

Stella Reif interviewed by Monica Reller

July 3, 1980

- 00 Came by train to Clarkston at 3 yrs of age, accompanied by parents. Born in Windom South Dak. Moved to Lewiston when 9 yrs old, and lived there till married. Father was contractor-stone mason. Ran away to school at 5 yrs. of age, until teachers decided she might as well join the class.
- 05 Has 1 sister, 16 yrs. younger, who now lives in Calif. No brothers. Mother was housewife. Father built fountains and carved animals out of stone. Helped father in masonry. Mother sewed, embroidered, crocheted. Lived on farm near Lewiston after married. Had 3 children, boys, one baby died.
- 10 Finished highschool and 9 mo. business school. Got a job as photographer's assistant until married. Returned to work for him during winter months during Depression. Husband's sister stayed on the farm with him while she lived in town + worked.
- 14 Taught flower making at Sr. Cit Ctr. Does embroidery work, crocheting, knitting and tatting. Exhibited at Spokane Fair. Paid almost all expenses money with prize money. Will teach quilt making this fall.
- 16 Interested mostly in highschool sports - basketball, Trapeze also arithmetic and reading.
- 18 Friend had motorcycle - rode sidesaddle - later got riding skirt. Also had side car - room for 4.
- 20 Had good teachers - male and female 30 students in class in highschool. Had good home life, very happy, but wanted to leave after high school. Parents objected, was happy to accept photographer job.



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Got married at 19 and went to live on farm 1/2 miles out of Lewiston. Took care of chickens, cooking, canning. Always had 8 or 9 young people (son's friends, some without homes) Boys helped outside. Girls helped inside. Took them to dances in neighborhood.

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Younger sister & husband welcome her to stay with them when it becomes difficult for her to be alone. Doesn't want to burden them, after her own experience of taking care of her mother for 10 yrs.

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During Depression couldn't pay taxes with income. Sold good horses to buy feed for old horses. Wheat dropped to \$2 a bushel in early 20s. Always had enough to eat. Worked for photographer during winter months in order to have some cash. Managed studio while boss had flu.

Side II begins

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mins:

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It would have cost \$50,000 to change to machine farming, so didn't renew lease on farm, and moved to smaller place (Pullman)

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Butchered hogs <sup>every week</sup> and made sausage, etc to sell - turned kitchen into sausage factory - made liver sausage, blood sausage, head cheese and pickled pig's feet. Rendered lard - sold for very low price - Crisco was beginning to get popular.

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Husband retired at 65. Stayed on farm but took job at Pullman Grain and Feed Plant.

Took job as housekeeper on campus. Wages were going up so didn't want to retire at 65, but husband insisted. Glad she did. It gave them time to enjoy things together. Details of home appliances

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Met husband at a dance. Had happy married life. Decisions were made by both after discussion.

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Wanted 4 children - 2 boys & 2 girls. Midwife for 1st child, hospital for 2nd & 3rd. Her sister was like a daughter. Sewing.

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Belongs to Rebeccas, Moose, World War I Aux, Ladies Aid. Stayed clear of political issues. Husband staunch Rep. Doesn't belong to a party.



- 27 50 Losing husband was most difficult experience. Intended to stay on farm and keep up his flower gardens. Too much work. Bought house in town - still has garden, flowers lawn. Works 4 or 5 hours outside every day. Knits in winter.
- 30 52 Doesn't read much. Used to read but mother made her turn off light to save electricity. Read paper and Arts & Crafts mag. Never bored. Too many projects going. Healthy, active.
- 33 55 Used to wash on board from 6:00 am till noon once a week. Heat water on stove, washed on porch, made soap. Bought double tub Dexter - 1st machine demonstration, with motor. Ironed with flat irons heated on 3 burner oil stove, covered with skillet.