In attempting to transcribe this interview a great deal of difficulty was experienced. There are some German town names etc. in which I attempted to only spell phonetically.

During the interview there were three people present besides Tim Kloberdanz, two of them further from the microphone. At many points all tried to talk at once and it was impossible to sort out the individual voices. Many times I experienced difficulty in distinguishing between Molly Wilken's voice and Bertha Lanza's, especially when first returning to work on transcribing the interview.
Mrs. John P. Geringer

Timothy Kloberdanz

May 5, 1976

Pueblo, Colorado

Original tape (3)

1 copy of tape (3)

Rough draft of transcript

Sent to Special Collection 3-9-77

Present during interview:

Mrs. Bertha Lanza
Mrs. Molly Wilken (daughter of Mrs. Geringer)
This is Timothy Kloberdanz and today is Wednesday, May 5th, 1976. I am about to interview Mrs. John P. Geringer in her home at 216 Hinkle Place, Pueblo, Colorado. With us are Mollie Wilken, a daughter of Mrs. Geringer who lives next door and Mrs. Bertha Lanza, a family friend who was born in a Russian-German settlement near Rocky Ford, Colorado, but has lived in Pueblo since 1930.

TJK Why did the people go out to the drylands from Sugar City? That was quite a way.

MJG Because that land was for nothing.

TJK During the homesteading time?

MJG Ja. That's why they went out there. That's where my grandfather was. My mother's father was out--when we came to this country they lived out there on the drylands.

TJK What year would this have been?

MJG I wouldn't know.

TJK Before the sugar -factory at Sugar City?

MJG After the sugar factory was built already.

BL? MW About 1911, or something like that?

MJG Yeah. I don't know....
TJK  They were out on the drylands that early? Ja.
MJG  Yeah, they were out on the drylands.
TJK  They were homesteading?
MJG  Homesteading is right.
TJK  How many families went out there, do you know? Quite a few?
MJG  Oh ja, ja, ja. Quite a few. There were Marxes, there were Leans, there were some Morleys, different Leans.
TJK  Grasnicks?
MJG  And Grasnicks, and uh...
TJK  Well the Rubys.
          [were?]
          [went out there?]
MJG  Rubys without their

BL? or MW  Jergensons.
MJG  Jergensons was out there.
TJK  These were German people?
MJG  All German.
TJK  Jergensons?
BL? or MW  Yergunsowan.
MJG  Yergunsowan.
TJK  Yeah, okay, yeah.
MJG  Were all out there. And Heights were out there.
TJK  Were most of these from Lao [Laube?] then?
MJG  No, from Lao [Laube?] was Peter and Marcus and Geringer and
       uh...(pause) well that's all what I remember.
TJK  And the other ones came from where? The Rubys, where did the
       Rubys come from?
MJG  Rubys came from Lauwe
TJK  Where did the Grafnicks come from?
MJG  Lauwe
TJK  They're from Lauwe too? Oh, then most of them were from there then
       that settlement
MJG  Ja. What that settlement was Lauwe there, was big settlement there.
TJK  Did they have a church there?
MJG  Ja. A small church. We went out to their church.
TJK  Is that there anymore, or not?
MJG  I don't if it's there or not.
TJK  Have you been out in that country?
MJG  No, we never was.

(undecipherable) several people talking at once
BL? or MW  ....but we never went to church there.
MJG  But there were a little church. We went out there and [inaudible] went
       out ...winter.
Now mama came to this country in 1912.

So they were already settled out there?

They were.

And your grandfather was out there.

No, they must have come before that, before 1912.

Oh ja.

How long was he over here, do you have any idea? Your grandfather?

Oh no, he was maybe over here but uh, I think maybe about 10 years.

You mean that early?

Did he come that early to the drylands, or somewhere else?

No, they came direct to Sugar City.

Direct? They didn't stop in Kansas?

No. No. They came direct to Sugar City. My husband's father didn't come direct to Sugar City. I don't even know where grandpa came from. They were somewheres else first. Nebraska, I think.

Yeah.

Nebraska. That's where my grandfather's brother, was in Nebraska.
MJG  Too, first. And then they to....

TJK  Were they in Lincoln?

MJG  Ja, I think in Lincoln, Nebraska. (undecipherable) several people
talking at once

TJK  Yeah, quite a few people there. They even have the old fashioned
wedding and everything up there.

MJG  When we came over here my mother's brother was living in
Sugar City in a shanty. In a shanty. That shanty Just broke down.
I always wanted to take a picture before they...

TJK  Oh, is it still up?

MJG  No, they burned it down. Shanty. (Undecipherable) but I didn't
have no camera. I always wanted a picture...

TJK  Was that shanty built by them, or the sugar factory?

MJG  No, it was built by them. They had a lot there.

TJK  When you came here was it a tent city?

MJG  No, no more. No, they were all shanties. There were a couple of
tents out on Pease.

TJK  But in the early days there was...

MJG  It was all tents, they say. I don't know nothing about tents.
Because it was in my husband's time when he was a young boy.

TJK  So you came in 1912?
MJG  Yes.
TJK  Did you come alone?
MJG  No, with my folks.
TJK  You were how old then?
MJG  I was born '16. I was uh, I had my birthday uh, in September.
TJK  You left Russia in 1912?
MJG  Ja,...'ll.
TJK  Oh, then you arrived here in 1912.
MJG  Oh, we was a long time on the road.
BL  You came here after my folks did. I was born in 1911 and my brother
     was born in 1908, I guess.
MJG  We was a long time on the road.
TJK  What year did your folks come over?
BL  It must have been around 1907, because my brother was born here,
     but I think he was conceived over there.
MW  Was he born over there, Ms. Lanza?
BL  No, he was born here, Rocky Ford, yeah.
MW  I thought he was.
BL  ......was born over there.
TJK  Did they come to Rocky Ford--your folks? They didn't stop anywhere?
BL  No, huh uh. They came direct.
TJK  Now, see, this is kind of unusual, because so many of our people, they
stop in Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming and they finally make it
somewhere else.
BL  No, no. They came direct to Rocky Ford.
TJK  Well, there were people already in Rocky Ford then?
MW  Yes there were. There was someone usually they knew. (undecipherable)
several people speaking at once.
MW  They were looking for jobs when they came here, the sugar beets was
over there and so they brought them here to top beets, I guess. Work on
the fields.
MJG  Yeah.
MW  My dad worked in the sugar factory. For a dollar a day.
TJK  A dollar a day? Now what was yours? You were paid by the sugar factory
too, weren't you?
MJG  No I didn't work in the sugar--Ja, I worked with my folks on [loading coal (?)]
TJK  For how much?
MJG  I don't know what they got....plenty of money, I don't know. Maybe about
12 cents an hour. Something like that.
MW  They made less than a dollar, some of them.
MJG  Ja, ja.
MW  96 cents that would be.

MJG  I shoveled coal, I and my brother. We had to shovel coal out the railroad car. They hauled it with the wheelbarrels. That's the way we worked. Ja. That was my first job in this country.

TJK  Amerika, Amerika,  (German) [Beloliste Laud]

MJG  Ja. (laughter)

MW  [inaudible] Uncle George?

TJK  What did you think like when you were in Russia, About America? Did you think in America you would be shoveling coal?

MJG  Oh, boy, I thought I was going in [ribbons ?]

MW  ....in grandma.

TJK  Oh, yeah, your grandma then too.

MW  Grandma never did want to stay here.

MJG  No.

MW? BL  She always wanted to go back.

TJK  Even to the day she died?

MW?BL  She did.

MJG  You know, it took me seven years, just exactly seven years, to get over that I want to go back.

BL  They loved it over there.
TJK  Why didn't your grandma like it here, what was the reason?
MJG  Oh, she didn't like it, she thought they lived terrible over here. when they first came.
BL? MW Well, they thought, always thought America was a wasteful country.
MJG  We thought that was really something, come to America. When we came to America and my mother seen how her brother was living and her father in them shacks, then she went out on the drylands and seen how we was living on the drylands [inaudible] she wanted to walk back. That's the truth.
TJK  What did you think when you came and saw all that?
MJG  I didn't think anything. I didn't like it.
TJK  Were you homesick?
MJG  Yeah, seven years.
TJK  Seven years you were homesick.
MJG  Seven years I was homesick. The kids were already and I was homesick.
TJK  Why didn't your parents go back?
MJG  There wasn't no money yet.
TJK  Oh, I see.
MJG  There was no money.
BL  You know this Ms. Frank I was telling you about?
TJK  Yeah.
BL  Now they liked it so well here that she built some of these pictures
to send back to Russia because she liked it so well here, that
[ --and to?]
she -- tried to fatten herself up, she just ate and ate, and so Ann (?)
would take pictures--she put on three or four underskirts to make
her look bigger yet, so she'd know how much she was getting to
eat over here now, how nice it was and she put extra slips on the
kids but she --so they, and then they took a picture. But she
wouldn't take it until they were real good and fat how good it was.
and then they sent them back to let them know

TJK  ..how good it was over here then. Did any people ever go back?

BL  No, I don't think so, not that I know of.

MW  Yes. Yes.

TJK  Oh you did know some?

or MJG? MW  Yes. Yes.

TJK  That did go back.

MW  Yes.

TJK  And they stayed then?

MW  Yeah, quite a few.

BL  (talking all this while--undecipherable)

MJG  AW There was some went back to Kurkus, two families they went
back to Kurkus. And there did some go back to Lauwe. Their name
was Bauer. They went back to Lowery.

TJK  Are they related .to this Jake Bauer?

MJG  No. It was a different Bauer, the Kansas Bauers.

MW  Did they stay there then?
Yes. Yes. Then there's some came over here again. Bauers and Hahns, Heights. The brother what was my grandfather and that man, that other man was soldiers, his son, they came back and they landed in California. Then they came back and stayed in California. Now, I don't know if they're living here or not. Anyhow, one of them his wife died and my mother baptized him. So he's quite old, I think he stayed maybe now too. I wouldn't know. But they went back. And some they stayed and some they came over here again. Some from Stolzenbeck.

(several people talking)

But then some would go back, quite a number then?

Yeah, some ....(several people talking)(undecipherable)...but they didn't land here so we didn't know. But they went back, and I know (undecipherable--several people talking).

How did your dad like it, your grandma, your mother didn't like it, how about your dad? Did your dad like it? He didn't like it either then? But he just couldn't get the money together...

What my mother never did like it here. There was the money. And then the war broke out and then they didn't go. After the war broke out all over then that was it.

How did it turn out during the war? Like in other parts of Colorado you could not speak German-and the people closed down the schools, did that ever happen in Sugar City?

Yes. It did. Yes, they had trouble here too.
TJK  What kind? They said you could not speak German?
MJG  Ja, they didn't want German spoken, now they want all
    German spoken. All over. There was a Jew here. Right here,
    and I spoke German to him. You know, he says, I should talk
    to you English at least talking German. (undecipherable).
    Somebody shot him in the arm.
TJK  Was this during the war?
MJG  In war time, ja.
TJK  Did you have schools in Sugar City? That were teaching
    German?
MJG  No. No.
TJK  Did you have German [church?]
JG    All German.
TJK  Even during the war?
MJG  Was all German. (undecipherable)(several people speaking at
MJG  [inaudible] [flags(?)] in the church.
TJK  And they are there yet today, huh?
JJK  Now in Russia, would you have a Russian flag in the church?
MJG  It wasn't.
TJK  No, it wasn't a Russian. Was there, picture of the Czar?
    [pictures in good?]
MJG  No. Nothing We didn't have no [inaudible] churches over
    there.
TJK  The church was all by itself?
MJG  Ja. Just Jesus. That's all. That's all that was in churches.
TJK  Okay, how long did you work for, like you were shoveling coal and what not.
MJG  Yeah.

[At some point either MW or BL leaves for her home to put on coffee]
TJK  How long did you do that?
MJG  Oh, we unloaded I think two cars.
TJK  Railroad cars.
MJG  Ja, railroad cars. I had to help my folks. Then we went and worked in the beet fields. We worked beets thinning beets.. Worked for the company in the beet field. Then later on in 1913 we got married. 1913.
TJK  You met you husband in Sugar City?
MJG  Yes. I met him in Sugar City. The same name.
TJK  You were a Geringer--He was a Geringer?
MJG  Ja.
TJK  And there was no relation at all?
MJG  There was no relation at all,
TJK  Did you know his family in Russia?
MJG  I knew the grandmother, but I didn't know him. I didn't know him.
TJK  Was he in the same area of the village that you were?
MJG  Ja, I was from the south and he was from the north. Same village.

TJK  Was that Wilerdorf?

MJG  Ja. Wilerdorf. Ja. That's the way it was.

[MW goes next door to make coffee]

TJK  When did you start farming?

MJG  Oh, when I got married (undecipherable-several people talking)

TJK  Better than working the beets.

MJG  Oh, yeah (undecipherable) beets, I worked hard. I drove the horses and

    everything (undecipherable)...broke horses.

TJK  You broke horses during this time?

MJG  Ja. Right there and then we was (undecipherable). Oh yeah.

TJK  Where did these wild horses come from?

MJG  Oh, we bought them.

TJK  Where did you buy them?

MJG  On the prairie. From the Howards and the VanCamps.

TJK  Where at on the prairie?

MJG  South of Sugar City. There were a lot of horses.

TJK  Were they small horses?

MJG  Oh, they were-pretty, they were pretty good size.

TJK  They were wild?

MJG  They were wild.

TJK  (Laughter) Hum And these were the ones you hooked up to the buggy

    and you broke?
MJG  Uh huh. I got some (undecipherable) other horses, other horse I broke in uh, the first bridle she got on, I had to sneak it on, it put the halter, I put it in the water. I started to, but, it bucked because it was (undecipherable). And then she wanted a drink. It was a mare. It wanted drink. I put that halter in the water with a long rope on, and while she stuck her head in to drink, I put it on her head and buckled it up right away and I had her

TJK  Hum. Now did you think of that, or was that done in Russia?

MJG  No. I thought of that. (undecipherable) that horse. Oh, I rode over horses over in Russia. All the time.

TJK  Did you have wild horses in Russia?

MJG  No, They were all tame horses. I fell in a hole, in a [deep?] hole with one horse. It stumbled and I fell down and I flew off on the other side. If I didn’t flew off that horse. It was deep that hole, it was a [deep?] hole. There were two holes. I rode between it and that horse stumbled and fell. Fell down and I fell off on the other side.

BL or MW? Over the hole—you flew over the hole?

MJG  No. On the other side of the hole, through [threw?] the horse. The horse got up and I sat on it and rode up. I wasn't hurt at all.

MW  It wasn't your time.

MJG  No, I wasn't hurt at all.

TJK  This was over here, now, right?

MJG  No. Over in the old country.
TJK  Oh, over in the old country.
MJG  Old country. I rode horses....in the old country,[German] what they call them--the wo--they call them floats, huh? You know they ship wood to different places . They make uh, they saw boards. Well, I, I, I rode two horses to bring that out of the water. Out of the Volga River. I and another boy. Uh, uh, who was it? A Bauer boy.

TJK  Now Lauwe was right on the Volga, right?
MJG  We were right there on the Volga.

TJK  How wide was that across, do you remember?
MJG  About uh, that Volga was I guess a mile wide where we was at. Maybe more than a mile. Something like that.

TJK  Would that change, I mean was it uh?
MJG  It was frozen through the winter.

TJK  Oh, then you could go across it then.

MW  Um hum [undecipherable]

MJG  [Drive? the] horses across.

TJK  Oh, on’sled?
MJG  Uh huh. And in the summer time the ships went on. All through the summer. It broke loose. Oh! Great big chunks went down the river. You wouldn’t believe it. After that was all gone then the ships go through it. Our place in Louwe, it was high up., Then a drop down and there was a, what they call it, uh, that beach [village?] down where
the trees and all is uh—meadow [inaudible] . Was a meadow there. Pretty big that meadow. Then the Volga river was and then they had uh a station there like it was in a ship, you know. The ship goes down and the people got off. That was there. That was in Lauwe. Farther up north, I think it went clear to Saratov, I don't know how far south it went, where they never stopped--just Lowery.

TJK  You were the closest to the Volga then?

MJG  Ja. We was close to the Volga. All the people. Jost was close to the Volga, but no ships up there.

TJK  Well, then you had a dock.

MJG  Ja. Ja. That's what they called it. The ships stopped there on the dock. Ja. And then the float come down, was lot of wood. You know, them trees that was cleaned up. They were together, tied all together. Then what they call a Basha... [German] I don't know what you call it. It has got a small motor in, it's not like a ship. That pulled them, dead things down. You know, clear down. Oh, they were long [inaudible] [timber?] tied together. A long ways. And then they come clear to the on side the Volga River. Then we had to pull them, laid the bars up, two stems(?) [things] like that up, first down out of the water, and then up, and then on each side. Put two horses on and we rode them up and pulled them way up high and then they cut them up down there. Some they cut them up. And to the last they brought a machine there and they run them through the machine and cut them up. Then the men carried that wood out, they called them Beesheik, [run two stems?] [German] They carried, and then, they were on two limb right through them. When they were cut they came out and they had [men?] saddles on their mares. They laid it on the side and walked up and throw them down--the boards.
Oh, that is a great, great big story I went through.

TJK  How did, that reminds me how they put the saddle things on. The women, now, when they carried water--did they have a device or something that they used?

MJG  Yes, uh, ....

BL  Carved out of wood, wasn't it Mrs. Geringer?

MJG  Yeah.

TJK  What was that called.

MJG  Uh, uh,,,

BL  I don't remember. My folks had them. Down here in Rocky Ford.

TJK  Was that a trok?


BL  ....about your shoulders.

MJG  Ja. Ja. The Russian people had different ones.

TJK  How was theirs different now?

MJG  Uh, theirs was, uh, just straight, just straight. Then they pointed out there a little. They just carried on one shoulder. The other people they carried on both shoulder. They were cut and a hole in where your neck was.

TJK  So the German people carried it...on both.

MJG  Ja.
MW They fit, they fit right in here good.
TJK Like a yoke.
TJK They'd carry a pail on each end.
MJG On each end.
MW ...they hung down.
TJK Yeah. Now only the women did this, right, or the men too?
MJG No, no, the uh, just the women took care of that.
TJK Oh, did they?
MJG Yeah, just the womens out there. The men they (undecipherable). You know, they had wild camels out there too.
TJK Yeah, that's what you told me before. How was it, when you said you wanted a camel to go?
MJG (German).
TJK When you wanted it to sit down?
MJG That's when (undecipherable) [it sits down?]
TJK Oh, and when you wanted it to get up?
MJG (German).
TJK Where did the camels come from in Russia. Did they come from the South?
MJG Yes. They come from Jerusalem.
TJK Oh, they were from the Holy Land then?
MJG Uh uh. That where they (undecipherable)
TJK One hump, or two hump?
MJG One and two.
TJK Oh, you had both then?
MJG Ja. Ja. I rode two humps. Couldn't ride the one hump. One hump had the saddle on. Which one is the uh (German). When they want to get married they use one hump, because they put the saddle on and cheat(?) their girls. (Laughter) And then they, you know, they can run like hell. (Laughter)
TJK They are a dark people, right?
MJG Ja. Ja. They're not too dark. They're (undecipherable)
MW ...wonder, would it be the Turks?
TJK Well, are they like the Tabara? [Tatara?]
MJG Ja. I give him the picture so he can read it up.
TJK Yeah. Like here's the Dara and Kirghiz. Kirghiz they looked Asian.
MJG Yeah. Harry got one just like it.
TJK Okay, but then they had the one hump.
TJK  Yeah, go ahead.

MJG  The Laudstrass (?) The highway they called it the Laudstrass
    (undecipherable) We could see him, and he run away with this girl.
    (Laughter) And boy, they made (laughter) (MW or BL undecipherable).

TJK  What did the German people think of that?

MJG  Nothing.  (Laughter) But they used to do it. But you can not use them on
    ice. You can not use them on ice.

TJK  Can they find direction good, though?

MJG  Yes.

TJK  They can? Better than horses?

MJG  Oh yes, yes. They are good in dry, you know when you are in a snow
    storm. They are good. They are good.

TJK  Um hum. They'll find the way then?

MJG  Yes. They give every so often, they holler. You can hear them.
    When they get lost, you laying down, lay between them, they'll keep you
    warm, they won't get up.

TJK  You used them for farming then, right?

MJG  Ja.

TJK  Like for plowing?

MJG  Yes. In the wagons, Yes.

TJK  Were they hard to get along with?

MJG  (Pause) Pretty hard. Yes.
MJG  They threwed--is this thing...,

TJK  Yeah, it's okay, yeah.

MJG  They threwed uh, (pause) snot at you.

TJK  Oh! (Laughter) When they got mad, or...yeah. (Laughter)

MJG  When they didn't want to do nothing. They'd get mad. Then

     they'd (noise). I could do it, but I can't do it very well.

     (Laughter) Just right at you. Oh, ja. They pull heavy.

TJK  Did you ever use the milk from a camel?

MJG  No, never.

TJK  Did they get geez?

MJG  I don't know, I think they did. We used the wool.

TJK  You did?

MJG  Uh huh, from the camels. For quilts. They make the wonderful
     quilts.

MW  I've got one of those.

TJK  Now, the German people would make those too?

MJG  Yes.

TJK  Did you have one, Bertha?

MJG  Yeah, I had one too and uh...

TJK  Are they heavy?

MJG  Ja.
BL Oh. ...(undecipherable)

TJK Now, did your folks bring that from Russia?

BL Yes. It's uh, it's sixty-eight years...uh, been here in America sixty-eight years......when I got it back ...... I stated clearly that this was an heirloom, you know. So I sent it in.... my sister said be sure you check with them, might not be that's camel..... so I wrote back and I said, from ....it's not the one I sent you, and I told you I wanted that, that exact one. ..an heirloom. If you do not bring up that quilt, I will file charges against you, I will see my lawyer. You know about that?

MJG Yeah, you told me.

BL ....and they sent it. They wanted keep it.

TJK What would you use that kind of quilt for? Like, uh...

BL On top.

TJK Oh, like uh, for bedding?

MJG Oh, ja. They get washed. They wash them, just like the wool.

BL ...heirlooms, the German people, people like in Franktown there, have probably got a housefull. They comb them every year. They probably combs, yes. Every, uh she had them. You comb these. Every once in a while, just fluff it up. They would fluff up just ... and then they'd get matted again, and then...

MJG Oh yeah ...I had a coat, they called it (German) [Chabashia made?] and there were camel hair in there.

TJK Was it a long coat?
MJG  No, a short coat. It was made and there were camel hair in there. They keep warm. They’re nice. Wash them. They’re wonderful.

BL  Out of this world ...I mean, (undecipherable)

MJG  Yeah, from, hair from just the legs, that's all they got the long hair.

TJK  Did you ever have the real shaggy horses over there? The long hair horses?

MJG  No, uh, no, we didn't have them long hair horses. No. No. We have just the common horses over there. Just the common, common nice horses. Ja.

TJK  Now, when camels died, would you use the bones? At all for anything?

MJG  Never seen any, uh, what was stated camel...

TJK  Oh.

MJG  See, they didn't get them camels. They wouldn't dare when I was... uh, they just brought them in. They didn't bought them. I was about but 11, bout 11 or 12 years old, about 12 years old when they brought them in. They bought them and brought them in and used them. My dad was going to haul some coals with camels. They wouldn't even pull the sled, because they couldn't, they can't pull like that.

TJK  Oh, on the ice?

MJG  Uh, on mud either.

TJK  Oh. Oh, that's right, their hoofs are different.

MJG  Yes. They're like cows. They're like cows. But otherwise they can use them. Plowing and things like that. Yes, they can use them.
TJK  What about like when horses die, did you ever use the bones from any animal at all?

MJG  No, they buried them and uh, and uh..... . TAPE 1, SIDE B

TJK  Like bowling or something.

MJG  Ja. Just what that like. Just bout a like that. And some then, maybe they'd throw them out. They'd burn them.

TJK  What other games, did they have other games? At all that they played?

MJG  Yeah, they played (Schmeisass)(Danik).

TJK  Danik?

MJG  Uh huh, That’s a piece of wood, uh, they chopped it like this and uh, they used their stick and hit it and run around just like playing ball. (Laughter)

BL  ...played jacks.

MJG  And uh, then they had a, made a hole, and played with them sticks --a bunch went together and they--their sticks in there and they say, (German), and they got that out. I forget what they’re all uh, I knew them all, but I forget. You don’t play it, you forget.

TJK  Yeah. I know you had card games over there. Did you have, playing cards?

MJG  Yeah. I never played any, my mother wouldn't allow it.

TJK  Why was that?
MJG    She didn't like it.
BL     Because it was a sin. My folks,..
MJG    Oh, it was a sin.
MJG    Ja. That was a sin over there.
BL     If they just caught them cards out there they'd? ..them cards, they'd take them away.... and burn them.
TJK    Oh, they were considered evil then?
BL     Uh huh.
MJG    Yes. We never played cards.
TJK    Tools of the devil.
The three people present went to Mollie Wilken's house for a while for soup.
MJG    Why don't you write it? Or don't you want to write it?
TJK    Well, then that takes so much time, then, in terms... See then this way it's faster then. Then I can just take the notes on it.
MJG    Oh, I see.
TJK    Okay, I want to ask about farming. Bauerride in the old country.
MJG    Ja. . In the old country. did you
TJK    Now what crops did you have in Lauwe? What crops did you raise?
MJG    Wheat.
TJK    Wheat? Was that mostly wheat?
MJG    Wheat--ja. And potatoes, and sunflowers, they made the oil out of it.
TJK Did you have a mill? For the oil?
MJG Yes. In Lauwe. (pause) And uh, I told you potatoes
TJK Yeah. A lot of potatoes?
MJG Ja. Pumpkins, lot of pumpkins, lot of watermelons--beets
   for cougarmoose.
TJK Were they red beets?
MJG No. The white beets.
TJK Oh, the white beets?
MJG Uh huh, the white beets. Big.
TJK But you never raised beets over there like over here did you?
MJG No, no, no. Just for uh...
TJK The garden?
MJG uh, for uh, make syrup out of it, that's all.
TJK Okay.
MJG Uh huh, that's all.
TJK (pause) Okay, what about like carrots?
MJG They had carrots...
TJK Cabbage?
MJG Cabbage. They had that.
TJK Any fruit?
MJG  Uh, yes. Cherries, apples and uh gooseberries, and uh, and uh,... the blackberries, you know. Then on tossles, uh, (pause)

TJK  They had little tossles on them?

MJG  Uh huh--they're good. Here, they got some here, but they...

TJK  Did you have any corn?

MJG  Yeah, but they didn't use it. For eating.

TJK  For eating, they didn't?

MJG  No.

TJK  What did they do with it?

MJG  Well, they just had it for dogs, for the dogs. Not even for the hogs.

TJK  Was it corn like over here, then?

MJG  Yes. All the kinds--red...

TJK  Sweet corn?

MJG  No, [regular?] corn.

TJK  Oh, I see.

MJG They didn't raise it--just had a little bit.

TJK  What do you call that in German? That kind of corn?

MJG  Corn.
TJK  Just corn. I see. Okay. What about rye? Did you have rye over there?

MJG  A lot of rye, rye, they make a rye flour. We had 5 or 6 mills, I think 6--let me see (pause) one of them burned down---mills to make the flour. One of them burned down. To make the flour.

TJK  The land that you had--you had strips of land, right?

MJG  Yes, yes. You had a strip here and a strip there, and a strip there.

TJK  How did they figure out how many strips of land you would have--the family?

MJG  It was uh, who had so many boys had big land.

TJK  And if you had no boys?

MJG  You had just little land. We had small land.

TJK  How many times would they divide this land?

MJG  That is uh, out in the country that was divided, stayed divide. You have your garden--that stayed, that was your garden. That stayed The only land was the meadow--they divide that every year.

You cut that down. You cut that feed and take it home. They divide that every year, you went down and uh, pulled the picket, and that picket was marked off and that was your piece of land to cut uh, uh, grass off. That's the way it was.

TJK  Now, who decided who got what land?
MJG  Down there?

TJK  Yeah.

MJG  That was the city decide that that uh, the jorsteher [the elder],
    we call it the jorsteher.

TJK  Did you have a Gemeiude

MJG  Ja. Gemeiude.

TJK  Oh, okay. They would decide then, Gemeinde

MJG  Ja. They made the pickets and marked it down in that meadow.
    See, so far it was yours and the others was Yost, and the others
    Kukus. [nearby villages]

TJK  Oh, I see. Now, how often would they meet and decide that?
    Once a year?

MJG  Once a year.

TJK  Once a year. What about the land. These little strips of land,
    was that every year they would do that?

MJG  No. No, that was yours all through the year. They never had
    that. That was always yours.

TJK  What would happen then, for instance, if a man had uh, a man
    and his wife had ten daughters, and then he only had a little bit
    of land?

MJG  Just a little bit of land, yes.

TJK  Was there any way that he could get more land?
Well, no. No. It was really, there were bunched always a family together. Big family together all the time.

So then, did the women want to have boys then?

The women had boys, you know, and they had big land out there.
Now we had one piece, no two--I had two brothers. One died, but uh, one, one we kept (?) See.

Now when someone died did you still have the land or not?

This I don't know. This is I don't know. See I was young yet.

Sure. But that was the way you received your land, was the number of boys and the men.

Yes, that's the way, that's the way you had it. The number of the boys. There were some they had big lands, big fields, and now way out in the Steppes, they had land that they never changed. Never changed. They had land that, they say they bought it. And they had houses out there. They called that bochas.

Bochas?

Uh huh. That was their land, they had that land year in and year out.

Did you and your family ever go out and do that?

No, no. My dad was a blacksmith.

Okay. He was a blacksmith. You said before, you and your mother helped him in the blacksmith shop.

Oh yeah. I was a blacksmith. I handled a hammer just as good as
a man done. Still today. You see what I mean? [made?]

TJK  Sure, sure. That’s where you learned how to make the bridles and the harness?

MJG  Yeah, I did that here for doing nothing. Didn’t have nothing so-- and I sewed them on my sewing machine, with a big needle.

TJK  Hum. Now, was your home or your shop near a creek? In the old country, then, in Russia?

MJG  Was what?

TJK  Did you have to have a creek, a little stream, or something?

MJG  Was what?

TJK  By your blacksmith shop, did you need water like...

MJG  No, no, no. Huh uh. You had a bucket there, or a [tub with water. Yes ?]

TJK  Yeah but you needed the water, though.

MJG  Yeah. But they had water there, and uh, to pull it out of the well. They had a big well, and we pulled water out of it. Ja.

TJK  On your herding, like you had cattle, you had horses--where did you keep your cattle and horses for the, to give them like feed, like grass...

MJG  They feed them straw out there.

TJK  Oh, they fed them straw?

MJG  Uh huh, the straw get cut.
TJK: Oh, like the wheat, from the wheat, the straw you would use it?

MJG: Ja. From the wheat, it get cut fine, and then they put uh, you know uh, oh what they take off from the flour, you know, uh, the meal--you know they put that in a barrel--and they make that big and put it over the straw for the horses to eat. They eat sloppy. And that's what they feed the horses.

TJK: So then the animals never grazed?

MJG: Yes.

TJK: They did?

MJG: Uh huh. In the summertime, the cows, you know they all go in the village. Every night. They have a herder. He takes them and out in the summer every morning, and in the evening they come all into town again, everybody gets his cows and they go home.

TJK: How do they decide whose cow belongs where?

MJG: Well uh, the cows--they know where to go.

TJK: Oh, they go in by themselves?

MJG: Yes, they turn off and go in by themselves.

TJK: Okay, they did that with the cattle, would they do that with the horses too?

MJG: No, the horses uh, they got it in the spring they take uh, if they don't use them yet, they pick them out, they call that [tabeen] see that's the herd, the horses. They got a herd for them too, they make a corral, they got herd put them horses too. Because my
grandfather, he took care them horses one year like that.

TJK  Were they paid, the people who...

MJG  Yes, they were paid, but I don't know how much.

TJK  By the Gemeiude.

MJG  By the Gemeiude.

TJK  And then see you know so much, I want to make sure (laughter) I get that here. I want to ask, okay, would you herd sheep the same way? Would you take them out at one time and bring them back?

MJG  Ja. The people did. They didn't run the sheep with the cows.

TJK  They didn't?

MJG  No, they had goats they run with the cows, but no sheep. The sheep they took alone.

TJK  To a different part of the pasture, then?

MJG  Ja. And it's the long-wooled sheep. All the long-wooled sheep.

TJK  What about the geese and the ducks? Would you herd them or not?

MJG  Yes--uh, some people they had just a few, not many ducks and geese, not many, just a few here and there. We didn't have any, we just had chickens. One horse and two cows.

TJK  What about the camels now? Would you herd them or not?

MJG  This no, the people they had them, they had them out uh, there were only two or three family have them. The Bauers, and they
was another family, they wasn’t many. But I can remember when they took the oxes away and brought the camels in. They drove oxes out there too. They bought the camels and quit the oxes altogether.

TJK I want to ask too about the school. You were talking earlier today about the school. How big was the school? How many grades?

MJG Six.

TJK Six grades in the school. At this time when you were going to school...

MJG I was in the fourth grade.

TJK In the fourth grade? And they were teaching both German and Russian. And you had to learn both. Right?

MJG Yeah. Pastor came and you had to learn the cabeesah, and the ubrese, and read German. Then your teacher was Russian, read and write Russian.

TJK Oh, you had a Russian teacher, then?

MJG Oh, yeah, we spoke Russian.

TJK What was that, do you remember the Russian's name at all?

MJG Oh, no, I forgot them all, because I just didn't pay no more attention to them. But I could read, I wrote letters to the old country in Russian, but I forgot it all. All. I put the address on Travess, Scorota, Saravskertobena, Ster, Jepnya, Jeplanov.

TJK Oh, the Russian name of your village, Labyanoska?
MJG  Ja. Ja. Labyanovka. Um hum. Put that all on. I wrote the first letter in Sugar City for Russian people, because I knew it, but I don't any more. I never had no more books, that was the end of the books--when I came. Never had a book anymore.

TJK  I see. How did the people, the German people there, did they like Russia before the Revolution? I mean did they get along well?

MJG  Oh yes, they got along real well, the people out there. Yeah, they got along real...

TJK  And the life was a good one?

MJG  Yeah, it was good, but no money. There wasn't hardly any money.

TJK  What were the reasons, that your family left? Why did your grandparents, for instance, leave?

MJG  He had a brother over here, you know over and they send for some more and some more. Now when we came we laid in [Lilsaw ?] for three weeks, pretty near a month. They sent some money over there so we had enough money to come to this country. We borrowed the money and then we paid them, my dad paid them back when we was over here working, paid him back. Yeah, paid him back. He had a, my grandfather had a brother here already.

TJK  So then your family didn't leave because of the military then? Or because they didn't want to be soldiers?

MJG  No, no, no. They just left, my dad couldn't be a soldier, he was too old. for a soldier. Yeah, he was too old.
TJK  But your grandfather was a soldier, huh?
MJG  My grandfather was a soldier.
TJK  Did he ever talk about it much? Being a soldier, did he?
MJG  No.
TJK  No, he never did.
MJG  No, because they had to kill people in different ways.
TJK  Oh, this was the one who was in the Turkish war?
MJG  Yeah. Ja. And my dad's father wasn't in a war. My dad's father, that was my mother's father.
TJK  How did the people feel like when the boys were sent off?
MJG  They felt just bad about it, that's all. They feel bad because they never heard anything--they never write no letters that time. There was no letter, like they do now, that wasn't...
TJK  So they would never hear from them.
MJG  No, no. Hardly ever.
TJK  Do you ever remember, when, like you were over there, when those boys would leave?
MJG  Oh, Ja. Ja. I was right there when they left. Ja, I was right there.
TJK  Would they leave in bunches? Or one?
MJG  Oh, yeah. Ja. Sometimes they would, but five or six out of one village, maybe more than that...
TJK  That would go at one time?
MJG  Yes. Yes.
TJK  Now what would they, would they walk off?
MJG  No, no, they hauled them off in wagons, or sleds, and some other boys they knew them real well, they were riders, they ride beside them and, you know, take them, take them along, you know, feel bad about it and they rode along with them on both sides. Had the horses. I know when our neighbor boy left, we was all up, stayed all up all night with him.
TJK  Hum. Was there singing?
MJG  Well, some of them they did sing, some of them were heavy, some happy, and some were sorry. And all of that. That's the way it went on. Ja, I was right there. I know it.
TJK  Did you know if this boy returned or not? Did you ever find out?
MJG  No, I don't, we made it to America then, after that.
TJK  Oh, I see. Then you never did find out?
MJG  No, but I heard he got married--my girlfriend. I heard he got married to my girlfriend.
TJK  Oh, I see. Your chum, then?
Yeah, now in the early days, do you remember, did they, did the parents decide who married who, ever? Would they ever take a boy and say, you marry so and so's daughter?

No. No, no, no. That wasn't in the countries out there. No.

No. So you, you had that choice then in your times?

Ja. Ja. They all had the choice like that.

They went with a girl, if they want to get married to her, they ask them and then together and uh, so this is just uh, the Japs they did that.

Yeah, they not coming over here. Oh, we gonna have company from California. Today she call Tillie up, they call Tillie up from California to come out uh, the 18th or 19th or 20th. Well, now you, you don't disturb us, you ask questions. (laughter)

I should have stayed home.

Oh, no, no, no, no. Was there dating now? Would boys and girls meet?

Oh yeah, they went together, yes, yes. They went together like they do here.

Could they stay out at night?

Well, they didn't stay out long, no. But they went together, oh, uh we was in by around ten, ten o'clock. They stayed visiting together
In the summertime they visiting together and went down on the Volga, and that's the way their, they got together.

TJK  Okay. Okay. No, I was thinking there might have been restrictions, you know, like who married who, but this wasn't the case in your village?

MJG  No, no, huh uh, no.

TJK  Could somebody from [Uaterdorf ?] marry somebody from the [Uberdorf ?]

MJG  Yes.

TJK  They could?

MJG  They did.

TJK  There was no...?

MJG  My mother is the only, she is the only one marry my dad from the same village. And my dad's brother, every one of them has got one out of different village. One had one from Kukkus one had one from Stahl, one had one from Yost, and one had one from Diukel and one had one from [Strauls].

TJK  Hmm. How did they go about meeting girls from other villages? Did they go to that village?

MJG  Yes, yes. They...

TJK  And the boys in that village, they went to, they weren't angry at that?

MJG  Uh, they got together. They got together and married. Ja. My dad had the only woman from all them brothers,
had a Lauwera the others all are different villages, every one of them.

TJK  Hum, I see. Because like you know in some villages on the Berg side you could only marry somebody from your own village.

MJG  Oh, Yeah, they had at that time. Now I’m going to tell you a good one. Somebody, see they call that [freiers ?] When somebody drove to a different village and want to get that girl and they came back and they see that he didn't get it--so the other boys they hurry up and took, you know, them [Keils ?] Great big uh...baskets. Yeah baskets, like that, they took one when they see him coming and they put it upside down and that meant he wasn't lucky. (Laughter)

TJK  (Laughter) Oh, ho, ho. ho. So that's where that expression comes from--when uh, I think it's an expression, when you're turned down they say you're....

MJG  Yeah.

TJK  Yeah. Okay.

MJG  Yeah. That's what it was.

TJK  Okay. Let's move all the way from Russia, then, to Sugar City again. You started farming in Sugar City when?

MJG  Well, when I got married.

TJK  Oh then, you started farming right away?

MJG  Uh huh, we stayed with his father twelve years.

TJK  Oh, then you farmed with them?
MJG  Uh huh, yeah. We stayed 12 years.

TJK  And you worked your own beets?

MJG  Yeah. Worked the beets and everything else.

TJK  Then you never brought labor in in Sugar City to work your own beets, farmers there?

MJG  Yes, they did. There were a lot of Mexicans. Yeah.

TJK  When did the Mexicans come in?

MJG  There were a lot of Mexicans they brought in to work the beets.

BL  They lived there, didn't they?

MJG  Yeah, some of them they lived there, yeah. To the last, from the start there was only one, that, just one or two families. Some Mexicans came in--oh, there were Mexicans here, but they went and worked beets over there. Yeah. We had some Mexicans working for us then too.

TJK  Hum. Do you remember the depression? I mean, was the depression hard on the German people, or were you used to being poor?

MJG  Uh, the depression down at Sugar City, I tell you, that was terrible. We didn't have no flour. They was bootlegging four, white flour.

MW  When was the first depression down there, Mom?

MJG  I don't know what year, I couldn't...

TJK  Was it before the thirties?
MW  Now, remember the other one in the thirties.
TJK  There was one before the thirties?
MW  I guess so.
MJG  Ja. There was one. We was with grandfather. Your
grandfather.
MW  I can remember the one in the thirties.
TJK  Yeah.
MW  There was one earlier, that's the one you're talking about.
MJG  There was one earlier. You know what fifty pounds of flour
costed us? Twenty-five pounds. No it was fifty pounds.
        Fifty dollars.
TJK  A dollar a pound.
MJG  Yeah. We got one sack of flour.
MW  There was inflation during that time.
TJK  Yeah. Do you remember the depression in your area, Mrs.
        Lanza?
MJG  She was down there.
BL  Yeah.
TJK  How was it there, did your people feel it?
BL  Well, my folks wasn't bad, but my husband and I, we were
        bad off.
MW  That was in the thirties?
TJK  Oh, that's right you were out of that area weren't you?
BL  Yeah, I was out of there.
TJK  And you were in Pueblo then.
MJG  Uh huh.

BL  (undecipherable) ...were having a hard time, but uh...

MJG  And you know, when you went to store and bought something you wanted to get a little flour, you had to buy rice flour, you had to buy this junk, you had to buy other junk and all that corn meal. We wasn't used to eat that. So I baked bread, with rice flour, uh with uh rice, rice flour. I got sick from it. From that rice flour. It was no good. They just sold you slop. That's all they did to making money out of it. Yeah. They doing the same thing now again. Look how much flour, how much wheat they sent away. They talking about on television all the time, how much they sent away. See. It's going to be here again like that. You watch.

MW  And during World War II how many Germans they brought over to Sugar City to work in the sugar factories, and the groceries they bought for them and the good feeding they got, and the garbage they threw that, uh, good stuff that they threw out to the pigs.

MJG  Yeah. Whole hams.

TJK  These were prisoners of war now, the Germans?

MW  Prisoners of war (undecipherable)

TJK  Oh then you had them down in your area?

MJG  Oh yeah, they were in Sugar City.

MW  Um hum.
BL  They were in LaJunta too.
TJK  They were in LaJunta?
MJG  Uh huh. They shot one of them on uh, Floyd Rasmussen's land down there.
TJK  Why? Was he trying to escape?
MJG  No, I don't know what he done, but they shot him.
TJK  Did they kill him?
MJG  This is either, I don't know, no they didn't kill him. But they shot him.
BL  They had to watch what they did, real close.
MJG  Oh, yeah.
TJK  I was going to ask too, going back to the twenties, now, like in northern Colorado there were troubles with the Ku Klux Klan.
MJG  Yeah, they was Ku..
TJK  Did you have Ku Klux Klan down...
MJG  Oh, you betcha.
TJK  Oh, you did?
MJG  Yeah.
MW  Here in Pueblo.
TJK  Here in LaJunta too?
BL  Yeah.
TJK And in Pueblo?

MW I went to see a Christmas program...

MJG Nope. [inaudible] a Ku Klux Klan, one time at Sugar City, they burned a cross. We had only one family, no two family negros. Henry, when Henry uh King saw that, they burned the cross, on the park. And Walkers, they were Ku Klux Klan.

MW Yeah, I heard they were.

MJG Yeah. They were Ku Klux Klan, them Walkers.

TJK They were never against the German people though? The Ku Klux Klan;

MJG They didn't come out.

TJK Oh, okay. You never knew then?

MJG Yeah, they kept it secret. That was it--no more cross was left burning.

TJK Oh, I see.

MJG But they burned some in Pueblo here, and we passed by and we seen it up on the hill, they burned a cross. We was up here and we went home to Sugar City and they burned the cross in Pueblo here.

TJK Did that scare the older German people?

MJG Well, I don't know, I was....

BL Up here they didn't shoot at the Germans.

MJG No.
It was at something else. They didn't like the Catholics.

Yeah.

Yeah.

But, you know, we went to the Christmas story, like uh, the birth of Christ, once in Rocky Ford, you know the [inaudible] once around Christmas time, and all of a sudden, you know, it was all religious play, and you know they burned a cross.

Yeah.

This was in Rocky Ford?

Um hum.

Did you have the Ku Klux Klan in LaJunta, though?

Um hum.

You had them there too?

But they didn't show it.

They never showed themselves.

Where did that Shelly Brown get killed? Up here in Pueblo?

In Pueblo. He got killed from Ku Klux Klan (sic).

That's what I meant from Ku Klux Klan.

He wasn't German though, right?

Yes. Yes he was.

Oh, he was?
MW  He lived in Sugar City, and he came up here, and he got killed by the Ku Klux Man.

TJK  Why did they do that?

MJG  I'll tell you how they killed that.

TJK  What year was that? In the twenties?

MW  Yeah, late uh, middle twenties.

BL  I think it was earlier than that.

MJG  Ja, earlier than that. It was in the thirties.

BL  No, it was in the twenties.

MJG  Now, in the...

BL  In the 1900’s.

MJG  Ja.

TJK  He was killed in Pueblo?

MW  I'd say, mama, it was in the twenties. Early twenties.

BL  Yeah, early twenties.

TJK  Like around '24, '23.

BL  Yeah, I'd say like that.

TJK  Okay.

MJG  She ... you still got...?

TJK  Yeah, that's okay.
MJG (undecipherable) together. He said something he wasn't supposed to say it.

BL Um hum.

MJG And out here, east here, on the north side--that's where they went with him and they run him down in a hole. That killed him.

TJK Did the police ever find out about that?

MJG No, no, that was it.

TJK My.

BL You know what else they would do? They would burn a cross. Some man was fooling around on his wife, and they burned a cross in front of his house.

TJK Oh, they would? Something like that.

MJG Oh yeah. But they...

BL When they finally did anything--sometimes it was good things I guess

TJK Yeah. But now this Brown, he was one of our people then?

MJG Yeah, he was German. Ja. Their--their grandfather was Kometsfelt.

MW Kamerzell.

MJG And uh.

TJK Kamerzell?

MW Kamerzell, that was the name.

MJG Uh huh. He was, the name was Brown. He was Brown. (Braun?) He was killed.
TJK They weren't from Laube, though?
MJG No. No. They were from, the [Dreisprtz ?] I think Hummer said were from the [inaudible].
TJK Oh that's Bergside?
MJG Ja. I don't know where Braun (Brown?) was from.
TJK Did that ever appear in the newspapers? That he disappeared?
MJG No. No. No. Huh uh. They kept it....
BL I was pretty young...
MJG ... just like that.
MW You know that was a big shot that was uh...
MJG Yeah.
PAW ...the big wheel of the town.
MJG That was it.
TJK Yeah.
MW He worked for grandpa. Do you remember mama?
MJG Who?
MW Shelly Brown. They was working for grandma and grandpa. That's how I knew them. When they lived south of town down there.
MJG Yeah, he maybe did then. Yeah.
MW I knew him.
MJG  But--his mama, and his dad, we went together, we [inaudible] them together. We were young yet.

TJK  But otherwise as German people you never felt....

MJG  No, no. This was only....

TJK  Okay. When did things start looking better then? After the depression--or, was there a time then when things would start looking better?

MJG  It took the whole year, over a year, till they had--you know what the people didn't have no meat, you know what kinds of meat they got? In the east they killed old cows and put them in barrels and sent them out here. I had some of that meat.

BL  Yes, and we did too. We gave it to the dog and the dog died.

TJK  Really?

MJG  Yeah.

TJK  Did you have to pay for this meat?

BL  No.

MJG  No. Yeah. This was salted down.

TJK  From the government?

MJG  Yeah.

BL  Ours was canned.

MJG  No, ours was in the barrel, if you pulled it out looks like a slop barrel,
BL  The [butter?] was good. But we never got none of it.

MJG  Well, we got some of that canned meat too.

TJK  Yeah. Did any people leave Sugar City during the depression?

MJG  No.

TJK  They didn't? MJG They couldn't.

Tape 2, Side A

MJG  And, and we had the horses. We didn't have hardly any feed because there was no feed even. Was dried out with it. So he worked. From the west ditch they drove the horses clear up to Ordway and back again and down and load the tent. I brought something to eat down there and we had four horses. One of them was a little stiff on the legs. They worked that horses so hard, and I got mad. Made me mad. There the fellow by the name Howden, that was the overseer. Boy, Mr. Passick, the fellow by the name Passick, he was going run ...I said, if that man comes up my yard I kill him. That was so. I said I kill him. Passick came, they says don't you want to let him come in. I says no, he's not coming in here. He'll go. And he had to go. I was rough. One guy came--my husband was so sick. He had about 50 [inaudible] on him. He was sick in bed. One feller came, he says how come you didn't work. I said John is sick, he can't, he just can't work. Oh, he says, he just don't want to work. I grabbed a bar and I was going to kill him right in his car. He stepped on that car, I
never seen him on the field any more. That was the end of him. That was came close. ja. Oh you had to be tough with them guys too.

TJK Well, sure.

MJG Oh, they worked the people hard.

TJK Now, were you able to purchase a farm then? Were you renting the place in the thirties, or did you own that land?

MJG No. No. that was my husband's father, he owned the place.

TJK Did a lot of the German people own their farms in the thirties?

MJG No, not too many.

TJK Not too many then.

MJG No, they were all [renters ?] from the Sugar Company.

TJK The Sugar Company owned the farms?

MW Now get this straight?...(undecipherable) Mom, when you lived with grandpa, that wasn't in the thirties. You lived with grandpa in the twenties.

MJG In the twenties.

TJK Oh, in the twenties.

MW In the twenties.

MJG Ja, but there still were uh...

MW Or let's say in the 1900's. But I was born in '14, and moved away from grandpa when I was twelve.
And from that time on they always rented farms.

We rented. We did.

Always. They never have owned a farm. Never.

Oh. Okay.

No. Just my husband's father owned a farm.

Okay.

Uh huh. He owned a farm, and Kamerzell's owned a farm and Carl Grasnick owned a farm, and uh...then my father bought a farm, and the others were all renters. From the Sugar Company. Sugar Company was big. Lot of horses, lot of...

How many people did they hire, do you imagine, that...

Oh, about uh...in the sugar factory?

Yeah.

Well, say during the sugar campaign, which started in October and lasted--them years back about February. Oh more than a hundred Mom. They'd have to have 3 shifts.

Oh ja, at that time they had three shifts [inaudible].

Well, they had two shifts (undecipherable).

Ja, they had about a hundred to a shift. At that time.

These were mostly German-Russian people?

Every one of them.
MJG  Ja. And English. All the kinds. Not many Mexicans worked in
the factory. They unload the beets, but not in the factory.

TJK  How did the German-Russian people feel toward the factory?
Did they feel that it was being fair with them? Or not? Like the
money you were getting for the sugar and everything, did you
feel that ever that was unfair?

(Several people talking at once) (undecipherable)

BL  They felt that they wasn't getting enough money.

TJK  Yeah, because in northern Colorado....

BL  They were mean to the Germans.

MJG  Yeah. That was just about the same as they did up there.

TJK  Sure. Yeah. I was going to say that in northern Colorado they
always felt that they were not getting their fair share of what
the company was making according to the work they were
doing.

MJG  Yeah.

BL  Right.

MJG  Well, the sugar company here went broke.

BL  Sugar was high at that time.

TJK  It was?

BL  A hundred dollars for a hundred pounds.

TJK  Hum. Now, what caused the collapse of the sugar....

MJG  They went broke.
TJK  They went broke?
BL   Uh huh.
MJG  They went broke.
TJK  How did they go broke though if there were all these farms
     and people...
MJG  They just went actually broke.
MW   And now all the farmers have sold their water rights, they've
     all got lots of money now, so they've sold their water rights--
     In Sugar City.
BL   Yeah. But the one in Rocky Ford, it went broke.
TJK  Because they lost money too?
BL   (undecipherable) I don't know why they...
MJG  They quit in Swink there was a sugar company in sugar city,
     they had sugar companies but they went kapooy. Just Rocky
     Ford yet.
TJK  When did people start moving out of Sugar City then?
MJG  Oh, my gosh.
TJK  Really a lot of people moving out?
MJG  They moved out a long time ago, already.
TJK  (undecipherable-several people talking at once.)
MW   Oh, a lot of them started to move out, I think, in the
     twenties.
MJG  Ja, Oh, yeah. Lot of them
TJK  When would you say was the hey day of Sugar City? The time
     when it was the biggest and the best?
MW When was it the biggest and the best?
TJK Yeah.
MW Well I'd say from uh...
BL Twenty-five or so?
MW Well, even in the uh, after I was born, in 1914.
BL Yeah.
MW From then until in the uh, until probably in the early, till the depression in the thirties.
MJG Yeah, there were a lot of...
MW In the early thirties.
BL And the drought caused uh...
TJK Now, when was the drought? In the thirties?
BL That was in the thirties, too.
TJK And the wind and this sort of thing? Okay.
BL Yes:
MW Yes, in the thirties.
BL They planted some beets or something one year, they didn't come up then.
TJK They did? What year was this?
BL No ... (undecipherable)
MJG That was Anna Meisners.
Yeah.

Yeah. They planted some beets and they didn't come up, they laid came up the next year. Yeah, they laid dry in the land.

Oh my. You didn't have irrigation water?

Yeah, there was the ditches running.

Yeah, the ditches was dry, there was no water.

It was awful dry.

And when the winds, the dust storms come in you could see them blowing in from the east.

Oh, it was awful.

We'd grab wet rags and lay them on the windowsills, and hang wet sheets up, because that's how....

When the kids had the measles...

Well, other times too.

Yeah.

That was in the thirties.

Okay.

I'd say about '35, '36.

Yeah. Where did your water in Sugar City come from?

Well, it came from the Twin Lakes.

Like it was too far away from the Arkansas, right?
MJG  Yeah.

TJK  But your water came from the Arkansas, right? In the LaJunta area?

MJG  Yeah.

BL  No, it came from the Fort Lyons canal.

TJK  Oh, Fort Lyon canal.

MJG  Yeah.

TJK  But yours from the Twin Lakes?

MJG  Twin Lakes. Uh huh.

TJK  Is that that large lake near Sugar City, is that one of them?

BL  No, no.

MJG  That's Henry Lake. That's Henry Lake.

BL  Twin Lakes up in the mountains.

MJG  It's in the mountains.

TJK  Okay.

MJG  You know, that Henry Lake was dry. Lake Meredith (?) was dry. You wouldn't believe it.

TJK  Really?

MJG  Yeah, they were dry. There were no water.

TJK  What would have been the chief reason why people left Sugar City, because of the uh?

MJG  A dry drought.
TJK  Oh, because of the drought?

MJG  Yeah, and before. Just got tired and...

TJK  Yeah, because you meet-I've met so many people all over Colorado--like in Fort Morgan, Brush, in Wyoming, people who all at one time were married in Sugar City...

MJG  Yeah, in Sugar City.

TJK  ...lived in Sugar City.

MJG  Yeah, that's right.

TJK  I can't figure out why they all left there, now would you say?

MJG  Yeah, they all left Sugar City. Yeah. (several people talking-undecipherable)

MW  ... if you didn't get to town on Saturday nights early, you didn't find a place to park.

TJK  Oh my, that's hard to believe, because...

MW  There was store by store, side by side, and you didn't have to go out of town for nothing. You had doctors, you had restaurants, you had hotels, you had undertakers, you had bakers, you had a butcher shop, you had [inaudible] stores, and you had dry goods stores, you had hardware, you had your plumber, you had your bank, you had everything.

TJK  My.
MW ...all those buildings, and now they've even tore down more.

TJK And that was mostly German too, Sugar City?

MJG Oh, yeah.

MW Oh, yes. All the people would stand out on the street [inaudible] on Saturday night you could hardly walk on the street.

MJG Oh, there were a lot of people. visiting?

MW Generally, German people [visiting ?]- farmers would come in on Saturday night to do their grocery shopping.

MJG Yeah.

TJK Hum.

BL Boy, you couldn't (undecipherable-several people talking) ... Sunday.

MJG When we got married, everything was bought in Sugar City, because...

TJK Everything?

MJG Everything. Everything.

TJK There were banks in Sugar City?

MJG Oh, yeah. Yeah.

BL There was not only one Christmas day, you had Christmas Eve, Christmas day...

MW Oh, I know it.

MJG Ja.
And Easter you had Easter Sunday and [inaudible].

And so was New Years. There were two days.

And you couldn't get nothing in the stores.

BLI know it, that was nice. Not open all the time..... (several people)

No, I'll ask--because Mrs. Lanza is here too--was there much association between the people of Rocky Ford, and Sugar City, and Lamar and LaJunta, all these towns?

No, no. That was different. In the early times there was horse and buggy, they couldn't ride so far. Till the cars came

BL No, they lived in....(undecipherable-several people talking at once.)

TJK Oh, then the cars came in?

MJG Uh huh. Then they went a lot over to Rocky Ford and down to LaJuanta, we did.

BL or MW You know what the boys in LaJunta did? Went over to Sugar City and got their wives.

TJK They did?

BL or MW And I didn't like that very good (laughter).

Oh, the Sugar City boys did come to.... (laughter)

I don't know, they did ... like uh, that Wills guy, Alex Wills went to Sugar City married that Leah, you know...

Mollie.

Mollie Wills and uh,...well, just a lot of them.
MJG Yeah, they came to Sugar City, a lot of them. [they want them?]

MW And through the drylands they went and got their wives, I don't know why they didn't ... course, I never was old enough to get married at that time, but I used say, Why gee whiz, can't you find someone here?

TJK (laughter) Yeah. Now for instance, like Sugar City had a lot of Lauwe people. But you didn't have many...

MJG No. Yeah, there were some Lauwe over there in Rocky Ford.

MW The [inaudible] weren't they from Lauwe?

MJG No, the [inaudible] they're not from Lauwe. No.

BL Neither are the Millers.

MJG Neither are the Millers, no. They're from the back side.

BL And the Millers are from the [Dietel ?]

MJG From the [Dietel ?] They're from the back side.

TJK [inaudible] yeah.

MW They're from the back side, cause mama always said, Oh, that's [Dietel?] music.

MJG Deedlemenya, I says.

BL Ah, you know that a long time ago in Rocky Ford when my brother just used to go down there, and I just didn't know this until later--that American kids used to hate German kids? They used to wait for them and used to beat them up.
MJG   Oh, ja.
TJK   What years were...
BL    This was in the 19..uh, oh, about 1911.
TJK   Oh, during the war, right?
MW    Yeah, and we wasn't about to talk German on the school
      grounds or we'd get expelled. The very minute that we would
      talk German.
BL    But in Rocky Ford, my brother said, I used to be scared to
      walk downtown, they'd have to go way out of the way so
      these kids wouldn't beat up on them. They'd just about kill
      them.[inaudible]....German speaking. (several people talking
      at once-undecipherable)
TJK   Yeah. Yeah. Well, that's strange, because like in the early
      years our people being called "Rooshuns" and then during the
      war they were suddenly being called Germans.
BL    Yes.
MJG   Yeah, yeah.
BL    That's why Lena denies that she can talked German, you know.
MJG   You know, a lot of them they think we are Russians, but we
      are not Russians.
BL    No, we're not.
MJG   We are not Russians. We're German. And so are you, you're
      not a Russian.
TJK   Right, right.
MJG You're German. Because the older people in the years, years, back, that's when they went out--over in the other countries.

BL Russians are altogether different.

MJG Uh, they're nice people, white, them Russians, but they talk Russian. What's the difference?

MW Where is your folks from?

TJK From Rothammel, on the back side, it's right close to Dietel and Hussenbach, and those little towns.

MJG And Hussenbach, wait a minute, in Hussenbach and Hussenbach, [inaudible] [German], you know what that is? [German riddle]

TJK Yeah.

MJG What is it?

TJK I understood that thought, but uh, why would you say that now?

MJG In Hussenbach....

MW That's a riddle, I mean...

MJG In Hussenbach, that's [inaudible] You know what that means? Huh?

BL [inaudible]

MJG No? It's just a cross on the...

MW Church?

MJG No, uh, on the grave.
P. 65 | In Hussenbach, in Hussenbach
Da steht ein Haus ohne Dach.
Steht ein Haus ohne Tor
Steht eit Stuckiage Holz davor.

In Hussenbach, in Hussenbach
There stands a house without a roof
Stands a house without a door
Stands before a piece of wood.

P. 66 | Yost ist die Mehlsach
Lauwe ist die shone Stadt
Kukkus ist die schmer brach
Stahl is die lange [inaudible]
Bengert ist der [dicken Raber?]

Yost is the flour sack
Lauwe is the beautiful town
Kukkus is the [oily wasteland?]
Stahl is the long [inaudible]
Bengert is the thickets [inaudible]

(Then she says:) He started from the Dinkel, [verautete al die Hingel (?)]

[The towns in this verse all lie next to each other along the Volga, moving upstream in the order they’re given in the poem.]
TJK  Oh,...I see.
MJG  See. See. In Husenbach, that [inaudible].
TJK  Yes, okay--I understand.
MJG  See? Understand?
TJK  Yeah, yeah.
MJG  Went there, that's the grave with the cross.
TJK  Hum. Well, why would you talk about Husenbach, because that
was on the [Beigseite ?] side.
MJG  Ja. Well, that's why they said it.
TJK  Oh, I couldn't figure it out.
MJG  Uh huh. The name was Husenbach.
TJK  Yeah. And then you had that riddle before--your husband had
told us that night--the one about where you know Lowery was
the pretties town, and the other...
TJK  Yeah. How did that go? Do you remember how that goes?
MJG  In Yost is the milsac, Lauwe is the Schanerstac, [inaudible]
(laughter) [inaudible]. He had that all along there. So, that's the
way they have it. [German rhyme]
TJK  Yeah, yeah.
And the other ones, they always say Lauwe is the milsac.

(laughter) Yeah. But you said it......

Yeah (laughter) but they turn it around and they say Lauwe is the milsac [inaudible] (laughter). Ja. See they, each town, they change it around. Ja.

Hum. Well, lots of people thought their village was the best?

Ja.

Your folks probably felt the same way.

Probably.

Ja. That's the way it was.

It's just natural.

Just like here in Colorado, you know, people, you know, think, coming from California think it's terrible here, and, you know.

Yeah, sure.

And I don't like California at all.

Yeah. Hum. Okay, now. .let's see then, a lot of the people were leaving over the years in Sugar City, they didn't all move away at one time?

No, no. In time, in time. Somebody had a sale and moved away, and then another one had a sale and moved away. Some they died out, and...
TJK  Um hum. And you came to Sugar City, like oh, I mean to Pueblo, this article says uh, in 1943 then, you and your husband.

MJG  Yeah. Uh huh.

TJK  And then uh, why did you come to Pueblo in 1943?

MJG  Well, we made sale and uh, they talked about closing the factory all the time so we quit and moved to Pueblo. And they did start in not running the factory steady. But my husband was mechanic in the sugar factory, he was head mechanic. Till his brother went in there and that didn't work right, so he...

TJK  Yeah. What was Pueblo like then in 1943?

MJG  Oh, small. Real small. Real small.

TJK  Were there many German people here at that time?

MJG  Well, we didn't find so many, no, we didn't, huh uh, no we didn't find many.

BL  There might be some, but we don't know.

TJK  Yeah. Now, Mrs. Lanza--you came in 1930 to Pueblo. Were there many German people here then?

BL  I didn't see any. you know

MW  Yeah, you know they used to have a little Lutheran church, it was a German-Lutheran church over on Evans, its the [inaudible] [function?] church, it's the Catholic church now, but there were Germans there, there was like Klein, and there were [inaudible] there were German people.

MJG  Who?
MW [inaudible] but that church closed now and I don't know what happened to them.

TJK Yeah. There were a few Catholics here too weren't there, there was

MW Yeah.

MJG ...there were a lot of Catholic people....at one time, like I said, my grandparents all worked in the steel mills. They all left early too, because at that time they said it was terrible the conditions, and they just weren't used to that sort of work.

BL Oh, sure. I imagine so, because Pueblo's quite, yeah, quite Catholic.

TJK Um hum. Now, and then, your husband went to work for the steel mill then, right away then? Right when you came to Pueblo?

MJG Yeah. Ja. When we come up here then he worked for the steel mill. [several people talking at once-undecipherable].

TJK What did he do then, for the steel mill?

MJG Oh, they put him pushed in the there in the wire shop, and he says I don't have to work there in the wire shop. He says I am a mechanic. They went right away and put him in the mechanic, see, and he worked there and he didn't like it too much so he went in the brewery and worked in the brewery [inaudible].

TJK Did he like working in the steel mills?

MJG No, he didn't.

TJK Was it hard work?

MJG Well, he just didn't like the work. [inaudible] . So he worked, in the brewery and we liked it. We both worked there. The brewery.
And then you worked...okay, retired in '57 then. What did you do Mrs. Lanza in the steel mills?

Well, I...

She [inaudible]

(laughter)

Well, uh, I worked in the rumbling room.

Rumbling room? Which is what?

It's a room where they pour the nails in the top into this great big thing, tumbler, and then we poured cement coating on these nails and we let the wheel go around and the cement coated these nails. Then we had to wait and work these big machines, and then we'd dump these nails out when they were mixed real good, you know, and then we'd just rake them around and after they were dry we'd rake them in these barrels, and wheel them away. It was a [inaudible] but it was nice.

Oh well, yeah. Were there many women working in ...

Yes, there were quite a few at that time.

That was during the war.

One of the women retired from the mill. They'd been there so long. I only worked there about a couple of years.

During the war, right?

During the war.

During the war.
BL  And then there were some, but there were some women that have retired now. Just now.

MW  Back when I worked there in '60, and the sugar factory was during the war. I worked in the sugar factory.

TJK  Oh, you worked in the sugar factory?

MW  During the war. In uh...

TJK  What kind of work did you do there?

MW  Made pups. Little pups of sugar.

BL  And then I worked at the [inaudible].

MW  Pup gang. They called it.

TJK  Hum. What were your hours like?

MW  Well, had to uh..I took just the day shift, that's the only way I would work. That's the only time they made pups, was during the day. They didn't make them at night. Uh, it was 8 to 4.

TJK  8 to 4 then?

MW  Uh huh. So...I just worked there, and they didn't make them all during the campaign. Just part time during the campaign.

BL  When I went to [inaudible].

MW  See your campaign season started like October and used to last up until February, years and years ago when people used to farm and raise a lot of sugar beets.

[undecipherable--several people talking]
MW When I wasn't....there wasn't that many.
BL... Christmas, uh,....
MW Where your campaign would start in October and be over with by Christmas. Or by the first of the year anyway.
MJG But that time at the years before it uh, they run the factory, it were Christmas, January and February and March. (several people talking at once) Till they were done working in the factory. (several people)
BL Not in Sugar City, they used to....
MJG See, that was all hand work yet. there used to be
MW There used to be twelve hour shifts, years ago.
BL Um hum.
MW That's when us kids were small.
BL That's when ....
MW They worked from 7 till uh...
BL 7.
MJG Until 7 and [several people talking at once].
MW When I worked, or, later on in years it went to 3 shifts--8 to 4, 4 to 12 and 12 to 8.
TJK Oh, I see.
MJG Yep, first job in what I had to do in America was hauling coal, shoveling coal. Never did forget. My mother wanted to go back.
BL She still would out work Mollie and I, wouldn't she Mollie?
MW Oh, I don't know. (laughter)
BL Well I saw her, I went to Sugar City. Then when she—(laughter) we killed how many--119 chickens in one day?
TJK In one day?
BL Well, that was really a lot of work that day, but we did it didn't we?
BL Yeah.
TJK Just the two of you?
MW All three of us. My sister and I and she. 119 chickens. We went out and caught them and killed them, picked them and cleaned them.
TJK So you started early in the morning, right?
(Several people talking at once-undecipherable)...Yeah.
BL or MW We stayed there all night, see. At her sisters, and we started [inaudible] but it was a lot of work.
MJG Oh yeah.
BL I mean we was a little bit tired. She just kept right on a.....
TJK One last question on the steel mills, and this is that the people in northern Colorado now, who at one time worked in the steel mills they all say the reason they left was because of their health. What would have made their health bad there?
BL  Their lungs.
TJK  What part of the factory would they have...
MJG  Well it depends on what they was working.  [BL talking in background]
TJK  Well, see, this is what I don't know.
MW  Didn't George say this uh, known as black (several people talking)
MJG  ...the dust from the coal. See they shoveled coal.
BL  I didn’t know where it came from  But I know my husband when he used to cough it was, he had uh lung disease. He used to cough black. Now I don't know whether he got it out there, or if it just got worse up there. But he quit that, he retired, it cleared up.
It was always black. I think some of them got black lung from that.
MW  It was probably all the smoke.
BL  People from right out here got black lung too.
MW  Mmmhumm.
TJK  So there was a part of the factory where they worked then where this was all the time---dust was in the air.
BL  Yeah, where there was more, there was more [undecipherable-several people talking at once]
MJG  Oh yeah.
MW  Well, you know in fact that used to call Pueblo peon town, because it was always smoky. It was always, what do they call this, this smog. You would say, Oh, you’re going to peoo town.
BL  Have you noticed them houses on the northern, er northern, over here how they're all black and the trees are black? That's it. When we moved away the houses...
Now, Ms. Lanza. You can go all over Pueblo, see that smoke-up in the air. That goes down and settles on the trees.

Oh, but it's worse now. Every....

No, when he drove through Pueblo in the earlier time it was smokey... [several people]

The red smoke?

Yeah, they got red smoke too. That south side down there, that is all, you know the grass is uh, that grass is all red.

Yeah.

We didn't use to get that but we do now. But this thing now, you know out on northern goes out to that uh, where that uh, you know that other outfit.

Yeah, that uh, what do they call it, oxygen uh.

Oxygen plant (several people).

They got an outfit here, they built it up, I didn't know just now how many tons of coal that uses, its so many tons every hour. What is that outfit Robert worked out there, where they use so many coals?

Fomention (?) Commanche?

Fomention (?) Commanche? For what is that damn thing?

For electricity isn't it?

Yeah, power outfit. They--how many tons of coal they use?

I don't know.

Robert said it so many times. That train comes every day with over
hundred cars, hanging on coal. Goes out there to dump it. Every day he comes.

TJK  Now then that black dust, I don't want to sound so ignorant, but see I don't know anything about it. But our older people would always say as the ones like my grandparents--they just could not take it. So they must have been in the part then where...

MJG  Yeah, where the dust was. (several people)

TJK  Yeah, that was something like 1905, this was way early see.

MW  The whole steel mill was smoking, in fact the whole town was smoggy. and everything where now you can drive in of a morning or an evening and it isn't smoggy at all.

TJK  Yeah, I don't notice it.

MW  But it used to be. That's why they always called it peoo town, because it was so smoky.

BL  I didn't remember why they called it that. (several people)

TJK  Yeah, because see like my grandparents landed in Galveston, and from Galveston right away they went to Pueblo.

MJG  They landed in Galveston? (several people)

TA  Yeah, and as soon as they got a job in the beet fields in northern Pueblo, they went because of the conditions in the factory. That's what, that's answered now.

MJG  That part [inaudible] part was foreman. Yeah, he was foreman.
TJK  Yeah, where did you land here now?

MJG  In Sugar City.

TJK  I mean uh, in the United States. Where did your ship come in?

MJG  In uh, in New York.

TJK  Oh, in New York? You came across all that way--by train? Straight to Sugar City?

MJG  Straight to Sugar City.

TJK  You had a depot there, a train that went right...

MJG  Ja, yeah. We had a big depot.

BL  There used to be a depot there and trains going....

MJG  They had bellhops and all there.

MW  They just tore that depot down here about....

BL (undecipherable)

MW  When did they tear the depot down, maybe about 4 or 5 years ago?

MJG  Oh ja, longer than that, Molly, longer than that.

MW  I don't know, it wasn't much longer than that. Because they tore the sugar factory down after they tore the depot down. There was a depot in Sugar City, one in Ordway, and they've tore all of them down except the one there in Allendale.

MJG  And that's a little dinky thing.

MW (undecipherable)
MJG  That uh, depot in the earlier times, they had four trains running.
Passenger. Two this way and two this way.

TJK  Passenger?

MJG  Passenger. One extra one. And they had bellhops. They took the
people into town and eat their supper, took people into town to eat
Sugar City. They had one, two, three, three hotels and rooming
houses. Yes.

MW  (undecipherable)

MJG  They had big hotels. Two of them. Great big ones.

MW  Well, they had uh, there on the corner...

MJG  Kingdom.

MW  Well, the Kingdom hotel, and then they had that Whittington Hotel,
a rooming house and then they had that one there on the corner
where Mrs. Schultz’s station was.

MJG  Filling station. And down on the corner. ever

MW  I don’t know what the name of that one ever was.

MJG  Old man Feets was in there.

MW  Yeah, and he had his dentist, we had dentists, we had doctors had
everything there.

BL  Yeah, I know it.

MW  We had everything there. You never had to, well...

BL  Did you have a hospital?
MJG  No.

MW  No, no hospital. But just, well then people didn't go to the hospital.

BL  They didn't have no uh, medicare at that time, I mean uh.

MJG  Now they all lay in the hospitals all.....

MW  Taking dope, huh.

MJG  Taking dope.

TA  (laughter). Yeah, okay. Believe it or not, one last question. (laughter) I always ask the people around the state because generally our German people have all done well, in terms like you know, to have, you know, have their homes now and everything. You hear so much today about like the Chicanos and many other people, they say that no one ever gave them a chance and no one ever gave them a break.

MJG  ...(undecipherable) the Mexicans.

TA  Well, okay, but I wanted to ask you, what do you think was the secret the German people had in terms of making it?

BL or MW  You know why?

TJK  Why?

BL or MW  They were the best farmers in the whole entire valley. They're the (undecipherable)

MJG  You betcha.
BL or Mw....the best farmers, that's what they really were known for. They were, everything they did they did well.

MJG They were the best farmers.

BL or MW They kept their weeds pulled, they raised their crops.

MJG They had everything clean, they were no weeds on the road; they put the horses out and cut the weeds.

BL or MW They're hard workers.

TJK Hard workers? You think that's a part of it too, they're hard workers?

MJG Oh, yeah, hard working.

BL (undecipherable). You got to work hard. You can't go out and drink and carouse and do your farming good either.

TJK Um hum. Do you agree with all this Molly? (laughter) Do you agree?

MW Well, yes, because I know we had to work out in the fields.

TJK Sure. Like Chicanos are saying today, the reason that they are not so well off is because people are always picking on them, or because they were...

BL They picked on us.

TJK Well sure, that's....

BL And we didn't care. We still did well.

TJK Right. You did well despite all that.
BL or MW: My brother down there, he, my sister-in-law—you know Mickey—she said, (undecipherable) how come they lost the place, you know her brothers drank a lot, I said, Well, for one thing Alex deserved everything he got, he never did carouse around, he never drank much and he always stayed home and worked. I said, He sure deserves it. God knows he deserves it. And I said, If someone drinks and takes [inaudible] and goes here and there, you can't expect to uh...(undecipherable).

MJG: Oh, the farmers they worked hard.

BL: You have to.

MJG: Early in the morning and late at night.

BL: Those who didn't work lost their place, right Ms. Geringer?

MJG: You betcha. Now, evenings when we was done with the other work we had to set and fix the stockings.

BL: We did that in our spare time, what we do now.

MJG: Ja. We setting by them little lights. We fixed the stockings.

BL: The kerosene lamps.

MJG: And patched and all, we had to do that all.

BL: We had to work on the field all week long and on Saturdays we had to, in the afternoons we had to do our housecleaning and our baking ..... (undecipherable).

MJG: Ja. And baking--on Saturday.
BL And Monday morning back again. These people holler now, we had to do this in our spare time.

MJG You betcha.

MW You have to get up at 4:30 in the morning just to be out in the field to work, I can remember that.

BL (undecipherable)...the cows.

END OF TAPE - END OF INTERVIEW

TAPE 3, SIDE A

TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S WISH, Mrs. J.P. Geringer, May 5, 1976

Pueblo, Colorado

Run tape to meter 011 to begin. (All in German)

End at meter 021.