

Hannelore: There we go. Now we're being recorded.

Gladys: I hope.

Hannelore: This is Hannelore Gabriel, interviewer, on September 25th, 2003. I am interviewing Gladys Bunker at her home on 1002 I St., in Salida.

Mrs. Bunker, we already wrote down the names of your parents. Would you just speak it for us again what are the names of your parents?

Gladys: Is what?

Hannelore: The name of your father and the name of your mother?

Gladys: Well my father's name was Anderson. I'm not sure if he was born in Canon City, but that's where he was from. My mother was born in Tennessee.

Hannelore: Her name is?

Gladys: Her name was Martin, Anna Ruth Martin.

[00:01:00]

Hannelore: Anna Ruth Martin, M-A-R-T-I-N, is that ...

Gladys: T-I-N, M-A-R-T-I-N, Martin.

Hannelore: Okay. Do you remember when they were born?

Gladys: Do I know what?

Hannelore: Do you remember when your father and your mother were born? No.

Gladys: No, I can't give you correct information on that.

Hannelore: They're not born in Chaffee County.

Gladys: No, uh-uh (negative). No, mother was born in Tennessee and my father, I think, was born in Canon City, but now I can't say that for sure because I don't know.

Hannelore: Okay. Would you like to describe your parents?

Gladys: Do what?

Hannelore: What did they look like? Describe your parents, please. What did they look like? Your dad, what did he look like?

Gladys: My what?

Hannelore: Your father.

Gladys: You wanted to know what now?

[00:02:00]

Hannelore: What did he look like? Was he big?

Gladys: Oh, no, he wasn't. He was a small man.

Hannelore: A small man?

Gladys: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Hannelore: What was ...

Gladys: Always been slender. He was never heavy.

Hannelore: Yes, and ...

Gladys: Let's see. I should have some pictures of him somewhere.

Hannelore: Well, we need to really speak it on the recorder. Did he have brown hair or blond hair?

Gladys: Well, I'd say he had brown hair.

Hannelore: What kind of a guy was he? Was he lively or ...

Gladys: No, he's small boned and slender as I remember. Of course, I don't remember back when he was a small boy.

Hannelore: Of course not. How old were you when he died?

[00:03:00]

Gladys: Let's see how old? He was in his 70s, but now I can't say just how much in the 70s. I think.

Hannelore: Yeah, and what was he doing?

Gladys: What was he doing?

Hannelore: For a living?

Gladys: Well, he just worked just odd jobs all his life. He didn't have a special job for all his life, but he worked a lot of different jobs, but I don't know for sure.

Hannelore: Was he working maybe as a ranch hand or was he working in the railroads ...

Gladys: He was a ranch man for a long time, but I really can't say just what he did do all his life. I don't know.

Hannelore: That's okay, and your mother?

Gladys: Well, mother was born in Tennessee and, of course, she was just a family member so she worked just odd jobs here and there.

Hannelore: Do you know what those odd jobs may have been?

Gladys: No, I don't.

Hannelore: Was she helping out other people maybe?

Gladys: Hmm?

Hannelore: Was she helping out other people?

[00:04:00]

Gladys: Oh, yeah, mm-hmm (affirmative). I really don't know just what all mother did do. I just don't know.

Hannelore: You were born in 1913, you said, at the Salida Hospital; is that correct?

Gladys: Mother was born?

Hannelore: No, you, you said ...

Gladys: Oh, yeah, I was born right down here in this hospital.

Hannelore: Do you remember anything from your early childhood?

Gladys: I lived up here on the ranches on the other side of the pass most of my life.

Hannelore: Yeah, how old were you when you moved to the ranch?

Gladys: When I was on the ranch?

Hannelore: Or after you were born, would you then have been at the ranch?

Gladys: Well, let's see. I was born in 1913 and I went to school in Moffat; do you know where Moffat is?

Hannelore: Yes, I know where Moffat is.

[00:05:00]

Gladys: Yeah, Moffat, I went to school there, and then I graduated from Canon City High School. My folks moved to Canon City. We lived there for a while.

Hannelore: How old were you when you moved to Canon City?

Gladys: I don't know.

Hannelore: Well, you said high school. Where exactly was the ranch located? You said just over the pass? If I were driving there, I would go to Poncha Springs and drive up Poncha Pass?

Gladys: Yeah, up over the pass and we lived just down on the other side of Poncha Pass up in the mountains there, what we called Alder.

Hannelore: Alder?

Gladys: A-L-D-E-R.

Hannelore: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Your dad and your mom had a ranch there?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: Tell me a little bit about the ranch.

Gladys: Then many years we lived down on a ranch around Moffat and worked for the Meanses. Did you ever hear the Meanses name?

[00:06:00]

Hannelore: No, but that's good to know.

Gladys: My father worked for them for years down there on the ranch just, well, I'd say south and east of Moffat.

Hannelore: Yeah, so your dad and your mom never had their own ranch? He worked on other ranches?

Gladys: Well, they owned a ranch just on the other side of Poncha Pass.

Hannelore: Yeah, your mom and your dad owned the ranch on the other side of Poncha Pass; is that what you're saying?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: Did you have cattle then?

Gladys: Hmm?

Hannelore: Did you have cattle, cows?

Gladys: Yeah, we had cattle.

Hannelore: How many?

Gladys: Oh gosh, I don't know. Because the Meanses they ran a big bunch of cattle, so ...

Hannelore: Mm-hmm (affirmative), but you say you had less cattle then.

[00:07:00]

Gladys: Uh-huh (affirmative), because we lived on the ranch just, let's see, 6 miles I'd say west of Moffat, between Moffat and Saguache. We was there for a long time, but then the ranch up here at Alder, I was just a kid there. I don't know just what time when they did leave the ranch ...

Hannelore: That's okay.

Gladys: I was married during the time and I had other things to think about, not when my folks were going to move.

Hannelore: When you were a kid at the ranch ...

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: When you were a little girl at the ranch, what were you doing?

Gladys: What most kids do, ride horses.

Hannelore: Ride horses, and you liked that.

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: Did you have your own horse?

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: Did you have your own horse?

Gladys: Oh, yes.

Hannelore: When you were going places, were you going on horseback? How did you go to school, for example?

[00:08:00]

Gladys: Well, when we were kids we'd just take out and go head to yonder by ourselves, but it wasn't no special place really because we lived between Saguache and Moffat. Have you ever been over there?

Hannelore: Yes.

Gladys: We didn't do nothing special for anyone but ourselves and the folks ...

Hannelore: Yeah, but when you went to school in Moffat, how did you get there, on horseback?

Gladys: School bus.

Hannelore: School bus, okay.

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Then I graduated ...

Hannelore: How long a bus ride was that?

Gladys: Oh, we were only 6 miles out of Moffat. It was between Moffat and Saguache.

Hannelore: Yes, so did you go to Salida for any purpose at that time, or did your family go to Salida?

Gladys: My folks did all their trading here in Salida, go for trading and just family ...

[00:09:00]

Hannelore: Yeah, so they came to Salida for the groceries?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: You say, "trading," were they also selling something?

Gladys: Were they what?

Hannelore: Selling something? I mean, anything that you produced on the ranch?

Gladys: Well, no. No we didn't sell any meat or anything over here. Course we had big hay crews and put up hay, lots of hay for cattle because we worked for the Meanses and they were a big family. Then they moved to Canon City and that's where I graduated from in Canon City High School.

Hannelore: Were there any fun people at the ranch, people you can remember besides your parents?

Gladys: Were there young people?

[00:10:00]

Hannelore: No, I said fun people. Oh, one thing we might also include here, do you have brothers and sisters?

Gladys: What?

Hannelore: Brothers and sisters?

Gladys: Yeah, I had a brother and a sister.

Hannelore: What were their names?

Gladys: Well, one was Selma and Harold.

Hannelore: Were they older or younger?

Gladys: They were younger. I thought I was boss.

Hannelore: Good for you.

Gladys: There wasn't too many years between us. We were pretty close together.

Hannelore: Yeah, and so tell me a little bit about your brother and your sister.

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: Tell me a little bit about your brother and your sister.

Gladys: Well, my brother was a rancher all his life and ...

Hannelore: Where was his ranch?

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: Where was his ranch?

Gladys: Well, he didn't have a ranch of his own. He worked for different people on ranches ...

Hannelore: Do you remember their names?

Gladys: ... around Saguache and Moffat.

Hannelore: Mm-hmm (affirmative), any names?

[00:11:00]

Gladys: Around over Sargents, that's all. He was just on ranches here then yonder and elsewhere. Then he was in service for a while. I can't tell you the years that he was in service because I didn't keep track of that and I just wouldn't know, but it would have been after he was ... well, he'd have been 18-19 years old at that time.

Hannelore: Yeah. Do you want to tell me a little more about the school in Moffat where you went to school?

Gladys: Yeah, he went to school in Moffat.

Hannelore: No, you.

Gladys: I went to school in Moffat. Then when we moved to Canon City, that's where I graduated from high school was in Canon City.

Hannelore: Yeah. Then at some point you came back to Salida again. Do you remember how old you were?

Gladys: Well, I graduated when I was 18 years old from the Canon City High School.

[00:12:00]

Hannelore: Mm-hmm (affirmative), and then did you live in Canon City for a while or when did you come back to Salida?

Gladys: Oh, gee.

Hannelore: How old were you?

Gladys: Well, let's see. During that time I must have married during that time because I was 18 when I married, and then I lived over in the valley, on a ranch over there around Moffat.

Hannelore: After you got married, you went back to the San Luis Valley.

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: Where was your husband from?

Gladys: Hmm?

Hannelore: Where was your husband from?

Gladys: My husband's first name?

Hannelore: No, where did he come from? Was he from the valley?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah, he was from the valley, been there all his life, uh-huh (affirmative). Well, my name, of course, was Bunker at that time. They all lived there in the valley for some time. I think they moved there from Mississippi ... no, Missouri, they were all from Missouri, I think. Now, that takes me back a long time, I just can't be ...

[00:13:00]

Hannelore: You're doing great. What was your husband's name?

Gladys: My ...



Hannelore: Your husband's name?

Gladys: Boyd Elmo, I think. Boyd Bunker, I think that was his first name and his second name was Elmo, Boyd Elmo, I think now. I don't know. That takes me back a long ways.

Hannelore: In the valley then ... Oh, when was he born, your husband, you know when ...

Gladys: When was my ...

Hannelore: What year was your husband born?

Gladys: Oh brother, I don't know.

Hannelore: Was he older than you?

[00:14:00]

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative), a few years.

Hannelore: A few years, okay. Well, we can figure that one out then.

Gladys: He must have been born before 1912, I'd say, but I don't know the year exactly because I ...

Hannelore: You say he is from an old rancher family in the valley.

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: Do you know ...

Gladys: They were all ranchers from the valley, uh-huh (affirmative).

Hannelore: Who came from Missouri.

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: They came from Missouri?

Gladys: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Hannelore: Yeah, do you know how long they had been ranching there?

Gladys: I wouldn't have the slightest idea. I can't give you no exact answers on something like that because I don't know because I didn't ...

Hannelore: You had cattle then, again?

Gladys: Yeah.

Hannelore: Do you remember how many head?

Gladys: Oh, no.

Hannelore: Was it a big operation?

[00:15:00]

Gladys: We had several hundred head and then they'd sell them in the fall. I wouldn't have no idea on something like that because I was just a kid running around wild at that time.

Hannelore: A kid after you were married?

Gladys: Yeah.

Hannelore: Okay.

Gladys: Yeah, I was married when I was 18.

Hannelore: Yeah, and so tell me a little bit about the selling of the cattle in the fall?

Gladys: The what?

Hannelore: You said you were selling the cattle in the fall ...

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah.

Hannelore: Tell me a little bit about it.

Gladys: Well, I don't know. I can't give you exact answers on those things because I never kept track of them, but I know we lived on the ranch. My father worked for the Meanses; did you ever hear of the Meanses?

Hannelore: Yeah, you were telling me about them.

Gladys: They were quite a prominent family at one time around, and they had big  
[00:16:00] ranches around Moffat and Saguache and over ... well, Sargents over across the hill from here, and then they had the ranches there around Moffat. They were a big ranching outfit.

Hannelore: Did you know any of them?

Gladys: Did I know what?

Hannelore: Any of the Meanses?

Gladys: Oh, yeah. Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah, I knew the men. I was just a kid and, of

course, we were kids together, a lot of them with their family. There was Ernest Means who was one of them and, oh gee, what was some of the other ranchers' names? I can't tell you now. That's been a long time ago.

Hannelore: Yes.

Gladys: I didn't keep track of anything like that because it didn't make any difference to us.

Hannelore: Right. What did you like most ...

[00:17:00]

Gladys: What?

Hannelore: When you led this ranching life, what did you like about it?

Gladys: Oh, I loved the ranch and horseback riding.

Hannelore: Well, tell me about it.

Gladys: Well, I rode horses a lot of times. Most of the time we were horseback. Each of us had our own horses and we'd just get out and go ride horses. Let's see, we didn't go on any tours or anything like that because we were up in the mountains living at that time. We lived in the mountains so we'd just take our own tour up around the mountains. That's right over here on the other side of Poncha Pass, but that's all I can tell you about that. While we were at Moffat, of course, there wasn't any mountains to climb there. We rode on the flat land and just mostly put up hay for cattle. Meaneses had a lot of cattle, thousands of head of cattle. My father was always working with cattle, branding and dehorning and things like that. That's about all I can tell you about that. I don't know too much about it.

[00:18:00]

Hannelore: Okay, was there was something that you remember as being really hard about that life?

Gladys: No.

Hannelore: Any difficulties or was it just fun?

Gladys: At that time I was in high school and I was attending high school and I didn't care what my father was doing at that time with cattle, so I just don't know. I know I got out and was a lot with him when we were branding, we helped sometimes with the cattle then with the calves. Of course, we didn't do anything with the grown stock. It was mostly with the calves. We always branded and earmarked them and so forth.

[00:19:00]

Hannelore: You did the branding and the earmarking. This was your job?

Gladys: Well, it wasn't my job, but it was my father's job.

Hannelore: You said you were helping, so what specifically did you did then?

Gladys: What, specific years?

Hannelore: No, no. You said you were helping your dad with the branding and the earmarking. What was it that you were doing?

Gladys: Staying out of the way, that was mostly it. We were just kids and we couldn't  
[00:20:00] handle those calves. Maybe sometimes my father would rope 1, but we couldn't handle them and tie them down so they can brand them or anything like that. Us kids, we were told to stay out of the way. That's about all I can tell you about that because I was only about 14-15 years old at that time. Oh, sometimes I'd help hold the calves down while they earmarked them or ... Well, they earmarked them and castrated them, things like that. That's about all I can tell of that deal. Because that was a man's job. We were too small to get out there  
[00:21:00] and handle those big calves and hold them while they ... then the earmarking or castrating or something like that or branding. We were too young.

Hannelore: How often did you go to Salida?

Gladys: How often did I what?

Hannelore: Go to Salida?

Gladys: Well, I really don't know because that's where we had to go to buy our groceries, well, we went to Moffat and Saguache, too, to buy groceries. I just don't know. I couldn't tell you.

Hannelore: Would it be once a month or once a year?

Gladys: Well, it would be once a month because Moffat was only 6 miles from where we lived, and Saguache was 12 miles. It's much easier to go there than come clear over the pass to get a few groceries.

Hannelore: Did you come only for special things in Salida that were not available in Moffat?

Gladys: For things like that we did, uh-huh (affirmative).

Hannelore: Do you remember the stores where you shopped?

[00:22:00]  
Gladys: Oh, let me think, what were some of the stores here in Salida? Young kids don't pay any attention to stuff like that, so I can't tell you what the actual stores' names were at that time. I just don't know.

Hannelore: Did you do anything fun in Salida?

Gladys: Well, we'd come to the little rodeos over here in Salida, and we got to go swimming here in Salida once in a while. Of course, there was a another swimming pool at Mineral Hot Springs. You've heard of Mineral Hot Springs over in the valley, haven't you?

Hannelore: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Gladys: Well, we used to go down there swimming quite a lot, but we didn't come swimming over here too much because there was a lot bigger pool down there in Mineral Hot Springs and Valley View. You've heard of Valley View?

Hannelore: Yeah.

Gladys: Well, that's where we used to get to go swimming. I don't think we ever did  
[00:23:00] come over for swimming because we only lived ... well, let's see. Well, I can't remember just how far we lived from a swimming pool, but our folks didn't take us swimming like they do now because we used to have little lakes out around the pastures and all. As kids we used to do all swimming out in there.

Hannelore: That sounds like fun.

Gladys: Yeah.

Hannelore: You must have had a fun life, horse riding and jumping in the pools.

Gladys: Yeah, we sure did. We enjoyed things and we done a lot of horseback riding. My gosh, we were on horses sometimes 12 hours a day between times.

[00:24:00]

Hannelore: Did you have anything that interested you as a kid? Did you collect butterflies or snakes or rocks or whatever?

Gladys: No.

Hannelore: You just sat on your horse.

Gladys: We stayed on the horses and that's what we done. We rode horses. During the fall we helped brand calves. We sometimes got to help do that. We'd run back and forth with the branding irons for my father to brand the calves. He usually handled those hot branding irons. We didn't do much with that. I can't say we done anything special then. You had the regular farmer's life, a rancher's life, and that was it.

Hannelore: Were you growing anything on those ranches, a crop?

Gladys: Oh yeah, my folks always had a garden and, of course, we put up lots of hay ...

[00:25:00]

Hannelore: Yeah, you mentioned the hay. Do you remember what you were growing in the garden?

Gladys: Just the usual garden like people grow nowadays. There's no difference in that.

Hannelore: Did you have, let's see, potatoes, tomatoes?

Gladys: Potatoes, no tomatoes.

Hannelore: No tomatoes?

Gladys: Potatoes and lettuce and onions and what have ... radishes, just stuff like that that come up in a short time and that's all the families used for their meals. Of course, then we had ...

Hannelore: Did you do ... in your family or dad or your brothers, were they hunting?

Gladys: No, uh-uh (negative). No we attended the rodeos, of course. Ranchers always attended the rodeos. We'd come over here to the Salida rodeo or we're down at Monte Vista where they had the big rodeo down there. You been down there to those rodeos, haven't you?

[00:26:00]

Hannelore: No, I haven't.

Gladys: Haven't you?

Hannelore: I guess I need to go.

Gladys: That Monte's a pretty good sized town and they had big rodeos down there, real nice big rodeos down there. We'd come over to Salida to the rodeo. They had the rodeos over here and they were quite the rodeos at that time.

Hannelore: Did this happen a lot, the rodeos in Salida?

Gladys: Well, the riding club or cattlemen's club would put the rodeos on.

Hannelore: How many of these would they have a year?

Gladys: How many rodeos?

Hannelore: Was it every week or every month?

Gladys: No, once a year.

Hannelore: Once a year, uh-huh (affirmative).

Gladys: The 4th of July generally was the big rodeo there.

Hannelore: Tell me more about the 4th of July.

[00:27:00]

Gladys: That was just like it is nowadays, just all day rodeo, bronco riding and horseback riding and races and stuff like that, just like they have now. There was no difference, I don't think.

Hannelore: What else did you do in Salida during the 4th of July?

Gladys: Well, I can't remember because we were just kids and we'd come over to the rodeo and we thought that was really something to get to come to the rodeo. Then we'd go to Monte Vista where they had the big rodeo down there every year. You probably heard of them, the 4th of July rodeos in Monte Vista?

Hannelore: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Gladys: Well, we'd get to go down there once a year maybe. Then they had the rodeos in Moffat and Saguache and different places like that. That's about all I can tell you about them.

Hannelore: Well, that's a lot. At one point you came back to Salida to live.

[00:28:00]

Gladys: Yeah, that was in later years when my folks moved over here.

Hannelore: Why did your folks move to Salida?

Gladys: When?

Hannelore: Why?

Gladys: Well, let's see. Mother was in the hospital. No, we didn't move then just because she was in the hospital. Well, then it was different getting jobs and my father would be get jobs for somebody from over here that was doing something outside of Salida. What it was I don't know. I don't remember because I was just a kid. Kids didn't pay any attention to what their dads were doing at that time.

Hannelore: How old were you then when they moved to Salida?

Gladys: Well, when we moved to Salida, oh goodness, I must've been about 16 years old, something like that, 16-17 somewhere in there because we lived in Canon City for a while. I went to school down there for several years. That's where I graduated from was Canon City.

[00:29:00]

Hannelore: Was it difficult to come from the ranch and live in the city?

Gladys: Yeah, my father would get little odd jobs around town or maybe ...

Hannelore: Do you remember what ...

Gladys: ... yourself, we had jobs on the ranches.

Hannelore: In town what jobs did he do?

Gladys: In town sometimes you'd have a job in town or ...

Hannelore: Doing what?

Gladys: I don't know just what my father did do on the ranches around in town.

Hannelore: He helped on ranches?

Gladys: So far as I remember, but not a whole lot.

Hannelore: He was always doing ranch work.

Gladys: Oh, yeah, he was always trying to work, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: Even in Salida?

[00:30:00]

Gladys: Yeah. Yeah, and Canon City is the same way. We, of course, over down with the ranches it's mostly working with the fruit. It was working on the ranches, but he was just working with ...

Hannelore: Crops?

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: Crops?

Gladys: With crops, right, mm-hmm (affirmative), because there wasn't much ranching done around Canon as I can remember. We didn't pay much attention to that. My father had jobs around Canon and same way around Salida doing different odd jobs, just like people do now. Just what they were, I don't know. There been a lot of changes made in that length of time.

Hannelore: Yeah, so you got married at 18 and you went back to the San Luis Valley.

[00:31:00]

Gladys: We had a ranch over in the San Luis Valley. We lived up there on the mountains up on what they call Rito Alto Creek and we had 640 acres up there.

Hannelore: What was this location?



Gladys: Rito Alto, R-I-T-O A-L-T-O, high country. Rito Alto, we lived up there for a few years. That's how we bought the ranch down there in the valley. We had a ranch up there on Rito Alto Creek at one time. We lived up there for several years. You just worked. My father worked on what he could go and do on other ranches, and we lived up there on Rito Alto Creek. We'd help some of the ranches put up hay and things like that during the fall. That was it.

Hannelore: Then you moved to Salida?

[00:32:00]

Gladys: Let's see. We lived on that ranch over there. No, when I moved to Salida, my husband died.

Hannelore: How old were you when he died?

Gladys: I think I was in my ... I must've been in my early 30s when he died. Yeah, I must've been in my early 30s, but that's been a long time ago. You don't keep track of things like that at that time. Maybe some people did, but we didn't. It's just everyday happenings.

Hannelore: Did you have children then before?

Gladys: Yeah, I had children when we were on the ranch.

Hannelore: Right, how many? How many children did you ...

Gladys: 2.

Hannelore: 2, and why did you move to Salida? Was it too hard for you?

[00:33:00]

Gladys: Well, my husband died at that time. Well, I was in Canon City because I was in nurses training down there for quite some time, but I didn't complete the full 3 years of nurses training. I was down there and I worked in the hospitals down there, but that was after my husband died.

Hannelore: After your husband died, you went to Canon City and did you come then to Salida after Canon City?

Gladys: Yeah, let's see. What did I do then? Canon City after my husband died. Gee, that's been too many years ago because I know I was on the ranch for a while by myself after my husband died, and, of course, I couldn't run that ranch by myself.  
[00:34:00]

Hannelore: How many head of cattle did you have then?

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: How many head of cattle did you have before you ...

Gladys: We didn't have a big head of cattle. Oh, I just don't know. I just wouldn't even say because I don't know. Us kids didn't pay any attention to that.

Hannelore: No, when you were married, before your husband died and you said you couldn't handle it yourself?

Gladys: We didn't have too many cattle at that time when I was married because we were just ordinary ranchers at that time, so I couldn't say. I just don't know.

[00:35:00]

Hannelore: You came to Salida after your nurses training in Canon City; is that correct?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: Then did you apply this in Salida? Were you working in the hospital in Salida or what did you do?

Gladys: Well, I lived down there in the valley when my husband died. I was on the ranch at that time, but I couldn't handle that 160-acre ranch by myself. I couldn't do that.

Hannelore: Did you sell the ranch?

Gladys: Hmm?

Hannelore: Did you sell the ranch?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative), I sold the ranch and then did I move? Course, my kids were in school at that time. I think they were graduating at that time. I think my husband died before either one of them graduated. Then I got a job ... No, I helped my sister-in-laws cook for the hay men during the summertime because they had around 24-26 hay men to cook for and they needed help, so I helped a lot during that time with the cooking after my husband died.

[00:36:00]

Hannelore: What were you cooking? What did they like to eat?

Gladys: Roast beef and just ordinary rancher meals. Roast beef and baked potatoes and just an ordinary menu like that. We always had hot rolls, baked hot rolls and made pies.

Hannelore: What kind of pies?

Gladys: We always served pies ... huh?

Hannelore: What kind of pies?

[00:37:00]

Gladys: Oh, it depended on the season. During the summertime, well, you could get cherries and apples and things like that and make cherry pie or apple pie.

Hannelore: Were these trees growing in the valley?

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: Were these trees growing in the valley?

Gladys: No, uh-uh (negative).

Hannelore: No, you ... came from outside.

Gladys: All that fruit come from Canon City. They didn't raise much fruit in the valley. Potatoes ...

Hannelore: I didn't think so, yeah.

Gladys: It was mostly potatoes was what's raised in the valley. Boy those days have gone by. Been so many years since then I can't remember just exactly what I did do.

Hannelore: You're remembering a lot.

Gladys: Oh. No, I just can't remember everything that happened because before I was married I was in nurses training for quite a long time. I wanted to be a nurse, but I didn't stay long enough to make a graduate nurse. I did stay in nurses training for several years.

[00:38:00]

Am I supposed to talk in that?

Hannelore: You're fine. I'm just moving it a little closer. Then in Salida, did you work as a nurse?

Gladys: Hmm?

Hannelore: When you moved to Salida, did you work as a nurse?

Gladys: No, I was down here in this school right down here and I was working in school.

Hannelore: What is the school called?

Gladys: I was cooking meals. That's why we were serving meals.

Hannelore: What is the school called?

Gladys: What was what?

Hannelore: The name of the school?

Gladys: Oh, see, what is the name of that school? You should know that if you ...

Hannelore: Longfellow?

Gladys: [00:39:00] Longfellow, that's right. Yeah, it was Longfellow School. I worked there for quite some time. I was feeding around 500 kids because we started hot lunches there and I was head cook. Yeah, 555 children what we were serving hot lunches to at one time. Then I got tired of doing that and I thought, well, I'm not going to do that no more so I quit.

Hannelore: How many years did you work as a cook?

Gladys: It was several years. It wasn't a long time either, but I wouldn't even say how many years. I just don't know.

Hannelore: Do you remember the principal at the time?

Gladys: The police department?

Hannelore: No, the principal?

Gladys: Oh, the principal. Oh goodness sakes, no, I can't give you his name.

Hannelore: It was a man?

[00:40:00]

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative). What was his name? Gosh, I haven't thought of that for so many years, but I worked there in the school for quite some time when he was the head of the school, and you'd probably recognize that name if ... did you go to school here?

Hannelore: No.

Gladys: Oh, you didn't. I can't think of his name. That's been too many years ago.

Hannelore: Do you remember any of the teachers?

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: Do you remember any of the teachers?

Gladys: Any of the teachers?

Hannelore: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gladys: Oh, let me think. What were some of the teachers' names? No, I can't even tell you because that's been a long time ago. After you get out and get on with other things you just don't remember those names.

Hannelore: Were the teachers men or women?

Gladys: Well, there were both. Yeah, there were several men were teachers. Some of those women I still see running around with once in a while on these picnics that we gone on that I worked with and they were working with the school, too.  
[00:41:00]

Hannelore: Oh, good. What are their names?

Gladys: What were their names? If I could think of them, you might recognize some of their names. Right now I can't tell you any of their names.

Hannelore: You see them sometimes?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah, they go on our picnics with us once in a while. Let me see, what was this last girl's name. I can't tell you. No, sir, I just cannot tell you because you don't pay any attention to names. You know them what they used to be and you're ready to go with that. I can't tell you their names.

Hannelore: Was there anybody special that you remember?

[00:42:00]

Gladys: Well, I should because I knew some of them very special. We were close friends, but ...

Hannelore: What did you do together as friends?

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: What did you do together as friends?

Gladys: Oh, what did we do? We went on picnics sometimes together. I see some of them yet that we run along on these picnics together, but that's been a long time ago, too. I can't think of their names. I was with one here not too long ago this summer, but I can't tell you her name.

Hannelore: That's okay.

Gladys: No, sir, I just can't tell you their name. I don't think I got it written down anywhere. I don't know where I'd have it. I just can't tell you their names. You think you'd write things down so you'll remember them and ...  
[00:43:00]

Hannelore: Mrs. Bunker is looking for something now.

Gladys: No, sir, I can't tell you and I have it ... I have some of that stuff written down.  
[00:44:00] Where it is, I don't know. Well, I just don't know. I ...

Hannelore: That's okay.

Gladys: ... but I don't know where it is. I sure can't tell you.

Hannelore: Did your children also go to Longfellow School?

Gladys: Did I what?

Hannelore: Did your children ...

Gladys: When I was in ...

[00:45:00]  
Hannelore: No, your children. You have 2 children.

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: I think we didn't include their names. Would you like to give me the names of your children?

Gladys: Oh, yeah. One's Toy Jean Bunker and Ovid Leroy Bunker were their names.

Hannelore: Oh, I think we need spelling on those.

Gladys: Yeah, I just had the 2.

Hannelore: How do you spell their names?

Gladys: Well, Leroy is ...

Hannelore: Oh, Leroy.

Gladys: Ovid Leroy, O-V-I-D ...

Hannelore: Ovid, okay. Ovid Leroy, okay. The other?

Gladys: Was Toy Jean Bunker.

Hannelore: Toy Jean?

Gladys: T-O-Y, Toy Jean, J-E-A-N.

Hannelore: Okay, and did they go to school at Longfellow as well?

Gladys: Uh-uh (negative).

[00:46:00]

Hannelore: No? Where did they go to school?

Gladys: No. No they went to high school here. Well, they both graduated from Canon City at that time when I had moved to Canon, and they went to school down there. Then we came back, let's see. Well, then when they went to the Moffat School over in the valley, they didn't go to Saguache, went to the Moffat School, and I think they both graduated from Salida School. I'm pretty sure they both graduated from the Salida School, but that's been quite a long time ago, too.

[00:47:00]

That's taking me back a lot of years. Should have some of their old things on their graduation and school activities, but I don't know where they are.

Hannelore: At the point we're at now, probably falls during the years of the second World War, right?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: Did that impact your life in any way?

Gladys: No, not especially because neither one of them wanted to go to college and they both married just right out of high school. They both like ranches so that's what they kept on doing was ranching. Then, of course, well my daughter married the guy she was going with. My son didn't marry the girls he ran around with, so I was none of that connected with their lives too much. I can't give you actual information on some of that stuff. You just can't keep track of it.

[00:48:00]

Oh, we're doing fine here. Tell me about your life in Salida then when you lived here. You worked at the school and then after a while ...

Gladys: I worked right down here at Longfellow School.

Hannelore: After a while you quit. That job didn't satisfy you.

Gladys: Well, no. I wanted to get out from it.

Hannelore: Yeah, too much work.

Gladys: I worked there for several years.

Hannelore: Uh-huh (affirmative), and after that what did you do?

Gladys: I must've remarried and moved back to the valley and lived over in the valley, but I don't remember for sure. I couldn't say for sure because you just do those things and then things change and you do something else.

[00:49:00]

Hannelore: How old were you when you remarried?

Gladys: Huh?

Hannelore: How old were you when you remarried?

Gladys: When I first married I was ...

Hannelore: No, when you remarried?

Gladys: Oh, when I ...

Hannelore: You said you remarried?

Gladys: No, I didn't remarry.

Hannelore: Oh, sorry. I misunderstood you.

Gladys: No, I never remarried. I kept the name Bunker.

Hannelore: You were married ... yeah, you were married only once.

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative), right.

Hannelore: After you quit the job at Longfellow, what did you do then?

Gladys: Let me see. Longfellow, I was down here. Well, I lived out there at Poncha and I drove back and forth. That's when I was working in the lunchroom. I organized the lunchroom. They never ...

Hannelore: In Poncha?

Gladys: No, here in Salida.

Hannelore: Okay.

[00:50:00]

Gladys: We were feeding around, let's see, we got up to one time 555 kids, I think, we were serving, but now don't repeat that from me because I don't remember for sure, but I know we were feeding a lot of kids.

Hannelore: After you quit your job at the school, then what were you doing?

Gladys: Well, I can't say what I was doing at that time. School ended in May or maybe in June, June the 5th, I think, was our last day of school, so I just don't know. I was just going from one thing to something else. The kids were able to work and they had their own jobs, so that was it. Just takes you back too many years. You

[00:51:00] didn't think about keeping track of all that stuff. At least I didn't. Some people have, I guess, but I sure didn't.



Hannelore: Do you remember the depression years?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hannelore: You say ...

Gladys: They weren't too bad. It never affected us too badly because I think we were at the ranch at that time and we had our own food, of course, our own vegetables from the garden and we had our own meat and so we didn't have to have a lot of money to buy food for.

Hannelore: What was it that you needed to buy that you couldn't supply from the ranch in terms of food?

[00:52:00]

Gladys: Oh, it would be flour and sugar and stuff like that because I had a big garden. We had all kinds of vegetables. I done lots of canning. Then during the summer we bought fruit and stuff from over on, not Gunnison, but all around Paonia and those places and lots of fruit. I canned lots of fruit. I imagined I canned at least 500 jars of food a year. Done lots of canning and I canned lots out of the garden of vegetables. Then when peaches and pears and apricots and all that come in, then I canned lots of that, 2 or 3 bushel maybe. That made a lot of cans. Buying food never affected me a whole lot because I had the garden and I done lots of canning, enough canning to put me clear through the winter.

[00:53:00]

Hannelore: The Depression, you hardly knew that the Depression was going on, right?

Gladys: It didn't bother because we were on ranches, we had plenty of food and we didn't have to have special clothing to wear for something so it didn't affect us on the ranch, uh-uh, (negative). No, at the ranch it didn't bother us at that time or the Depression.

Hannelore: When you bought clothing or flour or whatever you had to buy, does money come from the sale of cattle in the fall?

Gladys: Did it ... money did what?

Hannelore: When you were buying these extra supplies that you needed, when you were buying clothes or when you were buying flour, the money for that you got from the sale of cattle or was it ...

[00:54:00]

Gladys: Well, at that time my husband worked and he had wages coming in.

Hannelore: Oh, okay.

Gladys: Yeah, at that time he had enough money to buy all that kind of food; flour and sugar. Generally, we had our own meat, we butchered our own cattle. Our grocery bill wasn't too high at that time. Nothing like the grocery bill is now. I had a pretty good life. I can't complain about my life at that time. If we wanted to go somewhere, well we'd get out and go in the car or else we'd ride on horseback. That's generally what I did.

[00:55:00]

Hannelore: You had a car?

Gladys: Oh, yeah. Oh, yes we always had a car.

Hannelore: You always had a car?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah, we sure did.

Hannelore: Your family had a car?

Gladys: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah. Yeah, we all had cars to get around in.

Hannelore: Did you sometimes just go for a ride because you felt like it?

Gladys: No, we didn't do too much just getting out and driving really, because we just had the car to go to town in and buy groceries and things like that. We might take a little trip going someplace for the day, but it didn't amount to too much. We used to go to the rodeos up Monte Vista. You've heard of the rodeos at Monte Vista. Now, we usually tried to get down there. My nephews were bronc riders and they took a big active part in the rodeo down there. We liked to go see them what they could do. Then we used to come to the rodeos over here at Salida and saw them. We had things to entertain us all the time on the ranch. We didn't have to wonder what we're going to do today.

[00:56:00]

Hannelore: What was the entertainment at the ranch?

Gladys: Oh, we didn't have no special entertainment because we were busy. When you cook for about 24 hay men, you don't have a lot of extra time. You don't need a lot of entertainment then. Of course, we'd get out and go horseback riding. A lot of times we'd get out and go on the horses someplace, but that was about the extent of our entertainment.

[00:57:00]

I hadn't led too bad of a life. I've enjoyed my life of what I could do. See, I was in nurses training for 3 years and that's before I ever married. I was well entertained at that time, I was busy then. I can't stress anything else I know about the ranch life.

Hannelore: Is there anything else you would like to talk about?

[00:58:00]

Gladys: I don't know of anything else really. No, I know when I organized the lunches

down here at Longfellow, that was quite a job because I had worked in Canon City lunches down there and so I finally knew how to go ahead and get started serving the kids lunches. It was kind of a job to get started. The people working there had never worked for any number of people and lunches or anything like that. Everything always went okay. We didn't have no problems.

[00:59:00] I think the most students I ever cooked for was over 300 ... No, 500, 505 is what I cooked for down here sometimes at Longfellow. Then there were 5 of us, I think, in the lunchroom. Sometimes I needed help to fix some vegetables or whatever we was having for lunch that day. It was preparing the vegetables or something like that, that's when you needed help. Otherwise, we managed to do it.

Those years have gone by pretty fast and you didn't much attention to them, everything went okay. I always helped cook for hay men, which was about 24 hay men so that took a lot of cooking, too. I was with my sisters-in-law and that's how I first learned how to cook.

Hannelore: How many of you were there cooking for the hay men? You said the sisters-in-law, how many?

[01:00:00] Gladys: Yeah, there was 2 of us. Yeah, my sister-in-law and, of course, her husband was head charge of the hay men in the hay field. He'd done his own butchering. He butchered the cattle when we needed extra meat. Then we just bought groceries at the store. My sister-in-law knew just how much to buy, potatoes and canned goods and things like that. She done all the baking, mostly. It was quite a job baking pies for 24 hay men.

Hannelore: I can imagine.

Gladys: Yeah, that was quite a job, but everything went well. She knew what she was doing and ...

Hannelore: How many pies a day did you bake?

[01:01:00] Gladys: Well, let's see, she'd make 5 or 6 pies because she always cut them in 6 pieces. The help and extra help, why it took about 30-36 pieces of pie. That way we knew just how many pies we had to bake, or cakes, big cakes. It wasn't bad. I'd hate to try to do it again. I'd say uh-uh (negative), that's too much for me now.

Hannelore: You've done your share.

Gladys: Yeah, I'd say so. I think I done my share of cooking. Yeah, I wouldn't want to start that all over again, brother, that was something.

[01:02:00] Of course, my mother had always had a lot of hay men, so I used to have to help get in there and peel potatoes and set the table and do little odd jobs like that. I knew what hay was or what cooking was because mother took care of that, but I

wouldn't want to go through it again.

Do they still have lunches down here at the Longfellow or do you know?

Hannelore: Oh, I imagine so. Yeah, every school has lunches.

Gladys: I don't know. Do they serve lunches at high school?

Hannelore: Yes, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Gladys: Do they?

Hannelore: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Gladys: I didn't know exactly what they do for that. I have nothing to do with it anymore, so I don't keep track of that.

[01:03:00]

Hannelore: Well, is there anything else that you would like to talk about?

Gladys: I don't know what it would be. All I know is ranching.

Hannelore: You know a lot about that.

Gladys: Yeah, I sure do.

Hannelore: Okay. Then I would like to thank you very much ...

Gladys: Well, there wasn't too much ...

Hannelore: ... on behalf of Historic Salida and the Salida Library.

Gladys: Yeah, not too much I can give you good information on that because you didn't keep track of it.

Hannelore: Oh, you were great. There's a lot of information on that tape.

Gladys: I don't know about that.

Hannelore: Okay, thank you so much.

Gladys: Well, you're sure welcome.