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This paper is being done on Julia Ann Kelly, a life long resident of Number 1 Hill, Rock Springs, Wyoming. Her father immigrated from Austria to Superior, where Frank Stefic worked in the coal mines; and where he met Johana (Jennie) Rastocnik, who also immigrated from Austria. The two married, moved to Rock Springs, where they started a family. They had a total of five children which Julia was the youngest.

Julia Stefic was born July 12, 1920 at home, like her brother and sisters had been. At this time a mid-wife was not present for the Stefic family, but a doctor would make house calls and there the baby was born. Julia lived in that same house until she married in 1939. Her childhood was normal for a coal miner's daughter at this time. Her father worked in the Central Coke and Coke (later the Peacock Mine), which was in the area of Clark's colons out south of town. Julia said she can remember only twice that her father was out of work because of a strike. These only lasted about a week, and they, the workers, did get what they wanted which was an increase in pay and safer working conditions. Typical of the time her parents knew little English, which didn't present a problem. When they shopped they would just pick up things and pay or the shop owners could speak their language. When they
went to vote the volunteers would help or the ballet was brought home and their children would explain it to them. The house Julia grew up in was only two rooms, but had running water and electricity when she was born, and a telephone was put in the year of her birth. The house wasn't furnished was gas until the 1950's. The house grew slowly, with any available money her father would build on a room; at his death there was a total of six rooms. It contained a kitchen, living room, one bedroom divided by a blanket, a bathroom, and a pantry. There were separate little shanties, which were for baking, washing clothes, coal storage, and one held a loom for making rugs.

Julia grew up in a Catholic family. She would go to church every Sunday and holidays and she went to catholicism every Saturday night. She liked going to church at that time because everything was done silently; only the Father would say anything and that was in Latin. Today Julia doesn't go very often, partially because of what is mentioned above and because her husband wasn't a baptised Catholic the Father felt that she done something wrong.

Julia enjoyed her childhood with her family and with her neighborhood playmates she played her favorite games, roller-skating on the sidewalks, playing hide and go seek, and kick the can. I asked how she played kick the can and she explained; we drew a line in the dirt street with a stick and placed a can in the middle. One person would stand in the middle and count while the others hid. The one that was counting would
try to find the others, and when he did, he would have to jump over the can and say 1-2-3 on whoever. Then if you could run and kick the can before you are caught, you were free and able to hide again." She couldn't play these games very long at night because she had to be in bed at 8:00 o'clock every night. If the other kids were not out, Julia would stay inside and listen to the radio to the news, Amos and Andy, Western songs, and The Shadow Knows. Playing cards was also a family past-time. They would play Casino, Go Fish, or Old Maid. They didn't have Old Maid cards so a regular deck was used with the Joker as the old maid.

Growing up was filled with chores that she and her sisters and bother had to share. They had to do the washing on the wash board, wash the dishes, bring the coal down from the shed, chop wood, and clean the house. I asked what would happen if the chores wasn't done; she said that never happened. She said if one didn't do something the other one would. Once in awhile she had to go to the store for bread, which was only ten cents at that time, or she would have to take her father's mining bucket and go get it full of beer which costed five cents. She remembered that there would be only about a half left when she got home but her father expected that, so he never got angry. Julia didn't think of these as chores because she liked going around and seeing things.

Holidays were fun times for Julia, especially Halloween because when she was old enough she could go Trick-or-
Treating and get lots of the penny candy. Julia remembers Christmas because she never had a tree, they would always decorate a plant with homemade ornaments. The gift were few, she recalls getting only one or two each year, these being a doll or a set of dishes and every few years a pair of socks. They received a couple pieces of candy, with all of that they were happy.

When the Depression hit time were really hard for Julia and her family, but at least her father had a job so little money was coming in. Through the hard years they lived on homemade soup and bread and so survived. Julia wore clothes that were homemade, hand-me-downs, or a lot was given her them. Through all the hard times Julia mother didn't go to work. She devoted herself to her family and kept them together with love. Julia with her worn clothes said that she didn't feel bad because when she went to school she saw that everyone was in the same boat as she was.

Julia went to school in a two room wooden building in which three grades were taught in each room by the one teacher. This school, Lincoln School, had two pot belly stoves in the hallway which were to keep the building warm. Julia said that, "the room were usually colder then it was outside." But when Yellowstone school was built, it served as the elementary school for the number 1 area. She recall during the bad winters, walking to school in the blizzards was terrible and she was happy when they would close school only when the snow would drift so high that the doors could not be opened or the
heating system would break down. The Junior High is where the Distric Education Building is now. She attended High School at what is now East Junior High, and was the first class to graduate from that school in 1939. That year there was about 200 others in the class. High School was filled with football and basketball rivalary with other mining communities. Julia didn't attend very many of these games because she had her homework, her job, and in her senior year a boy freind.

Her first job was a maid, she cleaned cabins at the Liberty Motel. She saved her pay, which wasn't much, and was able buy herself a class ring, give some to her parents, and save the rest for school. Her saving this must have done something for she was the only one in her family to graduate.

Julia met her husband through her brother Johnny, while she was a senior in high school. He was Theodore Kelly, a life long resident of Rock Springs, and was working in the coal mines. From this point on Julia had become used to riding in cars because Theodore owned a yellow Chrysler. A typical date of theirs was a drive or a movie. When asked about the dance halls Julia answered that there was two, the Skyvinski Dome and Pla-Mor, but these places never interested them. The two got married soon after Julia graduated in 1939. Then in ten months their first of ten children were born. Times were hard for the young couple on a miners pay, but they found a basement apartment on Deware Drive for twentyfive dollars a month. The lived there for four years an bore their second son and their first daughter, both of which were born in the
hospital. These were about a year apart from the other. They were forced to move because the house was being sold; they found another basement apartment on Lee Street, which is on Number One Hill only a block from Julia's mother and father's house. While living here Julia gave birth to six more children, five boys and one girl; one boy died at three months after birth of convulsions. Theodore had lost his job in the mine at this time because of his health; he finally found a low paying job as a taxi driver. If all that wasn't enough, her father was killed in the mine when a 500 hundred pound rock fell on him. Julia took on the task of taking care of her mother, giving her all the time and money aid she could. Theodore found a higher paying job at White Eagle Motor and Julia thought everything would begin to look up; but her husband had other plans for the money. Julia laughed and said, "I could have killed him" because everytime he would see a car he liked he would get it, most of the time they would have just fixed up another to what they wanted.

Again the land in which she lived was sold and they had to find another place to live. The place they found was on McCabe Street, one street over from where they lived. Here Julia gave birth to her last child, a boy. She saw her husband find a good truck driving job, two sons enter the services, and four of her ten children marry. At this time her husband health was getting worst and the truck driving job was only for a brief period of time; yet Julia stayed at home and took care
of her children and mother. In 1966; however, her mother died. Julia and her brother and sisters sold her property two years later for nine thousand dollars. Julia received two thousand dollars from this deal and she opened her bank account ever. By this time her youngest child was in school and she decided to go to work. She worked at Rock Springs Laundry and her husband was a partsman at John Bunnig Transfer, and they were getting along well when, again for the third time, the house they lived in was being sold so they moved again.

So in 1972 they moved to Lee Street again, to the place she lives now. While living here she and her husband saw the marriages of four more children and the graduation of the last. In 1975, Julia saw her husband health really fell and he was forced to have open heart surgery. This put Julia in position to be the sole working person, for Theodore had to retire. He was able to get Social Security and Black Lung, and with the money Julia was bringing in they survived and normally. In 1981, her husband died and Julia had a hard time for awhile getting used to it; with the help of her youngest son, who still lives at home, she quit working and going strong. She is 62 now and only has a little aches from arthritis; I think and hope she will live at least forty more years.