

#1 - 3/14/04

This is Kathy Berg of the Salida Regional Library at the home of Wendell Hutchinson, 90 Mile 4, Highway 50 in Salida, Colorado. Today is Sunday, March 14, 2004 and it is 4:45 in the afternoon. And we've had a lovely time visiting and now we, I'd like to ask you some questions. We talked about you giving some more details and more information about the Valley View school. And I would love you to talk about anything else you want to talk about when you're done doing that. So.....

Wendell Hutchinson: You want me to just go ahead and start talking then?

Kathy Berg: I, that's fine, yeah.

Wendell Hutchinson: Well, the Valley View school is exactly one mile north of our ranch here. It ah is due North, and we used, my brother and I, when he was going to school, walked that mile to school in the morning and return at night. So, a mile one way up and of course a mile back. And we ah, we went by today, there's a dairy there, but, the dairy ah wasn't there. At the time it was owned by John Woods. John Woods had a large family. There was Art and Bows, Jim, Harold Woods and ah, some other girls.

Mrs. Consin. Mrs. Enheiser. We went right by those places up there on that roadway to Valley View. Valley View, as I understood it, was built about 19.... well it was the turn of the century. I heard 1900, but since then I've heard 1902. And it was my understanding too that John, John Woods was the builder, the carpenter. John Woods, and maybe his family.

Kathy Berg: So his children went to the school also?

Wendell Hutchinson: Yes, many of his children went to that school also. Another, later years, my ah brother, Joe who was 10 years younger than I, went to school there. But he, when he was in about the 5th grade, he moved to Salida, or had to go to Salida. They took, picked him up on a school bus and took him into Salida. So he didn't go to that school only, I think, five years. This, that brother is in Denver, I mean College Station, Texas now, and teaches school there. He teaches art. The other brother, the one that went to school with me and we walked that mile so many times was, was my brother Jake.

I remember the day before, he took, walked across the lower part of the ranch and, and walked up the hill there and showed me the, how to get to the school. He said, now you just get on this, this ah roadway and go straight up there and the school will be right at the end. It so happened that there were others going to school that day, so I joined them and went to school for the first grade.

Kathy Berg: Do you remember who they were?

Wendell Hutchinson: Do I remember? Yeah. It was ah, it was some of the Cooper family. Cooper family. There was, there was, in that family was Floyd, May, Ellen, Marion, Margaret; Margaret was my age. There was ah, and there was young Elmer, the old, the father's name was Elmer also. Young Elmer was about a year behind me. And

the next, there was Charles and Daniel. And I think that was about it in that family.

KB: That was a lot.

WH: They didn't all go to school at that same time. I also went with a kid named Dan Heiner. He was, his mother was working in the old ranch house as a cook. And he started out with me and ah when I got to school the teacher said, where's Dan and I said "I don't know, he started with us but he's not here now". What Dan Heiner did was play hooky, I think. He didn't show up.

KB: How do you spell the last name?

WH: Oh, H... H e i n e r, I think. Dan Heiner.

KB: Did he ever show up after that?

WH: Well, yeah, at times, but very, very rarely though. He was not a very good student and would rather fish and hunt and do all other kind of things rather than go to school.

KB: Were you a good student?

WH: So, let's see, also there was ah Robert Goff, Robert Goff. He was the son of ah, his father's name was also Robert or Bob. Bob Goff. And he lived down on the corner a

little ways below, below the, the road that went to the schoolhouse. Bob ah Bob Goff. We went to school together that first year. So he, he and Margaret, ah Margaret Cooper and Robert Goff, we were in the same grade. The teacher was Lila Starbuck. She, she was the teacher at the time. She was only there one year, but had taught there some before that. That was my first year there, but she had taught some years before that. Lila moved into town and taught in the old Long Fellow school for many, many years. Lila Starbuck. So, Bob Goff, after a year, moved to Salida also. So he didn't continue to go to Valley View. But I do remember the building, just as if it were yesterday. They had pictures of George Washington on the, on the wall. First you come in and went through the cloak room where the, where the boys usually hung their clothing on nails and whatever was on the walls there was to hang 'em on in the vestibule, on the West side. And the girls hung theirs on the lower side. In that same room was a crock with a little spigot on it that you got water with. And the teacher, every day would bring fresh water in ah, it was I think about a three-gallon milk can, and then she would dump the water into the crock. And then we, we all had our names then on, on the cups. And there was a place on the wall with our name and we had to put our cup back in the right place. We weren't supposed to use anybody else's cup. I also remember that they had two, two outside privies. And they were, oh, I'd say they were almost a half a block away from the schoolhouse, up towards the hillside there. And the West most one was ah for the boys and the other lower one, a little lower one was for the girls. And, and we were instructed not to bother the girls or tip the thing over, or anything.

KB: That was good.

WH: So, anyway, we respected it pretty much. There was no hanky-panky went on. All the teachers I had were pretty strict. So the first teacher was ah Miss Lila Starbuck. And the Starbuck family lived down the road from us had a dairy there, and they had a large family. There was Lila's brother's and sister's were, were many also. The oldest one was, was ah Hap. And Hap and ah Lila were, were twins, as I remember it. And then they had..... then there was Elvis, and then there was Glenn, who just died about a year ago. Glenn, and then Paul and then Joe, Joe Starbuck, and, and Gordon. And I roomed at CSU with Gordon for four years. He'd been crippled when he was a young man. Had a real bad case of, I guess it was polio, but anyway he was very badly incapacitated, just barely lived. But he pulled, pulled out of it. But he and I then teamed up together and lived at Fort Collins. He studied agriculture and I studied vet medicine.

KB: I just have a quick question ah to go back with the name you said, Elvis. Was that Elvis as in Elvis Presley?

WH: Just like Elvis Presley, exactly. Elvis and Hap.... I think Hap's real name was Leon, was Leon Starbuck. They went to Colorado College at Colorado Springs and they were very active in football there. In fact they made quite a name for the place. They both were linemen. But the Colorado College played a lot of teams. They played Notre Dame, they played Army and they played Navy. And they held their own against most of them, winning some of 'em.

KB: Well that's outstanding.

WH: But I don't believe any of those Starbuck kids went to see, went to Valley View. Although there was an Art Woods' house on top of the mesa, and they could have possibly went before my time. But, so when I went there, it was in about 1931, '30 – '31. And ah, then I went to ah Salida High School. I started Salida High School about 1938 and graduated then in 1942. So, ah, I remember one of my first, maybe it was the very first day, or anyway I was looking out the window and I saw a Blue Jay on a tree out there. And I started quoting an old statement:

“A Blue Jay, A Blue Jay, sittin on a limb.

He winked at me and I winked at him.

I lifted up my bow and shot him in the chin”.

Well the teacher thought that was , ah, the kids thought that was funny, but the teacher didn't think it was too funny.

KB: This was a Valley View?

WH: Yeah, at the Valley View school. So, that was one of my things I remember from that first day. I don't know how, where I learned that, that poem. I think from one of my Great Uncles or somebody taught it to me. But I still remember it to this day.

KB: And you still remember it. That's pretty good. Can you remember any of the classes that you had, the courses or subjects that you learned?

WH: Yeah. The first ones you know, when we were in the first grade we had, had to learn to read. Just little books. They were ah..... Nelson Eddy, ah.....anyway those books were, were rather primitive, but they, but I learned the first, I had to learn to read them. They were such things as “spot went.....my dog’s name was spot”. And then another page over there’d be a picture of a dog. And then we had other things like, things we had to learn, like.... it’s hard for me to remember.

KB: Was it ah Dick and Jane and Spot?

WH: Yeah, Dick and Jane kind of thing. And Dick and Jane and they,.... Dick went up the hill and had a pail of water. Jill fell down and broke her crown and Jill came tumbling after.

KB: Oh yeah, I have that same book.

WH: Things like that. But then later as we advanced more, we had to learn our numbers and we also had to learn all the letters. And the teacher, I remember taught us how to pronounce different letters and words. And she would put a curved hat on some, and, and, and a straight hat on top of another, depending on how you were supposed to say it. So, that’s how we kinda, how we learned the alphabet and learned to pronounce them according to what kind of a hat they had on them.

KB: Well that's a good way. You should teach young children. Ah, so there was a chalkboard?

WH: Yes. Yeah, the old schoolhouse had a chalkboard at the front of the room. And ah we were often asked to go up there and write something on the board. But, in the class, that first year I was there, there was probably, oh, I'd say there was 15 kids in the class. Then later, it was just Norman Campbell, David Campbell and, I think about the time I graduated, then Helen came. But the Campbell's lived, oh, about a, a mile and a half West of the school. And they'd walk everyday too to school.

KB: What was it like in the winter? Did you still have to walk?

WH: Yeah, we had to walk. It was pretty cold. If it was a real cold day, my Dad would take me horseback. We'd put on, he'd get the, he'd saddle a horse, we'd get on, I'd get on behind him, that first year. My brother hadn't gone to school yet. And, and I was hanging onto my Dad as he went up the road horseback. And I remember he had several good horses. One was "Sox", had four stocking feet. Another one of the horses was "Old Dave". And Dave was a, he was a Bay horse, but he (his father) could put his coat over a fence and Old Dave would jump the fence, which was quite a... he didn't have to open the gate that way.

KB: That was smart.

WH: That was nice, huh? So.....

KB: Anything more you remember about the school building itself and different activities, like you mentioned the jug of water, was there anything else that was really unique?

WH: And another thing, every morning the teacher would start by going up to the front of the room, she'd play the piano and we'd sing some songs. Some of the songs like "God Bless America", ah "The Star Spangled Banner", patriotic songs like that. And later I remember ah, some of the songs teacher wanted us to say was:

"I think when little chicken drinks,
He takes the water in his bill.
He lifts his head up way up high,
And lets the water run down hill."

KB: Did you want to sing that for us?

WH: No, I can't sing.

KB: Ok. I just thought I'd put you on the spot.

WH: Yeah, you put me on the spot.

KB: So, can you also recall, oh, different holiday's celebrated at school?

WH: Yes. At Christmas time we always has a Christmas party and a celebration. Ah, we had to put on a Christmas play, and they were pretty ah, sometimes they were pretty elaborate. The, after Lila Starbuck was there one year, the next year was Dorothy Allway and later she married a man named Noble; she was a teacher. And then the next teacher was Bessie M. Schroder. And she was a fine teacher, and very, very strict, but very, very good and we learned a lot from her. Bessie M. Schroeder. The Superintendent of schools, rural schools, was Bessie M. Showalter. And she would go and visit the different rural schools in the county. And I think there were about 30, 31 rural schools at one time in Chaffee County. But she'd visit each one of them. But when the two got together, Bessie Schroeder and Bessie Showalter, they would visit for several hours, really, reminiscing old times.

KB: Like we are now.

WH: Yeah, like we are now. Right.

KB: So when they were so busy talking, did you all continue your studies?

WH: Yeah, and we were supposed to be back there studying, lots of times we were listening to them tell stories. And Mrs. Schroeder had spent some time in Alaska and her boyfriend was up, had been in Alaska. She mentioned that. It was about the time of the

Klondike gold rush. Another thing I remember, Bessie Schroeder, her maiden name was Johnson, Bessie Johnson. And Bessie ah had taught, among others, Glenn Everetts Grandfather, George Galicia Everett. And in one of George's, in the book he mentioned Bessie, Bessie Johnson. And it was tellin that she was quite a proper, very good-looking woman. And come branding days or something, she'd come out and help just like a man. Bessie Schroder.

KB: Well. She was a woman of the West.

WH: She was. And I have a...., then I went to high school and she, she quit teaching up there. She didn't teach my youngest... she taught my youngest brother Joe, ah just a year or so and then we had other teachers there. And, my brother Joe was there with, oh, in his class was a bunch of the Baker boys. One of them was the attorney ah Ken Baker, now. His father was on the water board and has more or less retired. But, but a bunch of the Baker boys were going to school. And another family that lived down the road when I was there was the Archuletas. There was Felix and his sister Charlotte and there was another one, but I forgot the other one. I think it was younger than Felix. I think Felix has came back to Salida and is living down the road from us now on Highway 50. Felix Archuleta.

KB: What are some of your happy memories of the Valley View School?

WH: Oh, we used towe'd get out of school, ah we had a recess. We'd start school at

8:00 and then about 10:00 o'clock we had a recess for fifteen minutes. And we went out and we could play. One of the things was dare-base. We had a kind of a, oh a mark we put across and it was about ah, maybe a hundred yards apart. And then we had a "soup" we'd put 'em in when you caught 'em. When you'd catch 'em off the line, then they'd have to go in the "soup". And the one that got all the kids in the "soup" first, won. So, ah that was a, a nice game, I thought it was fun. Sometimes we'd have one kick-the-can, too. Then we played baseball some. We had an old baseball. It had been batted around so much, the cover on it was wore out. The string inside it was beginnin to come apart. I remember I was never a good fielder, wasn't very good at catchin 'em, but I could hit him pretty well.

KB: All right.

WH: And one of the girls that was a pitcher was Elsie Alloy. And Elsie's alive today, yet. She's in the, kinda in the nursing home now, I think, Elsie is. But she, she pitched 'em so slow to us, even a blind man could hit 'em. I think I'd even hit 'em today, as bad as my eyesight is. If you hit it over the fence out there, if you did that was a home run. We didn't have very big teams, you know, maybe three or four on each side. Later, when Norman and David was there, we, we only had something like four in the whole school, five, maybe. There was Norman and David, Jake and I. And Cameron I think came on a bit later. But there was Elsie then too, so that made five.

KB: So when you went to Salida to school, ah, was that because of the grade?

WH: I graduated from the eighth grade. And when you graduated from the eighth grade then you had to go to the high school. And the rural schools always, always met at the old Poncha Springs schoolhouse up here. And it had a kind of a meeting room upstairs, still does. And it's used as a City Hall for Poncha Springs. A nice building. My Father had gone there to school. And my, my Great Uncles and my Grandfather had gone to school up there also. But, Valley View hadn't come into use yet, for them, so. But I got the opportunity of going to Valley View School. But we had eighth grade ceremonies and we had to pick a historical subject and talk before a group, which was, it had a lot of anxiety, but it was good for us.

KB: It was good to learn that at that young age.

WH: Yeah, It was. For example, I talked about.... I went to my Great Uncle, he was kind of the historian, he said why don't you talk about Chief Ouray . So I did. I talked about Chief Ouray and his wife Chapitta and their son Pahlone. And about Palone being captured by the Kiowa's and he, when he was about two, and took him away from Ouray and Chapitta. And then, then later he had a chance to come back and live with them but he didn't want to. He said "no, I grew up with the Kiowas, they're my friends and I don't want to come back." So, anyway, then the next year when Jake graduated, he talked about the Espinosas. The Espinosas. And they were, they were some outlaws that were disgruntled about the ah Spanish American war. A lot of land had been lost during that war in Mexico, and these Spanish guys were disgruntled about it. They came through the

country murdering lonely ranchers & miners. In this hard-scrabble county outside of Westcliff there was David Bruce. He was a lonely miner. They came in and chopped his head open and shot him. Then they went up in dead man's gulch, and John, ah John McPherson's brother Murdock was up there settin up a sawmill and they came down, and their friend Henry Harkins they found him, he'd been chinkin his cabin and they found him murdered. And they thought it was Indians, but it was not the Indians, it was the Espinosas. They cut his head open with an axe and shot him four or five times. He's,.. Henry Harkins today is buried about oh, fifteen miles out of Colorado Springs, and there's a little white picket fence around the grave there. Henry Harkins. Incidentally, Henry Harkins crossed the plains with my Great, Great Grandfather and Grandmother and their family and my Grandmother Annabelle. So, so, but he was in that same wagon train. In fact, little John McPherson fell out of the wagon some way. I suppose it was their own, McPherson's own wagon. But Harkins saw it, and he hollered real loud, "Woah, Woah", and then they did stop just as the big wheel was about to go over little John. Little John was, oh he was born in 1855. They came across in 1860, so he was about five years old. But he was spared, by Henry Harkins. But then Henry Harkins was killed by the Espinosa brothers up there. They got over in South Park and killed another one or two. They got up into Oro City, below Leadville and it was a different story. Boy the miners didn't want to put up with anymore. So they organized a posse and among them was old Chuck Nachtrieb and others, and Henry Lamb. And they, they finally, after quite a lot of research, or lookin for 'em, found them, and they were up on a peak. Still today it's called Espinosa Peak. And he was murdered. Ah, they..., Henry Lamb shot him, shot one of the Espinosas. The second Espinosa got away, went back down to New

Mexico and got a cousin,.... I believe it was a cousin, and he was only fifteen. And then they came back on a rampage, pretty much in the San Louis valley over here. So, ah...but they hired, hired some army guys from Fort Garland down there to go, to go lookin for them. And they, they got Tom Tobin, an old trapper to go with 'em. Tom Tobin did go with 'em and he, he was able to track 'em and they got 'em up ah in kind of a canyon, in a hole and they couldn't get out and Tobin says "there's your Espinosas" and he let the army guys shoot at 'em, they missed. And he said give me the gun", and they did. He shot both of 'em, just one shot apiece. But he was an old frontiersman, you know, he didn't waste his bullet, Anyway, he chopped their heads off, this is the way the story goes, ah he chopped their heads off and then he want back to Ft. Garland where they were havin kind-of a ball that night, and he, he had these heads in a gunny sack and he grabbed the end of the sack and rolled the heads out on the floor and he said "here's your Espinosas". Now that sounds like a fictitious tale, but It's supposed to be true.

KB: OK. It's supposed to be true. So was their mean-spiritedness, was their goal to just rob these people, or just wanted to kill them?

WH: They took some things. Yeah. In that ah, when they got one of those Espinosas they found Murdock McPherson's vest, so they did take some of the things. And I think maybe his watch. But, it was in the cabin, I guess when the Espinosas were stalked down.

KB: That was a good story.

WH: That's a good story

KB: So do you have any good stories about ahmmm, family life on the ranch, and all that went on there like things that your Mother did?

WH: Oh, about that time on the ranch, growing up here, we...it was pretty much in those times all horse drawn equipment. Mowing machines, hay rakes, and all. And they had big A-frame packers with cables between 'em. And, and they had just wagons, just old hay wagons. And they pulled the old hay wagon in three compartments; one in front, and one behind and one in the middle and used the harpoon fork in the center to pull up the hay. So ah, those, those stacks were huge. They were, oh, probably at least 40 foot tall, some of 'em. And down in my dog cemetery now, that's where there was tack yard there. And since then the highways come through and widened the road and, and took a lot of that tack yard out.

KB: Uh huh. Did you have a lot of chores as a young man?

WH: Well, yeah, when we come home from school, we always, my brother and I always had to go bring wood in to the wood box; make sure it was full of wood. And that's, our stoves were all heated with wood. We didn't in those early times, didn't have any coal either. But ah, later we got some coal. And the train comin across our railroad track, the grade's still over there, and trains would come from Crested Butte where they had mines,

and some of that coal would fall off along the edge. We, we were supposed to go over there and pick up some of that coal that fell off. My father became a brakeman in later years and sometimes he made some of that coal fall off. I shouldn't tell you that I guess, but he did. He'd just push few chunks off.

KB: And then you were supposed to go pick it up?

WH: We'd pick it up, yeah. That was kinda stealing, stealing from the Government.

KB: Well, I'm not going to tell anybody. What about family celebrations at home, ah what kind of things did you do?

WH: Well, yeah at home, we always had.... on every birthday we always had an angel food cake, usually, made. I can remember, like when I was six, that, that was first grade, it had six candles. But as we got older they'd usually add the extra candles. But when you got too, too many to count, then they ah they didn't have that many. But seems like the cake was always angel food, an angel food cake that my Mother made.

KB: Did she do a lot of chores around the ranch?

WH: Well, she didn't. She didn't do so much work on the ranch as she did the house. She always kept a good house. Clean, neat, and as kids we had to take our shoes off a lot of time when we come in. Back in those days too, I remember you open the, the screen

door would just be filthy black with flies. And I don't know why so many flies. And I think it's because at the upper house, up there they threw the garbage out in the yard and let the birds pick at it. And I think it, it was a fly hazard too. Maybe the flies would gather round in that garbage that was thrown out there.

KB: So did she do a lot of canning and did she have a garden that she grew vegetables in?

WH: We all had, yeah, we had a, had a small garden. In our time it was in the backyard. And in it was radishes, I remember, and tomatoes, some, some lettuce, some cabbage. And then right back behind the corrals there was about a half acre of corn that they always put in. And they kept it pretty well weeded. They used a horse drawn implement to keep the weeds down. And then, then the corn was always harvested and thrown in the top of an old.....there was an old barn that was there, and had, it burned in later years, but in the top of that barn was a loft, and they threw that full of corn. But they, the hired men, when they were around, used to, used to eat a lot of that corn. I remembered some of those hired men said "boy I sure do like my roastin ears". So they would roast the corn and, and the hired men would get it. Some of them would eat whole cobs of corn. But then the corn too, after it dried, you could twist it and get a hand full of corn and we used to feed the chickens with it; chickens and the turkeys.

KB: So was everything on your ranch just for your own consumption, or did you sell things to your neighbors or in town?

WH: We,... the cattle, of course, we sold the steers. The calves were almost always sold in the fall. And still are to this day. Just so we,... but most of the other food we did..... Ah, this same Cooper family that were on the hill, that had so many kids, we,... my Great Uncle let him have a garden down here in the bottom. And young Elmer had to weed it and keep it going. But it, it was quite a good sizeable garden. And Cooper himself used the garden material, but we also used it in the ranch house to feed the hired men. So it worked out about right. The Coopers put it in. We furnished the land and the water. But as far as sellin' produce downtown, we, sometimes we'd take hay and sell it to the grocery, to Vaughns Feed Store and that would give, would help pay on the grocery bill.

KB: What did they do with the hay?

WH: Oh, Vaughns feed... yeah, back in those days there was a lot of buggies, you know. And they, they'd come in and buy the hay. We had to bail it though. We had an old bailer I have pictures of, if I can find it. So, they would bail the hay, take the hay and bail it. And then they would sell it and they would feed ah, ..they'd take it to people and they'd feed, feed their horses. Cause almost everybody had a, a buggy and, and at least one horse. So they needed hay.

KB: Do you remember where Vaughns was located? The feed store.

WH: Yeah. Yeah. It was located where.... there's a bank downtown now called.....

it's.....

KB: Is it Pueblo Bank and Trust?

WH: There's a bank there today, and it changes..... I think it's called Bank.....

KB: Bank One?

WH: Bank One. It's called Bank One.

KB: Oh that's where it was, on "G" Street.

WH: There was a grocery store in front and then back behind it was a kind-of a barn, and they kept the hay in there that they sold to people. Vaughns Grocery Store. George W. Vaughn. I suppose he was George Washington Vaughn.

KB: So is there anything that you can, that you want to tell us about what you did on the ranch? I mean, I mean just living there. I know you had, you had your chores, but things are so different now. I just want to get a little flavor of, you know, how your life was on the ranch.

WH: We,.... I guess some of the most fun we had was,... I guess it was fun. We had to go up in the hills after the cattle. We had to go up in the hills and help, help the Uncles,

and my Dad, get the cattle and bring ‘em in, in the fall, and look, look at ‘em in the summer too. Back in those days we rode what we called a bog hole. Cattle, ah, they overgrazed it. I hate to tell you that but they did. They overgrazed it and then cattle would get in those bogs and would get stuck in the mud. And we’d have to go on horseback and throw a rope on ‘em and pull ‘em out. But they was thin, and perhaps taller. It was kinda pathetic. Today, things are much different. We, we had larger permits, that we probably shouldn’t have that big a permit in those times. Anyway, that’s what we did. And then here on the ranch, oh, I remember I, my job,.... my brother Jake’s first job was to pull, lead the stacker horse. And the stacker horse was hooked onto a cable and would pull those loads off the wagon and up onto those tall stacks. So ah, that was the first ranching we did then. When we got older they let us drive a hay rake. We’d go out,... the hay rake had long fingers on it and you’d rake it into windrows. And then men would go along later and bunch it up and make shocks out of it. And then they’d put those shocks.....

KB: Shocks?

WH: Shock. A shock of hay. It was just a pile, a pile of hay, maybe about three or four feet in diameter and maybe, maybe three or four feet tall. You’d stick the fork in it and pitch it onto the wagon. That was a shock of hay.

KB: Hmmm. Just like Shock....”S H O C K”. Hmmm.

WH: Yeah, like you got shocked. An electrical shock. A shock of hay. So, those were some of the good times. Then, as time when on I got big enough to run the wagon. That was, I thought that was really a promotion. I was probably fourteen then and I could run a wagon, had a team of horses on the front. And learned, we learned how to put the hay in there like it was supposed to be, haul it into the stack yard. And then get the harpoon fork, pull it down, shove it into the hay and trip the levers on it. Still got an old harpoon fork on the side of one of the buildings down here at the ranch. But we,...and then pull that hay up. If you did it just right you could unload that hay rack in three, in three parts. But if you got a lot of short grass hay, it would fall off, and it'd take you six or seven trips to get that, get that hay up there on the stack.

KB: Sounds like a lot of hard work.

WH: Yeah it was. Yeah, a lot of work

KB: So then from eighth grade you went to Salida?

WH: Yeah, after we got out of Valley View we ah, we went to Salida to High School. And ah, back then they didn't ah, we didn't have school buses to take us in. Now, when my brother Jake and I were going to High School, after about one year they got us an old Model 'A' Ford and we'd go, we'd go into school with it.

KB: How old were you?

WH: Oh,... about, well, I was in the 8th grade, and ah my, my brother was drivin' it when he was fourteen or fifteen, I'm sure.

KB: So they didn't have drivers licenses then?

WH: Well, yeah, they did. Anyway we got by with it. Maybe we weren't old enough, to matter. Then later they got school buses. And, ah, they really didn't all get school buses until about 1955 or so. I remember I was on the school board here and I said, we got, those rural kids really have to have transportation to get in to Salida. So then they started a school bus. Now, I think they, they've overdone it. Everybody in town is served by a school bus.

KB: Yeah, they should walk now. Yeah. Well, and everybody needs a little more exercise these days, so walking to school might be the answer.

WH: They should be walking to school. Here in Salida they used to walk clear over from the Italian side, over there, clear over. They didn't have to walk a good mile to school. But it didn't hurt 'em, anymore than it hurt me to go to Valley View.

KB: Right. Well, I think I'm going to stop here only if you promise I can come back and start again when you're 15 years old, or we'll, we'll start your High School years. I'd love it. Well, thank you so much.

WH: Yeah. You bet. Sure. I'll see if Betty can find that tape that I made. I think we might have loaned it out.

KB: For the Valley View School?

WH: Yeah, for the Valley View School.

KB: Well, it's been more than enjoyable and you have a lot to say and I appreciate your time. It's been a joy.