

Gwen: It's starting this. This is Gwen Perschbacher and I'm interviewing Florence
[00:00:30] Naccarato on March 25th, 2004, about 2:15 pm at her home, which is 1004 F Street. Florence, I would like for you to tell me the name of your parents and where they were born, and if you have any brothers or sisters?

Florence: I have one sister who lives here. My parents were born in Sweden.

[00:01:00]

Gwen: Karl Hugo Gustafson?

Florence: Was my father.

Gwen: And he was born March 8, 1890. And your mother was?

Florence: Born in 1899.

[00:01:30]

Gwen: And her name was Erna Gunney Pettersson.

Florence: Right.

Gwen: That's an unusual spelling. Where were they born in Sweden? Do you know where they were born in Sweden?

Florence: It would be like a county. My mother was born in a small one near a town called
[00:02:00] Trosa. My father, I'm not sure. Dalsland, but I'm not sure of the town.

Gwen: When did they come to the United States?

Florence: My father came before World War I because he was in the Army. Mother came during World War I.

[00:02:30]

Gwen: What did they do and where did they live?

Florence: My mother stayed with her aunt and uncle in Pleasantville, New York. Then she
[00:03:00] wanted to come west, so that's what she did. She lived in Minnesota and Montana for a while and then she went on to Seattle. My father worked on ranches or farms when he first came here. They were in Nebraska and Montana. Then he moved on to Seattle too, where he met my mother.

Gwen: What did he do in Seattle?

Florence: He was a policeman in Seattle.

[00:03:30]

Gwen: I think you told me your mother had work during World War II?

Florence: At Boeing.

Gwen: Where were you and your sister born?

Florence: In Seattle.

Gwen: Were you born at home or did you have a doctor in the hospital?

Florence: I had a doctor and I was born at the Swedish hospital.

Gwen: How long did you live in Seattle?

Florence: Until I was about 20.

[00:04:00]

Gwen: And then what happened?

Florence: Then I got married and came here.

Gwen: You told me that you had worked in Montana and that's where you met Lloyd?

Florence: Yes.

Gwen: Can you tell me what you were doing when you met him?

Florence: Packing parachutes.

Gwen: What was he doing?

Florence: He was in the service.

Gwen: What did he do in the service?

[00:04:30]

Florence: He was a crew chief on a B25 and B29.

Gwen: Then how long did you know him before you got married?

Florence: About a year.

Gwen: Were you married in Montana?

Florence: Yes.

Gwen: Can you tell me anything about your wedding? Was it a big formal wedding or a small wedding?

Florence: No, a small wedding.

Gwen: Did you have much of a honeymoon?

Florence: I don't think we had any.

[00:05:00]

Gwen: That's kind of the way it was then.

Florence: Right.

Gwen: When did you move to Chaffee County?

Florence: That was my honeymoon. It was some time later but that was it, I guess. 1944, I think.

Gwen: Was he out of the service then?

[00:05:30]

Florence: Let's see. I think he got out of the service then.

Gwen: Where did you live in Chaffee County?

Florence: Poncha Springs.

Gwen: You told me that you lived on Lloyd's parents' ranch?

Florence: Right.

Gwen: And he worked for them?

Florence: Mmm-hmmm (affirmative).

Gwen: Then when did you move to Salida?

Florence: In 1945.

[00:06:00]

Gwen: Going back a little bit ...

Florence: Or '46, I'm not sure.

Gwen: Going back a little bit, you told me that that ranch was off of Highway 50 going toward Buena Vista?

Florence: No. It was more toward going toward Monarch, but you turned off on a county road and turned up and then over. Missouri Park, they talk about Missouri Park ditch, it was up near the Missouri Park ditch.

[00:06:30]

Gwen: You said it was one of the bigger ranches in Chaffee County.

Florence: It was.

Gwen: Okay. Then you moved to Salida and where did you live in Salida?

Florence: I lived at 1004 F Street.

[00:07:00]

Gwen: So you've lived here in this house a long time.

Florence: That's right.

Gwen: Has the house had any changes since you moved in, other than paint?

Florence: Yes. We had the kitchen redone and we had that fireplace put in. The fireplace that was there was taken out and ...

[00:07:30]

Gwen: Did you have a furnace or did you have coal burning stoves?

Florence: I think they were coal burning. Or did we have a furnace? We had a new furnace put in. We might have had a furnace because we had those registers.

Gwen: Oh yes, I bet you did, then. Has the neighborhood in Salida changed much since you moved into Salida?
[00:08:00]

Florence: Yes, I'd say it's grown quite a bit.

Gwen: Tell me about your children. How many children do you have?

Florence: Four.

Gwen: What are their names?

Florence: Sam, Tom, Karen and Tim.

Gwen: When were they born?

Florence: They were ...

Gwen: '46, was it?

[00:08:30]

Florence: Sam was born in 1944 at the November 5th, 1944. Tom was born November ... no. Wait, I got it wrong. I think Sam was born ... Gwen, I'm getting so mixed up mentally.

Gwen: That's all right, that's all right.

[00:09:00]

Florence: One of the boys was born November 5th. That was Sam, that's right. Tom was born near Thanksgiving day, on the 24th. Karen was born September 6th, 1954.

[00:09:30] Tim was born July 13th of 1957. So there, I've done a marvelous job.

Gwen: You have. How many grandchildren do you have?

Florence: Their oldest daughter got married and moved to California and she has ... Tom's
[00:10:00] oldest daughter. Let's see. She has three little kids. They're my great-great-grandchildren. She has ... seven. See, I'm getting too old to be asked all these questions, Gwen.

Gwen: That's all right. Tell me a little bit about what ... Had you ever been in Colorado before you came?

Florence: No.

[00:10:30]

Gwen: What did you think of Poncha Springs? What struck you about Poncha Springs, good or bad?

Florence: I can't really say what struck me. There wasn't too much to strike. I always thought Salida was a nice little town, but Poncha Springs to me was just kind of a spot in the road.

Gwen: Were there many businesses there then?

Florence: No, not then.

[00:11:00]

Gwen: When did you move to Salida?

Florence: I think it was in 1945.

Gwen: Where did you move to in Salida?

Florence: Here at 1004 F Street.

Gwen: So you've lived here a long time in this house.

Florence: I have.

Gwen: What did Lloyd do when he left the ranch?

Florence: He started selling. He was an excellent salesman.

[00:11:30]

Gwen: He sold himself to you, didn't he.

Florence: Oh, yes.

Gwen: What was life like in Salida then for you and your family?

Florence: I think it was very nice. Salida is a small town and I'm not used to a small town.
[00:12:00] Besides that, I missed Puget Sound and the salt water and ferry boats, lighthouses. You can see them. I've got plenty of lighthouses.

Gwen: Was it a big adjustment for you to move here then?

Florence: I loved to go places so I think it was kind of an adventure for me.

[00:12:30]

Gwen: How has Salida changed since you first -

Florence: It has gotten quite a bit larger.

Gwen: Anything in particular that you remember? Any instances of fires, tragedies, whatever?

[00:13:00]

Florence: The high school burned. I do remember that. As far as any outstanding tragedies, I really can't remember any except my parents dying and Lloyd dying.

Gwen: My parents had moved here, hadn't they.

Florence: They had moved here. My father had asthma very badly and this climate
[00:13:30] seemed to be the thing he really needed so his asthma improved considerably with him coming here from sea level.

Gwen: I remember your mother more than I remember your father and I know she always wore a hat to church, even after people weren't wearing hats to church.

Florence: Somebody else told me that too. I guess that's the way she felt.

Gwen: Comfortable.

[00:14:00]

Florence: You shouldn't go to church with a hat on. She did. She was a great little mother. Good little swimmer.

Gwen: Oh, really?

Florence: Oh, yes. Very good.

Gwen: Did she swim here at the pool then?

Florence: Yes, I think she went up here several times. Not ... because she was older, not
[00:14:30] like we did at home, because mother and all the kids in the neighborhood would go swimming together.

Gwen: Where did you swim there?

Florence: We swam in Puget Sound, swam in Green Lake, Lake Washington and Lake
[00:15:00] Sammamish. That's a Swedish ... they have a Swedish organization there that goes to ... They have summer homes and we'd go there to stay with my aunt and swimming in the Lake Sammamish.

Gwen: Tell me a little bit about Lloyd. He was born here, wasn't he?

Florence: Mmm-hmmm (affirmative).

Gwen: Can you tell me a little bit about him?

[00:15:30]
Florence: He was a great salesman, for one thing. Thanks to his sales ability, we had
wonderful trips to Hong Kong, Hawaii, Tahiti, Mexico, a barefoot Caribbean
[00:16:00] cruise. Then I made a trip to Sweden with my mother, so I managed to get around, by hook or crook.

Gwen: Tell me where your children are now. Did they all graduate from high school here?

Florence: Yes, and Sam was in Pueblo and Tom lives in Grand Junction and he works for the railroad. Karen lives here and so does Tim.

[00:16:30]
Gwen: What do you remember about their being in school? About the schools, maybe I should say.

Florence: I think they were all just like any schools. I think the kids would participate in
[00:17:00] different activities at school, but as far as being able to say that they were any different, I think they were all pretty much the same.