

SELINA SMITH PIERCE

Deary; b. 1893

grocery store business with her husband

1 hour

minute

## Side A

- 01 Married her husband in New York and they came out to his farm on Texas Ridge after a few years. Bought the grocery store in Deary after a year. The switch to a farm was terrible. Didn't like the custom of feeding neighbors during threshing. Farming: hard work and earned nothing.
- 07 Bought out grocery store and added dry goods. Tested cream for Hazelwood Dairy. Store not too much of a paying proposition.
- 12 Reasons why she felt the fire was set. Went outside to help put out the fire and had a hard time to get back in to save her son. The fire burned down 8 buildings on Main Street in Deary. Stayed in too long trying to get some things out by the light of the fire, then the streamers caught fire and Mr. Wade physically carried her out.
- 22 Owners of the store quickly rebuilt a brick building. The second store was smaller because they didn't have the money. Got shoes just before the fire. She still wakes up and fears she smells smoke. Church's Ladies Aid made the minister's salary.

## Side B

- 00 Took teachers to board in their new house for \$30 per month. Men more easily pleased than women. Boarded telephone crew in summer.
- 06 Recalls other businesses on Main Street: Sam Anderson's grocery, Gorey Drug Store, Mrs. Devoine's confectionary store, Curtis Hardware, Buren grocery. Eight buildings burned. During the fire she saved worthless things and forgot the valuables.
- 12 Curtis and Devoine sell out. The town didn't recover from the fire. In the fire she busted the door to the store down with a chair.
- 21 Raised strawberries out on Texas Ridge and sold them in Moscow. Their orders for the grocery store were shipped down from Spokane and men came through to pick up their orders. They were the first store to sell produce. Had smoked meat and whole cheese that they cut up.

Selina Smith Pierce

minute

Side B (continued)

27

Credit kills a person. When burnt out many people didn't pay their bills. Albert's sister refused credit to someone who owed quite a bit. Her husband wouldn't refuse anybody. Went to Lou Wells' funeral in Moscow. Mary King belonged to Ladies Aid and was one of us.

with Laura Schrager  
August 22, 1974