Yeah they would. I don't know where they, I think Wolfer's. Clara Wolfer.
- R: Wolfer?
- M: That's right. There was even a grocery store, and of course, they sold berries and cherries. I think they shipped them out.
- R: I see. Maybe to Denver or somewhere?
- M: [inaudible]
- R: There you go.
- M: I always loved cherries.
- R: Right. Well, can you, you mentioned Clara Wolfer and Henry McClellan, and other people like this, and the lady who taught you piano lessons. Were these, did you call them Englisher, or were they . . . ?
- M: Well, the girl that taught me organ lessons, was Scotch. r
- R: Scotch. Um-mhm, um-hmm.
- M: Yeah.
- R: And did you get along with German-Russian people and the English-Scots people quite well?
- M: Yeah, we were, all the time, they, when I started to school in Kansas, and they, the way I was dressed, they called us Roosians.
- R: In Kansas. Uh-huh. Because of the way you were dressed.

- M: I think so. We were dressed like, well, they dressed us in Russia.
- R: Uh-huh. Did you have the scarfs at that time? Were they black scarves, or could you describe it for me?
- M: Well, they were black and they were [inaudible] the white, it would go around your neck or around your head.
- R: Um-hmm. And that was different from the way the American girls and boys dressed to go to school.
- M: Yeah.
- R: Um-hmm. Did you soon, how should I say this, did you soon get clothes in town, in Kansas or in Fort Collins? Did you continue the . . . ?
- M: Well, and I learned to sew.
- R: To sew, um-hmm. Yeah.
- M: And to make a dress.
- R: And so, would you say, then, that when you went to school, that you were dressed the same way the other girls were dressed?
- M: Yeah, yeah.
- R: Did anybody call you Roosians out here?
- M: Not anybody that I can remember.
- R: Uh-huh. Okay. Do you think it had something to do with the fact that most of you were speaking English, or you children were speaking English? By that time?
- M: You know, some people are different. They don't adjust and try to, you know.
- R: Yes. But you had no problems.
- M: No problems. No, uh-uh.
- R: That's good to hear. Could I ask you, do you remember anything about the First World War? Was, do you have any memories from that time? You would have been in Fort Collins, I guess.
- M: This older Walter boy, he was trained for this war in Texas. Waco.
- R: Waco. Waco, Texas.
- M: And then he was shipped across [inaudible] but he didn't [inaudible]

R: Uh-huh.

M: I was just [inaudible] then.

R: Very fortunate. So he came home. That's good, that's good. Do you remember anything about how people felt here in Fort Collins?

M: [inaudible] Henry was in England, but that's the First World War.

R: He might have been, or it could have been the Second, I don't, but probably, it was the.

M: [inaudible] He said, "All the English do is drink tea".

R: (Laughing), Oh, they do. Uh-huh. So he didn't drink tea as much as your parents did, then.

M: And that second boy, David, he enlisted in the army.

R: Um-hmm. And did he go overseas, too?

M: No, no. Anyway, he was in the X-ray department. Or is that the way you call that, anyway?

R: Something to do with medicine, or in medical, X-rays?

M: Um-hmm.

R: Umhmm. Could that have been on into the Second War? I don't know.

M: I would think, it might have been the second war. I was fifteen then, about, and I wasn't at home. Anyway, he did the poorest work, beet work, for the family.

R: He did. And which was this?

M: David.

R: David. Why do you say that?

M: Well, you need some little devils, you know. You have to take along the weeds lay, you know, and all the beets but one.

R: Yes. This was thinning?

M: Yeah, it was thinning. And he wouldn't do it. We'd always do the hoeing, and then refuse to make devils, and when you hoed, why, nobody wanted his load.

Cause we had, he would weed away from the beet and leave just the beet. And those were the days.

- R: Those were the days. Right. Right. Could I ask you, who is the young man in the picture up here? In the army uniform?
- M: That was the boy that was in the army. My boy.
- R: Oh, this was your son.
- M: Yeah, and I have a picture of my other boy, the youngest boy. On this side.
- R: Oh, that's nice. You had two children, then?
- M: Yeah. He lives in Greeley now.
- R: I see. Uh-huh. Okay. So your son would have been in the Second World War, then.
- M: Yeah. Hello, Christine.
- R: Hello. I've invaded your apartment. Thank you. We're conversing here a moment. Well, would you like to join us, or what would you like to do? Could I, could I ask you, maybe, do you remember anything about, oh, let's say, the nineteen-twenties or the nineteen-thirties? You were on your farm at that time, is that correct?
- M: The little farm. Forty-acre.
- R: Forty-acre farm. This one in the picture?
- M: No. It belonged to my husband's folks.
- R: Uh-huh. And, well, you went there after you were married, is that right? But you stayed there for . . . ?
- M: Yeah, yeah. We lived in town. We had this partnership with the man of the grocery store, down near the Palace Grocery.
- R: The Palace Grocery.
- M: They called it the Alamosa.
- R: Which grocery?
- M: Our grocery.
- R: Your grocery, of course. Uh-huh. Yes.
- M: And then, and then the war came. And we moved back out on the farm.
- R: Uh-huh. Was that the Second War, you mean?
- M: Yeah.
- R: Uh-huh. So you were in town, with the grocery store, in the 20's and the 30's?
- M: We lived at 320 Canyon Avenue, paid ten dollars a month rent, can you imagine that?

R: I see. Oh, times have changed.

M: Sure have. And, you know, where the German Church used to be up on the corner of Whedbee and Oak?

R: The stone one? With the tall, pointed roof?

M: Yeah. No, it had a big . . . ,

R: Okay, the Congregational Church.

M: Yeah.

R: Yes, the German Congregational Church.

M: And my father didn't have any horses to help work, but he helped dig the basement.

R: Oh.

M: Of that church.

R: Uh-huh. Well, this was shortly after you first came to town, then, wasn't it?

M: Yeah, yeah.

R: Uh-huh. Did you go to the Congregational Church?

M: Sure did. And went till the language question part us, I mean, the children learned it their English in school, only in church they wanted them to listen to a lesson in German. And they didn't know it. So we went to the, well, we went to the Presbyterian, at last.

R: Oh. On College?

M: Yeah. And they used to have a, started the English Congregational Church, and Ethel went to that, and so we sent the boys as well.

R: I see. Do you remember when that was? Approximately? Would that have been when you were still in town, or when, I suppose, before you went back out on the farm?

M: Well, we went when the Second World War started. That's when we went back.

R: Yes, it started in early 1939 in Europe, but Pearl Harbor was 1941, when this country got involved.

M: Yeah. And I should have kept a diary.

R: (Laughing) Oh, my. It's hard to recall all of those things, I know.

- R: Well, could you tell me, did you go to church regularly? Your family?
- M: Yes, we did.
- R: Did you like church?
- M: Yeah.
- R: Um-hmm. And most of the services were in German until the language issue came up.
- M: Yeah.
- R: And then there became, was there still a German church and an English Congregational Church?
- M: The English Congregational Church didn't ,stayed in the, but you know, it didn't make any difference. We always had the Russians at home.
- R: At home. In your parents' home, or who you were married to?
- M: Yeah, at the little blue house.
- R: In the little house.
- M: I can still see my father standing at the window, reading us a lesson out of the Bible and we'd have to pray before we went out to work.
- R: Yes. In the mornings.
- M: In the morning.
- R: Uh-huh. Every day?
- M: Every day.
- R: Every day. Uh-huh. So your father as well as your mother were both religious people?
- M: Yeah, they were.
- R: Did social life, then, as you were growing up, revolve around the church, church on Sunday mornings, and were there activities in the evening?
- M: Well, we had sometimes we had a box social.
- R: A box social. Um-hmm. Yes. Any clubs, or did you go to football games, or anything like that?
- M: They had the wheelbarrows, they called them. The English girls might join it.
- R: Uh-huh. Let me stop just a moment. Gladys Worthington? Who was she?

- M: And Nellie Ross. They were in school when I was in school. And, and Nellie would have a, or Gladys, and they would write so other kids would to be at their party.
- R: I see. At their home?
- M: Yeah.
- R: Um-hmm, okay. And you had good time. That's nice.
- M: And it really got cold, and didn't learned to skate, very good, but tried to ice skate.
- R: Where would you ice skate? Where was this?
- M: At the Number Two Ditch.
- R: The Number Two Ditch. Uh-huh.
- M: Just down from the schoolhouse. And we'd go there.
- R: That must have been fun for people who skated.
- M: Yeah. And then well, my eighth-grade teacher, well, [inaudible], she [inaudible]she taught us, oh, that's not, no, it was seventh grade, she was our teacher, and did you know Bill Ross?
- R: No, I didn't know him, either.
- M: Bill Ross lived on down from us. Anyway, he got to be a principal of the school in Greeley College.
- R: Uh-huh.
- M: Used to walk to school together.
- R: I see.
- M: And then, you didn't know who Ross was, did you?
- R: I'm afraid not. I'm a newcomer to town. I've been here only ten years. So I have a lot to learn about Fort Collins. Well, can you tell me, did your father and mother become citizens of this country?
- M: My father was naturalized, I have his naturalization papers, yeah.
- R: Uh-huh. Do you know when he did that, or why he decided to do that?
- M: Here, I've got them. You didn't know Dunne.
- R: Dunne?

- M: Mr. Dunne.
- R: Now, the man from the bank?
- M: No. He was school, teacher at the school.
- R: A schoolteacher?
- M: And talked to him at night even. And they got the training and I got his naturalization papers out, here yet.
- R: I see. Was this after he had been here for some time?
- M: Yeah.
- R: Uh-huh. Would it have been in the 1930's, perhaps? Or?
- M: Let me see this.
- R: Well, we can look that up. That's all right. Did he ever tell you why he wanted to become a citizen?
- M: Well, at least, he wanted to make his home here in this country, and he wanted to be a citizen.
- R: Your mother, too?
- M: Sure.
- R: And were they both naturalized, then?
- M: No, just Father.
- R: Just father. Um-hmm. But what, now, your own case, what about you? Did you have to be naturalized, or you . . . ?
- M: My husband was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, so naturally, I became a citizen when I married him at that time.
- R: That's right, that's right. So, automatically. Uh-huh. Made it easier for you that way. Very good. Um-hmm.
- M: Well, I tell you, I had a daughter-in-law that was born in Germany, and she sure had to learn a lot to get naturalized.
- R: I bet. All kinds of tests.
- M: Yeah.
- R: So you had to be pretty courageous to take out naturalization papers. Uh-huh. Can I ask you, well, we're gonna run out of time. Maybe I'd better stop this.

END OF FIRST TAPE

- R: This is Kenneth Rock, and this is the second tape, with Mrs. Alice Herman Miller at her home on the ninth of February, 1977. Can you recall anything about what we call the Great Depression? The thirties. Were those bad times?
- M: Sure. We were at the farm, on that farm at that time.
- R: On the farm. How was it at that time? Was it harder than it had been earlier?
- M: My husband, he fed sheep with the landlord, Mr. Gillings (?), because his father died, you know, when father died in 1929. And . . .
- R: Your husband's father, you mean?
- M: Yeah.
- R: Or Mr .Giddings . M: Yeah, my husband's father.
- R: Okay, um-hmm.
- M: And he had saved up enough money that he always wanted Pete to take a share in feeding, you know.
- R: In feeding the sheep.
- M: Yeah, so Pete did the work, so we got twelve hundred dollars saved up. And he went in this share, just that much, and then they went to an accountant, you know, and Mr. Giddings he must have felt like he was going home from a funeral, because he lost so much money. And Pete said, "Well, that's the reason I didn't take any more shares, because I felt I could lose enough to hurt," you know.
- R: Uh-huh. So that was the Crash. That got the Depression going.
- M: Yeah, uh-huh.
- R: So he lost money in the sheep venture.
- M: He didn't, but Mr. Giddings did.
- R: Mr. Giddings did. Uh-huh.
- M: He owned so many farms, he lost some of the farms even.
- R: He did.
- M: Yeah. And you know, he was quite a guy. He had a [inaudible] car, and he'd smoke cigars, and when he was feeling real good, the cigar was picking up. And when he wasn't, well, it just kind of slumped in his mouth.

R: So you could tell how he felt by where his cigar was.

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh. That's good.

M: We farmed for him for fifteen years. Always raised good crops and got the most out of the land that we could get out of it.

R: Did, what kind of crops?

M: Beets and grain and hay.

R: And hay. Were there any cattle?

M: He fed sheep. He fed sheep, he never fed cattle.

R: Sheep instead. Uh-huh. And did he keep the sheep on into the 1930's, after he lost the money?

M: He kept on feeding.

R: Uhhuh. Just keep going.

M: He would at that. They would not give him money, but he had, who was the guy that he went to [inaudible] Nebraska with him, and he furnished the money. For this fellow, and that was when he lost so much.

R: Oh, I see. Uh-huh, right. But you and your husband did all right on that farm.

M: We did.

R: And you were there for fifteen years, you say.

M: Oh, more than that.

R: More than that. Or you farmed for him for fifteen years. Then did you buy the farm, or what happened?

M: After the Depression.

R: After the Depression.

M: Giddings lost it and we bought it.

R: Oh, I see. So you were able to buy it, then, from him when he got into financial difficulty.

M: Yeah, paid thirteen thousand and, one hundred dollars for it

R: Uh-huh. And did you get some loans in order to pay that, or had you saved money, or did you have to go to the bank?

- M: That's so long ago, I can't remember.
- R: Do you know, were other families able to acquire land at this time, too, when Americans had gotten into trouble?
- M: I think so.
- R: Did you have other friends on the farms out here?
- M: Well, in that community where we lived so long, the Nelsons, and Giddings lost one farm after another.
- R: I see. Uh-huh.
- M: But I talked to her this morning, and she said, "I think we're going to have to move off, because we can't make anything." They feed cattle, too.
- R: They feed cattle. Um-hmm, yeah, it's hard days for cattle raising. Again.
- M: Real quick.
- R: Yes, um-hmm. Yeah. Then, as you stayed on the farm, then, through the Second World War, and on into the 50's and the 60's, I guess?
- M: Yeah, we moved there in 1920. And we stayed on it until I came out here.
- R: Uh-huh, I see. Okay.
- M: That was a well-built house. The wind used to blow, and you'd think my roof would come off, but it never did.
- R: Never did. Well, good. We need to have strong houses out here.
- M: Yeah.
- R: In these winds.
- M: And had the floor sanded and had it fixed up so it was livable. Put the bathroom in, didn't have a bathroom.
- R: When you came there. Um-hmm, um-hmm. Okay. And that was home, then, for you and your husband and your sons.
- M: Yeah. I was lucky to live in a house like that this many years. Didn't have to move around from one farm to the other like some of the tenants did.
- R: Um-hmm. Would you say that many people had to move around whom you knew here, or did a lot of people purchase their own farms like you did?

- M: If they ever, were lucky to, get on a farm, they'd always ask you, "Do you know where a good Dutchman from a farm?" They'd want a German on it. Because they were workers.
- R: Yes, uh-huh. And people called them Dutchmen.
- M: Dutchmens. In the bank.
- R: In the bank. Okay.
- M: "Do you know of any good Dutchmen?"
- R: Okay. And did that make you proud?
- M: Well, anyway, it was the owner.
- R: Yes. Um-hmm. That's true. Let me ask you something else. You wrote a manuscript, didn't you? You wrote a story.
- M: Yeah, yeah.
- R: Can you tell me why you wanted to do that?
- M: Well, I just got the idea that it would be worth reading if, but we haven't sold it yet. Haven't sold the book.
- R: Haven't done that yet. No.
- M: So maybe we'll not, I don't know.
- R: Uh-huh. Well, I think you had a very fine story to tell . Where did you meet the other Mrs. Miller? Mrs. Lydia Miller.
- M: Church.
- R: At church. I see. Uh-huh. And then you gave her some information so that both of you could work on the book.
- M: Yeah, and she was the, she's smart.
- R: So are you.
- M: She's smart. She knows lots of things that I don't know. And I thought with her help, we could improve it and we'd do better. So . . .
- R: So we still have to see.
- M: Yeah.
- R: Um-hmm. Do you still have your manuscript, your original manuscript?
- M: Yeah.

R: When did you write that? Was that when you were still on the farm?

M: Yeah. And I had taken the business course up through the eighth grade, the business course, learned how to use a typewriter

R: Oh. Uh-huh.

M: Yeah.

R: Did you work in town? Were you a secretary or something at one time?

M: I worked at Pate's Grocery Store.

R: Pate's Grocery Store.

M: Yeah.

R: P-a-t-e-s?

M: P-a-t-e-s.

R : Where was that?

M: That was right down where that store that went out, Newberry, you know. Newberry, or . . .

R: On College Avenue?

M: Yeah, where the Poudre Valley Bank used to be.

R: Where Poudre Valley Bank used to be.

M: It's United Bank. But it used to be Poudre Valley Bank.

R: Okay, yes, I remember that.

M: And they built a store was this way, a little bookstore there, a bookstore.

R: That's right, okay. It's where City Drugs is now, I think.

M: Yeah, uh-huh.

R: Yeah. And you worked there.

M: Yeah.

R: Was this before you were married, or . . . ?

M: Yeah, I worked, yeah, that was before I was married.

R: Um-hmm. Is that where you met your husband, or where did you meet your husband.

M: Met him at church.

R: In church.

M: We went to church and we had a Christian dinner you know, and his folks had the first automobile that the Germans brought here.

R: Is that right?

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh. His folks were here, too.

M: Yeah.

R: And they had the first . . .

M: First automobile. And they farmed on the Bumstead (?) place. That was down from the Number Sixteen School, I think Berkeley lives there now.

R: Oh, yes. On the hill?

M: Yeah. That's where we were married.

R: You were married there?

M: Yeah.

R: Okay. At your husband's parents' house? Not in church.

M: No. Not in church.

R: Hmm. Was this customary, to . . .

M: It wasn't, but we did it anyway.

R: Well, okay. You're individualists. Uh-huh. Did you have any kind of, what I would call, a honeymoon?

M: No.

R: You went out to the farm. Did among German-Russian people, was there such a thing as a honeymoon?

M: I don't think so.

R: Uh-huh. Okay. Well, how long did you work in the store?

M: Well, I can remember the first thing I was asked, that they were looking for button-molds and didn't know what a button mold was, so I didn't know what it was. But I found out. There were two girls working in them store at that time. Hattie Burns and oh, boy, I even forget.

R: So three of you were working there.

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh. And they told you what . . .

M: And they had ready-to-wear, too, you know. And they had a man in there for a while

by the name of Durbin, R. A. Durbin.

R: And then you left the store and went out on the farm.

M: Yeah. I was married in '15. We went on that farm in 1920.

R: I see. Uh-huh. Did . . .

M: When we moved on that farm, well, we'd done that farming, [inaudible].

My husband worked three weeks cleaning up weeds, burning them

R: Cleaning up leaves. Yes. Um-hmm. And then you grew beets on that farm?

M: Yeah. We grew crops that had never been producing, farms in that community.

R: When you say "that community," did it have a name?

M: Observatory.

R: Observatory.

M: Yeah. And we had a schoolhouse up on the hill. That's where the boys went to school

R: Uh-huh, I see.

M: And Wayne went to high school in Timnath, had to ride the bus.

R: Timnath. Uh-huh. Dwayne?

M: Wayne.

R: Wayne. Uh-huh. What was your other son's name?

M: Harold.

R: Harold and Wayne. Uh-huh. Why did you choose the names? They're not particularly German, are they?

M: No, they're not. The German people, they usually named the oldest girl after the mother, and the oldest boy after the father. My father's name was George, and my mother's name was Alice.

R: Uh-huh. But you chose different names.

M: Yeah.

R: Did you like them?

M: I guess I liked them, because I knew some boy whose name was Wayne. And so I named him Wayne.

R: Uh-huh.

M: And so I named him Wayne.

R: Um-hmm. Okay. And the community was called Observatory?

M: Observatory.

R: I'm learning all kinds of things.

M: District 101.

R: District 101. Uh-huh. And this was to the east of Fort Collins.

M: Yeah.

R: Now, where was this first farm, when you went in 1915? This was there in Observatory, or this was where you had your other farm later?

M: It was in Observatory, because I went to school, Number Sixteen, Pleasant View, and it's torn down.

R: Yes, um-hmm. That one I know about. Uh-huh. Okay. Well, could you tell me, were there many German customs or anything like this that you tried to keep alive in your family? Or did you feel that you were becoming American?

M: Different meals, you know. We all have to eat, and remember the things that Mother cooked, you know, and liked.

R: Yes. I bet you were a good cook, too.

M: Oh, well, I tried to be, but there was always room for improvement. And then I belonged to an Extension club, Marvin Johnson was our leader, and we would have, oh, different ones. Sometimes we brought recipes of different things, that we cut out of the paper somewhere or something, you know. That we thought was good. And anyway, we cooked.

R: Yes, and good food, too.

M: Good food. We never went hungry.

R: Not in the thirties? In the bad times? M: No.

R: Did you have a garden on your farm?

M: Oh, sure, a big garden.

R: And you grew your own vegetables?

M: Vegetables and watermelon and canteloupe.

R: Sunflowers, by any chance?

M: Well I didn't raise any Sunflowers. But I know there were those people in Windsor, couldn't walk down the street and they would be eating sunflowers and spitting out the seeds, hit you in the eye.

R: (Laughing) Have to look out. Did you go to Windsor very much?

M: No. We were used to doing business in Fort Collins. And Pete got acquainted with the people in the United Bank, you know, and that's where he stayed. And he also did a lot of buying and selling. Calves raise them up, you know, until they, heifers.

R: Um-hmm, yes.

M: I know [inaudible] and sometimes he would get cattle in from wherever this place was, and Pete would sell you a heifer, and it was marked, it had good signs it would be a good animal, you know. He used to have that brand, I don't know, here, Pete would sell you.

R: Um-hmm. So you raised cattle, and then sold them for the market.

M: Well, I'll tell you what I did one time. He took some steers down, he fattened some steers, you know, and steers were real low. And he hauled them home again. He didn't sell them.

R: Oh. Didn't sell them.

M: He'd rather give them away.

R: Um-hmm. Have any idea about when that was?

M: That wasn't so, that was later year. And I was trying to think, how many years he's dead. But anyway, that's what he did. And he would fatten them, he would get the Guernseys, you know, and fatten them, and then butcher them and sell the meat. To anybody who wanted a half or a quarter.

R: Oh yes. Uh-huh. Yeah. Yes, my wife is always on the lookout for someone from whom she can buy meat for us. Did you have a freezer on the farm?

M: We had two.

R: Two freezers. Uh-huh. Yes.

M: We'd never run out of meat.

R: Well, your husband, then, did he do a lot of cattle business over the years?

Raising steers and . . .

M: To our last year, uh-huh.

R: So that would have been in the fifties, in the sixties, probably?

M: He died in '61 or whatever it was. That was before that.

R: Before that. In the fifties. Uh-huh. Those were good years, I think. In the fifties. That's right. Okay.

M: Do you keep track of everything that happens at your house?

R: No. No, I would have just as much difficulty as anybody else in trying to remember these things. Because I don't keep a diary, either. No, huh-uh, and it's hard to recall. I know that. I know that. Yeah.

M: But I remember those hot days when I used to work in the beet field. Thinning.

R: Yes.

M: And then the folks would hoe, you know, and where they hoed, it would be kind of cool, and we'd walk there.

R: Barefooted?

M: Yeah, and it would be on our place.

R; And that felt good, didn't it?

M: Sure did.

R: Right. Under that hot sun.

M: I know, too, that your hands could get awfully cold when they'd pick up the beets and knock the dirt off and pile them up, you know, and it snowed a little bit.

R: Yes. Yes. So it was really all the way from, when would you say, March or April in the spring, to October, November, in the fall?

M: To October, but after that, early in the spring. Because they wouldn't plant beets until about the first part of April, you know.

R: Yeah. Our weather out here, you have to watch it.

M: Out here, uh-huh.

R: That's true. And what kind of clothing did you wear in the beet fields?

- M: Well, they were old and put canvas on the knees because our knees got so sore.
- R: So, padding, or patches. And were these denims? So many people wear blue jeans today. Were these the blue overalls?
- M: No, they had the blue overalls at that time.
- R: What about the gray and white, or gray and black striped ones? The bibs?
- M: No, I think maybe those, maybe cost a little more in an area like that.
- R: I see. All right.
- M: I had the brothers, they all wore overalls, and we'd some of them hand-me-downs.
- R: Did your sons work at all on the beet fields, or was that long gone by then?
- M: Well, machinery came along, and Harold was good at driving the tractor, cutting hay and raking hay and like that.
- R: Uh-huh.
- M: But when it come to beet work, they didn't want to be in that, we always had Spanish people to work the beets.
- R: Uh-huh. So you did have the Spanish or Mexican laborers on your farm.
- M: Yes, uh-huh.
- R: Uh-huh. Did that go back a long ways? Do you recall at all, for many years, was this the practice?
- M: I don't know what year we had them, what years we had them. Mexicans, well, you always had help.
- R: Always had help on the farm.
- M: Yeah, we had three dwellings on that farm where they lived. One on the yard, and one out above on the hill, and one [inaudible]. And then [inaudible] right close to the house on the orchard in between some apple trees and the chicken coop. Between the little house by the road and their big house at the end, a little bit off the road. White house. Well, that house up on the hill was a house where the beet workers, tenants, you know,
- R: And so over all the years, you had help, then.
- M: Yeah.
- R: Mexican laborers, primarily.

M: Yeah.

R: Uh-huh, okay. Did they work well for you?

M: Not too well. Some did and some don't.

R: Like everybody el se.

M: That's right.

R: That's right. Okay. Right. Are you getting tired? I don't want to press you too much, and when is your dinner hour? I don't want to stay too long, but could I ask you one other thing? You were in a class or something, that led to you writing your manuscript? Your book?

M: Oh, Mrs. Wright, she taught a class, that was during the Depression, short-story writing.

R: Where did she teach? Or who was she? Was she a schoolteacher?

M: Here in town.

R: Was it a night school or something? A class at night?

M: At night. And we, I don't know where we met, but at night [inaudible] she gave us the style. She was really born in Wyoming, in Cheyenne.

R: And did you know Hope Sykes?

M: Yeah, I did.

R: Was she in that class?

M: No.

R: How did you meet her?

M: I read her book, and didn't think it was at all true of our German people.

R: Um-hmm. And then you wanted to write your own.

M: Yeah.

R: That's the way it worked. Uh-huh. Would you like to talk about that at all? What you didn't like about her book? What wasn't true?

M: Well, you never found the Germans whose house looked like a shack, they moved into a clean house. Nice house. That was one thing I didn't like about her book. And I just don't think that the work really hurt the children, the German children.

You see, She objected.

R: Yes, she wrote rather strongly about that.

M: Because you would absorb a lot of sun, if you worked out in the field, and we always had good appetites after working out.

R: Yes, um-hmm. Right. Didn't you get very tired? It was hard work, wasn't it?

M: Oh, I don't know. It was hard work, but I don't know, and it was fall when we went to digging the beets, and I did the most strenuous work at four o'clock in the morning.

R: That early.

M: Yeah, that early. [inaudible]in the summer.

R: Because it was dark and cold?

M: Dark and cold. And it was a lot of time, and my father had a lantern, and he'd put it on a rake or whatever it was, something, and stick it in the ground, and hang the lantern up there so he could see you top the beets.

R: Um-hmm. While it was still dark. Early in the morning.

M: Early in the morning.

R: Did you work late into the night as well, or did you . . . ?

(End of side of tape)

M: History Department

R: The other man? Mr. Heitman or maybe Mr. Long?

M: He didn't think it would carry much weight.

R: About the book?

M: No, the Germans from Russia, they started working for them and had a farm, and it wasn't too long after that that they were brought back, and they were owing it because they knew how to work, and knew how to save.

R: Yes. Very special qualities.

M: And knew how to manage things. How to get along on a shoestring. They did. On what they had.

R: Yes. And that . . .

- R: That's a very important quality, isn't it?
- M: You know, a lot of times, they say, if we were running, or some of us were running this kitchen out here, we could feed the people on 2/3 of the food they take and throw it in the garbage. They're extravagant people. In America. Where we were brought up the other way. Now Mama, she would, I'd get a can of salmon. There were eight of us in the family, and they'd all eat. We all had supper. Each of us had a cake of salmon.
- R: Is that right?
- M: She would put dry bread in it if she had it, or crackers or something like that, and that's the way our people lived.
- R: And it was good?
- M: And it was good.
- R: And you all came through nicely.
- M: Yes we were.
- R: I wonder, Mrs. Klein, would you be willing for me to come and talk to you some afternoon, as well?
- K: Oh, I don't think so.
- R: You don't think so. Are you from around here, too?
- K: Well, we lived in Fort Morgan. I lived here, and that's where I got acquainted with Alice and. And then my husband. We married, and we two were friends, and our boyfriends were friends. They got married, well, they were a little older than we were. She got married when she was nineteen, I got married when I was nineteen. So, then during the war, well, it was in the First World War, when we were married in 1916. And of course my husband was going to work in McCook off the railroad.
- R: In McCook. Um-hmm.
- K: But he got his card. He was supposed to come, and he was gonna be drafted. So we moved through, then, took off some land over by the High Line. They made a ditch out, well. It was east of Fruita about ten miles, something like that. And put it under irrigation, the ground. That's where we bought.
- R: East of Fruita, you say?

K: Uh-huh. Fruita, Colorado. Western slope.

R: It is on the western slope, isn't it? I was trying to think. Fruita is not near Fort Morgan, but this must be another Fruita.

K: Yeah, Fruita is twelve miles from Grand Junction. Grand Junction's on the . . .

R: So you lived on the West slope and then came back to the East slope?

K: Yeah, after the War was over. We sold there, and went to Fort Morgan, and near Fort Morgan, we were for about forty-five years.

R: Um-hmm. And then you came back with your friend.

K: Yes.

R: Well I appreciate very much talking to you both, and if I could persuade you to talk a little bit further, why I'd be happy, but that's up to you.

END of TAPE