

RUDOLPH NORDBY

Interviewed by:
Rob Moore

Oral History Project
Latah County Museum Society

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RUDOLPH NORDBY

Genesee; b. 1889

farmer; county commissioner

.75 hours

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with Rob Moore
July 5, 1973

II. Transcript

This side of the following tape was recorded on July 5, 1973 at the home of Mr. Rudolph Nordby in Gene see, Idaho. The voices on the tape are those of Rudolph Nordby and the interviewer, Rob Moore.

Interviewer: The story you told about being dropped off at the farm place in Palouse was pretty interesting. I wonder if you could talk of that again.

Mr. Nordby: When we moved in there?

Interviewer: Right, when you came by train into Palouse and what happened then.

MR.NORDBY: We came in by train into Palouse and then of course, hired a cab with a driver to take us out. This was in February and the roads were just breaking up. Great big holes and we'd be going along there and those holes would be full of water and he'd be driving and he'd go bingo! down in those holes.(chuckles) And of course, the interesting thing about that was that my grandmother was there. Of course, she talked nothing but Norwegian. And she scolded this fellow that was driving so much, about his carelessness in driving, see? So it went on for quite awhile and pretty soon he... his name was Johnson.

INTERVIEWER: Did he speak Norwegian?

MR. NORDBY: He was a Norwegian.(laughs)She of course had no idea that the Norwegians had ever gotten out here. But it was kind of interesting. It was a six and a half mile drive.

INTERVIEWER: Did he ever say anything back to her.? Did he ever tell her that he spoke Norwegian?

MR. NORDBY: Yes. He talked to her in Norwegian afterwards. Then of course she felt so terrible.

INTERVIEWER: Well, how many of you were there?

MR. NORDBY: Well there were five children and the two and then grandmother. That'd be eight. It made quite a hackload.

INTERVIEWER: Well, did you have all your tools and things along with you on that trip when you came out?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yeah, they were shipped out, you see. And then of course, he

had to go in and get a team and go in and get the stuff the next day. That's about a day's drive right there.

INTERVIEWER: So you were stranded out on the homplace there?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Were there buildings up then or anything?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yeah, there was. Several old buildings there. So anyway, we were kind of comfortable. Of course, in those days they could make, they could make food out of most anything.

INTERVIEWER: Well, had you brought a bunch of food in with you, or did you have to start...

MR. NORDBY: Well, I suspect that we bought some groceries in Palouse before we went out. That would be my guess, I don't remember what we actually did do. We didn't have any relatives that we could sponge on. So I think that was about the upshot of the thing.

INTERVIEWER: Well what kind of things did you start doing when you got there to the Palouse place?

MR. NORDBY: Well, along about the first^thing they did was to try to fix up the house a little so it was a little more livable. And get organized on that. Had to get out and start buying horses and equipment which was very mediocre, of course. Most of it was used machinery when we bought it. So it was pretty tough.

INTERVIEWER: Was there land cleared on this place already?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah, oh yeah. The biggest part of it was developed in crops.

INTERVIEWER: What crops?

MR. NORDBY: Well, it was mainly wheat and barley, and oats.

INTERVIEWER: ^{When} you came in February, so was there a crop of winter wheat then, that you could start working right away?

MR. NORDBY: I don't remember whether there was any winter wheat ^{on it or not} there. I rather suspect, maybe, that everything went into spring crop.

INTERVIEWER: You were eleven then, right?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: What kind of job did you have to do when you got there?

MR. NORDBY: Oh, it would be milking cows. Maybe herding them out there over across from Princeton. ^{at Howard} I used to have to do quite a bit of the work that had to be done.

INTERVIEWER: Was herding cows an all-day job?

MR. NORDBY: Well, if the pasture was good, of course, we could bring 'em in, leave 'em in the corral and then turn 'em back out. ^{again}

INTERVIEWER: I guess it was still pretty wild up there wasn't it?

MR. NORDBY: Oh, yeah. It was a little wild. And there were very few church people in there. And of course we had come from an area where the church was number one of course with the folks. And that's ^{one} reason that mother was discontented living under those conditions. So then they made a trip down to Genesee. And they had a mother had a brother that ^{was living,} oh about three miles from Genesee. ^{Went to see 'em and then they got to looking} around and they liked this part of the country so well. It looked more like Iowa. So, they had a chance to buy this 320-acre farm.

INTERVIEWER: How much did the farm sell for?

MR. NORDBY: At that time?

INTERVIEWER: Um-hm.

MR. NORDBY: Twenty-five dollars an acre. (chuckles) Yeah. It was cheap. But it took so many years to get it. You know, to produce it. The first spring, ^{we} seeded a lot of wheat. One year they seeded the whole thing, sprinkled it and in the fall, they couldn't see any wheat at all. ^{Wild} ~~the whole thing~~ ^{oats} ^{were} so bad, which was up above it. So, they had to cut ^{the whole thing} ~~the whole thing~~ ^{for} hay. They ^{made} ~~made~~, as I remember, one hundred and fifty tons. And that hay sold for six dollars a ton. (chuckles) They weren't getting rich very fast.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember the move down?

MR. NORDBY: From Palouse?

INTERVIEWER: Um-hm.

MR. NORDBY: Oh yes. That was quite interesting too. It was in February of course and part of the way, it was pretty good ^{skidding}. And part of the way it was nothing--maybe one track, you'd get one track ^{this way} from Moscow and going north, too. So we started out before daylight from up there. It was a thirty-mile drive and we got into one of the neighbors up here ^{at} ~~oh~~ late--way after dark. And we kids were riding in the hack and of course we were just so tired out between trips. And then everytime we got to a big hill, why Dad said, "You've got to get up. You have to get out and walk--it'll be easier on the team." And he wanted to keep us awake, see. (chuckles) So we didn't ~~sleep~~ sleep well. That was kind of exciting of course for us to get off.

INTERVIEWER: How many trips down did you have to make?

MR. NORDBY: Oh, that I don't remember because we hadn't accumulated too much stuff in two years. And some of it, of course had to wait until the roads got better so we could use the wagon.

INTERVIEWER: So then you moved onto this place?

MR. NORDBY: Um-hm.

INTERVIEWER: And there was a house here then?

MR. NORDBY: Yes, It seemed like an old time house that had been used--a portion of it ^{was} used for a grocery store. And the counter, or bench that they used ~~was~~ still here. They had set it outside of the house so they could use the whole room. And then this barn out there was built in--it had been built twenty-seven years when we came here. ^{It was} Twenty-seven years old. So that would be about '75 when it was built. Mr. Tweed knew all about it, he was the guy that first started it.

INTERVIEWER: Well this place that was the old store here that the counter was out of it? Was that counter, the counter that they bought stuff over or was it also like a serving counter for the--

MR. NORDBY: Yeah. All that, it was just a counter to set the stuff on and wrap it up.

INTERVIEWER: It wasn't like an eating counter.

MR. NORDBY: Oh no.

INTERVIEWER: Because you said that the place was also a stage stop.

MR. NORDBY: Well, they of course, I suppose had ~~it~~ ^{that right in} the house.

INTERVIEWER: How long did the stage stop? How long was ~~the~~ ^o stage stop?

MR. NORDBY: Well, I'm not sure what that was.

INTERVIEWER: Did it stop before you came?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yeah. It'd been going for quite some time, Felix Warren was the driver. And of course, in later years, we knew him very well.

He was in Lewiston for a long time.

INTERVIEWER: What kind of goods did the store sell? Was it--

MR. NORDBY: Oh it would probably have some old bottles and a little

gingham you know. And then food was all they had.

INTERVIEWER: Was it a basic, general merchandise store?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: The people who owned the place before you--were they still operating store? Or had the store stopped operation before?

MR. NORDBY: No, it had stopped, it had stopped by that time.

INTERVIEWER: The post office was no longer there?

MR. NORDBY: No. No, I think at that time, they had built up the--what they called the old part up there, east of where it is now. So that's where it is now.

INTERVIEWER: The picture of your father with the five deer that he killed? I wondered if you had ever gone hunting with your father?

MR. NORDBY: No, I never did. We usually had to be home to take care of the livestock. And I didn't have much interest in it at that time. I think my older brother went with him a time or two. Sometimes they'd go and come back with nothing, see? But I can recall that my dad had a big heavy skin-lined coat, sheep-lined coat that he wore and then he'd bought a pair of MACKINAW that these pants were just about as thick as my finger.

INTERVIEWER: They were wool pants?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah. And he'd get up there in a tree and lay up on top of a limb maybe four or five hours waiting for the deer to come out to eat. And he would just try not to move the limb at all and he'd get one or two elk.

INTERVIEWER: That was in the wintertime?

MR. NORDBY: Well, yes and the season, of course, is in the winter.

And couldn't VE kept it at that season. But they got some pretty good

information. They always took a lot of cheesecloth, thin cloth see that they buy at the store. And they'd take and wipe all the water wipe it clean. And they found that the meat would keep so much better.

INTERVIEWER: So it was mostly kept just by the cold?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah, you bet ya. That's all they had.

INTERVIEWER: You didn't try smoking it?

MR. NORDBY: Oh ^{no}. It kept much better. But for the most part, they were in good condition. Sometimes they'd have to feed some of it to the dogs I guess but they'd have things to wrap it up to keep it hanging out at nights you know. _____ more than in the daytime. And then of course if the weather turned warm, they'd sell some. Sometimes it'd be eight or ten days before they'd cook that meat.

INTERVIEWER: Well when they brought the meat back then, ^{how} would they keep it then, were they keeping it the same way in the cold?

MR. NORDBY: Well, they used to can it see. Cook it up and put it in jars. And if it was cold, well then they'd ^{take it and} hang it out on the wall and they'd butcher it there and they'd put a little cheesecloth around it and hang it up there and when they wanted a roast or something, chips cut off of there why they'd bring it in, cut it off, and hang it up. Then it stood about so much of that too, of course, it would turn warm why then mother would have to try to can it. Put it in the cans or that. And we kept grease ^{which} helped so it'd cover all the meat so it wasn't exposed to the air.

INTERVIEWER: How long did you live in that old house before you built this one?

MR. NORDBY: I think it was about two years before we built this one.

INTERVIEWER: And how long did this one take to build?

MR. NORDBY: Oh, it took two or three months. This same neighbor, Mr. Tweed, built the house. And then we had helpers, of course. And all ~~the~~ ^{the} lumber was hauled from the Back of Troy about five miles. The Johnsons, they lived here. That was two days for a trip. We'd sometimes get ^{out} back as far as Spring on this side of Cornwall up on the hill. There isn't ^{such} a place now. And there the teams, hauling the wood, lumber, would stay night, those that had too far to go. And I've seen the time when you couldn't hardly find a place there in a quarter of a mile.

INTERVIEWER: Really.

MR. NORDBY: They'd just fill the place up and they had an old cistern pump, everybody could help themselves.

INTERVIEWER: What was the fella's name?

MR. NORDBY: Oh I can't remember.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Did you used to drive back and forth in a lumber wagon up to Cornwall?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yes. I hauled a lot of lumber.

INTERVIEWER: Were you driving by yourself when you did that?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yeah.

INTERVIEWER: How old were you then?

MR. NORDBY: Well, I didn't get to do that til I was oh, fifteen, fifteen to eighteen. One time I went back in there to get a load of posts and I had six horses and two wagons, trailing. And I thought I was a very good driver and I got there--and I knew that--it looked like it was going to storm. So I got up at three o'clock in the morning and got my horses ready and started out, and by the time I got on this side of

Cornwall, it was--no on the other side of Cornwall, between Cornwall and the loading place, it started to snow. And I started out leading up with this outfit and the horses of course, couldn't pull it and the brakes wouldn't work. So I thought sure I was gonna have trouble and run^{NING} over the horse or something. But they all stayed on their feet and then I came out of that scrape. Well, I pulled around a curve and it's kind of simple on the path but I kept the horses clear over to one lane. But my trailing wagon slid off. So the rack of posts, I think I had something like 220 posts, I think. And then I didn't dare to drag it any farther and then I unloaded the other. And then the next day, I went up and drove down the man's field and got on the lower side and I had somebody with me so that we could put that old rack on. So that's some of the good experiences that we had.

INTERVIEWER: You mean, by the time you were fifteen or so, you were pretty much taking a man's job around here?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yes.

INTERVIEWER: What would sort of a typical day, be like?

MR. NORDBY: Well, we'd get up and have breakfast at six o'clock probably.

INTERVIEWER: A big breakfast?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yeah. And ^{dinner, and} then in the evening we'd probably come in depending on how we were rushed. If it was a great rush we probably wouldn't quit til seven or seven thirty. So we didn't get out and do any scoldoggering.
(chuckles)

INTERVIEWER: Were there threshing teams that came around here?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yeah. Yeah, ^{so many} people from up around Troy followed that they'd come in here and they had as high as ten bundle teams to a big machine. And I can recall one little time that they

pulled in on my brother's field. They had a big job there, there were I think thirty-eight stacks of bundles stacked up. And they pulled in there and they threshed long enough to get the field opened up so that they could-- and then it started raining and it rained for two weeks. It rained for two weeks. And of course we had to feed all those horses ^{all this time} (chuckles) So that kind of cut into the pocket.

INTERVIEWER: It didn't ruin the wheat though?

MR. NORDBY: No, it was in bundles. It dried out, you know. We had to walk around of course and if there was some down bundles, we'd have to pick 'em up and set 'em up straight so the air would get to them.

INTERVIEWER: What job did you do when the threshers worked?

MR. NORDBY: Well, I drove one of the bundle wagons, usually.

INTERVIEWER: How did the threshers work?

MR. NORDBY: What are they?

INTERVIEWER: No, how. What did they do and how did they do it? How did the machinery work and how did the men work with 'em?

MR. NORDBY: Well, the old machines of course had a long feeder on it which would feed the grain in. For awhile, they had a sharp feeder and they were pitching it and they had two men ⁺cutting bundles. Cut the string off and then one man feeding it into the mouth of the thing. So talk about a dirty job, they sure had it, ^{how} they could stand ^{it!} And so much trouble with smut at that time. You ^{just} couldn't hardly see with all that smut. And how they could stand it I never could figure out. It was hard enough to hauling bundles. Of course we were AWAY from it so much.

INTERVIEWER: Well when the grain came out of the thresher, was there another wagon waiting there to receive it? or what?

MR. NORDBY: No, it stuck it in sacks, put it in sacks. *Pile it up. By the machine.*

INTERVIEWER: About how many days would it usually take to thresh. Say something like your brother's ^{job} ~~what~~ would be a job like that?

MR. NORDBY: Well, I imagine, it took three or four days at the best to get it all done.

INTERVIEWER: And the threshing machine and crew was rented?

MR. NORDBY: Well, they owned the machine.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MR. NORDBY: Yeah, and then we hired 'em and paid 'em so much, oh they'd charge ten, twelve or fifteen cents a bushel. And we'd figure a sack would be two bushels or ^{MAYBE} two and a half depending on how much trash - that was in there.

INTERVIEWER: Um-hm.

MR. NORDBY: Real good wheat would run about hundred and thirty-five to hundred and forty pounds a sack, which would be two and a half bushel I guess.

INTERVIEWER: Was this price per bushel in addition to room and board or did they pay you then for their room and board or what?

MR. NORDBY: No. Of course after they got that big an outfit, they had cookwagons. They had cookwagons and two cooks in there so that they of course would have everything ^{running}. And it got so they had those bigger outfits and of course they couldn't keep 'em in the house, it was just too many.

INTERVIEWER: About how many men would there be in one of the bigger outfits?

MR. NORDBY: Well it would be between twenty and thirty men. There'd be a pitcher for every two wagons and they'd have ten wagons and there'd be ten drivers. And there'd be five or six pitchers and then you'd have two sack ^{sewer's} and the sack ^{JIG}. And three of 'em ^{would run the machine}

And then the water-hauler hauling water for the engine.

INTERVIEWER: You mean plus the man who is feeding?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah, towards the last, of course, they had extended feeders and they would just toss a cut in there. And they'd cut the bundles with

that. So that was terrific when they ^{finally} got ~~away~~ ^{away} from that.

INTERVIEWER: That was some sort of conveyor belt or something?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah. They had a conveyor and it ran over and carried it into the machine.

INTERVIEWER: But when the crews, when the smaller crews come around there, it would be that the farm wife would have to prepare all the meals for 'em?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yeah. Of course, the neighbors would get together. "You come and help me and I'll come and help you." See? So that worked out. They were very much different than what they are now. People are more to themselves. They're just as sociable but ^{about} things like that, they just don't get together unless somebody happens to get injured or something, or get behind with ^{this} cutting. ^{Then} They ^{would run} ^{were} ^{more} two or three extra combines.

INTERVIEWER: How was the threshing season worked and how was it determined who got the machine first, in what order the people worked?

MR. NORDBY: Well the man that was wide awake, of course, he'd engage ^{it and} "You can thresh for me if you come when I'm ready for it." If you had a good job why, that would just about hold it for you. But ^{we} we're all ^{ways} a little bit piggish, we ^{couldn't} help but think about ourselves.

INTERVIEWER: Well about how long would the whole season go on and the different farmers would be going around helping each other out?

MR. NORDBY: The harvest.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MR. NORDBY: Well, they used to figure harvest would be about thirty to forty days. Now they do it in ten days of course, if it ripens.

INTERVIEWER: Well, this cooperation that the farmers would give each other on the farms, you said that when you built this house here, did a lot of-- a Mr. Tweed came over and helped and did more neighbors come help then?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yes. Oh, you mean for building?

INTERVIEWER: Um-hm.

MR. NORDBY: Well, that was a little different of course. Some of the simple work they could do that but most everything is a little complicated unless you're used to doing a little carpentry. He would be in the way of the carpenter. He wouldn't say much, I would. I would fix that.

INTERVIEWER: Well was Mr. Tweed a carpenter by profession?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yes. He charged two and a half dollars a day and he worked from early morning til late at nights.

INTERVIEWER: Did he work with a pretty big crew, usually?

MR. NORDBY: Oh no. No, it'd be probably three men. Of course dad helped him here and we boys did what we could and we could clean up the trash and take care of it. That shortened his job a little.

INTERVIEWER: So when you were about fifteen, you took over a man's portion of work around here?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah, pretty much.

INTERVIEWER: You did a lot of plowing and harrowing?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yeah. We harvested and I usually drove the binder.

INTERVIEWER: How many teams would you have driving the binder?

MR. NORDBY: How many teams? Well, we never had more than one binder to each part. Yet some of them with a larger farm, of course, did. Then of course, we got into a push binder and they were a twelve-foot cut and they'd cut twice as much as a pull binder. You could raise it much higher, you wouldn't

have to put a whole bunch of straw in. Sometimes that straw would go through ^{there} ~~all at~~ once. And that was quite a load for ~~the~~ thing.

INTERVIEWER: How many horses did it take to pull one of those big horse binders?

MR. NORDBY: Uh six horses. Somewhere I've got a picture of that ^{too} that I'll bring out. I'll try to get some of those things. When you know what you're after why someday that I'm not too busy, I'll see if I can get organized So I won't be too busy. You'd think that I wouldn't have much to do with my time now, see?

INTERVIEWER: I don't think that.

MR. NORDBY: Well, I've got my daughters down here now, they came down from Spokane. And uh oh they come down about every ten days. My wife hasn't been too good for a couple years. It's been three or four years that I've done the cooking. Yep.

INTERVIEWER: You were telling us before that when you had your first couple of children, you had 'em here at this house?

MR. NORDBY: Um-hm.

INTERVIEWER: And uh you probably didn't like that. How did that work. How did you feel about that?

MR. NORDBY: Well, there wasn't much else, we didn't have much choice. We just had to take it.

INTERVIEWER: What would the midwife have you do?

MR. NORDBY: Well, of course I had a sister too. But we didn't want to do that. We were big men here outside. (chuc-kles)

INTERVIEWER: I'd like to hear some more about the farming techniques you used and the kind of equipment you used and when you were quite young, when you were still horse-farming you know.

MR. NORDBY: Well, of course we, ^{as soon as} tractors came in, we started to try to accumulate ^{a little} money so we could buy one because we saw the difference and I think the first thing I had was a Fordson that I could plow with and I could seed with. And that had ^{two} steel wheels on it.

INTERVIEWER: About when was that?

MR. NORDBY: Well, I don't know, I can't, I'd have to do a little thinking about that.

INTERVIEWER: Was that in the Twenties or later than that?

MR. NORDBY: Oh, it ^{would have been} in the Twenties I guess.

INTERVIEWER: When you were farming with horses, how long would it take you to plow an acre or get an acre ready for seeding?

MR. NORDBY: Well, it depended a lot on the weather of course, if it was real hot, you had to rest much of the time. But with, I finally got a Three bottom plow, twelve inch with three bottoms. Then I used eight horses on it and I could plow, oh, six, seven acres a day. Of course, ^{with} A Fordson, you ^{could} plow twice that much. So. .

INTERVIEWER: Was that kind of plow they used to call a foot burner?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah, that's the footburner. You bet ya. The year ^{we} started up here, we had three foot burners. And I was, of course, pretty small and I had ^{place} the smallest well, I had a fourteen inch and I'd get to the corner, ^{why} I'd put the ^{beam} on top ^{or} the handle on top of the shoulder so I could drag it out. ^{To turn around} Lot of people thought ~~they~~ worked ^{me} too hard out there but I enjoyed it. (chuckles)

INTERVIEWER: Well when you first came, about how many acres were you first cultivating then, was it three places?

MR. NORDBY: Well, it was all under/cultivation, all but the waste, the lumber ~~the~~ creek. And of course we used to have quite a bit of ground in hay so that we wouldn't have to plow^t. So it's been quite an experience to go through.

INTERVIEWER: Did you also harrow at that time?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yeah.

INTERVIEWER: What kind of harrow did you use?

MR. NORDBY: Oh we usually had three sections ^{of harrow} and then we got four so we put six horses on it and ^{with} cultivated the big outfit. And after we seeded we could cover quite a bit of ground.

INTERVIEWER: What did that harrow look like? How was it shaped?

MR. NORDBY: Well, it's five ^{bars} you know, five feet wide. And then the tines are about so far apart.

INTERVIEWER: About twelve inches?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah. About ten ^{to} twelve inches. And then ^{it had a} lever on it ~~that you could~~ set it steep or you could slope.

INTERVIEWER: And there were how ~~many~~ sections of those bars?

MR. NORDBY: There were five bars to a section.

INTERVIEWER: Five bars, um-hm. It was all in ^a big square shape?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah, it was just ^{about} square.

INTERVIEWER: How about seed drills and stuff like that. Did you use those?

MR. NORDBY: Seed drills?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

MR. NORDBY: Oh yes. The drills were something that they had of course, pretty early. I don't remember seeding in any other way here. They had what they called shotgun. They had double outfits on the backend of the wagon that they could fill up with wheat. or whatever And the wheels turned this they had calls that would turn this thing. It could

shoot it up or about 5 feet on ^{each} ~~A~~ side.

INTERVIEWER: Just scatter it and it didn't cover it over or anything.

MR. NORDBY: Yeah, never had to harrow too.

INTERVIEWER: So you grew ^{up} in this place here from when you were about eleven?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: All the way on.

MR. NORDBY: ^{Been} on this place.

INTERVIEWER: And you went to primary school here in Genesee?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah. Yep.

INTERVIEWER: What was that like?

MR. NORDBY: What was it like?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

MR. NORDBY: Well, they had a good school. They had good teachers.

INTERVIEWER: If you were already working so hard when you were so young then, when did you have time to go to school?

MR. NORDBY: Well, of course, there were short terms at that time.

INTERVIEWER: How short?

MR. NORDBY: Well, when we were back in Iowa when I was a kid, they'd have two months in the fall and two months in the spring. And then sometimes summer school, see. So, because everybody had to work. In the wintertime, it was kind of rough work. But here, it's pretty good right here. So we had a pretty good school.

INTERVIEWER: Was it a one-room school?

MR. NORDBY: No, down here of course, it was graded.

INTERVIEWER: They had grades?

MR. NORDBY: Yeah, they had ~~the~~ school. They had two grades together.

First and second, third and fourth, fifth and sixth, and seventh and eighth.

And the high school would be like now.

INTERVIEWER: Well, how big a town was Genesee at that time?

MR. NORDBY: Oh, between eight and nine hundred. It was bigger than it is now. Well, of course, we've grown again now, Genesee is growing again now. We've got quite a few people that moved in here from Moscow last year and they're still living here. They like our water better ^{than} in some places.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have to walk to school?

MR. NORDBY: Oh yes. ~~Head right out through the mud and snow.~~ ^{Drip it was} too bad, especially if the water got too high, father would hitch up to the wagon or the hack and take us in and come and get us. But many a time we came home from school and we'd just have to follow hills. We couldn't ^{walk} ~~across this flat~~ because it was too wet. ^{We} Just went around and stayed out of the flat.

INTERVIEWER: How far was it to walk?

MR. NORDBY: Well.

(END OF INTERVIEW)

TRANSCRIBED BY CLAUDIA LIMB