

ADA HILL CROW

Interviewed by:

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Oral History Project

Latah County Museum Society

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I. Index

ADA HILL CROW

Viola; b. 1880

2 hours

minute

Side A

- 01 1 Early Viola residents. Boles' store and Post Office. Nichols carried mail in a covered wagon. McCray saloon, Manson box factory and Comer Hotel. Burning of church two schoolhouses and old hall by a boy with, perhaps, the help of someone else. Minister for Viola church worked out. John Rothwell got leg caught in tumbling rod, also Beasley girl -- grinding flour.
- 08 4 Parents came from Junction City to homestead and arrived with tea, bread and an onion to eat. Father taught school that year. Two foot high bunch grass. Following the plow and eating the camas. Smylie. Nazarenne Church.
- 15 6 Played on creek in free time. Brothers cutting church and running races. Father marked off the rows in the garden to be done each day. Helped raise kids. Getting stuck in snowdrift. Raised beans on summer fallow. Sometimes thrashed beans with frails on barn floor in the winter.
- 23 10 Father saved his crop in 1893 because he had a binder and had his grain all bound. Most other people used headers in 1893, but with a binder you could cut it somewhat green. With header the grain had to be almost ready to shatter out. Father sold much of his grain for seed grain. People sold wet grain to coast.
- 27 11 Canning with half gallon tin cans which were sealed with red sealing wax. Put garden stuff in cellar, put cabbage in a straw and dirt pile and buried potatoes in pits.

Side B

- 00 13 (continued) Brothers a nuisance when digging up potatoes. Father wrapped himself in gunnysacks to his hips to work in the snow getting wood. Raised lots of dry beans. Didn't believe you could grow apples until Wes Palmer put in his orchard. No bugs then in the garden, fruit or berry bushes. Used 25 gallons of lard a year.
- 09 17 Viola named "Dogwalk" because the dogs walked on the planks. Boles store mainly traded with the people who lived in the timber who traded wood for groceries. Father would sell them hay cheap or give it to them. Got mail twice a week. Father had to get his paper and read it by the lamp. Father never swore -- could only say "Gosh mariah".

Ada Hill Crow

minute

Side B (continued)

- 14 18 Fourmile Church. Emmett Godow a good minister. Cutting a hole in the ice and baptizing people. Didn't dance much. The frozen ground in Canada. Couldn't bury people in the winter because the ground was frozen solid.
- 24 23 Literaries and debates every Friday night. "Which is most useful: the dish rag or the kitchen door?" One old man would get mad if people didn't see it his way. Charlie Crow and her brother sang "Casey Jones" and tore the house down. Made their own newspaper.
- 29 25 One fellow rented a pony and ran it until it fell down dead. Wes Palmer would hitch up wild horses.

Side C

- 00 26 (continued) After one run the horses could be put in a harness. Her uncle and aunt ran off and got married by the Justice of the Peace, Wes Palmer. Wes' only son was killed by a log. Asher Palmer worked in the garden when he was 90.
- 08 29 Broke off courting with her husband because he took another girl to a dance. Charlie hauled timbers for the railroad trestle near Viola. Not given any presents when married. Spent \$25 on a new cookstove, used davenport and four chairs.
- 16 32 Methodist camp meetings went on for several weeks. Taught to be afraid of Indians.
- 21 34 Heard about homestead land in Canada. Lived there from 1912 - 1937. Went for five years without a crop. Took one pickup load with them when they left.

Side D

- 01 39 Eighteen people spent one winter together at her place. Would visit when it was -30⁰ and the women would quilt and the men played cards. Young people stayed all night at dances.
- 05 40 One woman had a baby in the dead of winter in a sleigh on the way to the hospital. Quilted twice a week. Husband would take neighbors to town on Saturday night for ten cents.
- 16 45 Brothers in later years surprise their parents by buying a phonograph for Christmas and hiding it behind the tree.

Ada Hill Crow

minute

Side D (continued)

19 46

Alice Skeene waited on Dr. Gritman when he had smallpox and then her folks wouldn't let her stay at home. She ends up staying at her house and accomodations are made. The most dangerous time was when she was scaling off and she was isolated. Mother wouldn't let her in the house after that. Mrs. Gritman put on a veil and went to Portland.

25 48

Down 36 days with typhoid fever. Could only eat strained buttermilk and eat whey. Baked a cake and ate the whole thing. Her daughter would cuss her father when he licked her. Her daughter took a notion to burn the weeds around the house.

with Laura Schrager
July 24, 1974

II. Transcript

ADA HILL CROW: A man named Asher ^{Palmer} was the first man I think ^{that} was there. And he had two sons: Wesley and Elmer. Wesley, he was the oldest, and he was justice of the peace for a long time. And also he raised the first apples in that country, first apples there. . . . And then this man named John Miller homesteaded there. He homesteaded in back of Viola, y'know, but he lived in Viola. And so did Elmer Palmer live in Viola but the homesteads run back y'see, and ^{it's there} yet, they still are. And Bob Boles had a store in the post office. And I forgot the man's name that had the blacksmith's shop. And we went to church every Sunday in the schoolhouse. And my father, Frank Hill, taught the first term school there. And Mr. Nicholson, an old man he was, carried the mail in a covered wagon from Viola to Palouse and back.

LAURA SCHRAGER: Do you remember that, him doin' that?

A C: Oh, yes. Oh, yes, to Palouse and back.

L S: Was it a big wagon that he had?

A C: Just a little covered light wagon he had, uh huh. He carried the mail ^{there and} back for years and years. And then a man name of McKay ^{McCray} had a saloon there of course at that saloon, y'know. Later Mr. Manson had a box factory after he got to raisin' apples, then he had a box factory there. And Mr. and Mrs. ~~Comer~~, they had the hotel there. And they later built a church--one room. Mr. Smiley was the school superintendent and Mr. Veatch was the minister. Now that's as far as I know of that. But this church, it got burnt down

They burnt both school houses ^{because} the boy didn't want to go to school.

And they burnt both schoolhouses and then they fixed it up and an old hall to have some school. And he burnt the hall. Then they said, they'd fix up the church and he burnt the church. So he didn't want to go to school and that's what happened. And just a boy, about twelve years old. But we always thought there was somebody else helping him. Now that's all I know of that. That's the beginning of that big town. (Chuckles).

L S: Did the Corner build the church?

A C: No, Corner had the hotel.

L S: Right.

A C: No, the members built the church, the church members--the Christian Church, um hum. Of course it was small; there weren't ^{too many people} to go; it was small.

L S: Where did they have church before that? Did people go to church at all?

A C: They had it in the schoolhouse, in the schoolhouse, um hum.

L S: Would someone come out and preach?

A C: Yes, um hum. Yes, before we got the church they'd come out from Palouse and preach. But ^f after we got the church we had a minister there. Just someone that would ^{come out and} stay there and preach. Oh, he worked out on the farm and like that too, but he preached.

L S: How did they raise the money for that church? Do you know how they got that built?

A C: Oh farmers, they farmed, y'know. It don't take as much ^{to run a church} then as it do now. Goodness, they didn't ^{dress} them as nice as they do now. (Chuckles).

The minister, he didn't get nothin much, just what the congregation would take up, and that's all he'd get. Maybe five, six dollars on Sunday, that's all. Now look what they give em. And a calico dress, you could get a calico dress for twenty-five cents--a good dress certainly. You could get five yards--

five cents a yard. Now you couldn't get the end of a bolt for that. Thirty-six inches wide, yep. I guess those people are all gone now that ^{was} there, ^{then}. So that's about all I know about Viola.

L S: Was there a grist mill there when you were in Viola?

A C: No, never was. One in ^{Palouse} City, but not in Viola, no. The ^{sawmill} was back in the timber, no grist mill, no. No, they never did have one there, did they? Not that I know of.

L S: Well there's a story about--do you know how John Brothwell lost his legs?

A C: Yes.

L S: Oh, how did that happen?

A C: It seems to me like, you know they had these old horse plowers with the horses would go ^{round} and there was a tumbling rod that'd run from the machine up to this horsepower and some way he got caught in that tumbling rod. He went to step over it or something and he caught his leg in that, that's all.

L S: What was he using the horsepower for?

A C: Oh, I don't know. What was they using it? ^{and then there's} the Beasley girl got hurt there too later on like that. Oh, what was they doin? It was grinding grain or something. I just can't remember that, grinding grain or something though. She had to keep the horses goin' and step over that rod and she didn't get over once. It was bound to have accidents sometimes, y'know. There were so many people around, they have to have accidents.

L S: What was that box factory about?

A C: In Viola?

L S: Yeah.

A C: In the south end, yeah, it was on the south end. ^{After} a long time. I don't know what Viola looks like now, I haven't seen it for a long time.

My father lived in Washington, but his fence yet is the line between Idaho and Washington, it still is. Because we used to play back and forth: one would get in Idaho and one would get in. . . So that's about all. Now they ^{raised} lots of strawberries around ^{in the east of} Viola there in the mountains. They had lots of strawberries there and cattle. He had quite a few cattle.

L S: Would you go out there and pick strawberries a lot?

A C; Oh, yes. We went out and picked strawberries, um hum.

L S: You know I wanted you to ^{go} back to--you started to mention last time, right before I left some stuff about your parents, things that they'd told you. I think it was your parents coming by covered wagon.

A C: Oh yeah, they come from Oregon, Junction City, Oregon. It took em six weeks to come because they stopped and worked a while on the way. And when they got to the homestead all they had to eat was. . . Mother said they had a cup of tea and some bread and butter and an onion. That's all they had when they got to their homestead, you know. They had the money but they didn't buy groceries. And then there's a Mr. Scott lived there close. He had a big garden and a Mr. Platt, they ^{helped} the folks out then. And the folks got there in July. ^{then} Well they helped the folks out with the garden stuff all that summer. So they got along good then. But Father loaned the only twenty-five dollars he had to Mr. Scott. ^{mother said he} ~~He~~ didn't have any money, probably cause he loaned it out. He was like that, he'd give you the last cent he had and do without himself. And he'd help somebody else. Well, anyway, Mother, she didn't like it but he'd get it back, that's all right.

L S: What'd they do those first years?

A C: Well, Father taught school ⁱⁿ that fall, y'see. But they had to build a log house and the neighbors helped them ^{haul out the logs and build a log house.} And then father taught school that fall in Viola there. And they got along pretty good that way. Oh they didn't have it

like we do nowadays, goodness knows. But ^{then} they raised a garden the next summer and they got along all right after that. My father taught school for several years after he was married. I don't know, people were all the same. There wasn't one tryin to bug another and tryin to get their money away. There wasn't anybody that had much money. But they were good ^{friends}, you know, and all honest and all had a good time. *They were neighbors.*

L S: What do you remember the homestead being like when you were a kid?

A C: Oh, just ^{big} bunch grass about two feet high all over. I remember Father used to take the three horses, put it on the plow, and my brother and I, we'd go along behind him. And we'd plow up what they called camas. Be a little onion-like, something like an onion, only it wasn't as strong. And we'd eat that; the Indians eat it. *Father* told us about the Indians eatin camas so we ate it too. And then once in a while we'd catch a rabbit, little baby rabbit, y'know and take it home. (Chuckles). Oh, we had such a up there, near as I remember it was a rough lookin country to start in to farming. All ⁿ bunch grass all over and only three little horses. And about a twelve inch plow to go around and walk, round and round and round.

L S: Now were you born at Viola?

A C: Yeah, well I was born on the homestead, um hum. It was about two miles south-west of Viola. I told you to look back when you get up there on the mountain you can see that house. You can't see the house through the trees. But you can see an old red barn and a lot of trees. But ~~the~~ old house is there but it's pretty well done now. They built it when I was twelve years old. That's a long time ago, you see.

L S: Did they have help on that when they put that up, the new house?

A C: Yeah, they had a carpenter, oh yes. And then they finally got telephones

put in Viola there. We lived in Viola after we was married and then they put telephones in there too. I don't think we never had electricity though. Nobody did around there. Well, I guess they have now. I'm sure they have. So, ^{that's a} long time ago, nearly a hundred years ago I guess since Viola was started. They were there four years before my brother and I was born-- we were twins. And they were there four years before we were born so you see they was there right from the beginning of Viola. I think there was a man there, an old man named Smiley was there about the first, I guess. He was a kind of retired, kind of a minister. Then we had a good big church later on. ^{Had a church} and she went to Sunday school there, ^{and her} and her sister. You can remember it, can't you Velma, that church?

VELMA : Not much. I remember the church and what it looked like.

A C: They ^{burnt it down} and they built another church and ^{use it for a} shop now. Oh I don't know what got into em, the Nazarenes, they had a church there, you know. And ^{this} was Eddie Gray's father. He bought a ^{furnace} and they fixed it all up and they--I don't know whether it was that or the Christian people, they said they owned the land and they wouldn't have no Nazarenes in there so they had to quit. So Eddie took his furnace out. ^{Never had nothing since then. The minister moved}

into his shop, some kind of a shop, I don't know but that makes it bad.

Why didn't they leave it alone, even though the Christian ^{people} did own the church, what's the difference? They didn't need that. Would you think they should?

L S: Oh no. That's the way things go like that sometimes though.

A C: Yeah, they did. Well, that's about all I can tell you.

L S: Well, can you tell me more about when you were a kid, you know, things that you did for fun when you had some free time.

A C: Oh yeah, we played up and down the crick ^(sic) in the water. (Chuckles). And neighbor

girls would come up, you know, neighbor kids and we'd all go to the crick, you know how kids are in the water . . .

F : And find some polywogs.

A C: We ^{catch} polywogs and the boys ^{would catch} snakes.

V : We did too, you taught it to us.

A C: Boys start to Sunday school ^{on a} Sunday if ^{awful} Mother didn't go ^{and} sometimes

they couldn't go and then they'd send the boys and they'd go up to the swimmin hole. My twin brother would always get his shirt on wrong side out, and ^{mother they would} kinda-let 'em know ^{that they} that he hadn't been to church. (Chuckles). No, they'd stay and swim around until they seen Mr. ^{Peas(?)} comin' home from church. Then they'd get out and get their clothes on right quick and ^{Asa} would always get his shirt on wrong side out. **It was a dead giveaway.** Of course I didn't dare tell on 'em, they'd whip me if I did. But we didn't go to school very much. We went down ^{Four} ^{mile} school down west of Viola. When we first went there, why the ^{Four} ^{mile} school was too far away for us to go so we went to Viola for a while ^{then.} And Miranda Hammers was the name of the teacher that taught there when we went. Father had quit teaching then, he'd been farming. Well I had to work, nothing to work with much either, didn't have ^{tools} then like they do now. Milk cows, sell butter and eggs, and sell garden stuff. Us kids used to carry onions up--we'd go to school and we'd take onions up and sell 'em in Viola there in bunches, green onions, y'know. Things like that.

L S: What kinds of chores did you kids have to do?

A C: Oh, we milked cows, feed the pigs, the boys did. I had to help Mother in the house in those days. The boys had to do the chores when they got big enough. **I** always had to help take care of the kids and there was always the baby to look after. And then the dishes to wash. And there was an awful lot of work to do. And we had to help in the garden, work in the garden. Father couldn't do it and farm too so us kids had to work in the garden.

We didn't play around like they do now. We had to help. They made us get out and do things. Father had so many rows for us to do and we'd have to do 'em or else take a lickin'. I don't think that he'd hurt us much but we were scared of him, just the same. (Chuckles). And we had to because he just couldn't do all that work, y'know. Mother helped in the garden a lot too.

L S: That garden was probably pretty big for all you kids.

A C: That's right, um hum. Big garden. And we had to make butter *with that* old dasher churc, up and down, y'know, like that. Ve:na done it, she knows that. Mother'd set down *of an* evening and churn and churn and churn *on* her old butter. She put it down on a cool evening and she said she was going to rest and churn. (Chuckles). And oh, we had ponies to ride. Oh yes, we'd go horseback riding. And on Sunday we'd go riding. Boys used to take the horses and run races on Sunday. *If they could get away from father and not let him find it out, why they'd run races.*

'Cause if Father found out he wouldn't let em have the horse. (Chuckles).

L S: Did you have your hands full taking care of the kids, the smaller kids?

A C: Yes, I always had to take care of the baby. Mother had so much to do. I was the oldest girl. Mother had so much to do that I had to help. No, I don't know, I didn't mind.

V : I'm the oldest girl, I did too. Oldest in the family always had to take care a little more than the others.

A C: But we had to work, had to live. And I *remember I* was twelve years old before I ever had a pair of overboots, you know, over your shoes to school. No we didn't-- we had, just *Wear our shoes.* But our shoes was good and heavy too. *Was no fine shoes* we'd wear 'em to school. And *our old* schoolhouse, it was just one room. And a big old *box* heater, long, and it had a hearth

come out on it. It took this three foot wood and put it in that. And then no, that wood don't throw that heat out like coal or anything but ^{we} didn't have any coal. And we'd drive down there in a team and we'd be ^{cold and} on sometimes we'd push each other out in the snow and get wet and cold so we'd go out there.

And that old heater wouldn't heat the house if it was very cold. I don't know how we lived through it but we never got sick. It didn't hurt us. No, get stuck in a snowdrift and you always had to get out and wade in that snow up to our waist. But now, could they do that nowadays? (Chuckles).

I guess we could if we had to. Well, Father told us, we thought we had to. He told us no, he says, "If you get stuck in a snowdrift just set still and leave the horses alone. There'll be a plow and get through and you stay in the sleigh and leave 'em alone. They'll get through," and they did. But we ^{thought} we had to get out and help, that it was too heavy for 'em. Yessir, Father took his grain to Palouse to get it ground for flour. And then he raised beans on his ^{summer fallow}. Enough to buy his sugar and coffee. Oh yes, he'd have two or three acres of beans in. And we'd have to hire help from Viola, ^{some of them} ^{come} down from Viola and help hoe the beans out and help pull 'em and thrash 'em out. *I tell you, we worked all,* and if you couldn't thrash 'em out then they'd put 'em in the barn and then they'd thrash 'em in the wintertime when they had more time, y'know, on the barn floor. They took a big canvas down and then they'd beat 'em out with flails, y'know. You took a stick, if you know what a flail is, well they took a stick and then they took a shorter one, y'see. And then they'd put a leather here on this one and up over this one. Well you ^{take} this it'd fly back, ^{see then} and when you hit it that way, why this snick on top would go down under the beans, and that's what they called a flail. It was shorter than this one. And you hit that, you hit it hard.

L S: Did you do that?

A C: I didn't, the men folks did. Yeah, that's the way. They wouldn't do that nowadays, would they?

L S: Well, that's a pretty hard way to get your beans.

A C: Well, they had to work hard, oh yes. And they used to have headers in that country. They'd had the wheat up with headers and stack it and they'd . . .

L S: Was that pretty early that they had headers?

A C: Yes. Header^{bed} was high on one side, low on the other cause the shoe from the header would have to come up into this bed. And you see the grain had drapers that^{would} keep it rolling around like this. Well, this grain would get on these drapers and then they'd go and fall over in the header bed, see. And then this was low, and then it was^{built just} like this, you know, come down like this. And then this high would hold the grain in and this would let the chute go up in here and there'd be somebody there to keep it back and they'd have to load it. Then Father got a binder and bound the grain. And then they could get it taken care of quicker. In 1903, they had the wet place.^{wasn't it,}

L S: No, that was '93. It was 1893 that it rained. . .

A C: It rained and spoiled their crops. But Father got his safe because he had a binder and he had it all^{bound} and his thrashing all done. So he saved his crop that year. But most of the people just loat their grain, it rained so much on thim. That was 1893, yes.

L S: Were most other people using headers then?

A C: Yes, um hum. Nearly all of em did. I don't know how Father happened to get his binder but he did. He got it somway. He saved his grain 'cause he could cut it on the green side and then they'd shock it up in shocks, you know, it'd mature, y'see. Then they could go by and pick it up and put it through the machine, thrash it. With a header you had to let it set quite a little while before you could thrash it after you got it cut. It had to be just as ripe as

could be before they could cut it too. ^{This way} it would shatter out, and it did shatter, a lot of it did.

L S: You were lucky then.

A C: Oh, yes. We were lucky. Father sold a lot of his grain for seed wheat that next spring, yeah. ^{We} got groceries and stuff from the coast over around Seattle and around. They sent groceries and stuff. And I don't know, they traded that old wet wheat for something. I don't know, maybe pig feed or ^{ch} chicken feed or something. But over on the coast they took it and let the people have groceries, y'know.

L S: Did many people have to leave or sell their land because of that harvest?

A C: No, I can't remember ^{of} anybody leaving. No, they made it through. That's the only time it was so wet. Yeah, we raised real good ^{gardens} down there, it rained quite often. Raised good ^{gardens}, didn't have to irrigate anything.

L S: Can you tell me about the ^{way} you used to can in the oldest way that you can remember?

A C: Yeah, I remember the first peaches ^{Mother canned, she} had a half a gallon cans.

L S: Tin can?

A C: Um hum, ^{they're} tin. They weren't high can, they weren't flat, but you know, half gallon. If I can make you understand, they'd come up and then this lid would come over the top like this. And there'd be a little crease around here, air holes, and then this lid from the inside would come out over the top. And Mother would put red sealing wax all in this crease, clear around that can, all over that and make it airtight. That's what they had then.

L S: Would they boil it then after they'd do that?

A C: Oh, no, Mother always cooked her peaches first.

L S: You'd cook them and you'd put 'em in the tin and then you'd just seal it.

A C: Real hot, take 'em right out and seal 'em real hot, with sealing wax.

Then, *you see*, would go all over that and then you'd cool it, and it'd seal, yep. In tin cans, I don't know, now they don't use tin. Another thing, I don't think she ever canned any garden stuff, we put it in the cellar. They'd put cabbage--my father used to make kind of a frame out in the garden. He'd put up a piece *across* like this and then here it'd be long, it be, according to how long you wanted it. And then he'd tie two heads together, y'see, he'd dig a trench about a half a foot deep, six inches deep, put some straw in there and then he'd tie these cabbage roots together and *let* the heads lay down in the straw. And then he'd put more straw over the heads until he got that whole thing full. And then he'd put dirt over that, cover 'em over so they wouldn't freeze. And then we'd have cabbage all winter, that way.

L S: Did he put a lot of dirt on top?

A C: Yeh, he had to or it would freeze if you didn't. It got awful cold then.

Well, he covered it with the straw so the dirt wouldn't get next to the cabbage, y'know. He'd *put quite a little bit and then he'd throw dirt.* He'd throw it all over. And then he'd *have to go in one end* and get the cabbage out. And they used to *bury* their potatoes. They'd be down, maybe a couple feet down in. And then they'd put the potatoes in pits, you know. And then he'd put straw--he'd pile 'em up and they'd come up like this, y'see. And then he'd put straw all over them, maybe a foot and a half, two feet deep and then *throw* dirt on top of that, quite a lot of dirt. And they'd keep all winter. Oh that was a job gettin them out of there. Oh, I hated that worse than anything in the world, gettin them potatoes out. *of those pits* I hated to see Father *go and open one* and say, Now *when that dries* I want you kids to put those potatoes all in bags." And we had to.

L S: What was so bad about doing that?

A C: Oh, just didn't want to do it; it wasn't bad, we just didn't want to do it.

I'll tell you, you know, you'd ^{Keep it} from the bottom up even, you know, and it wouldn't be so bad. (End of side A)

I'd have mine all clean so I could pick 'em up from here, y'know. And they'd shove that old st~~raw~~ here and I'd have to get back and pick 'em up. You know what boys are like. I thought they was the meanest two boys there ever was in the world. (Chuckles). And they'd rastle and scuffle, ~~play~~. And I was getting mine done, and I had so many to pick up. And I'd get mine done and they'd say, "Well, if you help me, I'll pay ya. I'll give you ten cents." I knew they wouldn't. They never had ten cents. And I knew they wouldn't, but yet I'd help 'em. That was the way I was. It wouldn't hurt me to help 'em pick up a few potatoes. They wouldn't help me though. Oooh, they were ornery, regular little beasts. (Chuckles). Yep. Awful cold in the wintertime there though. Father used to wrap up. And we didn't have anything much to wrap up in so he'd take gunny sacks, cut 'em in pieces and then start in--he had kind of a heavy boots on. And he'd start in just around his feet and he'd wrap clear up to his hip because he was in that snow, cuttin wood, y'see and bringin' that long wood out of the timber for wood. And he'd come back just seakin wet when they were done. ^{Just} ~~Really~~ wet from that snow. And then I remember, he had a place up in the house, he'd hang them old sacks up to ^{let 'em} dry in the night and then put em on the next morning. Go get another load of wood. But they didn't think too much about it. They had to do it and they didn't know any better, and it was all right. We wouldn't do it now, would we? Now that we know better. Nobody even burns wood now.

L S: Where would he cut the wood? Would he have to go far to cut it?

A C: No, not then. Not those days, they'd just go in back of Viola there about maybe a mile and a half ^{or} two miles. There was lots of timber there then in those days. There wouldn't be now because so many people, farms and houses, people livin' back ⁱⁿ there, you know, there's no timber. Not like it used to be then. I know they used to have to go over the summit to get to the ⁱⁿ wood before ^{the way in the creek bed,} they'd have to take their team and go back over Flannigan Crick and up in there to get their wood. Because people have settled up so far back in, back of Viola there, y'know, and they have homes in there. And they wouldn't let 'em have the wood. Some of 'em might let 'em cut a load now and then. But at first there was lots of wood there. They still. . .

L S: Did you father cut any wood for groceries or anything like that?

A C: No, no he just cut it for our own use. No, he didn't. He raised beans and garden stuff, you know, like that. It didn't take many groceries, y'see, we had eggs and ^{raised} a good garden. And then Mother canned the fruit but they didn't can beans or peas nor nothin' like that in those days. They just didn't use 'em. And we had all kinds of carrots ^{and} cabbage and potatoes. And they raised lots of dry beans, y'know, ~~garden had~~ lots of dry beans.

L S: Did they have a lot of different kinds of dry beans too?

A C: Oh yeah. They'd have the white navy and then they'd have the little red can't beans and the white navy beans. And they'd raise 'em and they were good. They had all kinds of beans. Oh Father had 'em buy the hundreds of sacks of 'em settin' ^{out} there. You know, so many in the field there. He'd get four, five and six cents a pound for 'em. Well, that amounted to quite a bit, you know. But no, we didn't have canned vegetables. We had canned fruit--peaches and pears. We had lots of apples after he got to raisin' apples But they didn't think that they could raise apples till this farmer raised some. The reason

I remember that so well, I had a calf that I claimed. Father said he wanted to buy it. So I told him, all right, he could have it for a dollar. That was big money. Then Mother took my dollar and bought apples for the harvest hands so I didn't have no dollar. (Chuckles). That's the reason I remember one farmer raisin' apples. But she took my dollar and bought apples. People thought they couldn't raise 'em, you know. *They never put 'em out. They said it we could do it.*

No, it'd be too cold.

And we raised the nicest apples. Then everybody raised ~~to~~ many, apples every place. Oh, you could raise all kinds of fruit then. Better than you can now with no bugs or things like there is now. Oh, Father, he used to have nice pears and cherries, apricots, peaches, raspberries, gooseberries, currants—three different kinds of currants, the black and the red and the white.

And raspberries and oh, I don't know, anything you wanted like that. But they did can them. And made jam and. . .

L S: The peaches didn't get frosted out?

A C: Oh no, oh no. The peaches'd be all right. They'd be all right now if it wasn't for the diseases gets in the trees—curl leaf and like that, you know. And so many bugs and stuff, just don't pay to try to raise peaches. It's just ~~to~~ hard. But apples, it's quite a job to raise even apples ^{now}. You have to spray the tree soon as it's dormant, and then you have to spray 'em before they bloom and after they bloom. It just don't pay to bother with 'em.

L S: You never used to have to spray?

A C: No, we never had anything to bother.

L S: Did you ever have insects attack you gardens at all?

A C: No, not in the early days, no. I don't know if they do yet or not, down there, do they?

L S: Oh, they have some troubles, yep.

A C: Do they?

L S: Oh yeah.

A C: Well, we didn't have no trouble this summer with them things botherin' our garden. No potato bugs, none. When Father was raisin' a garden there all he had to do was just hoe it, ^{we had} to keep the dirt lose around the plants, y'know. And he had good gardens--everything. We'd have turnips, rutabagas. Had that old cellar just full of stuff when the winter come. And they'd kill their own hogs and four, five and six hogs got through the year. But they. . .

LS : Would they smoke that ^{themselves?}

A C: Yes, oh yes. Yes, they'd smoke it. I don't know how we used to use so much grease. I've seen Mother have four or five gallon cans of lard and you know, by that next fall that'd all be gone, quite a lot of lard. I don't know, they used so much grease. Now we don't use that. I don't know how we did use so much. Of course when you had men to cook for you had to lots of pies and doughnuts ~~ad~~ stuff like that.

L S: The had a lot of kids too.

A C: Yes, nine of us.

L S: That helps the grease go.

A C: (Chuckles). Yes, nine of us. We weren't all there at home at once though, when the youngest one, when Merle was a baby, you know Merle, don't ya?

L S: Um hum.

A C: When he was a baby, why Willie and I were gone, we were married and gone, y'see. We weren't all home at once. But Ace, he got married. I was married three or four years before he was. He just didn't care to get married.

LS: What is that story again about Viola being called "Dogwalk?"

A C: Well, yeah, they used ^{to} ~~to~~ don't know, we didn't have any walks or anything, they laid planks down. And the dogs of course would always walk on the planks instead of the mud. So they called it "Dogwalk." (Chuckles). 'Cause the dogs walked on the planks like the people did, they called it "Dogwalk." And then it got changed to Viola. Now there wasn't much to it, I'll tell you, in them days.

L S: Was that ^{Bowles} ~~store~~ store much?

A C: We didn't buy much there, no. No the people in the timber would cut wood and bring out there, trade wood for groceries to Bowles'. See they got their mail there and they'd bring out a load of wood and get their groceries and bring their groceries back with them. I don't know if they'd get very much for their wood or not, but that's the way they lived. They didn't live very good. And they couldn't raise a very good garden in the timber, you know, too much turpentine ^{and} stuff in the soil in the timber, under the trees. They couldn't raise too much garden ^{there}. I don't know how the people up in the timber did live. My father used to sell hay, he'd never get nothin' for it. They'd come out here, them poor old horses, just skin and bones, y'know. He said, "Oh," *he didn't care*, they need it, they gotta live some way. They got to get a long some way. They'd come down and Father'd load em up with a load of hay, He said, "I'll never see nothin for that hay. I know I won't. But maybe it'll help 'em out some."

L S: Your place didn't have that much timber on it then?

A C: No timber.

L S: None, okay.

A C: I don't think there's any timber west of Viola, no, not that uh huh.

L S: Well, there isn't now hardly.

A C: No, there wasn't any then. No, just about like it is ^{now}.

V : Great big hills.

L S: Would you go into Moscow or Palouse very much?

A C: Oh, yes, the folks went.ⁿ I think we'd average pretty near once a week. ^{maybe}

We got out mail from Palouse and we'd get it twice a week. They'd put the mailboxes over on the- so we'd come from school. And we'd get the paper twice a week. I don't remember, I don't think we got the mail but twice a week either then. Then it got so you could get your mail every day, put the mailboxes up. When we'd go to school, you know, they'd put the mailboxes, and have the mail carrier come out from Palouse and we'd get our mail every day then. And we'd get the paper, Spokesman-Review, I think it was twice a week. Then it got so later though, Father got the daily paper. And then Saturdays they'd get on a pony and go over to the mailbox, it was a mile from home. I'd get the mail, I'd get the paper. My father had to have his paper at night.

L S: Would he read it out loud to the kids at all?

A C: If there was somethin' he wanted us to hear he would. But ^{if you were interested} you'd read

it to yourself. (Chuckles). He'd go on laughing, then he'd get up to the table with that old lamp in front of him and he'd put his paper out there and read. And you can see him yet, can't you Velma? With his paper up there, readin' his paper or His Bible. He'd have his Bible out in front of him lots of times there. I never heard my father swear, never. He used to say Gosh Maria. That was his bad word. (Chuckles). That was the baddest word he could say. And then Mr. George Hill, he's our neighbor, all he could say was daggone. "Daggonit", he'd say. That's all he said. Yes, we used to have some good old times down there. But when we got older, we had church in the

Four mile school. And we'd go up to church at eleven o'clock, Sunday school at ten, church at eleven, and then maybe ^{have} Christian Endeavor at five for the young people. That'd be the young people's meeting. Then we'd have church again at ~~six~~ . Same way in Viola they did too. They had church at *Four mile* and Viola both.

L S: What was the Christian Endeavor?

A C: Well, it was just a young people's meeting. You know, they'd get up, the young people instead of ~~the~~ minister, the young people took over. And they'd get up and talk about different topics.

L S: Would just young people be there or would there be. . . ?

A C: Well, one or two, but mostly young people, just the young people. And they'd read the Scripture and then they'd talk about it, y'know. We'd have somebody there, nearly always, to explain it to us. They'd be an older person, y'know. And they'd explain this to us. That's what Endeavors were. We'd have that for an hour and then we'd have a church. Yes, we had one man, Emmett ^{Godow} , he was a minister, and boy was he a good one. That old church would just be packed. And mud, oh we had to go through the mud to get there. There was twenty-five of us baptised in that *Four mile* creek one Sunday. They had to cut the ice, a thick ice off and put it out of the way so they could baptise us. And that minister stood in the water and baptised twenty-five of us. My mother had a quilt and when I was baptised she had a quilt she put around me, we had to drive quite a little ways in the hack to get to a neighbor's place where they could let us come in and change our clothes before we could go home. It never hurt us. We never got cold. Oh, we got cold, yeah, but I mean we never got no colds or anything. That water was icy cold. But that poor old preacher, he stood there and ^{he} baptised all of us. He wasn't a very big man either. Some of them boys he baptised was bigger than he was, taller.

But he put 'em under, which was cold. And then later on he baptised a lot more, and the water was better then. Charlie Hill was baptised^{and} none of my brothers. I guess both of my brothers was baptised then. A whole lot of people; they'd come from all around. We had a good church there then.

L S: Was this still at the Viola schoolhouse or was this at the . . . ?

A C: That was Four Mile School.

L : I mean the Four Mile?

A C: Um hum, Four Mile School, uh huh.

L S: Was he a really strongly religious man that he . . . ?

A C: Oh yes, he was. He didn't have anything, just him and his wife. Well, the farmers kept him in vegetables. And they'd give him a little money on Sunday , you know, take up a collection. And then a lot of 'em'd give him meat, you know, everybody had their own meat. And they'd give this minister, with just him and ^{his} wife it wouldn't take much. And they'd give him a little collection on Sunday and he got along pretty good. I remember Mother ~~take~~^{take}--he lived in Palouse City--I know Mother and Mrs. Poe, that's a neighbor, they took a hack, we had a light wagon, we called it a hack, and they took him a whole hack full of vegetables and so on. And they put 'em in their cellar for the winter. So they got along pretty good.

L S: Did he do other things besides preach on Sunday? Would he go around and help people out during the week?

A C: Yes, if they need it. Yeah, he'd do odd jobs, oh yes. He wasn't a very well man. He was kind of sickly like. And he wasn't too young a man either. Oh, he must have been up in his fifties. He was a good man. Oh yes, he'd go and anything he could so in the spring of the year or anytime, he'd go and help if he could. But living in town that way, it was ^{just} about ten miles from Palouse to our place, just with a team, y'know. We didn't have any way to get

out there. And when he was preachin' he stayed around with the members, just stayed out there with the people in the wintertime, you know, when everybody could come. Oh, they was comin' from Kamiak and all around up there. That old schoolhouse'd just be full of 'em, but he got by doin' this.

L S: Did you go to parties and did you have. . . ?

A C: Oh yes, oh yes, we had parties, us young folks. We'd all have parties. Have something to eat, y'know. We didn't dance much. But we'd have, oh I don't know, we played games and different things like that. And then later on they got so they'd go to dances, but Father would never allow us to dance, no. I'll tell you, it got so rough and drinkin' so much around there that Father said, "No, you can't go to dances. It's not fit." So we didn't. I never learned to dance. He wouldn't let the boys go either. And he wouldn't have the boys play cards either. They never did care to play. I don't know, I guess they got so old and didn't know how or what. I don't know, but Father wouldn't stand for it so we had to do the best we could. We never thought anything about it though. ^{Have} birthday parties.

L S: How did they celebrate birthday parties? Would they make a cake for someone?

A C: Oh yes, oh yes. They'd have cake and then we'd make our own homemade ice cream. We'd all have to turn that old freezer, y'know. I don't know if you've ever seen one of them.

L S: Yep.

A C: Home freezers, where you have to freeze it. Well, we'd all have to turn that till it got so hard you couldn't turn it anymore and then it was done. That was good ice cream though. We used to put the real cream in it and eggs and fix it up real good and rich.

L S: Did you have ice boxes, ice houses?

A C: No. ^{though,} We didn't in Canada. we had ice in an underground cellar. And then we put straw over top and that way it was covered, oh it'd be covered that

deep with dirt, y'see, we'd have a frame, logs like to hold that up. And that'd all be covered and we'd keep that there nearly all summer. But I don't know why they didn't put ice up down there, but they didn't. They'd have to go to town and get their ice to make their ice cream. Well, up there in Canada, when we was up there, ^{we} was up in July, we'd have a pulley, they pulled the water out of the well with a pulley, you know, the ~~rope~~ on the end and then the wheel?

L S: Yeah.

A C: Go over this little wheel and pull it up this way. Well, ^{we had it bored} our well was real deep, but you could go there in July, let your bucket down and you'd take somethin' and knock the ice off the side of the well, ^{fill} your bucket and then you could make your ice tea. That was in July ^{up there} ~~June~~ and July is when their water pipes freeze up. Y'see it'd be nice and warm on top but the frost went down, y'see. It'd go down and freeze their pipes and it'd be warm on top and you wouldn't hardly believe it. But you see it'd gone down. And they put their pipes down ten feet deep. Oh, yes that ground freezes up there. You couldn't get a bit of that ground up in the wintertime. Not even with a pick, you'd have to pick it like a rock, just solid. But ^{they did} I'll tell you what anybody died, they'd have to put 'em in the cemetery in a little house there till spring to bury 'em. They couldn't dig a grave. One time Velma had ^{the flu} there and that little house was just full of people, just stacked up. They never got to bury 'em until the next spring. Of course it had deep, wide walls to keep it cool in there, y'know, for the bodies. And they wouldn't dig it till the ground thawed out next spring. No, that's terrible. When a body dies and you have to stick 'em in an old house froze up till spring. (Chuckles). I couldn't hardly stand that thought of that. But didn't any of us die.

L S: That's good.

A C: That was awful.

L A: Did they have literaries in the time that you were pretty young?

A C: Oh yes. We had a literary every Friday night. We'd have a program and then after we'd have something to eat and then they'd have a debate on something--men folks would debate.

L S: Was it men mainly that did that?

A C: Well, the kids ^{could} too, the older ones, the high school kids. They'd debate on different things. Now one time they had: "Which is the most useful? The dish rag or the kitchen door?" (Chuckles). I don't remember which side won.

L S: What kind of use would the kitchen door be?

A C: Oh, you'd have to go out and in, y'know.

L S: Oh.

A C: I guess you could get along without a dishrag but you couldn't get along without the kitchen door. Anything for fun, you know. Just some little fool topic like that, argue it. But it got so that one old man there, he would get mad. Oh he'd get mad. And he kinda spoiled the literaries when he'd get up there and talk. He'd get mad because they couldn't see everything like he did. He wanted to get some topic ⁱⁿ like, oh like in politics or something like that. Well, that's no good. Nobody see ^s politics alike and that'd kinda spoil it.

L S: People tried to stay away from issues that ^{people} might get. . .

A C: Yes, they'd get so they didn't. . .

L S: Controversial issues.

A C: He'd get mad and pound the desk, he'd just come down on that old desk

No, I don't think it was any good to. . .

It was for fun, y'know, have a good time.

L S: Um hum.

A C: I remember Charlie, my brother, the one that's down there in the home now, ~~they~~ sang "Casey Jones" in Viola one night and boy, they like to've tore the house down that night. You've heard Casey Jones?

L S: Oh yeah.

A C: The first time they ever heard that. And he had to sing it twice. Yes, they used to have good times.

L S: Did they have a newspaper too that they read out of? I've heard some of those literary things they'd put together a little sheet of paper about what was going on.

A C: No, they'd make up their own paper about things that happened around, but they didn't mention no names.

L S: Oh, oh.

A C: I know my sister, she was so mad, there was one man there and he had a load of logs. And it was the breaking up ^{of} spring and on the bridge was bare and you know them horses couldn't hardly pull that across that bridge. And school was out and Maureen saw him. And he was a-whippin them horses, just a-beatin them because they couldn't pull that. You know that wood and the sleigh runners would stick. So she put it in. . . And she did mention his name too, she was mad. She says, "He wants a team that don't neither eat nor drink and can pull a load on the bare ground or ^{pull it} on a bridge without any snow." And he was mad, he said he didn't think about Reen puttin' it in there. And he said, "I can whip whoever put that in there, and I can whip 'em good!" That's what he said. She said, "Jim Keeney wants a team but they don't eat nor drink and they can pull a load on the bare ground or on a bare bridge." She was so mad because he was beatin' them horses. Yes, they'd make up a lot of funny things ^{y'know} about somebody, putting in there just for fun. They didn't mention no names ^{much} though. But Reen did that time. She was mad at him, she didn't care.

My father said, "You shouldn't have mentioned his name. She says "I don't care, It will too because I want everybody to know what kind of a man he is, beatin the horses to death." And I was just like her, we had a man come up from Colfax up to speak at a picnic. We used to have lots of picnics too. And this fellah, Father went and got him and he stayed at our place that night. And he, laughin' about it, he said, "We rented a little pony, my wife and I, and we run that pony till it fell over dead." And I said, "I don't think that was very smart." My Father says, "Hey hey." I says, "I don't either." You know, I never did like that man after that. He says, "We just run that pony till it fell over dead." Now wasn't that mean? And I told him I didn't think it was very smart. And Father, "Hey, hey," he says. (Chuckles). I didn't care, I didn't like him. And then in the morning Mother, she'd got chicken ready to go and we was a-walkin around there and I said, "Don't ever let him reach over and take a piece of chicken out!" If I'd a known that I'd a hit him over the fingers as he was cuttin' 'em up. I'd a hit him over the fingers with a butcher knife because he just, I don't know. He was all right I guess I just took a dislike to him because he run that pony to death. Anybody that'd do that wasn't no good. He thought it was smart.

L S: What you say makes me remember some about what you said last time about Wes Palmer and his horses.

A C Oh yes, he used to have what they call a stone boats, They'd take some pieces and put 'em together and nail some heavy timbers, and then they'd nail upon it and then they'd put the tongue in 'em, y'know, they'd call 'em stone boats, they're all stone on, y'know, you put stone, haul rocks on. Well, he'd get two wild horses, never been hitched up and he'd put the harness on them and then he'd get on that thing and turn 'em loose. No fences, no

nothing. And he'd let em. . .

(End of Side B)

A C: Yeah, when he got back home they were broke. And then he'd put 'em in the harness and use 'em on the farm. When he got 'em back from that trip they was broken, ready to go to work. And if they died he said he didn't care, h/s harness ^{would} _{fit} more. He was really a good man but he didn't care what they thought or what they said, it was all right with him. (Chuckles). Yeah, he was a good man; he was just odd.

L S: Yeah, he sounds a little different than most men.

A C: I could tell you more but I don't think I better.

L S: Well, he was justice of the peace right? For a while there?

A C: Oh yes, he was justice of the peace for a long time. He married my uncle and my aunt; they run off from home. My uncle was eighteen and the girl he married wasn't quite sixteen and they run off and got married. He married 'em.

L S: He wasn't supposed to, was he?

A C: Yes, oh yes.

L S: A girl didn't need permission from her parents?

A C: No, she didn't need no permission. (Chuckles). ^{They wouldn't have allowed it.} They were supposed to go to the dance and instead of going to the dance, well, they did go to the dance, but they went and got married first. That was Charlie's mother's sister. But they got along all right. They had kids and they all grew up together. The parents and the kids all grew up together. (Chuckles). Yeah, at the time I remember, Uncle Johnny got into trouble some way, and he come up to Father's Sunday morning. And Mother had a woman workin' for her, and this fellah was

comin to see this girl, and he had a team from the live y stable. And they was just a steppin' and John seen him a-comin, he thought that was the sheriff. He jumped on a horse and he rode for the line over toward the other side of the fence. And Father said, "Now, if it's all right I'll wave my hat." And Father waved his hat and the more Father waved the hat the harder he'd run from **far AWAY**. (Chuckles). Harder he'd go. Father said he couldn't make Uncle John understand at all, he'd just leave that on there ready to go, that old fellah. He was in Idaho, you see, ^{they} couldn't get ahold of him in Idaho. This was the sheriff from Washington.

L S: What was he afraid of them getting him for?

A C: Well, he did something he shouldn't have. I don't know what it was now. Some little thing. I don't think it amounted to nothin', ^{but} **They scared him good.** he was scared. I don't know if he took some ^{little} thing or somethin' happened, I don't know.

L S: Was Wes Palmer supposed to enforce the law in Viola or did he try cases, did they have acourt?

A C: I think he did, justice of the peace, I think he did, um hum. Oh, he was law abiding, a good citizen. But he was just a rough character in the. . . He was a good man though, everybody liked. But they'd all go to Wes Palmer, he'd help you out. Go and see old Wes. (Chuckles).

L S: Did he have a whole lot of horses and cattle there?

A C: No, he had some, ^{but} not too many, no. ^{Mostly} farms and he had his orchard and he had lots of pigs, had some cattle.

L S: Did he have many children?

A C: Yes, I think he had five. One was Sidney Palmer. I think he was about eighteen and working in the logs and a log rolled over him and killed him. ~~His~~ only **boy**, Sidney Palmer. I'd forgot about that ^{one}, but it was in my mind then. It killed the only boy he had. He was about eighteen, nineteen or so.

L S: Did he take that hard?

A C: Yes, he did, yes. He had that Mrs. *Bricky (?)* when
Jim was born .

V : He was her father wasn't he? *She was a rough customer. Good natured,
but rough.*

A C: Yes. And then he had Sarah and *Visty (?)*. Maybe it was only four children
he had. Four or five, um hum. And *Elmer*, his brother, he had three. His brother
didn't do much, he was kinda quiet. Lived back on the farm and he didn't have
to do. But Wes he was out and a goin' all the time.

L S: Did you ever know Asher Palmer? Wes Palmer's father?

A C: Yes, I've seen him, um hum. Mother used to say, "I don't know, that old lady
Palmer, that poor old man, he's up in his nineties." And she'd say, "Asher, you
must go out now and hoe in that garden. Them weeds is just about to take the
garden, you'll have to go out and hoe." Mother thought that was terrible.

That's the reason I remember his name was Asher. *(Chuckles)*. Mother said, "He'd
have to go out and hoe in the garden" and *I thought* how mean that was. Make that old
man get out there.

L S: Did his wife tell him to do that?

A C: Yes, she wouldn't do it. She wouldn't go but she'd make him go. Make an old
man like him go out and hoe in the garden. Gosh, he might fall down. . .

V : garden wouldn't they?

A C: He'd do like he did last summer. Go out there and fall down in the
corn. *(Chuckles)*. He got out here the other day and he fell down. He couldn't
get up a step in the back. And he hollered and he hollered, Velma and I didn't
hear him, neither one of us. The door was open too. He finally made it in the
house. He said, "Didn't you folks hear me callin'?" And I said, "No, I couldn't
hear you at all." He says "Well, I liked to've never gotten in the house."

I said, "Well, that's too bad, you should have stayed out there."

V : I don't think he said a word because we didn't have the television on, we were just sitting here like we are now and the door was open. I don't think he did.

A C: And there isn't ~~any~~ thing wrong with him. And old lady here, up here in the home she's a hundred and five and she got her first permanent. (Chuckles). And she can hear, she don't wear glasses, she can see good. Only when she reads she wears glasses. She don't get around very good. She can hear and her mind is as clear as a bell. No, she's a hundred and five.

L S: Sounds good. Where did you meet your husband?

A C: Oh, we grew up together. We went to school together. Oh I don't know, he was around ever since I can remember. Yeah, we went to school together.

L S: Did you court for a long time or is he the main boy that you went out with anywhere?

A C: No, I went with others. I got mad at him 'cause he wouldn't do it and I went with somebody else. (Chuckles).

L S: What did you get mad with him about? Was it just some little thing?

A C: No, he went and took another girl to a party and I wanted to go and he left me at home. Took out another girl and that made me mad. I told him to keep on going with her. That's all he did too, all winter. And I wouldn't go with him. All winter. (Chuckles). Would you, when they leave you at home when they know you wanted to go and go get somebody else? Wouldn't that make you mad?

L S: Yeah.

A C: (Chuckles). Oh well, I guess everybody has their trouble some way or another, don't they?

L S: How old were you when you got married?

A C: Twenty, I was twenty. Twenty-two when Velma was born.

L S: When you ^{got} married, where did you move to?

A C: Oh, well, this is back of west farmers too, there was a man had some grain there and his boy died. And he couldn't handle all this grain after his boy died. This was ⁱⁿ back of west farmers. So we had to go back, we bought this out. And we weren't going to get married until ^{that fall} .. And then when we got this wheat, my brother and we bought the wheat together, then we got married and moved up there in that house, and stayed there that summer. Then we rented a place ^a toward Moscow and we stayed over there for a year. And then what did we do? Oh, we'd come back to Viola and started work haulin' that timber for the railroad that went through from Spokane, that electric. . .

L S: Oh inland, yeah.. And him and my brother hauled out the timbers for that trestle. It was there, it isn't there any more. That trestle was there. ~~They hauled out those big timbers for that.~~
 And oh Charlie worked on the railroad quite a lot. He had a big ^{camp} there, y'know at Viola there in back of Grey's. I think that they lived there. It seemed like ^{that} they lived there, the head men lived in Miller's house. That's where John Miller lived. And one of the boys' wives died while he was there, with T. B. And he was workin' on the railroad, puttin' that railroad through there then.

L S: They started workin' on that railroad then a long time before they got it finished.

A C: Oh yes, um hum. That used to be nice. I wonder why they ever quit usin' it. I don't know why they took the trestle out. Maybe it got so it wasn't safe or somethin'. I don't know. It was handy. In the wintertime, you know, we'd just walk up there to this little depot they had there and go to Moscow and back, and come back home. There was no place to put a horse or anything. We could walk from my father's house up there though a little bit. But it

was handy and nice to have the railroad through there. And then they'd ship wheat and stuff, you know. They used to have the big elevators there.

That was handy; I don't know why they quit using it. Maybe it wore out.

L S: When you got married did people give you things to ^{help} set you up?

A C: No, they never give us nothin'. We never had anything, only what we. . . We didn't have anything hardly.

V : No showers or anything like that.

A C: But I'll tell you, we had twenty-five dollars. And I'll tell you what we did, we bought a cookstove, wood stove, y'know, to burn wood in, a good little stove, a good sized stove. It didn't have any warmer on it, but it was just a stove. It had a little tank on the back to put water in and then it had a hearth. And then we bought kind of a davenport and four chairs for twenty-five dollars. Of course the davenport had been used.

L S: The stove was new?

A C: Yeah, it was new and the chairs were new. One rocking chair, and for twenty-five dollars. I sold the stove for ten dollars when I sold it. It was a good stove yet. I don't know why I sold it, but I did. Oh, I know, Mother had a Home Comfort and she decided it wasn't big enough so she told me I could have it, the Home Comfort. So I took her stove and I had mine to sell. And she *bought* a bigger one. Yes, that seems like a long time ago though.

L S: It was (Chuckles).

A C: Pretty near a century. (Chuckles).

L S: Did the Comber's hotel burn down?

A C: Yes, the hotel burned.

L S: How did that happen, do you know?

A C: I can't remember how. Someone lightin' a cigarette in a bed or something.

L S: Oh yeah. We used to stay there. Did many people stay there over night?

A C: Yes, there were people stayed there. They were nice people and they had a little store in there, notions, you know, in the ⁱ hotel. A lot of candy hearts and oh, little notions like that: candy and gum and like young people want.

But Bowles had the groceries and everything ^{right} across the street. Well, that hotel burned. It was a nice little hotel too, wasn't very big, but it was big enough for there.

L S: Oh, it was three stories or something.

A C: Yeah, it was three stories, two or three stories, yeah.

L S: Were there tent meetings in Viola then?

A C: Oh yes, I'll *say* there was. The Methodists used to hold camp meetings there, the big tents. And boy would they shout. And then some of them old ladies, y'know, would get religion and would they shout. They were nice old people. And they'd hold that thing maybe two, three weeks at a time. And they'd camp ^{around} there and have good meetings. Have meetings at night and then ^{they'd} have meetings in the afternoon for those people that were camped there, y'know. But the farmers, I *know* we used to go at night quite a lot. Not every night, we couldn't but we would go. And they had lots of nice meetings, nice singin'!

L S: Is that different from the Faith people? Do you remember when they came in?

A C: No, I don't know about them. No, these were Methodists. They were true old Christian anyway. Yes, they used to have good meetings there. And I used to like to go and hear 'em. I thought it was funny to sit under a tent in camp ^{meetings.}

L S: How come they didn't meet in church?

A C: There wasn't one. It wasn't big enough. It wasn't no church, it was a schoolhouse. The schoolhouse wasn't very big.

L S: This was really early then.

A C: I went up to the schoolhouse one time- they used to have church dinners in the schoolhouse. I remember us kids were outside and the women after dinner they'd put the things away and they was sitting there talkin' in the schoolhouse. And I'd come in and I'd seen ^{that} woman sittin' there and I looked at her. And I said, "Mather, who's that old squaw sittin' over there?" "Shh," my mother said, "Come here. You set down there and be still." And I said, "Who's that old squaw, I want to know." She said, "Set down and be still. That's Mr. ^{Poe's} sister, sit down and behave yourself! Shut up." (Chuckles). No, I had to find out who she was. She looked like an Indian and I hated an Indian. See, they used to have Indians, when the folks come up there they had an Indian scare. They even had a fort built. They were afraid of the Indians and they had this fort where they could go get in there if the Indians ever did come but they was afraid they might. And they could all go to this fort. I was taught to be afraid of Indians. I wanted to know what she was doing there. I wasn't going to stay there if she were.

L S: Did you see Indians very much?

A C: Yeah, they was peaceful though up there. They didn't bother anybody. They used to go. . . I think they went to Nespelem up here over in there by Grangeville and around, wasn't there and Indian reservation or used to be somethin'?

U S: Um hum.

A C: Well, they'd go from Nespelem over to that reservation and back, You could see em goin along the road, y'know how they string out, ^{one behind the other} and dogs ^{then} And they'd have a wagon and all the women was sittin' flat down in it. I used to be afraid to walk to Viola. Afraid I'd see an Indian ^{on the way.} (Chuckles). If I'd a seen one I think I'd a hid in the corner of the fence. They had a fence that

and this way.
 went this way. And I said, "Mother, if I see an Indian comin I'm goin to
 hide." "Yes," she said, "if you do they'll get ya." So then I stayed behind
 because I figured they get (Chuckles.) She said, "You just go right
 on by and don't you look at 'em. You just walk right by and they won't bother
 you." And they didn't. Well, I don't suppose I even seen any, if I had of,
 I guess I'd of died right then. (Chuckles.) We found some mail one time,
 somebody'd lost it off of their wagon. And we went and hid it in the corner
 of the fence ^{where} nobody could find it. So we come home and we said, "We found
 some mail, we hid it." Mother said, "What did you do with it?" "We hid it."
 She says, "You get that and you take it back to the post office right away,
 in the morning when you go to school. That's somebody's mail and they
 want it. Were they letters?" "Oh, they was letters. We hid 'em." (Chuckles).

We was lookin' after that mail. We hid 'em in the corner ^{of the} fence.

She said, "You take them back to the post office." So we had to get 'em and
 get 'em back to the post office. Isn't it funny how a kid would want to do
 that?

L S: Yeah, be real helpful. (Chuckles).

V : They protected 'em,

A C: We couldn't read, we didn't know whose they was. We couldn't read, but
 we'd hide 'em in the fence.

L S: What made you and your husband decide to go to Canada?

A C: Well, there wasn't no places down here. Everything'd been taken down here.
 And my brother went up to Canada and he found this land and you could take
 it to homestead. And ^{he} thought it'd be nice for us to go up there. And
 then you could buy Hudson Bay land for I think it was a dollar and eighty
 cents an acre. You had to pay for that. So we took the homestead--a hundred

and sixty acres. And then we bought a hundred and sixty acres of Hudson Bay land, belonged to the Hudson Bay, I guess. Well, I think that was a royalty from ^{England}, for the royalties for ^{England}, that a dollar and eighty cents an acre, that belonged to England, some way or other. I don't know but they said it belonged to the royalties, the royal family in England.

L S: Down here all you could do was rent land, is that it?

A C: You could buy it, only it was too high, oh it was high. It was cheap then but look at it now. Six and eight hundred dollars an acre. Who wants it at that price, isn't worth it. Then you have to pay such a big price gettin the material to work it.

V If you could buy a farm now you could retire.

A C: No, my nephew bought a tractor; it was thirty thousand dollars. Well, I think I'd rather have the thirty thousand dollars, wouldn't you? But he had to, he had the land, y'see. He's rentin' about, I guess, fifteen or sixteen hundred acres of land and he had to have it. It's quite a tractor, it's got an air conditioner, it's got a radio ^{and everything.} (Chuckles).

L S Well, going back to. . . When did you go up to Canada? Were you behind the move, did you want to do it too?

A C: Now I didn't, I didn't want to go. And Charlie and my brother went on ahead of us with. . . They chartered a car, y'see, a railroad car and took our stuff up. And we stayed here until they went up and built the house first. They built our house first. Then my ~~my~~ sister-in-law and I went up and took the children. Then they built ^{their} house later. Well, we all stayed at our place and they built the house later, their house, a mile and a half from us. But they didn't stay long, they come back. We went up in '12 and come back in '37, come back to Pullman in '37. And we stayed there ten years and then

moved up here and been here since.

V : Her and my aunt went up on that train after the men got the house built--
two kids with the whooping cough on the train. They had their nerve.

L S: Two of their kids had whooping cough?

A C: Mine.

L S: Yours?

V : Yeah.

A C: All of mine had it and we hadn't left yet. They'd been exposed, they didn't have it yet, but they took it on the way. And we got to *Atasquin (?)* probably stay over night. And the kids are coughin' and coughin'. He said, "Have your kids got the whooping cough?" Well, they took cold on the train or something, they were sure coughin'." We couldn't go downstairs to eat or nothing. We had to have everything sent up to us. They were just taking it then. We didn't allow 'em to go out amongst anybody, made 'em stay in their rooms. And we should have went on. That night that we thought we'd just stay over night in *Patskunk (?)* and it wouldn't be such a hard trip. And we had to stay till the next night at about ten o'clock the next night. And we could have went on, but we didn't. But after the kids got to coughin' so we wished we had a went on. But we told 'em, "They must have caught cold on the train." I guess we did. *If didn't hurt 'em* They all come out of it.

Did you have it too?

V : I think so.

L S: Was it hard up there, especially at first in Canada?

A C: Well, you couldn't buy anything hardly. You couldn't buy any fresh fruit or any fresh vegetables. *You couldn't get anything hardly for the first two or three years.* You couldn't buy any clothing hardly.

V : People send from mail order catalogues, y'know. *Mail order,* a dollar, their yardage and their clothes and things they'd send. There was no use going to

town much because there was only one little store there.

A C: There was Eaton's.

V : Mother'd just send to the mail order house.

A C: And Simpson's. We sat along time. And we made money there and we spent it there too. I was there five years without a crop. . . Every year you'd think now you was going to get it. Well the last year ^{we were there} a crop come up nice, oh it must have gotten a foot high, it looked real nice. Well, Don and Verma lived down in Carson , Alberta, it was about the foot of the mountain of the Rockies. And we went down there. They was going to have a jubilee of some kind down there. And we went down to that. Huh?

V : That's south of Lethbridge just over there.

A C: Yeah, by Lethbridge.

V : By Waterton.

A C: And we went and we stayed three of four days. We went back and the hot winds had hit that wheat and it was just layin' over, well, just like. . . Well, just dyin, and here come the Russian thistles right over ^{the} top of it. You couldn't tell there'd ever been any wheat sowed there.

L S: What came over the top of it?

A C: Russian thistles . The Russian thistles ^{up} there. We'd never seen em before, they wasn't that bad.

V : They don't have 'em here, do they?

A C: But I told him, "I'm done, Charlie, I'm not goin' to stay here another time!" Another year, I'm going." What made us come, Melvin was a young man and I know he and Gladys was goin' to get married up there. And there just wasn't anything there for him. And we didn't have any feed for the stock, nothin', we didn't raise a thing. And we just had to shut off the stock. and we

was gonna take down to British Columbia, down to where Velma was and we went and got a pasture and everything to take 'em down and they passed a law that Saskatchewan couldn't bring their stock over into Alberta. So we couldn't ^{take 'em} over there.

And we got rid of all of 'em then. Give 'em away and sold 'em the best we could. We thought well we're footloose now, we'll just come on down here. I'm glad we did. Cause up there you're not sure of a crop yet.

LS: You went five years in a row without a crop?

AC: Yes. Five years without a crop. I'll tell you. And there wasn't that much for stock to eat either. ^{Just your} bunch grass, it wasn't bunch grass, it was kind of ^{old} short grass and it'd get hot and dry, it would dry up. And it was nothing hardly. They had sluices there. Little water it'd be green around that. Down in around there. We just got out of there. ^{I had enough of it} So we just left everything. Left two beds upstairs, curtains up in the windows, and linoleum on the floors. Of course, I give it all away. And then just walked out. Kind of hard to do, load the back of a truck and take out just out of the house what you, your truck, a pickup it was. And take just what it will hold ^{out}. Leave the rest there. I told the neighbors they could go in and get ^{what} ~~they wanted~~. They did I guess.

LS: You sold the place when you left it?

AC: Un huh. We mortgaged it for all we could get and let 'em keep it. They could have it. Then after we done that, they was satisfied. Then we come down here, we was gonna garnishee Charlie's wages down here because they didn't get crops on that land. Well we got ahold of a lawyer and he wrote 'em a letter. He said, "They'll not..."

(End of side C)

AC: From the Dakota line in Saskatchewan. And it's awful dry there. Now you take it in south^{of us} and up in there. They don't even have water. They just don't have water. We went back up, went up to our daughter's and we had to go through the southern part of Alberta. Well, we was going to get a motel and there was no motels and nothing and its getting dark. (PAUSE IN TAPE)

LS: How many ended up being in that cabin?

AC: I guess there was about 18 of us. And three burner^{oil} stove to cook on. And cold outside. Oh brother, it was cold! I don't know how we ever got our clothes dry. But we^{did, we} lived through some way. I don't know. And we had some pigs that weighed about 175 pounds. Had to take one of them about every two weeks. Take a pig every two weeks. For meat for that bunch. And everything else. I don't know why they come to our place. We didn't know 'em. They come right there and sit down on us. And no money, no place to go. ^{What can you} do but keep 'em.

LS: How did you sleep that many people?

AC: I let Oliver and his wife and baby have the bedroom. One bedroom. And then Skinner and his wife and kids slept on a davenport we had ^{and our little boy} in the living room. Then the boys, the two Skinner boys, and my brother and his boy, our bed set in the middle of the room, just like this, there's no partition upstairs, just floor. And our bed set in the middle and then we put curtains around it and the girls slept on the other side of the bed. (chuckles) I don't know how we ever got...

LS: In the dead of winter there wasn't much place to go except stay in the house and get mad at each other.

AC: Oh yeah we did go. We went up there when it was 30 below zero even. We wouldn't stay home. We'd get up, we'd be there home, and somebody come by, "Come on, let's go to the neighbors." ^{US Women would quilt} and the men would play cards and we'd say maybe one-two o'clock in the

morning we'd get home. Everything froze up at home. The fire went out. Had water, ^{had} the dipper in the bucket. If you filled your water bucket, you couldn't get it up til... I'd say ^{feel} everytime I'd go out, I'm not going out again I'm going to stay home, I'm going to keep this house warm. Take a long time to get warm once it got cold. You'd like to never get it warmed up. And beds, they'd be so cold they'd ^{feel} just like water, damp. But next time somebody come up, "Here we go." (laughs) And us women never, all through the summer we had Ladies' Aid. Once a month we'd all get together. Oh yeah, they're nice people up there. They're really nice. Oh yeah, we had a good time. As far as that's concerned. We none of us had anything. (joining in with another conversation going on in the room) And then sometimes it was so hazy you couldn't hardly tell where you was going. People freeze to death up there, you know. But it'd even freeze the horses ears off. Her husband had a pony, I don't know how, but it froze it's ears off up there. No. It was a little colt that froze the ears off.

LS: Did they just fall off?

AC: Yes, come clear off.

(Unidentified voice) Wasn't ours. We never had no little colt.

AC: Well didn't Toots have a colt? That froze it's ears? Yes he did. You remember that? She did, she had it outside and it froze its ears off. Oh there was an old man, oh it was cold and thirty below zero and his wife was looking for a baby. They lived down south and they had about twelve miles to go or fourteen with a team. In the wintertime we went across this big lake, it froze over and it was near. She got right in the middle of this big lake and she had her baby in the sleigh. It was cold. That old sleigh and old dirty comforts and everything. And he run his team the rest of the way into town. And they got 'em in there and they came out and got her. I don't know how they got her and the baby. ^{in there} But they did some way, in the hospital.

LS: She got left out on the lake?

AC: No she was in the sleigh. They was going into the hospital, see, and she had her baby before she got in there right in the sleigh. (laughs) Babies, they think they got to be so clean. Well they was dirty people anyway and an old dirty bedthings in that old sleigh. Said she was doing fine. ^{Baby's fine.} Everything's alright. "Well why didn't they go in before? Why did they wait so long?" Ernie says, "Next time she's going into town. She's not going to fool me like that anymore." (Laughs) But they said the baby done fine. They was funny people. I know some of our women, like I told you, we ^{went} out and quilt. One of 'em would come down there and quilt. She'd made two tops, pieced 'em and she took his old coats, now mind you, the collars and the cuffs, and put in that quilt, for them to quilt it over. They said they didn't care. I bet some of the stitches was that long. They just go over. Well they said they quilted and quilted and ~~some~~ ^{some} time to eat. She made some tea. She couldn't cook. She just didn't really know. And it was green tea and this Earl Finch, he was a regular devil. He'd get these women around the table and ^{he'd} watch and they couldn't hardly drink this tea, they couldn't hardly stand it. It wasn't even hot. He'd say, "Well I think she wants some more tea." Well Mrs. Green, one of the women, she said, "If you don't shut up!" And he'd laugh. He'd say, "I think Mrs. Green's out of tea." "Shutup!" And then she said they went back to quilting and someway or other they got her to sing. She couldn't carry a tune to save her life. And Ernie got her to sing some songs for 'em and she said, they got so tickled, said, they'd never gottan ^{such a mess} in their lives. (laughs) They'd go to quilt there'd be a great big collar, you know a ^{still wrapped} collar's thick. And they said they couldn't quilt around that. She's trying to sing and they got tickled. Oh, she said, "That Earl Finch, I'd kill him." (laughs)

LS: Did they quilt more up there than they did down here?

AC: Oh yes. All winter long we'd quilt up there. That's how we spent our wintertime. We had a good time. We'd go maybe twice a week, quilt quilts. And we'd go into eat. We said, "You men don't need to eat. The women are doing the work, they're going to eat first." We'd go back and find our scissors all sewed down to the quilts. The minute we'd forget and leave our scissors, the men would ^{come,} all take our needles and sew our scissors down to the quilt. Oh yeah, one old man come to our place one time, he lived ^{down} south of us and he come by and it was suppertime. We had wallpaper then. We had just wallpapered the living room and just got finished. And Lita was home so they could do the chores. And this neighbor come by, he was Ukrainian. He said, "You go to Clark's for supper?" Yeah. "No we stay home for supper." "No we go to Clark's for supper." We got over there and they was just washing up the supper dishes. They'd canned chickens and she had had a party there to help ^{her} can these chickens, the women come in. And I knew. So the ^y were just washing up the dishes. Well Mrs. Clark said, "Have you been to supper?" I said, oh yes, yes. And he thought he was going to get some chicken, see. So come midnight and ^{we} settled out a lunch and I said this tastes pretty good, don't it Mr. Gidluc, and he said, "Yeah we had no supper." And she said, "Didn't you have your supper?" He said no. I said next time get your supper before you leave home. It ain't right to go right from home to somebody else's place and eat supper. That's no good. "Well I was hungry." I said well let 'em get your supper before you leave next time. (laughs) He said, "You're no good." I said I know. I used to go out to supper with him. Go into town on Saturday night. He wouldn't go to supper. His wife wouldn't go with him. And he say, "You go to supper with me?" Sure I'll go to supper with you. "Okay!" ^{One night} he come in and he said, "You go to the show with me?" Sure, I'll go to the show with you. And was as drunk as the devil and I didn't know it.

I never know a drunk man. As long as he can walk. And we got in there and the seats, they sat this way. And here was the alley way. I had a neighbor sitting over here and we walked over here and sit down and this Donahue, he gets up and he looks and I said sit down! He keep looking. Well the show started and you know how they kind of have a dream and a kind of a mist. He says, "They kick 'em up dust, don't they?" About that time Velma and Charlie and them walked in. They sit down in front of us. (laughs) I'd go to supper with him and I'd go to the show with him. After we got, not from home, but after we got into town. See, we had a truck. And the neighbors would come up, they'd all get in our truck. Charlie'd charged 'em ten cents a piece to pay for the gas. And there wouldn't be standing room in that truck. He had seats, some of 'em could sit down. Some of 'em had egg box and they could set down on them. Crates of eggs, you know. Police says, "I'll tell you Charlie, it's alright for you to come in but you better ' be quiet or we'll not let you bring 'em in any more." So we had to be quiet. Some of 'em get pretty noisy. In the back. Some of them young folks. Every Saturday night, we wouldn't get home til twelve o'clock. 'Cause they'd want to go to the show and it wouldn't get out til eleven and Charlie says, "I'll tell you ^{folks} now, when you leave. This truck leaves at eleven thirty. You get out of the show at eleven. Eleven thirty we go for home. At a certain time. If you're here alright, if you're not alright." We left some of 'em in town one night. One old man, he never come back at all. He left and he walked out the next day, ten miles. You couldn't wait for 'em. They'd put you out til maybe two, three o'clock in the morning. You never know what they're doing. Where they are, young folks. Most of 'em was there right on time.

LS: Did they have shows down here before you left for Canada?

AC: Shows?

LS: There wouldn't have been any here yet.

AC: I ^{can't} remember. See, that was in 1912. 1912 we went up there.

(unidentified voice) I don't think they had picture shows here, did they?

AC: Yes they did too, but they didn't have any speakers. You had to read it. YOU had to read everything. I remember they did. But they wasn't good show 'cause they didn't have any speaker.

LS: Was that a pretty big thing?

AC: Yeah. Was that ever a big thing when television, radio first. Up there was radio, radio, radio all over ^{the} town, put up bills all around, radio. Then when the television come in, boy, that ^{was} something. That is something! Stop and think about it. Come right out of the air right into your room. Yes. I wonder what they'll have in the next fifty years.

(Unidentified voice) At first they got the radio they had those ear ^{phones} first. That was rough cause only two...

LS: Could listen at once.

UV: And finally they put a speaker on it.

LS: Did they have those old phonographs?

AC: Oh yes. Victrolas. Them great big horns was they'd be long like this with a big bell on the end. And they fastened up here on a thing. And you'd have to get right up close to listen to 'em. Remember, you carried the bell up there.

UV: Yes I banged everybody's feet ^{as} as long as I went. Riding on the aslie on the train. Great big bell.

A C: They give us a little phonograph. She had to carry that old bell.

UV: Everybody had skinned shins. Shins skinned.

A C: On Christmas we'd come down here and Father said, "Now, I'll tell you folks, let's just all have a dinner together and let's not have any presents or anything." "All right," we agreed. Well, the boys sneaked off and they went and got Father and Mother a nice phonograph, y'know. One of these, well, it was in a cabinet, y'know set up and the phonograph was kinda square like that. And Mother had an old fashioned, when the house was built and it had a window ^{bay window} that went out like that this way. We set the tree here and they put the phonograph in behind the tree but Father never seen it. He didn't know it. They didn't fool Mother. She had her eyes open and she said, "They never did ~~drag the top~~ ^{of} that Christmas tree off before with a team, and they're goin' up toward ^{Poc's}." Up to that station, y'see, that in and train. They didn't fool her. Of course she was watchin'. But anyway it was settin' in there and somebody sneaked in there behind that Christmas tree and put one of these disc records, y'know, about so big around and long. And they're blue. Now Father said, "Listen, we was ^{n't} supposed to buy any presents." "Nobody said we wouldn't. You said we would ^{n't} and we didn't say anything." But you know he got so much of that. Oh, he wouldn't hardly let the kids look at it, afraid they'd get a scratch on it or somethin'. ^{It was flat.} It was nice; it was really nice in its day. (Chuckles). It was, but they didn't fool Mother, un uh. She had her eyes open, watchin'. She said, "They never did drag ^{that} off before with a team to go clear up to the ^{Poc's} station." Well he thought that was mighty nice, but he said, "It cost too much, can't afford it." But we all went in together and bought it, y'know. Didn't cost any of us very much. I forget what it cost--around seventy-five or eighty dollars, somethin' like that. And he thought that was too much for us to put out. I guess that burned up when the house burnt.

L S: Hey there was somthin' else I wanted to ask you about. Last time you mentioned

about, was it Alice Gritman who stayed at your house once and got smallpox?

A C: Alice *Skeene*.

L S: Alice *Skeene*, was it?

A C: Um hum. She was from Gritman's hospital.

L S: Ohh.

A C: She waited on Gritman when he had the small pox. And then she went home and her folks wouldn't let her stay there so she come down to my folks, ^{and} just before Merle was born. And we didn't know it, she took sick there. Well, they got the doctor out and he said it was smallpox. Well, Mother ^{wanted to} put her in a--what did they call them homes they used to have? Oh you know, when they have their diseases they put 'em in there, in them houses. Father said, "No, better not move her." What'd they do? We had the old house and Father went down and they fixed that all up and cleaned it all out and moved Mother and my little sister down there and Mother cooked for the boys. They had to sleep out in the smokehouse. And we were goin' to have a play there in Viola, and this girl ~~that~~ was stayin at our place, she was goin' to stay overnight with me. And Charlie he was always up there snoopin' around. We weren't married. Well, it caught them and they were all quarantined there at the house. And you know Mother had to ^{move} in that old house and Alice, and we had ^{to have} a nurse come out and take care of Alice. And her name was Edith was the one that stayed, and the doctor kind of come out to see Alice. But it wasn't Alice he come to see, it was Edith. (Chuckles). Settin' on the woodbox one night--Mother had a cookstove and a wood~~box~~^{box}--the Doc was settin on the woodbox and she was sittin in the chair and I was sittin over lookin out the window. So it got ^{kinda} dark and I said, "I think I better light the lamp." "Oh, no, I'll light it. I'll light it," he said. And he jumped up and lit the lamp. (Chuckles). But we all vaccinated, all of us. But then Alice got so she could

get up and we put her in the smokehouse and we had to fumigate that house. Oh, we used formaldehyde and we even had to take the books and open 'em up, put 'em over the line. We had great big, oh I don't know, jars or somethin' they put this stuff in and burnt it in the rooms. Oh, strong! Uh! You couldn't stay in that room; you couldn't have stayed in the house. It was just like--oh it'd just make your eyes burn, y'know. And we'd burn that early in the morning in there for about two hours and then we'd open up all the door and windows and get out until the . . . And then we went in after it was all fumigated and washed all the ^{woodwork} in the bedroom and cleaned everything all up. Of course, she was sick, y'know. Well, Merle didn't come though, until after everything was all settled. He was due but he didn't come. (Chuckles). So Alice said, "Want me to come out of the smokehouse and talk to him?" And that was a dangerous time. The doctor says, "When they're scalin' off, that's a dangerous time. Not ^{from} fever, you wasn't even exposed. It's when they scale off." She took great big scabs off of her arms. They say them things they lay out on the ground for years and years and then if they get wet they're just as bad as ever, they're dangerous. And she burned everything up. She was careful; she wasn't bad. But they all laughed at me for ~~me~~ makin' so much tater soup and takin it out to Alice. She'd holler out, "I need some more tater soup!" (Chuckles). I'd have to take her out some potato soup and set it down and then run to get away from there. I felt sorry for her out there alone but couldn't help it. And then when she came back--Merle was a baby then--and about two or three weeks old. She come back. Mother wouldn't let her come in the house. I felt like kickin' Mother, it was cold outside and she'd come, they was goin' to get a load of hay and she was goin to stay at our place while the boys went and got the hay. And

Mother says, "No, you don't, you just get out of here." And she walked back up to the cemetery . . .

V : She'd done enough for her.

A C: And stayed in the cemetery--cold. Till they come along with a load of hay. Well, Mother said, "I don't care. . . she put me out and it's just my turn to put her out. I wasn't goin' to have her in here. She knew she was going to have that. Why did the doctor let her come out there?"

L S: I don't see why she couldn't stay at home?

A C: They wouldn't let her. Her dad wouldn't let her, no.

L S: That's what's funny to me.

A C: She said Mrs. Gritman put on a heavy veil and went to Portland, down there to the hospital. I guess maybe they had someplace like that around. She said she put on a heavy veil and she really had the smallpox when she left. But she put this veil on and you couldn't see her face and she went. I don't know why they didn't keep Alice there in the hospital. But they didn't, that's what made Mother mad. She told Doc Gritman about it. He says, "I didn't know she went." He was still sick, y'see. He says, "I didn't know she went out there." He wasn't a bad old doctor.

L S: What doctor would you have. . . Would he come out, the doctor out there?

A C: Oh, yes. They don't hardly come out any more though. No, you can't hardly get a doctor to come out. I called old Doc ^{Staley}, he's our doctor down here at ^{Dishman}. And Charlie was just throwin up and throwin up and throwin up and I couldn't get him to stop. And then he'd the other way too, all day. So I called Doc, it was gettin flark. (Break)

Yes, I had it.

L S: You had T. B.? Oh, typhoid?

A C: No, typhoid fever. I was in bed thirty-six days with typhoid fever when the second child was born, was a baby. She was about a year old.

And I had typhoid fever. ^{See,} they didn't know how to handle it then ^{like} they do now. And then you hardly ever hear of it anymore, do you? No. And T. B., they handle that pretty good now.

L S: What happened when you got typhoid? How does that affect you?

A C: Well, it made me sick and just about took me away. I was just skin and bones when I got up and I wasn't too heavy when I took it. But I couldn't eat; they wouldn't give me nothin' to eat. They'd even take buttermilk and strain it and give me the whey. That's all I could have. No--nothing to eat then. They didn't feed you anything then.

L S: All you'd eat was the whey?

A C: Just the whey. That's all I could ^{have} off of the buttermilk. It was nothin'. ^{Mother} strained ^{ed} it through a cloth. I don't know, I pulled through somehow. You couldn't have milk, you couldn't have anything. It was just bowel trouble, y'know, in you bowels. And I remember I was sittin' up and she said, I think her sister was there. And she said, "We're going up to see Mrs. Poe." She lived up over there. She said, "You won't do nothin' to hurt yourself while I'm gone?" "No, no. I wouldn't do that." She wasn't gone outside of the gate when I started bakin' a cake. And I thought to myself, "You better bake you one in that pie pan because she'll see it if you cut it." So I baked myself--eat the whole thing. It never hurt me a bit. I was up then, y'know. It could have made me sick but it didn't. "No, I didn't do nothin'." She said, "Did you eat any of that ^{we had for supper?" I knew better than to cut it because she knew I. . . "No, I didn't." "Okay." (Chuckles). If she'd known that she'd a had a fit. But she didn't know, ^{I told her} later. After I seen it didn't hurt me none I told her. She said, "I had an idea you'd do somethin'! I knew you would." (Chuckles). I was just byin' there for thirty-six days.}

L S: Is that how it was? You had to lay there for thirty-six days?

A C Yeah, ^{in bed} for thty-six days. And then when I got up my fever was a hundred and two, when I got up. My aunt come up and she says, "If you don't get out of that bed you're going to lay there and die. Get out of there!" So I got Father to get me up, one morning he got me up, took me out in the kitchen. And he says, "Hey, you kids upstairs, come down. We've got company this morning" And they all come down to see who was there and here was me out in the rocking chair with a quilt over my chair like that. (Chuckles). But my fever was a hundred and two. I was gonna get up and go out, only I got up and fell down on the floor and crawled back to bed. I was so weak I couldn't walk. I had to learn to push a chair and walk. In bed, y'know, you think you can do somethin' but you can't. When I put my weight on my feet down I went right on the floor. ^{She, out of habit,} was three cause she'd eat dinner as quick as she could and the dining room was here and here was the living room and then the bedroom was back there. And here was the dining room with just a partition between the dining room and the bedroom there, in that corner. Well, they'd give me a stick to pound on the wall. I couldn't make 'em hear, I couldn't. But I could pound on the wall. She looks up and she comes in the bedroom, she pushes a chair up to the dresser and then they used to give you a powder in little papers. And she wanted a paper for something. And she'd been doin' that and they didn't know it. I know Father'd give me a dose of that medicine and I just feel like I was gonna go clear under. He said, "I can't understand it; that medicine makin' you so sick." So part of that, she wanted a paper and she'd put it all in one dose, see, which would be two doses, and then she'd take the paper. So I ^{pounded} on the wall and Father come in there and boy she got a spankin! ^{the nurse} ~~the nurse~~ said, "That could have killed you." I said, "Yes, that's the reason I've been so sick after takin'

them powders." *"Oh, he says, that would lick you!"* She got a good
 lickin. She'd get a lickin' and she'd **CUSS** Father. (Chuckles). He told her
 she'd get a lickin' and she would. She'd **SAY, "Damn you"** Grandpa keep up with
 me, and she'd be way behind him. (Chuckles).

V Everytime I'd cuss him he'd lick me and I'd cuss him every day.

A C She got ^{a dozen} lickin' a day. And then when I was in bed with a fever she . . .

V I'd do it and I knew I'd get a lickin.

A C: When I was in bed with a fever she took note. Right around the house was
 some weeds, Father's house. She took ^{Notion} she was gonna burn them and
 she had about five or six matches struck but the weeds was green and they
 wouldn't burn or else she'd have burned the house up.

Transcribed and typed by Kathy Blanton