

HELENA CARTWRIGHT CARLSON  
MELVIN CARLSON

Helena: Big Meadow, Troy; b. 1899  
school teacher, housewife (Mrs. Ed Carlson)

Melvin: Troy; b. 1906  
woodworker, farmer.

2 hours

minute      page

## Side A

00

Train ride to Idaho from North Dakota; Archie and Melvin passed as twins, one 6 the other 8; oldest brother Ed came ahead in freight cars with cattle and wagons. Troy is dusty, muddy and has stumps in the street. Grubbing stumps out of Main and 5th Street. Stump pullers; saw dust, gravel and asphalt demonstration.

08

Big Meadow CCC Camp; graveling county road; no snow plows; CCC boys shovel snow by hand. Going for the mail on horse and skis. The Big snow of 1912, driving over fences on the crust; Silver Thaws; reason why not so much snow these days.

14

Fires of 1914 and 1931; lost 140 cords of wood; Davis saves house with 35 gallons of water, 9 gallons of milk, and some cream. The fires' beginnings; how they were fought.

20

To school  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles; brother on a sled rips new coat on a barbwire fence. Food. Cream money; testing the cream; brother Vic takes the cream to town; Mrs. Gregory, a heavy lady, upsets the buggy and spills the cream when she asks for a ride to town with Vic.

26

Raised strick; brother Archie and hoseshoe games. Chores, dishes before school. Fishing and swimming in Big Meadow Creek. A friend catches a 20" salmon in the creek.

## Side B

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Fishing stories; hiking to town; hunting; coyotes; cougars and their womanly scream; Mrs. Strom scares a cougar away.

10

Walking to school; first teacher, Hester Snead, had glasses with mirrors. Troubles at Burnt Ridge school; brother Frances was a problem. Kids in town went to high school, rural kids not as much. Types of work. 3 young people drown (1921). Melvin's mother dies in 1922. Alfred Hayes a school pal.

26

Playing baseball; winter coasting parties; skiing on crust, accidents, riding a sloop shovel as a sled. Nelson's pond used for making ice; cutting ice blocks; hauling ice to Christie's Ice House in town.

Helena Carlson/ Melvin Carlson

minute	page	
Side C		
00		Kept ice at home in sawduct pile for summer ice cream; keeping food cold. School teachers put kids in grades for convenience. Hoing beans at 8 years old; going shopping in Moscow for school clothes; dime to go to the show, sneaking cigarettes. Knickerbocker pants; working in harvest like a man at 12; youngest sister dies at 5 in 1918. No doctor in Troy. Flu epidemic.
12		Thrashing; sisters as cooks; working as a sack sewer - the hardest job; 150 pound sacks, 800 a day; mending sacks; the needle, 9 stitches for a sack of oats, 11 for a sack of wheat. Liked thrashing; competition by women to provide best food; always chicken; rain at night.
23		IWW in logging camps; left woods; sawing with brother Ed, a taskmaster; grading skid roads at Elk River; cutting cordwood. Doing the cooking as young boy; baking bread and two failures; cooking for engineers in Alaska.
30		List of games; Fox and Geese in the Snow, Ante-Ante Over. (continued)
Side D		
00		Ante-Ante Over, Keep Away, tags, Fruit Basket Upset, Spin the Platter, Kick the Can, Magic Tricks, Three Deep, Musical Chairs, Skip to My Lou, Cap. Jinx, Virginia Reel, Old Dan Tucker, Pop Goes the Weasel, Go in and Out the Window.
16		Gustav Skill compared to square dancing; music by Byers. Music at Burnt Ridge, piano; borrowed phonograph at Big Meadow School; literaries; oyster feeds at Burnt Ridge.
19		Keep-Away, relays. Melvin shoots his right hand on a dare, neighbor takes him to drunk Dr. Olson in Troy; since accident all guns are loaded; friend in Alaska with booby-trapped guns.
26		Cat and Mouse, Poor Pussy, Jap Sticks. Ice staking story; ski jumps; riding in sled and diving into snow drifts.

with Karen Purtee