

AN INTERVIEW WITH
MARY AND LOUIS "SCOTTY" SCOTT

**An Oral History conducted and
edited by
Robert D. McCracken**

Lincoln County Town History Project
Lincoln County, Nevada

CONTENTS

Preface..... 5

Introduction..... 7

CHAPTER ONE..... 9
Mary's father, Louis Fogliani's, early days in Nevada; Louis returns to Switzerland and marries Teodora, then brings her to Nevada; a description of Mary's family and of life on the family's Spring Valley ranch in the early 1900s; Spring Valley's extremely cold climate; the Fogliani ranch house; the influenza of 1918; remarks on folk medicines; buying provisions for the ranch; Louis Fogliani's ice house and the dairy products the family enjoyed and sold in Pioche.

CHAPTER TWO..... 9
Clothing in the early 1900s; memories of a one-room schoolhouse and of the people who taught there and the games the children played; a description of food on the Foglianis' ranch; memories of "Doc"; a description of the children's ranch chores; dances and other social events outside Spring Valley in the 1920s; memories of high school in Eagle Valley and Panaca, and of normal school in Reno.

CHAPTER THREE..... 18
Remembering Helen Hackett; Mary becomes a teacher at Deerlodge; observations on teaching; Mary's sister Esther receives a nickname; remembering long evenings in Deerlodge, and a visit to a bootlegger's still; Mary moves to a school in Rose Valley; remembering Scotty as a student in high school; Mary and Scotty are married; a loss of jobs and hard times in the Depression; Mary's first trip to a store, and other early memories of Pioche; remarks on old-time movies; Louis Fogliani tries to master the automobile.

CHAPTER FOUR..... 27
Holidays on the Spring Valley ranch; more memories of Depression days in Pioche; recalling some of the Pioche characters of the 1930s; a discussion of Judge Orr and other Pioche citizens.

CHAPTER FIVE..... 34
Memories of trapping in Spring Valley; a recipe for beef jerky; thoughts on Mary's mother's life in rural Nevada; remarks on shops and ethnic groups in Pioche in the 1930s.

CHAPTER SIX.....	41
Discussion of changes in Pioche with the advent of World War II, particularly of the men who were sent there to work in the mines; Scotty's recollections of working at the Bristol Silver Mine and later at the Number One Mine; Scotty remembers Ed Snyder and describes the job of bucking samples; a discussion of owners of area mines.	
CHAPTER SEVEN.....	48
Further discussion of owners of Pioche-area mines; remarks on electric power in the area prior to 1937; a description of the Bristol Silver Mine; Scotty's work for Roy Orr at his garage, and later runs his own Standard Oil station; a description of the Number One Mine and its connection with the Caselton.	
CHAPTER EIGHT.....	55
Further description of the Number One and Caselton mines; Scotty recalls some of his experiences in World War II; running a service station in Pioche in the 1940s; memories concerning Mary's newspaper column; remarks on the tungsten operation at Timpahute; Scotty recalls Wesley Koyné.	
CHAPTER NINE.....	62
A description of Pioche in the 1950s, and of current (1992) economic activities in the area; Scotty and Mary discuss Scotty's parents and his brothers and sisters; Scotty recalls his childhood in Pioche; memories of E. L. Nores.	
CHAPTER TEN.....	68
Mary recalls the World War II years in Pioche; how Mary and her siblings earned their nicknames; further memories of the Foglianis' Spring Valley ranch; the Scotts talk about a much-loved mountain cabin.	

PREFACE

The Lincoln County Town History Project (LCTHP) engages in interviewing people who can provide firsthand descriptions of the individuals, events and places that give history its substance. The products of this research are the tapes of the interviews and their transcriptions.

In themselves, oral history interview are not history. However, they often contain valuable primary source material, as useful in the process of historiography as the written sources to which historians have customarily turned. Verifying the accuracy of all of the statements made in the course of an interview would require more time and money than the LCTHP's operating budget permits. The program can vouch that the statements were made, but it cannot attest that they are free of error. Accordingly, oral histories should be read with the same prudence that the reader exercises when consulting government records, newspaper accounts, diaries, and other sources of historical information.

It is the policy of the LCTHP to produce transcripts that are as close to verbatim as possible, but some alteration of the text is generally both unavoidable and desirable. When human speech is captured in print the result can be a morass of tangled syntax, false starts, and incomplete sentences, sometimes verging on incoherency. The type font contains no symbols for the physical gestures and the diverse vocal modulations that are integral parts of communication through speech. Experience shows that totally verbatim transcripts are often largely unreadable and therefore a waste of the resources expended in their production. While keeping alterations to a minimum the LCTHP will, in preparing a text:

- a. generally delete false starts, redundancies and the uhs, ahs and other noises with which speech is often sprinkled;
- b. occasionally compress language that would be confusing to the reader in unaltered form;
- c. rarely shift a portion of a transcript to place it in its proper context;
- d. enclose in [brackets] explanatory information or words that were not uttered but have been added to render the text intelligible; and
- e. make every effort to correctly spell the names of all individuals and places, recognizing that an occasional word may be misspelled because no authoritative source

on its correct spelling was found.

INTRODUCTION

Historians generally consider the year 1890 as the close of the American frontier. By then, most of the western United States had been settled, ranches and farms developed, communities established, and roads and railroads constructed. The mining boomtowns, based on the lure of overnight riches from newly developed lodes, and the settlement of most of the suitable farmland, were but a memory.

Although Nevada was granted statehood in 1864, examination of any map of the state from the late 1800s shows that most of it south of the 38th parallel remained largely unsettled, even unmapped. In 1890 most of southern Nevada - including Lincoln County - remained very much a frontier, and it continued to be so for at least another 20 years.

Even in the 1990s, the frontier can still be found in Lincoln County in the attitudes, values, lifestyles, and memories of area residents. The frontier-like character of the area is also visible in the relatively undisturbed quality of the natural environment, much of it essentially untouched by humans.

A survey of written sources on Lincoln County's history reveals variability from town to town: A fair amount of literature, for instance, can be found covering Pioche from its first newspaper, beginning in the fall of 1870, to the present. Newspapers from Delamar are available from 1892 to 1906 and Caliente from 1904 to 1868. In contrast, Panaca and Alamo never had newspapers of record. Throughout their histories, all Lincoln County communities received only spotty coverage in the newspapers of other communities. Most of the history of Lincoln County after 1920 is stored in the memories of individuals who are still living.

Aware of Lincoln County's close ties to our nation's frontier past and the scarcity of written sources on local history (especially after 1920), the Lincoln County Commissioners initiated the Lincoln County Town History Project (LCTHP). The LCTHP is an effort to systematically collect and preserve the history of Lincoln County Nevada. The centerpiece of the LCTHP is a set of interviews conducted with individuals who had knowledge of local history. Each interview was recorded, transcribed, and then edited lightly to preserve the language and speech patterns of those interviewed. All oral history interviews have been printed on acid-free paper and bound and archived in Lincoln County libraries, Special Collections in the James R. Dickinson Library at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, and at other archival sites located throughout Nevada.

The interviews vary in length and detail, but together they form a never-before-available composite of each community's life and development. The collection of interviews for each community can be compared to a bouquet: Each flower in the bouquet is unique--some are large, others are small--yet each adds to the total image. In sum, the interviews provide a view of community and county history that reveals the flow of life and events for a part of Nevada that has heretofore been largely neglected by historians.

Collection of the oral histories has been accompanied by the assembling of a set of photographs depicting each community's history. These pictures have been obtained from participants in the oral history interviews and other present and past Lincoln County residents. Complete sets of the photographs have been archived along with the oral histories. The oral interviews and written sources served as the basis for histories of the major communities in Lincoln County. These histories have also been archived.

The LCTHP is one component of the Lincoln County program to determine the socioeconomic impact of a federal proposal to build a high-level nuclear waste repository in southern Nye County, Nevada. The repository, which would be inside Yucca Mountain, would be the nation's first, and possibly only, permanent disposal site for high-level radioactive waste. The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners initiated the LCTHP in 1990 in order to collect information on the origin, history, traditions and quality of life of Lincoln County communities that may be impacted by the repository. If the repository is constructed, it will remain a source of interest for hundreds, possibly thousands, of years to come, and future generations will likely want to know more about the people who once resided in the area. In the event that government policy changes and a high-level nuclear waste repository is not constructed in Nevada, material compiled by the LCTHP will remain for the use and enjoyment of all.

--RDM

This is Robert McCracken talking to Mary and Louis "Scotty" Scott at their home in Pioche, Nevada, March 6 and 7, 1992

CHAPTER ONE

- RM: Mary, could you tell me your name as it reads on your birth certificate?
- MS: Mary Fogliani [sounds like Folianne]; I guess the Swiss people call it Fogliani [sounds like Foliannie]. The "g" is supposed to be silent.
- RM: And when and where were you born?
- MS: I was born in Spring Valley, Nevada.
- RM: What was your birth date?
- MS: May 11, 1909.
- RM: And could you give me your father's full name and his date and place of birth?
- MS: Louis Fogliani. He was born in Biasca, Switzerland, on September 8, 1857.
- RM: What was your mother's name and when and where was she born?
- MS: Mother was born at the same place and her name was also Fogliani. It was a common name back there just like Smith or Jones here; they tried to find any relationship [between Mother and Dad] but they found none.
- RM: And what was her first name?
- MS: Teodora. Tay-adora, I guess is really the way they pronounce it. She was born April the 16th, 1875.
- RM: Did they marry in the old country?
- MS: Yes. I think he was in his 20s or maybe older than that when he returned to Switzerland. How long he was back there then, I do not know, but then he married Mother.
- RM: Did he go back to Switzerland with the intention of coming back, do you think?
- MS: Yes. He [originally came to America because he] had heard stories from his uncles who had been over here about America and the opportunities that it offered and he dreamed of it for a long time as he tended goats up in the Alps. As you know, people in Switzerland are great for wood-cutting. He worked cutting wood at the mines in many of the mining towns; he also worked in the mines. He finally bought a ranch out in Spring Valley.
- RM: What brought his uncles over here?
- MS: I imagine the mining or ranching.
- RM: Had they converted to Mormonism?
- MS: No, they were Catholics.
- RM: Do you recall any stories that he would have told about his life in these mining camps, cutting wood and working in the mines?
- MS: He told of watching the gambling in Virginia City, where there were stacks of \$20 gold pieces on the gambling tables. He worked in Tuscarora during the hard winter when

the freight wagons could not bring in supplies, and the only meat they had to eat was porcupine. While in Goldfield he witnessed a shooting and he and several of his friends were robbed. He told of an incident in Eureka where there was an argument over wages which lasted several days then some vigilantes came out and opened fire on the [strikers], killing 4 and wounding 6. Dad was a rather quiet fellow and never talked too much about his experiences.

RM: Probably the mine owners put the vigilantes up to it.

MS: I would imagine so.

RM: He must have been at Rhyolite.

MS: I'm not sure about that.

RM: Was he at Delamar?

MS: No, I don't think he worked at Delamar. I think that was later. His father worked in New York as a loggerman and timberman, coming there in 1865. He worked for 5 years, then went back to Switzerland. Louis listened to his stories of the great United States and the many opportunities it offered.

The U.S. was celebrating its first centennial as a nation in Philadelphia when Dad, an 18-year-old immigrant, landed in New York. His journey took him across the U.S. to Nevada, where he spent some time with relatives in Spring Valley, then went out on his own to work in Eureka, Tuscarora, Virginia City, Silver City, Tonopah, Belmont, Beatty, Goldfield and Austin, finally returning to Spring Valley and working for his uncles there.

He made 2 trips back to Switzerland. On the first trip he married Mother and brought her to Spring Valley. After some years he purchased the ranch and lived there until his death.

His hours were daylight to dusk. He built miles of fence, dug miles of ditch by hand, cleared acres of ground with a grubbing hoe. With him always were his pipe and demijohn, a large glass bottle filled with water, wrapped in a gunny sack to keep water cool. He plowed the ground with horse-drawn plow, the reins around his neck, his strong hands on the handles of the plow to keep the furrows straight and the plowshare deep in the soil. There were endless hours day and night irrigating the crops, putting up hay, cutting and raking with horse-drawn equipment and loading it by forkful onto the hayrack, then hauling it to the barn and other areas where cattle were to be fed during the winter months. Cattle were brought in from summer ranges in the fall and calves were branded and weaned. In the fall of the year hogs were butchered along with beef to make salami, sausages, bacon, ham and corned beef. Deer were used to make jerky. During the summer months cheese and butter were made and stored for winter use.

RM: When he went to Switzerland and married and then came back

here, did he go right to farming when he got back?

MS: Yes, he brought Mother back to the ranch.

RM: Was it the uncles' ranch?

MS: Either theirs or Delmues'.

RM: What were his uncles' names?

MS: Marcello and Vincincio Fogliani.

RM: And they were his father's brothers?

MS: I imagine so. He worked for his uncles, and then I think one of the Delmues bought the ranch, so Dad had to move.

RM: How big a ranch was it?

MS: Oh, I don't know, what would you say, Scotty? It was a cattle ranch.

Louis Scott: Oh, that was a big ranch better than 500 acres. Most of it was wild hay and grazing and farm land.

RM: And you grew up on that ranch?

MS: We grew up on the ranch 6 girls and 2 boys. None of us had a doctor except the last one.

RM: Is that right. She delivered them herself?

MS: With a midwife attending her.

RM: Were you the first or the last or in the middle? Why don't you just name them off?

MS: Jack, Louise, Olympia (they all have nicknames), George, and myself, then Dora, Jo and Esther.

RM: Did most of them stay here in the area, or did they leave?

MS: Most of them were here, but my brother Jack was warden of the prison up in Carson City for 8 years. He was superintendent of the prison farm, then he was put in as warden. After that he bought a place up in Jacks Valley near Carson City; he passed away in Carson City.

RM: How long did your father keep the ranch over there?

MS: He kept it until the 1940s, and he sold it to 2 of his son-in-laws, Chester Oxborough and Dwayne Keller.

RM: Who has the ranch now?

MS: Frank Delmue owns it.

RM: Could you tell me about growing up on the ranch over there? What stands out in your mind?

MS: It was much different from growing up today. There was no radio, no TV, no indoor plumbing. We never heard of the word "bored," which is a byword for most of the children today. We worked outside, feeding animals, gathering eggs, weeding, milking, churning butter, cleaning chicken coops and so on. Inside work included cleaning house, washing on washboards, ironing with heavy flatirons, scrubbing floors, doing dishes, making beds and carrying in wood for stoves and fireplaces.

Idle moments were spent riding horseback and playing with animals. We had our own rodeo roping, riding, bulldogging the milk cow calves. We waded the creek looking for bird nests, swam in the cold springs and pitched horseshoes. At night we read by candle light, later by coal oil lamps (we got books from the school). We

also played cards, either among ourselves or solo with Dad. Sometimes during the summer a girl or two from Eagle Valley would stay with us for several days. It was great having someone to play with. Some things I remember are: watching the fireflies at night in the meadows, and listening to the frogs croaking (I swear they croaked all night); the first cackle of the chickens in spring, announcing fresh eggs were being laid, and looking for nests of chickens who decided not to hatch their eggs in the coops; the anticipation in waiting for the first milk cow calf to be born it meant fresh milk and a new playmate; listening to the mournful howl of coyotes at night and hoping they weren't after the chickens.

I like the outdoors. I helped Dad in the hayfields, and we milked about 16 to 18 cows. They really weren't milk cows, they were range cows where you'd only get about a quart or two of milk. That's why you had to milk so many. So we were up at 5:00 in the morning milking.

Talking with the younger generation, they usually say, "It must have been gross, living without indoor plumbing. How did you manage?" We carried water from the well, heated it on the kitchen stove, brought in the round Number Three tub, soaped, lathered and rinsed. Before every meal we washed our face and hands in the water basin. Mother believed in cleanliness. Then there was the old two-holer out back. In the wintertime we walked over snowdrifts to get there, and you didn't linger long. Sometimes [in good weather] we sat and thumbed through "Monkey Wards" and "Sears and Sawbucks" catalogs, thinking that if we stayed long enough the housework or dinner dishes would be taken care of. It didn't take Mother long to catch on.

RM: And you probably kept a garden.

MS: Well, it was cold up there. It used to drop down to 47 below zero. I think it's one of the coldest places in the United States. We had 3 fireplaces, but Dad only kept one going. Then we had the kitchen stove, which was a wood stove. You'd wake up in the morning in the wintertime and your bed would be white with frost from your breath. In fact, Scotty froze his ears out there in August; that's how cold it is. It's out in kind of an open area, in a big valley, and I guess it just gets all the wind from the north.

RM: So you couldn't grow a garden?

LS: No, not very much.

MS: Mother had lettuce and radishes, and I can remember asparagus and potatoes.

RM: So you wouldn't have had fruit trees or anything like that?

MS: Oh, no. We never had trees until much later. We got some quaking asp trees to grow, but they only lasted about 4 years. When my 2 brother-in-laws purchased the ranch, Lewie Gardella (you may have heard of him, he was the

extension agent here) went out there and helped plant some olive trees and some Siberian elms, and they are still growing.

We always wanted a garden; we wanted flowers. I can remember my sister and me riding horseback down the valley and digging up wild roses. We dug them up and planted them and they did grow those yellow wild roses.

RM: I'll bet they were beautiful.

MS: They were.

RM: You were telling me about the house that you lived in. How did that come to be built?

MS: Evidently the Mormon people from Utah came over and built it.

RM: And that was when they outlawed polygamy, you said?

MS: When they outlawed polygamy in Utah, then a lot of them came into Nevada I think probably to keep their wives.

RM: Do you remember the fellow's name who built that house?

MS: William Bailey Maxwell. And above the fireplace were carved his initials, WBM. Now whether he built the house or someone before him built it, that I'm not clear on.

RM: You said his wives didn't get along so he had to build 2 other houses, is that right?

MS: Yes.

RM: [Laughter] Describe the house. You have a picture here in the living room or is that the house? Why don't you describe it for the tape?

MS: It was a large 2-story house with a kitchen, large dining room and living room combined (just one large room with a big long table which, of course, was needed with 8 children and parents). There were 4 bedrooms downstairs. Then the upstairs was 2 large rooms where there were extra beds that they used for the men in the summertime who came to help Dad put up the hay.

RM: So the family slept downstairs?

MS: Yes.

RM: That probably made it easier to heat in the winter, didn't it?

MS: Well, really the only heat you got was right there in the living room. But I can remember later on Mother did start up the fire in her bedroom. I think it was during 1918, when we were all down with that flu.

RM: Describe that.

MS: We were there alone no one would come in. Well, we only had one neighbor and they lived about a fourth of a mile down the road from us. Of course, they went by on high, which you can't blame them for; they didn't want to get it.

RM: Because you all had the flu?

MS: We all had that flu. And we were sick. We were all down at once except Dad. He got it later, but he took care of us. Then Mother got over it and she had a reset of it. She was real sick.

RM: Was it in the winter or the fall?
MS: It was in the fall. I can remember my brother and me out playing by the shop and just hoping that we wouldn't get it. I'm sure it was started in the fall.
RM: Was it going around in Pioche and everything too?
MS: Yes. It was through the whole county. I think they lost quite a few people here in Pioche with it.
RM: Did you lose any family members?
MS: No.
RM: How did you treat it?
MS: With syrup of figs, which was a laxative, and mustard plasters, a light diet, soups, cereal, lots of fluids and bed rest. And then Dad used to make soup, cereal, milk toast and pinecot.
RM: Was that a Swiss thing?
MS: That was a Swiss thing. Mother made that up until she passed away when any one of us was sick. She toasted bread, and buttered it, and put some hot water over it and some salt and pepper, and supposedly it was the cure-all.
RM: Is that right?
MS: I don't know whether it was or not. I can remember every spring (and I can see them yet; they were big granite kettles) she would make a mixture with Epsom salts and lemon juice, and I don't know what else was in it. This was a spring tonic to cleanse your thick winter blood for spring.
RM: Is that right?
MS: We didn't get out of the house till we drank some of that. I can see it yet, sitting on the kitchen table. Ugh.
RM: [Chuckles] How much did you have to drink?
MS: One glass.
RM: And you had to do this every spring?
MS: Every morning, too.
RM: For how long?
MS: I can't remember just how long. I'm sure more than a week. She had to be sure the blood was thin.
RM: Oh, boy. Basically it was a laxative, wasn't it? Because Epsom salts does that.
MS: Yes. They used to give us castor oil, too. Mother would give it to us in orange juice. She tried it in milk . . . did you ever see castor oil in milk? Ugh!!
[Laughter]
RM: Was the Epsom salts treatment something she got in Switzerland, do you think?
MS: Probably.
RM: Did she have any other cures or treatments that had come from Switzerland?
MS: Oh, I'm sure she did; they treated a lot with herbs.
RM: Which ones, do you recall?
MS: There was chamomile tea.
RM: What did they treat with that?

MS: I think stomach disorders, probably. There was a flower that she had us get every spring at the ranch. I don't think she knew the name of it, but it was a medicinal plant.

RM: What did you use it for?

MS: I don't know, Bob. Assorted ills and bellyaches, I guess.

RM: Do you know what the flower looked like?

MS: It was little white, with a yellow center, and it wasn't any larger than that.

RM: About the size of a quarter.

MS: Then we had dandelion greens in the spring of the year and pigweed greens (if you've ever eaten or heard of pigweed greens) and lots of watercress.

RM: I don't know if I've eaten pigweed.

MS: There are 2 kinds of pigweed, and she always said about the ones that had the red under the leaves, "Don't eat those, don't pick them, they're no good." So we'd look for the others.

RM: What color were they?

MS: They were all green.

RM: Would you use them in salads?

MS: Yes.

RM: It sounds like you didn't have that much greens out there, since you didn't have much of a garden.

MS: No, we didn't. What vegetables we did get were mostly canned. Dad used to make an order to United Grocery in Salt Lake City, and it would come down to Modena, Utah, on the train and he would go by team and wagon to Modena and pick up the supplies. He would get enough supplies to last us practically all year. Later on, of course, he came into Pioche and got his supplies here.

RM: You say later on. In the early years you didn't come to Pioche much?

MS: No.

RM: Why?

MS: I don't know. I can still see the United Grocery catalog. It was about this long and about this narrow.

RM: Five inches wide and a foot high. And that's where he would buy his groceries. Where did you get your mail?

MS: There was a post office in Eagle Valley and we rode on horseback to get the mail. We'd get the mail for an old fellow who lived down about 5 miles from us. He was a widower, and we'd pick up his mail and the neighbors' mail.

RM: Now, you're north of Eagle Valley, right? So it's colder where you were than Eagle Valley, isn't it?

MS: Yes.

RM: Even though they aren't that far apart.

MS: No. Dad cut ice every winter. We had an ice house, we put up ice. We had ice cream all summer long and then he used the ice to keep the butter nice while he brought it into town to sell.

RM: He sold butter in Pioche?
MS: Yes.
RM: What else did he sell here?
MS: He sold some cream, but it was mostly butter and maybe some eggs.
RM: But you were getting your milk from these range cows?
MS: Yes.
RM: Was there any reason why you used range cows, or is that just all you had?
MS: I guess that's just all we had. I can remember, I think I was probably a teenager, when they brought about 2 Durham milk cows and oh, were they great to milk, because you could sit down and get a bucketful of milk without having to tie up the calves on half a dozen cows.
RM: Did you raise any grain there?
MS: Yes, they raised grain. No corn they raised grain, wheat and oats.
RM: Did you raise quite a bit?
MS: Yes, they raised grain enough for the horses and the chickens.
RM: So you raised it for your own use, you didn't sell it; your cash came from the cows.
MS: Yes.
RM: Where did you sell your cattle?
MS: Buyers came to the ranch.
RM: OK. And then where would you ship them out of?
MS: They'd drive them over to Modena.

CHAPTER TWO

- LS: In later years, the cattle buyers came in and hauled them out by truck. That way, they eliminated the driving, and losing the weight. A lot of times, in the earlier years, they drove the cattle from the ranch over to Modena and watered them there.
- RM: Tell me about it being so cold there how did you keep warm in the winter?
- MS: Mother made flannel nightgowns for us, and I can remember standing by the fireplace, trying to get your nightgown warm. You'd turn around in back and then you'd turn around front and you'd get them warm and you'd bundle them all up quick so they could hold in the heat and run and jump in bed. [Laughter] Three of us slept in the one bed. In the wintertime we fought to see who would sleep in the middle, in the summertime we fought to see who would sleep on the sides. It was great.
- RM: Did the boys wear the flannel nightgowns, too?
- MS: No, I think they slept in their long johns.
- RM: Girls didn't wear long johns?
- MS: No, we had those old black bloomers.
- RM: I'm not familiar with them.
- MS: Oh, see, that dates me! That shows you how much younger you are than I am. [Laughter] Black sateen bloomers, long socks, and a couple of knit petticoats. The underwear had long sleeves, too. I can remember hanging them out on the line in the wintertime and the wind blowing. They would freeze and look like headless people flying out there.
- RM: Did you wear dresses?
- MS: Yes, to school. In the summer it was mostly bib overalls.
- RM: What kind of shoes did you wear?
- MS: Oh, they came up to here, those old buckle shoes with the buttons on, and boys' shoes in the summer.
- RM: What did you use for coats?
- MS: Just a good, heavy coat.
- RM: Hats or caps?
- MS: Stocking caps you pulled down over your ears.
- RM: Gloves?
- MS: Mittens, mostly.
- RM: Did they put a string on the mittens through the arms so you didn't lose them?
- MS: No, we didn't have the string. I think that probably came in later days. I remember my son had them. We all went to school out there in a one-room schoolhouse.
- RM: Was the school on your ranch?
- MS: The school was halfway between our place and the neighbor's. The county bought the lumber and Dad and the neighbor, who was Dave Francis, built the schoolhouse.
- RM: Did he have a lot of kids?
- MS: He had 6.

RM: So the 2 families filled up the school.

MS: Yes. We looked forward to the start of school. For one thing, we left behind some of the household chores not all, but some. It was good seeing all the Francis kids. We wondered what the teacher would be like we had a new teacher each year. Down through the schoolhouse years there were very few who came back after one year of teaching. I don't know whether the kids were to blame, or the climate or the isolated area or the wages. We were taught to respect the teacher. She was the boss. She was there to teach and we were there to learn, and the pupils were eager to learn. I can't remember having any discipline problems that amounted to anything. There was no violence, perhaps a tap on the hand or head with a ruler. If there should be any complaint about the teacher mistreating you, you never told your parents, for you would get reprimanded at home. You may be sure there were very few complaints, if any, that went home. One of the pupils put a lizard on the desk drawer of the teacher once. Water for the schoolhouse was carried from a spring in a field close by. Once we put a small live fish in the water bucket. We couldn't understand why the teacher was so upset the fish was clean; it lived in the water all its life.

The upper grade pupils helped the lower grade pupils at home with their school work they helped them; they didn't do the work for them.

RM: Did you have your own school district there the Spring Valley School District, or . . . ?

MS: I guess that's what it was called, the Spring Valley school.

RM: And your dad and the neighbor probably had to pay for it.

MS: Yes, and put up the school.

RM: Where did the teacher live?

MS: The teacher lived with the Francis family till all of their children were out of school. Then we had younger children at our place so the teacher came up and stayed with us.

RM: Did you always have the same teacher or was there a pretty high turnover?

MS: There was a pretty high turnover. I think one teacher stayed until Christmas. She was from back east somewhere, and I guess she'd had it. Another teacher was from the South. I can remember her very well, and I disliked her. She was a true Southerner. Every morning the teacher would read to us 15 minutes, and then we would sing. We always liked "Marching through Georgia," or "My Old Kentucky Home," and she'd never let us sing those songs. If we'd choose to sing them, she'd change it. But the final straw was, she folded up the flag and sat on it.

RM: You mean the American flag.

MS: The American flag. Dad always taught us to respect the

flag. We put that flag up every morning, saluted the flag and pledged allegiance and came into the school. I did that when I taught school, too, every morning. But she was a Southerner and she had no respect for the flag. One day my sister said, "I'll be D-A-M if she's going to sit on that flag again," so she hid the flag. That was the end of the teacher. She didn't come back after Christmas.

We had 2 teachers from Panaca who stayed there several years I was in the seventh and eighth grade. It took 5 children to start a school, 3 to keep it. They kept me in the eighth grade twice to keep the school. My brothers and sisters always said, "You were so dumb they had to keep you in the eighth grade twice." But that wasn't the reason; there were only 2 kids, so I had to stay there to keep the school open. Then when I left, an Italian family in Pioche whose son used to come out and spend a lot of time with us in the summer stayed there during a couple of winters so we could keep the school.

RM: What was his name?

MS: Victor Cottino.

RM: Describe the school that your father built there.

MS: It was a one-room schoolhouse; it had a window in the back and one on the south end, and an outdoor outhouse that I think was a mile from the schoolhouse.

RM: It seemed like a long ways?

MS: It was a long ways. I don't think we really made it from the schoolhouse you'd get behind the high sagebrush. [Laughter] Dad would put hot coals in a bucket, and we'd run down as fast as we could to the schoolhouse to start the fire. We had to get there to get this fire started before the teacher would get down there.

RM: How far was the schoolhouse from your house?

MS: Oh, about a quarter of a mile.

RM: And you'd take those hot coals down there?

MS: We'd take the hot coals down and start the fire.

RM: Did you burn wood or did they also burn coal?

LS: Just wood.

MS: We never knew what coal was. No, Dad and our neighbor hauled in all the wood for the fireplaces and the cook stoves.

RM: The room was probably just one layer of boards, wasn't it? I mean it wasn't insulated or anything.

MS: And it was propped up on rocks; there was no foundation.

RM: Did the wind whistle through?

MS: Yes, it used to whistle through. We'd get around the potbelly stove to keep warm.

RM: Did you have those old-time desks?

MS: With the inkwells right in the desk yes, we had those. And we put on a Christmas play every Christmas, and the parents would come. Of course, there were only our parents and the Francis family's. But we always had a Christmas

play.

RM: Did you have books?

MS: We had the books. The teacher read 15 minutes each morning to us. We went through Louisa M. Alcott's Little Women, Little Men and Jo's Boys and Jack London's books and. . .

RM: Isn't that nice? And they had a blackboard?

MS: They had the blackboard, and the teacher had her desk up in front.

RM: The teacher was always a woman, wasn't she?

MS: No, we had a couple of men teachers. I think my first grade teacher was a fellow by the name of William Spencer.

RM: And the man would just come out there and live with one of the families?

MS: He stayed at the Francis place. The last 2 teachers stayed up at our place, and they were women. At recess we played "Duck on the Rock;" ever heard of that?

RM: No, how did that go?

MS: They had a big rock, and they'd put another rock on top of the big rock and you'd throw rocks at that and see if you could knock it off. Have you heard of "Steal Sticks?"

RM: No.

MS: You'd draw a line, chose up sides, you'd have a pile of maybe 10 sticks on this side and 10 sticks on that side and you'd try to get over there and steal those sticks.

RM: Break through their line?

MS: Break through their line. And if they tagged you, then you had to stay on their side. You've heard of "Auntie I Over"?

RM: Yes, but describe it; I've forgotten it.

MS: This was an incident, too, that happened. You chose up sides and threw a ball over the schoolhouse. You'd say "Auntie-I-Over" . . . really I think the name was "Annie Over," according to this article I read about a month ago. But we'd say [sings] "Auntie-I-Over," and you'd throw the ball over.

One day, one of the girls at school decided she'd throw a rock over. We said we didn't think she'd better do that. She said, "Well, I'll throw it where there won't be anyone, but I'll just kind of mislead them." So she said "Auntie-I-Over" and threw, and then there was a sudden silence. Pretty soon around the corner of the schoolhouse came the teacher dragging the axe, with the blood streaming down his face. He was out cutting wood. We had no idea he was out cutting wood; we thought he was in the schoolhouse correcting papers.

I must have been in one of the lower grades. I thought he was going to chop all of our heads off, and he said, "Who hit me in the head with a rock?" It was one of the neighbor girl students playing there who had thrown the rock. And the ironic part of it was that she was from the

family the teacher was staying with. It wasn't a deep cut you know how cuts on the forehead bleed. In Reminisce Magazine this woman wrote and said her brother had told her about a game called "Annie Over" and she didn't believe him. So I wrote to her and told her about this incident.

RM: Is that right. Did you have any winter games that you played?

MS: Yes, we played "Fox and Geese." You made one large circle and you made a smaller circle inside of that, then you made a place that you called the goal. One person was the fox and the others were the geese. And there was a trail cut between the 2 circles. The fox chased the geese around and caught the geese, and when he caught them they went into the goal. As soon as he tagged them they had to go in. Or you could go across this . . . you came to the trail where the one connected to the big one and you could run out into the big one. Those were [some of] the games we played. And of course we did a lot of skating and sleigh riding.

RM: Did you make your own skates and sleighs?

MS: We made our own sleighs to begin with out of wooden barrel staves. The old skates clamped on; they weren't on shoes like they have them now. I can remember when Dad bought them, I guess he bought them with the hopes that we would all grow up to their size they were quite a large size. Mine were always falling off because I couldn't clamp them on tight enough because my shoes weren't large enough. We did a lot of skating in the wintertime. The ice was thick. As I started to tell you before, Dad cut blocks of ice 3 feet thick. Then he would put it in the ice house and cover it up with chips and straw and it would keep all summer long.

RM: How would he handle those big blocks of ice?

MS: They had what they called ice tongs. [And the blocks of ice were] about 2 feet square. They usually weighed about 50 to 75 pounds.

RM: How did they cut it?

MS: They sawed it.

RM: Did they drill a hole and then saw?

LS: Yes.

MS: We had ice all summer, and we had ice cream every Sunday.

RM: Is that right? How did you make that?

MS: Mother made it with milk and cream and the eggs from the chickens. She really made good ice cream.

RM: What did you flavor it with?

MS: Vanilla and lemon. She would make chocolate syrup sometimes to put on it.

RM: How do you do that?

MS: I still make my own chocolate syrup. I take a little butter and put it in a pan and take 2 squares of unsweetened chocolate and just melt that and add some cream and sugar.

RM: I'll be darned. And your mother did that?
MS: Mother did that.
RM: What was a typical meal?
MS: Well, mornings was coffee milk coffee is what she called it. She made a pot of coffee and a kettle of milk she boiled the milk. Then she poured a little of this coffee in the milk.
RM: And that was for you kids?
MS: Yes, for the kids. Dad and Mother both drank it, though. They never drank real coffee, they only drank milk coffee. She had a coffee grinder we had coffee beans. When we heard that coffee grinder going that was the signal to be getting out of bed in the morning. Every morning she ground fresh coffee.
RM: Did they have to build a new fire every morning, or were there coals left over?
MS: Dad would cover up the coals with ashes, and there were some of the coals that were still alive in the morning, so it could start from those.
RM: But it was cold when he got up.
MS: Oh, it was cold!
RM: Let's go back to the breakfast. What else did it consist of?
MS: Breakfast was usually bacon and eggs or ham and eggs or homemade sausage and eggs, all made on the ranch. We also had cereal, and when we had a lot of eggs Mother would make German pancakes.
RM: And bread? Toast?
MS: Toast. Mother made homemade bread. I think she made 8 to 10 loaves at a time.
RM: Is that right? Was there a day she always made bread?
MS: I can't exactly remember probably she made the bread once a week. Then we had polenta, which is an Italian dish.
RM: What is that, now?
MS: It's nothing really but corn meal, but it's a coarser corn meal than the regular corn meal. I buy it at the health food stores now and it's called corn meal grits. And you have to cook it for about an hour and a half.
RM: Was this hominy?
MS: No, this was corn meal.
RM: And would that be a cereal?
MS: That would be a cereal.
RM: And you'd have that with milk?
MS: No, she would cook a chicken and make gravy, and put the gravy on top of the polenta. Or you could have a stew and put it over the polenta.
RM: What did you have for lunch? Did you kids come home for lunch from school?
MS: Noon was our big meal that's when dinner was. The evening meal was called supper, and we more or less had the leftovers from dinner.

RM: What did dinner consist of?
MS: Potatoes we'd grown, corned beef and ham, canned vegetables and canned fruit . . . and Mother used to buy canned salmon every once in a while, which was a treat; we didn't get that very often.
RM: Did you put gravy or butter on your potatoes?
MS: Gravy. They had a lot of baked potatoes.
RM: And probably a lot of milk.
MS: Yes, a lot of milk.
RM: And then what was supper?
MS: Mother always managed to make enough at noon to last through supper and you'd just have the leftovers. When the hay men were there, then she cooked 3 meals a day, a big breakfast, a big dinner and a big supper at night.
RM: Were there a lot of pastries?
MS: Mother made very good apple pie and custard pie, and lots of puddings. Her cakes that I can remember were chocolate cakes and a marble cake it was a white cake and a dark cake and she just put them together.
RM: She probably cooked with lard, didn't she?
MS: Yes, but she used a lot of butter. They made the lard in the fall of the year when they killed the hogs.
RM: Did you keep a lot of hogs?
MS: We had 3 or 4. And then sometimes we'd have a batch of little ones. And there's always a runt, like there is with puppies or kittens. We always felt sorry for this one little runt pig because he'd never get enough to eat the others would just boot him away. He got outside of the pigpen one day so my sister took pity on him. She was quite an animal lover anyway. That's why her nickname was "Doc," she was always doctoring up the sick animals. She took this little pig; she said, "I'm going to take him to bed with me tonight to keep him warm." Well she did and she rolled over on him. He never grew up to be a ham.
RM: Oh, he died. She rolled on him and he died.
MS: She did the same thing with a chicken once too. [Laughs]
RM: Is that right? [Laughs]
MS: She was out doing all the doctoring. She was Doc and she's Doc to this day. No one knows her by anything else but Doc.
RM: What's her name?
MS: Olympia Fisher. She lives in Ely. I can remember her going out in the morning during cold weather. She would feel sorry for the horses so she would try to warm up the bridle bits before putting on the bridle. She was like I was, an outdoor girl. The others helped Mother in the house, although Doc and I had our duties in the house too.
RM: What were your duties, again?
MS: We had to dust, we had to scrub, we had to carry the water and heat it on the stove and then wash on the washboard.
RM: Did you help with the ironing?

MS: Yes. Oh, those old heavy irons by the time you got them from the kitchen into the living room where we ironed, they were cold, prac-tically.

RM: Your mother had a lot of help, didn't she, with all those kids. What chores did the boys have?

MS: They helped with the outside chores with the irrigating, and the haying during hay season. And then there was always blacksmith work to be done, sharpening the hay saws and fixing fences and cleaning stables and riding ranges for cattle and hauling wood and feeding livestock.

RM: What kind of social life did you have in the valley when you were growing up? It sounds like you didn't go very far, very often.

MS: No. When we weren't working we sometimes got on the horses and rode up into the hills. We picked pine nuts and pine gum that's the only gum we knew until we got into high school, I think. We'd also go swimming.

RM: Did you ever go to dances or anything like that?

MS: Not until we were in high school. During our grade school years we'd go to Eagle Valley by wagon for a Fourth of July celebration or for Labor Day. They had games for the kids, horse racing, large containers of homemade lemonade and homemade ice cream as well as cakes, salads, meat and potatoes. Each family in Spring Valley, Rose Valley and Round Valley attended and helped the Eagle Valley families with the food.

Later, when we were in high school, we attended dances in Eagle Valley when they still had a high school down there. They had great dances; local musicians would play. My first year at high school I went to Overton because my brother-in-law was the principal down there. Then the next year, my sophomore year, I went to Eagle Valley because they had a sophomore and a freshman year there. Have you heard of Harold Brinley?

RM: No, I haven't.

MS: They have a school named for him in Las Vegas. He was our teacher a tremendous teacher. He is one of the teachers who stands out in my mind when I think of teachers. He taught us how to study; he taught us how to appreciate Shakespeare, which I think probably would have been something I would have never appreciated if it hadn't been for him. And he tried to teach us to use our own initiative. He had us writing short stories. He was brilliant.

RM: Did you live in Eagle Valley or did you commute?

MS: We had to stay down there because we had to go down there on horseback or by wagon, so we rented a place.

RM: What, you and your mother?

MS: No, my sisters and I and George, our brother.

RM: Oh, so you kids just batched. I'll be darned. Did you get in any devilment there?

MS: Yes, I can remember one Halloween we tipped over all the outdoor toilets and thought we'd get away with it, and the next morning when we went to school, Mr. Brinley had us go straighten up all the outdoor toilets. We also snatched apples, watermelon, and so on.

RM: [Laughs]. What was it like living there?

MS: It was fun. We visited with the other kids in Eagle Valley and became good friends.

RM: Were there quite a few kids in Eagle Valley at that time?

MS: Yes, at that time there were about 14 families. I think between the sophomores and freshmen there were about 16 to 20 students.

RM: And then where did you graduate from high school?

MS: I graduated from high school in Panaca, from Lincoln County High. And I went to the university in Reno.

RM: Was that a big change for you, making that transition from Eagle Valley to Reno?

MS: Yes, it was. I'd get homesick. But I had a girlfriend from Eagle Valley, and we stayed together up there. And at that time you knew all the students. Not maybe personally, but you knew probably everyone on the campus.

RM: What did you study?

MS: To be a teacher. I went to normal school.

RM: That was 2 years, wasn't it? How did you get to Reno in those days?

MS: My brother took me to Ely in the car and then we caught the stage and went to Reno. We went into Reno and my friend and I got off the stage and we didn't know where we were. We grabbed our suitcases and started downtown (our trunks were sent later). It was late in the evening, and it was dark. We thought we must be in the wrong end of town, because a couple of times a fellow would come out and say, "You girls looking for a room?" I said to Nellie, "I just don't kind of like the looks of this area." Finally, 2 women came along and one gave me a pat on the shoulder and said, "Are you girls looking for a room?" We said yes and she said, "Well, you're down in Chinatown." She had a friend visiting with her, and she was showing her Chinatown. She had a hotel there in Reno so we stayed overnight with her. Then the next day we went up to the Manzanita Hall [on the campus].

CHAPTER THREE

- RM: Eagle Valley was pretty much a Mormon community at that time, wasn't it, but you folks weren't Mormons.
- MS: No, we were Catholics.
- RM: Was there any . . . ?
- MS: No, it didn't make any difference to Mother. She said there's good in all churches, and I know she used to take us down to Sunday school in Eagle Valley in the buckboard and team of horses. The Eagle Valley girls and boys were very close friends, and still are.
- RM: So you didn't feel like outsiders or anything?
- MS: No, they took us right in. We were the only Catholic family out there outside of the Delmues, who lived down the road. No, they were very good.
- RM: When you graduated from normal school, what did you do?
- MS: I taught out here at Deerlodge. That's almost on the Utah border. And it was just one family.
- RM: What was that family's name?
- MS: Hackett.
- RM: Did you teach Helen?
- MS: I taught Helen.
- RM: You did? I interviewed Helen.
- MS: Isn't she a great person?
- RM: She was really nice. So you were Helen's teacher?
- MS: I taught Helen, and Helen taught my son in grade school and in high school. The Hackett family were friendly, hard-working folks.
- RM: Did you live with the Hacketts, then?
- MS: No, I lived in an old house that was evidently the first home the Hacketts had built, the mother and father of Mr. Everest Hackett. I just had 2 rooms the kitchen and a bedroom and then the large room was the schoolhouse. It was all in one place. I built the fires and did the janitor work. I used to go home every 2 weeks, but I got snowed in for about 6 weeks. We had about 3 feet of snow; couldn't get out on horseback or any other way.
- RM: How did you happen to get a job in Deerlodge?
- MS: I think they sent in from the school districts asking for teachers.
- RM: They sent out notices of vacancy, in effect?
- MS: Yes. And it was near home, so that's where I taught.
- RM: What year would that have been, that you started there?
- MS: The fall of 1929. I don't know whose heart was beating the fastest, mine or the pupils', as I faced them on the opening day of school. There were 4 students in 4 grades what a challenge. They were great pupils studious, courteous there were no discipline problems. I received \$100 a month and housing in part of the schoolhouse rent free. Practically every year I had 5 grades, with the exception of one year when I had 7 grades.

RM: And how many children would that be one for each grade?
MS: One per grade. When I had the 7, there were 2 in a grade.
RM: Tell me what it's like teaching in a school like that. You had gone to a school like that, and then you turned around and taught, became the teacher.
MS: You have to cut down the time of your . . . maybe cut down a 15-minute class to 10, or you combined your seventh and eighth grades a little bit or your third and fourth or something like that. It worked out OK.
RM: Did it involve a lot of lesson plans and all that?
MS: Yes, I had made all my own lesson plans because they only had enough money in the district to pay the teacher, none for anything else. For scratch paper we used the back of calendars. I made my own workbook papers. But we did have plenty of books.
I learned more from teaching than I ever did going to school. I can remember when I was in the seventh and eighth grade, and you know those story problems they had? I hated them. But when I got to teaching, I had to keep 3 pages ahead of my students, just in case they should read ahead.
RM: If you want to learn something, teach it.
MS: You bet. I loved teaching, loved the kids.
RM: Was it just the Hackett family kids?
MS: The Hackett family, and then my youngest sister was in first grade, so she was with me all the time I taught. I taught in Deerlodge and then I taught in Rose Valley.
RM: So she left home and went to live with you. She wouldn't have had a school there, would she, as the last kid?
MS: She'd be the only one left, so she stayed with me. I got \$100 a month; no pay in the summertime, either.
RM: There were a lot of years between you kids, weren't there?
MS: There were 2 years practically between all of us except with Jo and Dee. And between Jo and my youngest sister I think there was about 4 or 5 years' difference. And that's why she stayed with us. Then she stayed with Scotty and me when she went to high school in Panaca.
RM: What's her name?
MS: Her name's Esther. [Chuckles] No one knows her by that either they all know her by "Pete." She was the only one who had a doctor, and she was born at the Delmue ranch. Two of the Delmue boys were named Pete and Albert, and Pete was a great big fat fellow. My sister and I rode on horseback to see Mother when she was down there. And when we got there I think my sister named her. She said, "Oh, she looks just like Pete Delmue, she is so roly-poly." That name stayed with her, and she's Pete.
RM: [Laughs] Isn't that cute. What's her last name?
MS: Her name was Cole, then she remarried. Her husband passed away and her name is Silliman. She was a county clerk down

here for 8 years.

RM: What else do you recall about teaching in Deerlodge?

MS: Oh, what I remember mostly are the long evenings.

RM: How did you spend those long evenings?

MS: A niece of Mrs. Hackett stayed with them the winter I was there Jane Lamb from Enterprise, Utah. She was several years younger than I. She would come over practically every night and we'd make candy or read to each other. She'd read a while, then I'd read a while, and I think while one read the other slept most of the time. We'd go through magazines and cut out and mail all the coupons for free samples. We got a lot of little packages in the mail. Mr. Hackett, who rode to Modena horseback once a week to pick up the mail, said one day, "You girls will have to quit ordering all those samples. I can't carry them all horseback."

We visited with the old miner who lived in a small cabin near the schoolhouse. He always brought us sourdough biscuits they were delicious. We loved listening to his stories.

Another experience that we had out there involved 2 local fellows. This was during Prohibition and they were making whiskey up there. They came by in their heavy wagons and they said they were mining. Mr. Hackett said, "They're taking out something more than mining supplies," because the wagon ruts were so deep. Well, they used to come down and visit with Pete and me, and you could smell them before they even got anywhere near that schoolhouse. They weren't fooling anyone.

One Saturday night, Mrs. Hackett's brother came over; he used to help Mr. Hackett ride cattle in the fall of the year. We decided we'd go up and see if we could find the still where they were making their whiskey. We found it about 2 miles from the schoolhouse in an old abandoned building. There was quite a large room with straw all over the floor. You could smell the whiskey, but you couldn't see anything. Finally he kind of kicked some straw away and found what looked like a piece of leather, so he reached down and it was a leather to pull up a door with. He pulled up this door and here were these great big vats of whiskey, with guess what 2 or 3 rats floating around on top of them. So then we were interested to find where the still was. And it was really camouflaged. They had it down where some brush and some pine trees were. You had to be a good detective to find it, but we found where their still was.

RM: How far away was it from the whiskey vats?

MS: Oh, it was probably about from here to uptown.

RM: Half a mile?

MS: A quarter of a mile.

RM: Where were they taking the whiskey?

MS: I'm not sure. Probably, like the other moonshiners in the area, they sold it at dances in Pioche and Eagle Valley and to special customers.

RM: These fellows weren't doing any mining at all?

MS: No, no mining at all.

RM: Did they shut them down or anything?

MS: No, I think they finally quit. I don't know how long they were out there. I left Deerlodge and then next year I taught in Rose Valley.

RM: How long were you at Deerlodge?

MS: Just the one year.

RM: Why did you go down to Rose Valley?

MS: It was closer to home.

RM: Now Rose Valley is below Eagle Valley?

MS: Yes.

RM: What was down there?

MS: There were 3 families the Pat Devlin family and 2 Lytle families, Les and Freel. I had children just from the one Lytle family except when the 2 Devlin boys stayed there up until Christmas.

RM: What was your pay down there?

MS: I think I got a hundred and a quarter. But I only taught 8 months because they ran out of money in the first year. In the next couple of years or so I think I got 9 months.

RM: Who did you stay with there?

MS: I had a friend I went through high school with in Eagle Valley, and in Panaca later on, and I stayed with her family, the Freel Lytles. They were a great family. I lived with them for 3 years and I never heard them ever raise their voice or say one cross word. Terrific people.

RM: That's an amazing record. What was it like living with families like that? Was there ever tension, or did you feel like the outsider or the intruder or anything?

MS: No, they made you feel just like one of the family.

RM: Up at Deerlodge too?

MS: Yes. Of course we didn't live with the family up there. Helen's mother was rather a very quiet person. I would go over there to visit and Mr. Hackett would usually do most of the talking. So you interviewed Helen. How long ago?

RM: It was about 3 or 4 months before she died.

MS: They're all buried out there. Whenever we go out there I take flowers to put on the graves. I taught the 2 boys who were killed in the service. I taught those 2 boys, and Helen.

RM: So there's just the younger sister left, is that right?

MS: No, there's Mary Emma, and there's a brother. I can't remember what his name was. He was born after I left there.

RM: How old was Helen when you taught her?

MS: I was trying to think the other day what grade Helen was in. Pete was a first-grader, Mary Emma was a second-

grader, I think Helen was a probably a fourth-grader and her brother Herbert was fifth grade or something like that.

RM: How long did you stay down at Rose Valley?

MS: Three years.

RM: Describe some more about the school at Deerlodge.

MS: As I said, it was the old family home originally. Our only heat was a sheep stove. That's a small stove just about 18 inches long, with a little tiny oven about 8 inches high. It was cold up there, too. We'd heat rocks and the old irons that you used to iron clothes with on the stove and put them in bed. I can remember we had a woolen blanket that Mother had brought from Switzerland, and we got the rocks and the iron too hot one night and scorched one of the blankets. It was cold.

RM: What did you use for bedding at home when you were growing up?

MS: Mother had homemade quilts and mostly woolen blankets. She brought quite a few woolen blankets from Switzerland.

RM: Did you use flannel sheets?

MS: No, I don't think we ever had flannel sheets. It was those old cold sheets. It was just like getting in on a cake of ice when you'd go to bed at night.

RM: What was the school like at Rose Valley?

MS: The Rose Valley schoolhouse was much smaller than the one up at Deerlodge. And there was just the one Lytle family and Pete, my sister, who went to school there. There was one tree out in front of the schoolhouse, which some of the earlier Lytle children planted on an Arbor Day, and about 5 years ago the road crew widened the road and cut down the tree. I felt real bad about that because I have a lot of special memories from Rose Valley. Then as I said we put up the flag each morning, pledged allegiance to the flag . . . I enjoyed it.

RM: What did you do after you left Rose Valley?

MS: Got married. I taught after I was married. Scotty and I were married in '31, and my certificate ran out and he had a job. We were married December 26th, the day after Christmas, crazy people, and then he lost his job in February. My school certificate ran out so the next summer I went to summer school in Logan, Utah, so I could teach another year. That was during the Depression.

RM: The certificate was only good for . . .

MS: Three years. And then I had to go to summer school. And in one summer school I got enough credits to teach one more year. I would have had to go back to summer school again.

RM: Did you just have to keep going and going all your life?

MS: What I should have done was go to normal school for 2 years. (I only went one year up at the university.) If I'd gone 2 years then I would have graduated with the normal classes.

RM: How did you meet Scotty?

MS: I went to high school with him. He was the meanest kid in high school. He really was.

RM: Did he fight a lot, or what?

MS: No, just teasing. He was a little bit lazy in school. He sat with me in Spanish class, because Spanish was easy for me because of the Swiss. Then he sat with some other girl in English class and he sat with someone else in some other class. I didn't think much of him then. I didn't think much of him till I came back from college. And then I guess that's when we got together.

RM: So your certificate ran out and he lost his job about the time you got married? Where was Scotty working at that time?

LS: I was driving truck at the mine.

RM: Which mine was that?

LS: Caselton mine it's around on the other side of the hill.

RM: And did they shut the mine down?

LS: No, they didn't shut down the mine, but they laid off the younger workers and kept the old-timers. This elder fellow by the name of Len Carman took my place. They put him on the truck and let me out because I was a younger person I didn't have seniority.

RM: Were they cutting back because of the Depression?

LS: They cut back on account of the Depression. They were sinking the shaft over there at Caselton . . .

RM: Oh, they were just sinking it at that time? What did you guys do then?

MS: I tell you, we had some very, very lean years.

RM: Did you stay here?

MS: We stayed here in Pioche, in a little house we were buying. We moved down there and then later on when Scotty got a job we bought it from his folks. We got a sack of Red Cross flour, then the family that I stayed with in Rose Valley, where I taught, would bring me vegetables in the summertime, and we would get eggs and milk from the ranch, and I can remember patching socks and patching sheets. Finally the sheets wore out and Scotty went uptown to get one at the local mercantile I think it was \$1.90. He brought it down and I said, "Oh, we haven't any money to pay for it." So the sheet went back and I did more patching. But do you know in those times people were closer together, they were more compassionate, they shared. Each one was in the same predicament. I wouldn't have changed it for anything, going through that experience.

RM: How long did the tough times last for you?

MS: Oh, I guess really about what, a year, Scotty?

LS: I figure 2 years. It started in '32, and I didn't get a job until the first part of '34.

MS: Oh, I guess when Squaley was born.

LS: I went to work up at the Number One Mine.

MS: Our son was born in '35 and Scotty went to work on the

road.

LS: Yes. I worked for the state highways there. When Squaley was born I was working for the state highways at Wells.

RM: What year was that?

LS: It was '35.

RM: Did you give any thought to leaving the area?

MS: No, never. I liked it here. Anytime there's sickness or death or something, they may be Mormons or Catholics or maybe 4 or 5 different denominations but when it comes to helping people they're all one. There are very good people in Pioche.

RM: Tell me about what Pioche was like in those days. What's your first recollection of Pioche?

MS: Oh, the old board sidewalks. I can remember the first time I came to Pioche, the first time I'd ever gone into a store, I came in with my 2 sisters and Dad I don't know whether Mother came with us and we went to go into this store and they opened the door and I said, "You didn't knock." I thought you had to knock to go in. [Laughter] And I was so surprised to think you went into the store without knocking.

Then coming in in the wagon the first time I went to Pioche, they had a house of ill repute, or a red-light district, or whatever you want to call it that we went by. And of course we kids had never seen it before. They called it the "House of Seven Gables." It was a green house and we said, "What's that? What's that?" And Dad said "Facita!" That meant "shut up" in Italian. It was quite a few years before we found out just exactly what that house was. But I can see my sisters yet going into that store. I thought, "My lord, they never even knocked on the door." And the old board sidewalks. The trees on the street. And benches where the old miners sat.

RM: What else do you recall of those early experiences?

MS: Oh, the good dances that they had in here every Saturday night. We'd hurry up and get the milking done . . . This was when we finally bought our Ford car, with the old Isinglass windows. In the wintertime it used to be cold getting home. And in the summertime I'd get home about time to get ready to go milking. We didn't do any milking in the wintertime.

RM: Oh, you didn't?

MS: No, the cows dried up in the fall, and they didn't calve again till early spring. That's why they put down the butter and cheese, so we'd have butter and cheese through the winter.

RM: Oh, I see. So you didn't have milk in the winter?

MS: No.

RM: Did you ever keep goats?

MS: No. Mother loved goats, because back in Switzerland she used to take the goats up in the Alps and stay up there all

summer long and then bring them down in the fall. They made the cheeses up there on top of the Alps and they would bring them down . . .

RM: Why do you think they didn't keep goats?

MS: I don't know. Dad was a cattleman.

RM: In Switzerland?

MS: When he came here. And he hated sheep. Not too long after Scotty and I were married we were riding out at the ranch one day and we found this poor old stray sheep. (They'd taken a herd of sheep through and some of them always get lost.) We picked it up and took it out to the ranch. Dad just looked at it. I think he said a few expletive words.

LS: He said, "That god-dang ting, don't bring it around here!"

MS: He kind of learned to love that sheep, though, before it passed away.

RM: You kept it then.

MS: Well, he kept it. But he was a cattleman. There was a little bit of a range war between the cattlemen and the sheepmen at that time.

LS: Yes. The cattlemen had a lot of trouble with the sheep.

RM: What would happen?

MS: They would graze on the cattlemen's ranges, and sheep eat a lot closer to the ground than a cow does, you know, so they would eat most of the . . .

RM: But the sheepmen thought they had the right to graze there too. Did it ever come to fighting?

MS: No. It probably came to a few bad words and so on and so forth, but that's about all.

RM: Did you ever come to movies or anything over here?

MS: No, I never came to the movies until I was in high school. The only time we came into Pioche was to go to the dances.

RM: How old were you when you saw your first movie?

MS: Oh, my gosh, Bob, I was probably in high school.

RM: What did you think?

MS: I thought it was great.

RM: You don't remember the movie, do you?

MS: No. I remember the first talkie movie I saw when I went to Reno was Al Jolson in "The Jazz Singer."

RM: What did you think when you saw that?

MS: Oh, great. And I remember the second talkie I saw was "Lilac Time." No, we never went to the movies until I was in high school.

RM: And when you were growing up you didn't shop that much here, did you?

MS: No. We ordered from Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. We called them "Sears and Sawbucks" and "Monkey Wards."

RM: Pioche just wasn't the place where you came, was it?

MS: No. As I said, in later years Dad got his groceries in here. He would probably get a supply that would last for the summer and then come in again in the fall and get his

winter supplies. He'd come in with the team and wagon, and stay overnight and load up and . . .

RM: Did you come with him?

MS: No, not very many times. I used to come in when we got the car; I used to come with my brother to sell the butter and eggs and cream from the ranch.

RM: When did you get your first car out there?

MS: Oh, dear, I can't remember that.

LS: Around '26 or '27.

MS: Probably something like that. I remember Dad swore he was going to learn how to drive it. He smoked a pipe, and we had a big yard, so he'd get out there in that car, and he'd have to light up his pipe, so he'd have to strike the match on his leg you know how they did that on the overalls. He'd take his hand off the steering wheel to hold his pipe . . . [laughter] I think he rode right off the road once and into the barbed wire fence, and that was the end of his driving. Dad never learned to drive. My 2 brothers were there and they did the driving for him. And then of course later we did.

RM: Did your mother learn to drive?

MS: No. Mother drove a team of horses. She used to go visiting down in Eagle Valley or down to Delmues'; she would stay maybe a week and visit. The Delmues were from the same area that Mother and Dad were from back in Switzerland.

RM: Is that right? What part of Switzerland was it?

MS: I think it's the part that's close to France, isn't it, Scotty?

LS: I can't remember exactly. We went back there to the home where her folks came from, but I can't remember what part of Switzerland it was.

CHAPTER FOUR

MS: They spoke Swiss German and Swiss French; I think Mother's and Dad's dialect was Swiss French.

Bambi McCracken: What did you do for Christmas?

MS: Oh, Christmases out there, Bambi, were very exciting. Dad always got a Christmas tree and we had the old-fashioned metal candle-holders that you clipped on the tree. You put in the little candles and you could only light them for just a little while, because we were afraid [of fire]. And we got very few presents usually clothes. We'd hang up a sock which would have some nuts and hardtack candy and maybe an orange. The only Christmas that I can remember we got toys was when my 2 sisters were a little bit older and one was in high school, and she thought that we ought to have a doll. My sister next to me, Dee, was blonde and I was dark, so they bought us these dolls, mine was dark and Dee's was light with blonde hair. And my brother George, who is 2 years older than I am, got this little toy a little wagon with a donkey hitched to it. It would run so far and the donkey would kick up his heels. And that's what we wanted.

We couldn't care less about the dolls. Never did play with dolls. We were always out with George. Dee and I went down to the pigpen one day and we had these dolls, and we were teasing the pigs, swinging the dolls at the fence, and the pigs grabbed the dolls. That was the end of the dolls.

That was the last present we got, too. But it was usually clothes socks and mittens.

RM: Did you get things for your folks?

MS: No, we never had any money to buy anything. Oh, we'd make things at school, probably Christmas paper trees or something like that for them. But Dad saw that we had a tree every year, and Mother decorated it with popcorn and other homemade things. We never had any tinsel that I remember.

RM: Was there a special dinner on Christmas?

MS: Yes. Once in a while Mother had a turkey, but most of the time it was chicken, because we never [raised] turkeys. We had geese at the ranch and she cooked geese or my brother would hunt ducks.

RM: How about Thanksgiving? Was that an important occasion?

MS: Yes, Thanksgiving was, too. She cooked a big dinner on Thanksgiving. My next to the younger sister was born on Thanksgiving Day, and the midwife was there, and my sister Dee and I were supposed to watch something in the oven. We got to playing outside and the midwife was in with Mother, and we didn't watch what was going on in the oven. It burned, and I remember she came out and chased Dee and me around the corner of the house with a broom. She was upset that we'd let the Thanksgiving dinner burn. I don't know

what was in the oven pudding or maybe chicken.

RM: Was Easter a special day?

MS: We colored Easter eggs and hid them.

RM: Did the Easter Bunny come?

MS: I never saw an Easter Bunny. We just had the colored eggs.

RM: You would hide them for the little kids?

MS: Yes.

RM: Did Santa Claus come at Christmas?

MS: The only time we had a Santa Claus was when one of the neighbor's boys came up. He had on a Santa Claus suit I don't know where he got it and he had little round bells he'd taken off a harness. We could hear these bells a-ringing and couldn't imagine what it was. He opened the door and I think that he brought in some candy or something and, oh, we were so excited. The first time we'd ever seen Santa Claus.

RM: And you thought it was really Santa Claus?

MS: And we really thought it was Santa Claus.

RM: Tell me about living in Pioche during these Depression years.

MS: Yes, everybody was out of a job.

RM: Were there a lot of businesses shut down in town?

MS: Yes, there were. We had one friend who was working. Wasn't George Heidenreit working?

LS: He was working for Standard Oil. He worked at the Standard Oil garage Roy Orr had the Standard Oil business and a gas station there. Mary's brother was working. There wasn't very many of us working at that time; George was about the only one.

MS: We would get fresh eggs from the ranch, so every Sunday we'd get together and George and Betty would furnish the bacon and we would make hotcakes and have bacon and eggs from the ranch. But we had some very slim meals.

RM: You actually didn't have much food, then?

MS: We had enough, but there was no variety. It may have just been toast and coffee, or maybe a baked potato and a vegetable.

RM: How did you look at the future? Did you think that it was going to get better?

MS: I don't think we really ever thought too much about it.

LS: We didn't worry about it.

MS: No, we didn't worry about it.

LS: We were satisfied with what we had.

MS: I guess we were born and raised that way. We never had too much when we were kids, so it really wasn't too big a problem for us after we were married and as we went through the Depression.

RM: Were all the mines shut down, or were they just on limited force, or what?

LS: They were shut down. They were sinking a shaft over at Caselton at that time. After I drove the trucks I got a

job and I was working down the hole at Caselton for a while on the night shift. I was working down on the 840 level. That was before I went back up to Number One, wasn't it? We got by. We were just a young married couple. My dad and mother were very good to us. My dad realized what we were up against, and he gave us a little house up here. We bought that little house that's right next door to us here for \$720, at \$20 a month with no interest. He really helped us out all through the Depression. And then we had an account at Sears and Roebuck we paid \$5 a month on that for picking up clothes and stuff. And old Ben Cohen had a store up here and he let us have credit to get our groceries and things. He was building a basement down in the old Leader Store, which is still up there. He gave all of us fellows who were out of work a chance to pay our grocery bills by digging this basement out there for him. Well, Mary had a bill with him too, but he said, "No, you can't work her bill out, but you can work your bill off." You see, she had that teaching job.

RM: Oh, that way he could get some money.

MS: He knew we'd get by.

LS: That's the way we got by everybody cooperated. It was just one big happy family.

RM: Did Pioche suffer a big population decline at this time? Did a lot of people leave town looking for greener pastures?

LS: You know, there weren't too many people here it just dwindled down during the Depression. But then after the Depression, back in '34, the Number One Mine started up, and then quite a few came in. But the population was kind of stable. The people who were out of work or were working here stayed here. There was nothing you could do, there was no need of going anywhere else. There wasn't any work anywhere else, so you might as well just stay put.

RM: And basically everybody knew everybody because you'd gone to school together and everything, hadn't you?

MS: Yes, we knew everyone in town.

RM: Could we talk about some of the people that you recall from the '30s?

LS: You ought to tell him about Sport Watkins and old Dirty Curly.

MS: Oh, they were just old characters in town. [Chuckles] Dirty Curly was a very talented man. His brother was a doctor in Cedar [City, Utah]; in fact, he's the one who delivered our son. Dirty Curly had a drinking problem, and he lived in a little shack right down the road here. I don't know how he came by the name of Dirty Curly, but as drunk as he got he was always a gentleman.

RM: Why did they call him Dirty Curly? He didn't take a bath? Or did he talk dirty?

MS: I don't know. He wasn't exactly clean, but he wasn't

exactly dirty, either. No, he was always a gentleman. He swore, but there was no dirty talk.

LS: He was a gentleman all the way through.

RM: People swore a lot, is that right? Some of the men did the miners, for instance. The women didn't swear though, or did they?

MS: Actually the only words we learned in Italian were swear words. Because then we could go to Eagle Valley and kids didn't know what we were calling them. They thought we were just talking Italian to them, and we were cussing them. We had a little bit of mischief in us.

RM: [Laughs]

MS: But we loved those old characters. They were very good to us.

RM: What was Dirty Curly's claim to fame?

LS: He was on what was called "canned heat."

RM: Oh, he was drinking it?

LS: No, they burned this canned heat and then smelled the fumes from it. He lived in one of those old cellars up in the canyon by the Number One Mine.

MS: Yes, for a while. Oh, Burt Syphus lived . . . well, Dirty Curly lived down here too.

LS: We had several different characters. We had old Chicken Tony he was an Italian up here, and his favorite saying was, "Chicken today, feather soup tomorrow." [Laughs]

MS: I think Dirty Curly's fall-down . . . I said his brother was a doctor, and I think at one time he studied to be a doctor. He went through college. I don't know the story behind how he started to drink. I don't think he was ever married, as long as we knew him. And he was here when Scotty and I were married; I knew him from the time I came to Pioche.

RM: How about Sport Watkins?

MS: He came to this country from Utah and he stole horses. He used to stay at our ranch a lot and he had a wooden leg. When he was stealing horses someone shot him and they had to amputate his leg. When we knew him as kids we were scared to death of him because he was real gruff, and he swore like a trooper. He walked with this cane, and we always had stick horses just plain old sticks, you know. We thought, "Gee, that cane would be great for a stick horse." He used to help Dad with the chores out at the ranch because he had no place to go. He worked for the different ranchers. But he would take a nap every noon after he had his dinner, and he'd lie out there on the back porch. So George and I would sneak up and we'd think, "Well, we'll get that cane and just see what it would be like to use that for a stick horse." He'd wake up. [Chuckles] We didn't put anything over on him. He came out with some real strong swear words. We were scared of him.

RM: [Laughs]

MS: I ran across his obituary today when I was going through some old papers. He died and was buried here in Pioche.

RM: Did you know Judge Orr from Las Vegas?

LS: William E. Orr? You bet. He was a lawyer here first, and then he got appointed as district judge. He was really a well-liked person.

RM: I've heard he was a brilliant man, is that true?

MS: Yes.

LS: He was very brilliant. From here he went to Las Vegas, and he was a district judge down there for years. Then I think he went over to the Court of Appeals in San Francisco. He was really a very talented man. Of course, his brother, Roy Orr, was at the garage here.

RM: So one of the brothers had a garage and the other brother went on to be a prominent judge. Did the judge keep his ties with Pioche?

LS: I think so. Yes.

RM: Let me verify something with you. Do you know Roland Wylie in Las Vegas?

MS: Yes.

RM: Well, Roland tells a story on Judge Orr. He says that often when Judge Orr would give a talk, he would quote this little verse. Apparently there had been a woman in Pioche who fell into bad company and became quite a friend of the miners. She took ill and died suddenly, so they appointed a miners' committee to oversee her burial and arrange for her tombstone and write an epitaph on the tombstone. And the epitaph they came up with is as follows:
 "Here lies Mary Marlot
 Born a virgin, died a harlot.
 For 20 years she maintained her virginity
 Not a bad record for this vicinity."

MS: That's right. That's true. That was written up in the Salt Lake Tribune.

RM: Is that right? [Chuckles] Is there such a tombstone in the graveyard, do you know?

MS: There was at one time. But vandals got in there and destroyed a lot of those old tombstones, which was too bad.

RM: Roland Wylie says that Judge Orr frequently quoted that verse.

MS: He did. They had quite a few epitaphs over here that were quite interesting. I can't remember some of them, but I remember that one very well because I cut it out of the Salt Lake Tribune back in the 1940s when they gave a history on the old courthouse up here.

RM: Do you recall anything else about Judge Orr?

MS: Bill and Bob Orr probably would he was their uncle. They both live here in Pioche.

LS: They would know something about the judge. As I remember,

Judge Orr was in Las Vegas practicing law at the right time and he was appointed district judge. He only came up here once a month or something like that. That's all I can recall on him. But my father was a lawyer A. L. Scott. He was a senator and congressman; he had all the public offices around here at one time. I really didn't know Judge Orr too well, but I knew of him because he was affiliated with my father. My father had a lot of cases with him. That was quite a few years back.

MS: I don't ever remember him living here.

LS: Judge Orr's mother lived here. Mary knew her. I can remember him coming up for court, and that's about all I can remember of him.

RM: Who were some of the prominent mining people in Pioche during the '30s?

MS: Ed Snyder.

LS: Oh, Ed Snyder. His main office was in Salt Lake City and he used to come down once or twice a month. He was the big shot for the Number One Mine here, and he was the instigator for the sinking of the Caselton shaft over there. Of course, the Gemmills were the big thing over at the Prince.

RM: Yes, right; I interviewed Betty.

LS: Betty Gemmill? Yes, she's still here.

MS: Paul just passed away, you know.

RM: He did? Oh, that's too bad.

LS: Yes, just last week.

RM: They have a good interview with him.

MS: That's good. My son said they had a big write-up on Paul in the Reno paper. He's sending it to us.

LS: And then there was Dave Gemmill, and Squires. Squires wasn't too well known; he was a California guy. He was more interested in the Mendha Mine out here.

RM: Who would have been the physicians in town in the '30s?

MS: Oh, in the '30s there were Dr. J. H. Hastings and Dr. Stockman in Caliente.

RM: And what do you recall about them?

MS: They were just good old country doctors, as I remember them.

LS: Before him though, what was the doctor . . . ?

MS: Oh, J. W. Campbell.

LS: Dr. Campbell. The Pioche hospital used to be where the park is up here in this circular way at the end of town they made it into a park honoring Mary Louise and John Christian.

RM: Were they from your time or in the early days?

LS: They were later. There were younger than us. There were 4 of them killed in an auto accident husband and wife and 2 of their grandchildren.

RM: What did they do in Pioche?

MS: Jay Christian was the treasurer here for many, many years.

LS: And then he created the major telephone company here in Pioche. And John and Mary Louise were quite the supporters for any public doings that were going on. They put a lot of time and effort in maintaining and making a better community. They were really interested in public affairs both of them were mixed up in it all the time.

CHAPTER FIVE

- RM: Mary, you were saying that you had recalled some other childhood activities?
- MS: In the fall of the year my brother George and I used to do trapping coyotes and wildcats and fox, whatever animals were available. And George made homemade stretchers to stretch the furs on. We would skin the animal out without making any holes in the fur, and I think at that time prices for coyotes were around \$6-\$7, bobcats I think were under that. Now the bobcats are up to a hundred and something. My nephew is doing trapping. We'd set the traps and ride the route every morning and check them.
- RM: What did you use for scent?
- MS: Either a rabbit or if one of the chickens died, we used a chicken. Then when the weather got cold, we had to stop the trapping because the traps would freeze in the ground.
- RM: What kind of traps did you use?
- MS: A Victor spring trap.
- RM: So it was a way of making a little extra money?
- MS: Yes.
- RM: Did you do pretty well?
- MS: Oh, fairly well, I think. I can't remember just how many we'd get maybe 7 to 12 coyotes, 2 or 3 bobcats, or a lynx cat . . .
- RM: They didn't have muskrats here, did they?
- MS: No. George did a lot of hunting. In fact, Mother made her feather bed out of geese and ducks that my 2 brothers had shot.
- RM: Where did they hunt?
- MS: In the fields there at our ranch. There was a lot of water, so it was a great place for the geese and the ducks to land. And in the fall of the year you'd see them going by in V-shaped formations, and it was kind of a lonesome feeling, hearing them honking as they went by, because you knew winter was coming. But what a relief to hear them coming back in the spring. And there were just hundreds of them. They were a beautiful sight to see. My brothers did a lot of hunting. I hunted deer a lot with my older brother, Jack. I think I started going with him when I was about 9 years old. Of course that was before there was any deer season; you didn't have to buy a tag or anything. We used the deer meat to make jerky in the fall of the year, and Dad put some of it in the sausage.
- RM: Why did he put it in the sausage?
- MS: I don't know. I think just for filler.
- RM: What did you do with the jerky? Did you serve it at meals or was it a snack?
- MS: We ate it as a snack. Haven't you ever eaten jerky, Bob?
- RM: Yes. But we were poor up in Reveille Valley and we jerked it and that was our way of preserving it, and then we would

reconstitute it and make venison stew and so on.

MS: Well, we never did that; we just ate it dry. I still make jerky whenever we get a deer.

RM: You do? What's your procedure?

MS: Someone from the Nevada Magazine asked me that about 10 years ago. It's just a formula that my dad made up, I guess, or that they used back in Switzerland. It was salt, with ground whole pepper, a lot of garlic and a little bit of seasoning such as nutmeg, cinnamon, maybe a dash of ginger.

RM: And you would cut it in strips and sprinkle this on?

MS: You'd cut it in strips, and you'd put down a layer of the meat, a layer of the seasoning, a layer of the meat, a layer of the seasoning. You left that down for about 3 or 4 days, then you hung it out to dry. We had a place called the "jerky house" where Dad kept the salami, and there was an old fireplace that he had to keep firing in the wintertime.

RM: Would the flies stay out of it?

MS: Oh, there were no flies in the fall of the year. They'd been frozen long before.

RM: Did you pick pine nuts?

MS: Yes, we'd get on the horses and go and pick pine nuts. We still do. We did a lot of horseback riding up in the hills. Someone asked Mother once, "Didn't you ever worry about the kids when they were gone?" And she said, "I never had time to worry."
Mother was busy. Dad's hours were probably daylight to dark; Mother's were daylight to bedtime. She was a very devout Catholic. Her religion, I think, is the thing that carried her through, because when she came here she couldn't speak one word of English. She was taken from the lush hills of Switzerland out to the barren desert of Nevada. Dad would be gone a couple weeks at a time in the summer and winter roundups, and Mother would be alone with the chores to do. I think it was her faith and her intestinal fortitude that . . . she never showed one bit of nervousness. If someone got sick or cut or something was tragic, she was probably stirred up on the inside so emotionally that she was ready to burst, but she never let us know how she felt.

RM: Is that right? Do you think she regretted coming here?

MS: I think she did. And my biggest regret, as I look back upon it now, is that we didn't get her and Dad back to Switzerland before they passed away. In 1917 we were all ready to go. Mother had made special dresses for Dee and me (Dee was the youngest one in the family then; the other 2 hadn't arrived yet). The thing that stands out in my mind, I can see them yet, were those white dresses made for the trip mine had a pink sash, Dee's had a blue sash. And around our necks Mother had a little bag of asafetida.

Do you know what asafetida is?

RM: No.

MS: The thing I remember was the odor. You tied it around your neck because it was supposed to keep all the germs away. But at the time we got ready to go World War I broke out, so we weren't allowed to go.

RM: And you never got the chance again?

MS: No, we never got to go. I know Mother used to stand on the front porch early in the morning and yodel every morning for many years. I can hear her yet.

LS: She had a beautiful voice.

MS: She said for years every Sunday morning she heard the church bells of Switzerland. She could just hear them in her mind. And of course the only Catholic church was here in Pioche and she had no way of ever getting in. She had us all baptized Catholic. I remember when my brother George and I were baptized we were scared to death. We'd never been to a church . . .

RM: Was that here in town?

MS: Yes. The priest came to the home of one of the Catholic families it was the Donahue family. I remember when the priest came in George and I went in and hid under Mrs. Donahue's bed. [Laughter] You know how things impress you when you're a kid she had a crocheted bedspread; it was crocheted all around the bottom.

RM: Did your mother talk a lot about the old country?

MS: Yes, Mother did. She talked about her life back there, mostly about how she missed her parents and her sisters. She had no brothers, just sisters. One of her sisters came to the United States later on and married one of the Delmue boys, and she remained here in the States until she passed away.

RM: What about your father? Do you think he regretted coming here?

MS: I don't know. I think Dad probably figured this was what he had chosen and I guess he just made the best of it. One of my nieces who had been to Switzerland said to Mother, "Grandma, how could you ever stand this? How could you ever leave the lush hills of Switzerland and come to the barren Nevada desert?" And she said, "I just had to make the best of it. There was nothing else I could do." I think Dad missed his family. But he wasn't too much of a conversationalist. He was a quiet man, and a very loving father. It was hard for him to display affection but you knew it was there. Mother was the one who tapped us on the head with a thimble or cracked us on the head with a comb. We all had long hair and she had to braid it before we went to school. I was tender-headed, and I'd put my hand up like this when she pulled my hair, and she whacked me on the head with the

comb. She said, "I didn't have time to go easy with all of you. I had too many kids to get their hair braided and get them to school." You see, there were 4 of us then whose hair needed braiding.

RM: Why didn't you do each other's hair?

MS: I don't think we ever learned how.

RM: You didn't learn how to braid?

MS: Well, we used to go down and get the wire grass in the fields, and braid the wire grass. Do you know what wire grass is?

RM: Sure I do. We used to make wire grass chains.

MS: We made bracelets and chains out of the wire grass. But I never braided anyone's hair that I remember.

RM: Did you wear ribbons in your hair?

MS: No, just braids.

RM: Did you all have long hair, or was it just pretty long?

MS: Yes, long hair.

RM: How far down?

MS: Oh, mine was to my waist. I found an old picture this morning that my brother took. He was going to college over at Cedar and he had bought a camera and was learning how to take pictures.

RM: Did you think of anything else that you would like to mention about your childhood?

MS: Well, we didn't really get lonely. We were always busy doing something, so we never had time to get lonely. And we made our own fun. As I said, we rode the stick horses or we played in the haystacks, much to Dad's disgust. We'd slide down where he'd just cut the hay, and mess it up for him to feed the cattle.

RM: We kind of left off yesterday [March 6, 1992] in the '30s in Pioche, talking about notable people who were living here. Have you thought of any other things about the Depression that we should talk about?

LS: We mentioned Mr. Cohen, didn't we?

MS: Yes, Ben Cohen; he carried a lot of them. He had a small grocery store with a clothing store and he gave a lot of people credit so they could get by.

RM: His name was Ben Cohen? Was he Jewish?

MS: Yes.

RM: Was there a Jewish community in town at this time?

MS: I think Kahn was the first one, and he had a store, and the Cohens came in after the Kahns.

RM: What was Kahn's store?

MS: It was a clothing store.

RM: And Cohen's was groceries and clothing?

MS: Yes, then later on it just became a clothing store when a grocery store came to Pioche.

RM: What was Cohen's store known as?

MS: The Leader Store.

RM: How did he get that name?

MS: I don't know. He lived next door to us for years. He's retired now in Vegas. He and his wife are both in ill health and we check on the house for them.

RM: How about Kahn? What was his store called?

MS: I don't remember. Kahn's was the store where I was surprised that my sisters didn't knock on the door before they went in.

RM: But there weren't any other Jewish people in town at that time?

MS: No, not that I know of. There were Chinese there was a Chinatown.

RM: Where was it located?

LS: It was in the center between these 2 streets here, between the main street and this street that comes straight down. Did you notice those TV receivers up there, about 4 of them?

RM: Yes?

LS: That's where it was, right down in the bottom there. In some of the pictures you can see . . . they had little, little shacks, you know, all along. Old Yee Wing ran the cafe there. What was the old man's name who had the firecrackers and the Chinese candy that he gave to us kids? He was quite a guy. He didn't have the laundry; it was across the street.

MS: Ikari had the laundry.

RM: Were there about 4 or 5 Chinese families, or were there more?

MS: I would imagine there were more than that.

RM: Were there any black families?

MS: There was one black lady who lived here, and she kept very much to herself. I don't think anyone ever bothered her or ridiculed her that I know of, but maybe the younger kids did. She lived here until she passed away. I don't know where she came from or how she happened to be here. What was her name, Scotty? Betty, but she had another name before Betty. It was kind of a moniker, more than a name.

RM: How did she earn a living?

MS: I think probably she took in some washing. And then, did she marry someone here?

LS: She married a Mexican, Leon Martin.

RM: Was there any resistance to a black person marrying a white person here?

LS: No.

MS: No one seemed to pay any attention to it.

RM: Were there any other ethnic groups? Was there an Italian community?

MS: There were a lot of Italians.

LS: Most of them here were saloon keepers. August Messloed had one, and John Valenti had one. And then there was Martin Gallelo and Ernie Ferri and John Mezzano.

RM: They all had saloons?

LS: Oh, there were a lot of saloons. [Chuckles]
RM: Where were they? Up and down Main Street?
MS: Up and down Main Street.
LS: Yes, that place where you ate, the deli, belonged to Johnny Valenti. It had a false front, and he had his moonshine-making outfit in the back. They had quite a raid here during Prohibition. They picked up Johnny Valenti and Gus and Mezzano and Ernie. They got them all up there and they served time. My dad represented them to get them out of [prison].
RM: What were the names of the saloons?
LS: Martin Paletto's was the Garden Club, and Ernie Ferri's was the Alamo . . .
RM: Was the Alamo where it is now?
LS: Yes. Right over here. Then the other one across the street beyond the . . . what's the name of that?
MS: Nevada Bar, Silver Bar, Overland Bar . . .
LS: The Overland Bar. Well the Overland came in later. Those were the main ones.
MS: Which one did Albert Delmue have?
LS: Bill Garvey and Al worked down there . . . what the hell was the name of that? When I had my service station it was across the street, and I spent a lot of money over there. They had gambling.
RM: Why were there so many Italians in the bar business?
MS: The Italians were good miners, I think, and they were also evidently good barmen. I think every saloon in town was run by an Italian.
RM: Isn't that something? How many saloons do you think there were in your lifetime?
MS: In my lifetime there were 7 that I recall.
LS: You remember the Bucket of Blood where Jack Cole was.
MS: Yes, the Bucket of Blood.
RM: And all Italian?
LS: Well, Jack Cole wasn't Italian. His Bucket of Blood was back just about where the Silver Club is.
RM: Were the Italians also miners?
MS: Yes.
LS: Oh, yes, there were a lot of Italian miners. John Mezzano was a miner, and John Valenti really liked mining. And I think Gus Messloed worked in the mines too. They're very thrifty workers, you see.
RM: So these fellows saved their money and started a saloon was that how they got started?
MS: I would imagine.
LS: Yes. The oldest that I can remember was Angelo Clark. He was an Italian person, and he had his bar where the Leader Store is now. You probably forgot about that. That was before Cohen had the Leader Store there. Cohen had his store up above with the mercantile stores and Angelo Clark bought a saloon there in the early days.

RM: Were there any other ethnic groups here in town that were identifiable?

MS: There were probably Irish.

RM: Did they kind of have their own community?

MS: No, it seemed that no matter what the nationality was, they were all just one family.

RM: They didn't kind of segregate out into little communities, except the Chinese, maybe?

MS: I don't think so. When I came to Pioche that's all I knew. Now Scotty was born and raised here. I didn't come here until after we were married, outside of coming in and going to the dances and things like that. It seemed like everyone got along OK. It was a wild town in its early days. You've probably heard some of the stories of what went on in the early days.

RM: Yes. Were there Cornishmen here who were miners? Cousin Jacks, they called them?

LS: Yes, there were some of those. I don't know if there were too many; I couldn't say what all their nationalities were. There were a lot of foreigners in there, there's no question about that.

RM: Were there Yugoslavians?

MS: That I couldn't say. There were some Mexicans.

RM: Were they miners or what?

LS: They worked in the mines. Leon Martin was a Mexican. He's the one who was married to the black woman.

MS: Or he lived with her. I don't know whether they . . .

LS: Well, I don't know if they were married or not, but they lived together.

RM: Can you think of any other ethnic groups?

LS: I think you could say there was pretty nearly every nationality here at one time. Before my time, they had some pretty rugged people. It's just like the old saying, there were I don't know how many killed before there was a natural death in Pioche. [Chuckles]

RM: Is that right? And you think that's true?

LS: I think it is.

MS: Boot Hill verifies that. All the history of Pioche verifies that.

RM: Why was Pioche such a tough place in the early days?

MS: I don't know. Probably it was like Virginia City, you know; Virginia City had its rough days. But Pioche was known as one of the wildest mining towns in the West. Well, the gun was law. If they got into an argument the argument was settled by gun. That seemed to be the procedure until I guess law did finally come in and take over.

LS: I think most of it was from greed, and conflicts on the ore and stuff. Some guy would say, "That's my claim, there," and the other fellow would say, "No, it isn't, it's my claim." That's what happened and that's how they settled it.

CHAPTER SIX

- RM: What else do you recall about the '30s?
- LS: The Depression here started in '31 and lasted until '34 or '35.
- RM: The Depression didn't start here in '29?
- MS: A little bit.
- LS: It went down gradually here. We didn't feel it until the '30s, really. And by '35 we were coming back out. They were hiring miners and so on up at the Number One and they were sinking the shaft over at the Caselton.
- RM: What caused the mine to open back up?
- LS: The price of lead and zinc started coming up, and they found in their metallurgical work that they could get the gold and the silver that was in with the lead and zinc. Then Ed Snyder found a way to process the lead and zinc ore up at Tooele, Utah, so the ore was shipped there in the early days. Later, Ed built a mill over here at the Caselton that handled the ore. The Ely Valley mines came up in the '40s.
- RM: Well, let's move on to the '40s. What kind of an impact did Pearl Harbor have on Pioche?
- LS: I don't think it made much difference. Some of the younger ones had to register for the draft. I think the first one from here on the draft was Jack Sweden.
- RM: Did you notice an impact on the economy?
- MS: Yes. Scotty was in World War II, and while he was in the service there was an impact of released soldiers, I guess you would call them. There were 100 or more of those that they sent here to work in the mines because they needed the ore. They built the first housing unit down here to take care of the soldiers that came in.
- RM: What housing unit is that?
- MS: It's down here below the courthouse. It's called Pioche Housing now; I don't know what it was called then.
- LS: They built one over at the Caselton too, dear, where Mrs. Tom Wah and her husband had a boardinghouse. They had a dormitory over there for the soldiers who they used in the mines.
- RM: So they brought soldiers in here to work in the mines. When did they come in early in the war or later on?
- MS: They came in not too long after the war started.
- RM: But the mines were already operating from 1935, were they?
- MS: Well, they were down a little bit, weren't they, Scotty?
- LS: Yes. They were operating, but they needed more. You see, they took a lot of the younger people away. Now, there are still 2 or 3 people here who came in with the army G. O. Kelly and Vic Bartola . . . it seems like there were some others who came in. Some of them had to go back in the service, but there are 2 of them still left here that I know of.

RM: All told, how many miners do you think they brought in in World War II?

LS: They must've brought in over a hundred.

MS: That many at least.

MS: And the ones who were brought in were skilled in mining?

LS: That's it. They had to have experience in mining.

RM: Why wouldn't they let the local guys do the mining?

LS: Well, the local ones who were working in the mines could stay; they didn't draft them. It was the individuals like myself I wasn't drafted, I volunteered for induction. But there were lots of them who didn't work in the mines, and they weren't deferred. They brought the miners in because there were a lot of miners in the service who would do more good in the mines than they would in the service.

RM: What mines did they work in?

LS: They worked in the Ely Valley mines and the Caselton Mine and I can't remember whether they worked up at the Number One, and I think there were a few of them out at Bristol Silver. I don't think Jackrabbit was running at that time. No, they just had the tram line over from the Bristol Mine over to the Jackrabbit Mine. Then the ore was hauled from there on what they called the "Pioche-Pacific Railway." They hauled it over from Jackrabbit and then loaded it onto the UP down here at Pioche.

RM: And then when the war was over, did the miners all leave?

MS: Most of them left. Some of them remained. There were about 10, I think.

RM: Did the mines shut down after the war, then?

LS: They went down about '52.

RM: So they operated after the war; the prices were still good?

LS: The prices were still good, but the price went down. It's like everything else if the demand is for it then the prices go up. And if the demand drops, then the prices drop.

RM: So lead and zinc went down after the war?

LS: Lead and zinc went down and it wasn't feasible to mine. And like everything else, the wages got so high that they just couldn't operate. That's about the time they went to the open-pit mining. Where one miner put out 8 or 10 ton of ore, they came in with this open-pit method and got 1000 tons per man. Open-pit mining has ruined the underground mines, but they just couldn't afford to [be underground]. You couldn't pay a miner \$100 a day. When I was mucking, I got \$3 a day for mucking, and a miner got \$3.25 and they finally raised him to \$3.50 a day.

RM: What year was that, Scotty?

LS: That was before I went into the service.

RM: When did you start in the mines, Scotty?

LS: Before we were married, in 1930, I was on a survey crew, surveying for the Combined Metals. I went over the mountain and surveyed the power line that goes over to the

Forlorn Hope. We surveyed mining claims all along there. Then I worked at the Forlorn Hope for a little while, surveying there. Then they transferred me out to the Bristol Silver, and that was the first time I worked underground. At that time I would have been 19 years old.

I was on a survey crew until the snow came, and then we couldn't [survey], so they gave me a job down the hole, mucking. I worked there until after Christmas.

RM: And you were making \$3 a day as a mucker?

LS: Yes.

RM: Which mine was that, again?

LS: The Bristol Silver Mine.

RM: Where is it located?

LS: It's just the other side of this big range over here, on the north end of this range.

RM: OK. Where you circle around to go to Caselton.

LS: Yes, you went clear around, through what they call the pass, and then came back up and into it.

RM: Bristol's on your left as you circle around, is that right?

LS: Yes, it'd be on your left.

MS: But it's beyond the Caselton road.

LS: It's on the west side of the mountain of this range out here that you can see. Jackrabbit was on this east side of the range; they had a tramline over from there. Then '31 is when I came in and started driving a truck for Combined Metals. I quit out there.

RM: Why did you quit?

LS: I wanted to get out from underground. [Chuckles]

RM: You didn't like underground?

LS: My folks didn't like it either.

RM: Why didn't you like it?

LS: Well, it's kind of a dreary thing, you know. You've got to love it, and you've got to know what the heck you're doing, and I didn't. I went down on a job here truck driving, and I got canned on it. The crusher broke down and I went to sleep in the cab of the truck [chuckles] and while I was asleep I happened to hit the brake and knocked the brake off and that truck ran down and ran into another truck and bent the radiator. So they canned me.

RM: What mine was that you were working for?

LS: This was a highway construction job, on the road between Las Vegas and Alamo.

RM: Oh, when they were putting that road in?

LS: Yes.

RM: What year was that, Scotty?

LS: That would have been in '32, after I was married. Then I came back and got a job as a swamper on the motor underground at the Number One Mine. I was a swamper on that for quite a while.

RM: What is a swamper, Scotty?

LS: They had a battery-charged motor. The motorman ran the

motor, and I was what they called a swamper. I loaded the cars and unloaded them. They had the chutes there and I'd pull it out and load the car and then he'd shove another car up to me. We had 15 one-ton cars on the train. A person had to be pretty skilled, because they had a chain in between each car. When you'd come out of there the grade coming out was downhill, so you had to be sure that you let the first car get the chain tight all the way down. If you didn't watch it, it would tip the lead car over and then you'd have a nice wreck.

RM: Would it snap the slack?

LS: No, it would just dump the cars over. When it hit and the cars were loaded they'd tip over and then you'd have all that mess to clean up. I worked with a motorman named Leo Roeder for quite a while we were working 3 shifts at that time. Then he got to drinking, and they let him go. They brought in old Ira Van Osdale [to replace] him and he took over the motor. And when I was loading the cars, I was used to Leo Leo was easy. He'd wait and watch me, and whenever I'd move my hands away from the car I used to clean it out from under the chute onto the car . . . and when this old Gummie came there, boy, he'd shoot it up. I had my foot under one of the wheels, and that finished my motoring days up there at Number One underground.

RM: Oh! Did it take off some toes or just crush your foot?

LS: It took off my toenail I still don't have any there.

RM: Oh boy.

LS: I went on industrial insurance for a while, and then after the industrial insurance ran out they had to give you a job back. So they gave me a job up there loading timber I was unloading the stulls for the underground. Then Owen Walker, who was a machinist up there, kind of took a liking to me I was just a young kid; I was only about 21 so he gave me a job helping the mechanic up there. I learned how to run the cutting torch, and I did a lot of the cutting for the metal work. We built underground mine cars, and sometimes I'd have to go run the boilers. They had a steam plant there to run the hoist and the compressor. When one of the boilermen was gone I'd have to go in and fire the boiler. Usually it was on the graveyard that I'd have to do that.

RM: It was steam-powered? I can see the compressor being steam, but a steam hoist? What if they lost their steam when they were pulling a bucket of men or something a cage?

LS: You usually had your 100 pounds of steam all of the time.

RM: What did they heat the boiler with?

LS: Coal. They hauled the coal up for the . . . did you see that picture of that train coming up the hill there? The ore came in down here to the station on the UP and they transferred it over into those little cars, and they'd haul

their coal up and dump it for the boilers, and then they'd load ore back down. That was quite an operation.

RM: Was that Ed Snyder's operation?

LS: Yes.

RM: When did Ed Snyder come on the picture here?

LS: Oh, gosh, before my time. And he was still going strong there until the year he died, in his 80s.

RM: Did you know Ed Snyder?

LS: Did I? Oh, I'll say. He and my father were great friends.

RM: Tell me about him.

LS: Ed was a big, tall, sturdy man husky. He didn't have any enemies, I don't believe. He was a person who made friends right away. I can still see him. He knew all of us; he'd always speak to us. When I first met him, I was bucking samples. I was only about 11 or 12 years old, and I was bucking samples in the assay office.

RM: What is "bucking samples"?

LS: When they bring the samples in, they bring them in a little sack about 12 inches high, and they were big pieces. They didn't have crushers like they have now, so you had a big outfit that was kind of flat, and you had to roll them out. After you got it all ground up . . . you wouldn't use too much of the sample; they just had little pans, about 3 inches in diameter, and maybe about an inch . . . You had to crush it to get that much out of the sample, then you screened it if you had any coarse. It had to be real fine. I did that for quite a while.

RM: So you started as a kid?

LS: Yes, I was only about 11 or 12 years old; going to grade school. Then, after that [chuckles], I used to cut kindling for the A. S. Thompson company store. He had the Gem Theater, and most of that time your stuff was in wooden boxes. It was before you got paper cartons. I'd cut those boxes up for kindling, because he had 2 coal-fired stoves for the old Gem Theater.

RM: Oh, it was heated that way.

LS: Yes. I was kind of an ambitious kid. I had to be doing something or else I was into trouble otherwise.

RM: What did you do with the money you made as a kid?

LS: Well [laughs], I spent it.

RM: What would a kid spend his money on then?

LS: Oh, candy, gum . . . I had quite a time. But you didn't make much money. I got 10 cents a sample, and maybe I'd get 3 or 4, 5 samples a day. And sometimes they'd only have me come in once or twice a week. There's a picture of the old assay office where I worked in the book that you're looking at. That's quite a book.

MS: That's one that the museum board put out in 1981.

RM: Yes, it looks like a good book.

RM: Tell me a little more about Ed Snyder.

LS: He came down once or twice a month from Salt Lake. His large operation was at Tooele, outside of Salt Lake.

RM: He had a smelter there?

LS: Yes, they had a smelter there. That's where they shipped the ore from here in the early days.

RM: AS&R had a smelter at Tooele, didn't they?

LS: That was the American Smelting and Refining, yes. I think that was on the point of a mountain. I forget what the name of Ed's was it was at Tooele but I think the AS&R was at the point of the mountain. You could see it from Salt Lake.

RM: Where else did Snyder have mines?

LS: He had the Bristol Silver Mine, and the Ida May there were about 4 of them out there on the Bristol Range. There were 2 of them way up above the Bristol Silver, where the tram line would pick up the ore. But the main station for the tram was at Bristol. He had the Caselton, and the Bristol Silver, and I don't know for sure but I think there was a mine up around in that range there remember where Shorty Bracken worked? Ophir and up in there, on that range. I think he had some property in there somewhere.

RM: He didn't have the Prince, did he? That was Gemmill's.

LS: Gemmill and Squires had the Prince.

RM: That wasn't Pop Squires from Vegas, was it?

LS: I don't think it's the same family. I never did know the Squires. I heard of them, but I never did know them. And Gemmill and Squires had the Mendha. John Janney finally got the Mendha and he had what they called the Pioche Mines. Then he named this other mine out there the Ely Valley Mines. It was called Pioche Mines, Consolidated. They're the ones who put this mill down here. It was a flotation mill for the gold and silver.

RM: This big smelter down here?

LS: That's it.

RM: And what was that called, again?

LS: That was called the Pioche Mines, Consolidated, Incorporated, then they called it the Ely Valley Mill.

RM: What was Snyder's called?

LS: His was the Combined Mills Reduction Company. John Janney sold a lot of stock in his I think Ed had stock at one time, but I can't remember.

RM: And John Janney had the Ely . . .

LS: Ely Valley Mines and the Pioche Mines.

RM: OK. And what are the Number One and Number Two and all of those?

LS: Number One is what Snyder had, and then he had the Raymond-Ely extension later on. And he had the Pacific Tunnel, which was a tunnel that went in from the other side. And they had stock for the Boston-Pioche Mining Company; that's another one that's over on the other side of the hill.

RM: To the south?

LS: Yes up around there. You can see it when you come up the highway. Ed Snyder had about 3 different ones over here on this side I can't think of the names of them, but he had quite a few places. Then he had what we called the Old-Timer. My brother-in-law and a couple of us 4 of us took on a lease up here with that one. We were all greenhorns, but we tried to make money on it. [Laughs] I think that after all the time we put in, we got 10 cents an hour. At another time, we took on a manganese lease out here, 3 or 4 of us guys. We didn't make anything on that, either.

RM: What was that mine called?

LS: I don't know what the name of that was. It belonged to Dan Lloyd.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- RM: Did Ed Snyder originate in Salt Lake City as far as you know?
- LS: Yes.
- RM: Was he a Mormon?
- LS: I don't know, but when he was here I think he went to the Episcopal Church.
- RM: Was his operation successful here?
- LS: Yes.
- RM: Was it a money-maker?
- LS: I think so. I think he really did well up until when he had to give it up.
- RM: And when did he give it up?
- LS: When they all shut down. I don't know how long he operated in Utah, but here in Pioche he went down in the early '50s.
- RM: Where did John Janney come from?
- LS: He come from back in Boston. He was quite a promoter. But he did come back here he raised money back there and then he brought it here and expanded it here. He was a very good person and he did a lot of things for the town of Pioche that I don't really think he knew [chuckles] he was doing.
- RM: Like what?
- LS: We had the crew there and sometimes when they weren't busy, the boss would bring them in and they'd do some work on the ball parks or something like that. I think he helped with the building of that swimming pool down there originally. But he didn't know it.
- RM: You mean because the equipment was being used and everything.
- LS: Yes, his equipment was being used, and some of the laborers. Charlie Wilson was the foreman of the mill crew, for instance, and he also helped build the firehouse up there. We'd go up there and do a little work when we didn't have anything doing. It was sort of a fill-in to keep the men busy. But he was really good for the community. They can say what they want. They claimed he embezzled all of those Boston people back there he would get them to put up money.
- RM: When do you think Janney came into this country?
- LS: I know he was here before the '30s.
- RM: Did people say that John Janney was promoting money and then giving part of it to Pioche and part of it to himself? I mean, that's what the promoters did.
- MS: Sure.
- LS: Well, he lived the good life on it. And then he had what they call the Nevada-Des Moines over here, and he had a plant there to generate electricity. And a fellow by the name of Francis Reardon came here he's the one who first tried to get power in the town of Pioche. Before 1937 we

had a plant over here that generated a little power.

RM: What kind of plant was it?

LS: It was a diesel-run. Then they had a little plant up here at what they call the Number Three Mine. Reardon put the power around town here.

RM: When, in '37?

LS: It was before Boulder power came in, so it would be in the early '30s. At night they would have lights here until they hoisted the men out from up at the Number Three Mine. Then all of the saloons would start up their gas lightings or their Kohler lights. And sometime in the 1930s they put in a power plant out here at Jackrabbit.

RM: Where is Jackrabbit?

LS: It's 16 miles up on the highway going to Ely.

RM: Why did they put a plant in Jackrabbit?

LS: I think they put it in for the Bristol Silver Mine because that was a big operation out there. That's the power we used to sink the shaft at Caselton. They had 3 diesel generators out there. And they had that tram, and I know it was run by . . .

RM: Was Jackrabbit close to Bristol?

LS: It's just over the mountain. You see, they had a tram line from Bristol over the mountain to Jackrabbit. The tram line's gone now, but some of the pylons are still there.

RM: Why did they bring a tram line from Bristol over to Jackrabbit? Was there a mill there?

LS: No. They loaded the ore on out there, and then the Pioche-Pacific trammed it into here and then they loaded it onto the railroad cars down there and then it went up to Utah. I think Bristol, or most of it, went to the AS&R in Utah because it was a different type of ore. Ours was oxide and theirs was sulphide.

RM: Did they have a lot of ore at the Bristol?

LS: Oh, yes. They had good copper ore out there. That was a big operation and it was going pretty good in the 1930s when I was mucking out there.

RM: Tell me about some of the underground workings there.

LS: Bristol Silver was an incline shaft.

RM: How far down?

LS: I worked on the 1050 and I think they hit water between the 1100 and 1200. They had to quit there. They thought at one time that they would run a tunnel out from down there to drain the water into the dry lake, but they never did. They started to run one through the mountain to come out on this side, but they never did get it completed, either.

RM: How many tons a day were they taking out of the Bristol?

LS: Let's see, there were about 6 or 7 cars on that train and they ran it every day, so they were probably bringing 60 to 70 tons a day out of there.

RM: How many men were they working?

LS: Oh, gosh, I lived in the boardinghouse there; there must

have been about 50 of us at the boardinghouse.

RM: Were there any families living there?

LS: Yes, there was the superintendent and the mine foreman, and the blacksmith old Domenic Belingheri and the one who kept the books.

RM: When did the Bristol open?

LS: Bristol [started] long before my time. It goes way back. My grandfather built the towers for the tram line.

RM: So they were bringing the ore out of the Bristol on a tramline over the mountain to Jackrabbit and putting it on a narrow gauge?

LS: A narrow gauge would run from there into town.

RM: Oh, and then you put it on the railroad here to take it . . .

LS: Up to the AS&R in Salt Lake.

RM: But it went down to Caliente first, didn't it?

LS: Yes, it'd go to Caliente this was just a branch.

RM: When did they put that railroad in?

LS: It must have been before 1910. The Union Pacific went clear around to Caselton around to the Prince. It's all taken up now, but they had a [branch line there].

RM: Did the Bristol Silver have rich ore?

LS: Some of the copper was pretty rich, and they hit some pretty high grade silver there in pockets I heard of some pockets that would run 1000 ounces to the ton.

RM: Wow!

LS: So it was real good stuff. The copper was good; they had some beautiful stalagmites and things down there where the water had leached the copper out.

RM: Well, if the mine operated that long, there must have been extensive workings there.

LS: Oh, you can't imagine the diggings that are out there, and the stopes.

RM: Was the ore in veins or in lenses or what?

LS: The ore was in veins it was bedded your sulphide ores up here were beds, and there were veins out there.

RM: How wide were the veins?

LS: Sometimes they'd be down to about 4 inches and then they'd open up wider than this room. And they'd hit them on different levels. I was working on the 1050; and the place where I was working it was more running the drift into where the vein was so they could bring it out. There was so much waste to get out [in order] to get the ore that I was working in the waste drifts.

RM: How long did you work there?

LS: I worked there about 3 months underground.

RM: Tell me about mucking. How many cars did you have to get out a day?

LS: I got about 8 or 10 one-ton cars a day. If I didn't quite make it, the miner would say that I got that much.

RM: Were you basically mucking his round out?

LS: Yes. When I'd first go in there I'd have to help him muck back so that he could set up his machine to drill off the face. After I got him set up so that he could drill, I started loading into the mine cars. If he said I got 8 or 10 cars, that meant that he'd shot a pretty good round. But if I didn't get around that many cars, then he'd be on the spot for not getting . . . [chuckles]

RM: Sure, not getting his round. How wide was the drift you were working in?

LS: It was about 4 feet wide and maybe 7 feet high.

RM: I see. And you were using water, weren't you? You weren't mucking dry.

LS: Yes, they had a water machine. The dry machines were out at Delamar. There was no dust at Bristol Silver.

RM: Were you mucking off a flat sheet?

LS: No, I mucked off the rough bottom. In later years, when I worked underground in Caselton, I had a muck sheet. I trammed over at Caselton. I trammed it down on the 840; the water level was down below there . . . I worked over there after they finished sinking the Caselton shaft and they hadn't pumped the water below yet. That was just a make-work program during the Depression for some of the guys.

RM: It wasn't WPA, was it?

LS: No, no way. I couldn't get on the WPA.

RM: Did you muck with a round point at the Bristol Silver?

LS: Yes, I had a round point.

RM: And what were you using for light?

LS: Carbide lights.

RM: Were there lights in the mine?

LS: No, just in your hoist room, and they had electricity for the bells.

RM: What were they tramming with? By hand?

LS: Yes. They had their chutes there loaded off into the skip. You'd bring it out and dump it in a bin there and then they had what they called a skip tender who loaded it and hoisted it to the surface. When it got to the service they had another trammer who would tram it out. If it was waste, he'd tram it clear out to the end of the dump, but if it was ore he'd tram it into a bin where they loaded it in buckets to come over in the tram car.

RM: How much did those buckets hold?

LS: They couldn't have handled over 500 or 600 pounds. I don't know whether you noticed; there's one of them up there where the telephone office is; you can see the size of it. That's from the tram line over there.

RM: Did the Bristol operate until the early '50s?

LS: Yes. Well, they were operating when I was in the service station there in '42 and '43. And then Slim Walker and Vic and all of them worked out there after I was with the power company over here, didn't they?

MS: Yes, and that was in the '50s.
RM: So it operated continuously through those years?
LS: Well, up until late in the '50s. They had quite an operation there.
RM: Is there still ore there, I wonder?
LS: They claim there's ore under the water. But it would be too costly to pump the water. I can't remember, it seems to me it was deeper than 1200 feet, but I'm not certain.
RM: And tell me again what you did at the Number One?
LS: I unloaded the cars. They hauled the stulls and lumber and all in on the railroad and we'd have to unload them. Then I went to work as a mechanic's helper.
RM: What was happening at the Number One? Were they taking a lot of ore out?
LS: They were taking pretty good ore out of there then, yes.
RM: This was when, again?
LS: That was in the late '30s. When my son was born in 1935 I went up into Wells with the highway department. When I came back from Wells, I went to work for Roy Orr at his garage and I worked there until 1938.
RM: What were you doing there?
LS: I was the bookkeeper. [Chuckles] I worked for him for about a year and half. I think I went to work there in '36, because I was selling '36 Fords. (I was selling cars, too.) Then in '37, I bought a '37 Ford.
RM: Did Orr have a Ford dealership there at his garage?
LS: He was one of the oldest Ford dealers [in the country]. They still have the old City Garage there where he had his shop.
RM: Were Fords selling pretty well here in the '30s?
LS: He sold a lot of Model Ts and Model As. They came out with the V-8 in 1936, and in '37 they came out with the V-6 and I was working for him then. Then in 1938 I took over the Standard station up there.
RM: Is that the one across the street from the deli now?
LS: Yes. They built that station for me in 1938.
RM: You say "they." Was that Standard Oil?
LS: Standard Stations, Incorporated. They had a station there before, but they rebuilt it for me. I had to sit in the back [of the lot]. If it hadn't been for my wife I guess I never would have made it. She had saved money when I was working, and she saved enough that I could buy the stock that was in the service station to start out in business. It was pretty tough pickings there I had to move out of the front and about the only customer I had was the Ely stage driver. He gassed up with me and I had a few people who came . . .
RM: Why? Was everybody else going with the old-time station?
LS: Roy Orr had the station where I worked there and it was on the corner. When Standard built this station they put me in the back; I had to be in the back while they were

building the new building. And they built it in the wintertime. It was pretty tough pickings. She carried me through. And I served in that station until January '44, when I went into the service.

RM: And you worked at the Number One before you went to the station?

LS: Oh, yes. That was in between '32 and '40.

RM: Were they tramping out to the shaft, or did they go clear out to a portal . . . ?

LS: Yes, I'd say we were maybe a mile and a half back in the mountain there where we were getting the ore. We'd tram it out to a bin at the station and the skip tender loaded it and hoisted it on up to the surface.

RM: So the underground workings in the Number One go clear a mile and a half back?

LS: That underground working goes clear through from there and hits into the Caselton shaft on the other side.

RM: You were clear back under there?

LS: We were back under there. I'd say we were a mile and a half back. And then they had the stopes. You see, they mined the ore up in these stopes in the beds and then they had the bins . . . they had what they called scrapers, and they were run off of air. They'd slush the ore into these bins and then we'd pull it out of the bins and take it out to the station.

RM: You'd take it out to the station at the Number One, and then they'd hoist it there?

LS: Yes.

RM: And then they'd have a big bin that you would dump it into and then you would load the skip from that.

LS: Yes. The skip tender was down below.

RM: Was there ore going clear over to the Caselton?

LS: There are beds all through that area. They sunk the Caselton shaft because they hit the beds over on that side.

RM: Oh. And there's ore going clear across. That's amazing. If it goes clear across this way from the Caselton, how far . . .

LS: There are different levels of it. It all depends upon when the shift came sometimes it would be up here and sometimes down here.

RM: If you got ore running from the Number One to the Caselton . . .

LS: Well, off and on.

RM: Off and on, but how far this way does it go? I mean, would it be north and south, or northeast and southwest? How far off of a line between the Number One and the Caselton would the ore have gone the other way?

LS: Not too far. There was the Greenwood shaft on the right side they had some there. And I forget the name of the one on the south side. Then there was another place where there was manganese; they had a lot of manganese in

between. That's what they called the Zero tunnel. I don't know just exactly how the beddings were over there between the Caselton . . .

CHAPTER EIGHT

- RM: How thick were the ore seams?
- LS: Sometimes the beds in those stopes were 100 feet. They'd have to make cribs that's where we get these stopes.
- RM: They'd crib up?
- LS: They cribbed up to where they could mine it.
- RM: You mean, sometimes the bed is 100 feet thick?
- LS: Yes. Those are big stopes up there. They had carbide lights, and sometimes your carbide lights wouldn't shine up to the roof.
- RM: Is that right!
- LS: In later years when I worked out in the Ely Valley mines, we had the electric lights that fit onto your head and you carried the battery in your hip pocket and they charged it every day. I drove truck out at the Ely Valley.
- RM: Now Ely Valley, again, is the turn where you . . .
- LS: You can see the big hoist just about 2 miles out here.
- RM: OK. Where you make that turn to go down to Caselton.
- LS: Before you make the turn you can see it way up in there. I drove a truck that hauled ore over to Caselton. That was after I came back from the service. And I worked as an underground electrician out there for a while. When I came back from the service in '46, I went down to the mill here. I could have taken back my service station, but I didn't. I turned it over to the 2 fellows who were working for me when I went into the service, Bob Hammond and Art Hartley. When I came back in '46, I decided that I didn't want to run a service station, and Charlie Wilson gave me a job down at the mill.
- RM: Oh. This big mill down here?
- LS: Yes the Pioche Mines Consolidated mill. Later they called it the Ely Valley mill; that's where they milled the last ore from that oxide. It was first set up to handle the oxide ores, and then when they went to the sulfides they put in a flotation system. Before, it was all tables.
- RM: Whose operation was that?
- LS: That was Janney's. I kept on doing different things sometimes I'd have to drive trucks and sometimes I was an electrician's helper and sometimes I was the kid running the cutting torch, and other times I was welding and doing mechanical work. Then I helped with the power work. You see, John Janney had the Pioche Power and Light Company, too. He bought it from Reardon, who put it in after the Boulder Dam power came in.
- RM: So it was the 3 plants the plant over here and the plant at the Number One . . .
- LS: There was a little plant up at the Number Three. That was what they called a DeLaverne. It generated all right, but it [only put out] so much, that that's all it could handle. And the power wasn't all around town at that time.

RM: Most people didn't have it?
LS: Yes.
RM: Most people didn't get power until they brought in Boulder Dam power?
LS: Yes. Well, some of them had it.
MS: Jackrabbit produced all of the power for the mines.
LS: Yes, but they brought a line in from Jackrabbit to put this in.
MS: This was before Boulder Dam power came in.
LS: They were producing all of the power for the mine out at Jackrabbit. The Number Three and all that wasn't operating then.
RM: Why was it that nobody ever put a full system in here?
LS: Reardon tried to put it in, but he didn't have enough money; he was just a promoter.
RM: What about phone service?
LS: J. W. Christian put in the first phone service here.
RM: When was that?
MS: It was before we were married.
RM: In the '20s?
LS: Oh, yes.
RM: How deep was the Number One when you were working there?
LS: The 1200 was the lowest one that was working and then they had the skip plate down below and then they had the water.
RM: How deep was the Caselton?
LS: I worked on the 850, and I don't think they got down to 1500 I think they were between 1300 and 1500 feet.
RM: When you were at the bottom of the Number One, where would you be on the Caselton?
LS: I don't know. I believe there wouldn't be too much difference between the 2 bottoms. The water level over at the Caselton would come up to a little below the 850 and the water level at the Number One was

just below the 1200.

RM: Are the Number Three and some of those other mines hooked into the Number One and the Caselton workings?

LS: No. You could go from the Number One to the Number Three, but I don't know whether they went to the Number Five or the Number Seven. They could have been all interconnected, but I'm not sure. I know that the one from the Number One to the Number Three was.

RM: Why did they name those mines numbers? Why didn't they name them the Daisy Bell and Get Rich Quick or something?

LS: Well [chuckles], I don't know. I could never figure it out. They had Number One and Number Three and Number Five and Number Seven . . . it seems like they were all odd numbers.

RM: What was the biggest producer here?

LS: I would say the Number One. But in the early days, I don't know how much came out of the Raymond-Ely extension that's where the Number Three was. They had a mill at Hiko, and the first silver was out at Irish Mountain. And then Raymond and Ely hit this one up here and they brought the mill in here. There's a good picture of the old original mill in that book. It was all gone when I was just a kid.

RM: So you went into the service in '44. Where did they send you?

LS: I went to Salt Lake, to Fort Douglas. I was at Fort Douglas for about a week and then I went to Fort Sam Houston and from Sam Houston I went up to Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis and from St. Louis I went to New York and shipped out. I was overseas for 2 years.

RM: Whereabouts, in Europe?

LS: Most of my time was spent at Liège, Belgium. I worked at Nigen. [Before the service] I did everything but telephone communication. I tried to get into the motor pool, but no, they didn't want me in the motor pool, so they put me in communications. [Chuckles] When I first went over I was at Nastrik, Holland, for a while, and then Liège, Belgium, and then Marseilles, France that's where I shipped out from, coming home.

MS: Weren't you in the Battle of the Bulge?

LS: I was in the Battle of the Bulge, yes.

RM: What were you doing there?

LS: I was in their communications . . . I was up at Tripoints. I was up there [chuckles] when all of the Germans started the bombardment, but I was behind the firing. And they ran us this Tripoints about the edge, away from there. It wasn't the army that ran it out, it was the shooting and the buzz bombs. Down there in Liège for quite a while we had those buzz bombs. The only other time I was in Germany was when I went over to a town where we'd buy beer by the barrel. It was good beer draft beer.

RM: When did they ship you out of Europe?
LS: I volunteered for induction in December and they accepted me and I came back here and went into the service on January 15th in '44. And I got back here on January 6, 1946.
RM: Did you miss Pioche a lot while you were gone?
LS: Yes, you bet I did.
RM: So you came back to Pioche after you got out.
LS: Yes. My wife was waiting for me when I got back.
RM: You had children by then, didn't you?
LS: We had one boy when I went into the service.
RM: Why did they take you if you had kids?
LS: I volunteered for induction.
MS: His dad was on the draft board and he didn't want to put him on the spot.
RM: But they didn't take men with children, did they?
LS: Oh, yes. There were quite a few of them with children.
RM: Mary, tell us a little bit about rationing during World War II here in Pioche.
MS: There was sugar rationing, cigarette rationing . . . I used to send the cigarettes to Scotty. What did you trade cigarettes for?
LS: Oh [chuckles], you could trade cigarettes for everything over there, cigarettes and soap.
RM: What could you get?
LS: We could get canned fruit and everything and anything. And a lot of people wanted to buy different things over there to send home, and you could use those cigarettes as an exchange. I traded Kool cigarettes to my buddy [chuckles], old Homer Huchting. He's still alive. I still correspond with him. Two or 3 of my old buddies are still alive, but most of them are gone.
RM: And you said when you got back you gave up the station . . .
LS: I gave up the station and I went to work for the Ely Valley Mine mill down here. I drove truck and did electrical work and also worked for the Pioche Power and Light off and on. I worked down there till 1952, when I took over as manager of the Pioche Power and Light Company.
RM: Did you supply Eagle Valley?
LS: No. That comes out under the Lincoln County Power District. All we served was Pioche.
RM: What were your activities with the light company?
LS: I was a manager and I had one helper with me. We did all the repair work on the lines and served all of the customers.
RM: So you kind of got to know everybody in town, probably.
LS: Oh, yes. You bet. [Chuckles] Well, I knew everybody before, being a local person. And I had that service station. I had a real good clientele when I had that.
RM: Why didn't you want the service station when you came back?

LS: I wanted to have more time with my family. I was there practically 16 hours a day. When we first started out, I'd go to work at 6:00; I didn't even cook breakfast here. I'd go uptown and buy my breakfast and watch the service station from the cafe. [If there was a customer I didn't even eat breakfast.] (That's where the Silver Cafe is right now.) I'd go to work at 6:00 in the morning and sometimes it was 10:00 or 11:00 at night before I'd get home. I would get a chance sometimes to come home and have lunch or dinner. After it got organized I did have 4 boys to help me. She was the one who made the business for me. She wrote what they call "Scotty's Columnn."

RM: For the paper?

LS: Yes. Boy, I'm telling you, she is one of the best.

RM: Are you a good writer, Mary?

LS: You bet she was. And if she hadn't married me, I think she could have been a great writer. She had some of the best articles that you ever saw in "Scotty's Columnn."

RM: Are they available? I'd like to get copies of them.

MS: Yes.

RM: That'd be great.

LS: I had 4 boys working for me at that time. I was pretty good about giving the younger kids a chance. Johnny Franks worked for me, and Albert Cottino and Kenneth Olinghouse and Dick Lindsay. They were high school kids I'd give them jobs, you know, and they'd open up. Then Bob Hammond and Art Hartley went to work for me.

RM: How long did you work down at the mill, then?

LS: Five years. They shut it down in '52. I worked there until the superintendent took a job out at Timpahute. I moved up here and took over the power and light company and he took 2 or 3 of his men with him out there.

RM: So Timpahute was opening up and taking miners and others from here.

LS: Yes that was the tungsten operation out there.

RM: Could you describe the mill down there?

LS: The first process was the crusher, where they crushed the ore.

RM: Then did they run it through a ball mill?

LS: Yes, they had 2 ball mills one major and one minor. They'd run the big [material] through the big ball mill and then it would go into the smaller, and when it was all crushed it went onto the tables. That was in the early ones, before I was down there. They had a big fire down there and they burned up at one time. Somebody said they set it on fire, but I don't know the truth of it. [This was before I worked there.] After that, they rebuilt it and made it into a sulphide mill, and they put in tables and the flotation. They ran the concentrates out and loaded them onto the railroad down there. They'd made a spur to the mill.

RM: And then where would they ship the con[centrates]? To Salt Lake?

LS: I guess they went to the American Smelting and Refining Company there.

RM: Did Timpahute take quite a few people from Pioche?

LS: Yes, most of them were from Pioche.

RM: Did it make a dent in the mining population here?

LS: Most of the mining operations were closed down about that time, so a lot of miners went from there. And they took Eddie Woods he was the office manager for the Ely Valley Mine. They took Charlie Wilson, the electrician out there, and 2 or 3 of the mine shifters and mine formers, and a lot of the workers, like Jim Deck and Fred Davidson.

RM: My dad worked out there during the '50s.

LS: He probably knew quite a few of them.

RM: I imagine he did, yes.

LS: He probably knew Charlie and Eddie Woods and . . . who was the one who ran the boardinghouse?

MS: Miss Wilkinson?

RM: Yes, he got snowed out of his mine in Reveille Valley one winter and had to go to work at Timpahute. [Laughter]

LS: That was a good outfit to work for that was Wah Chang.

RM: Did you know Koyne?

MS: Yes.

LS: You bet I knew Koyne.

RM: Tell me about him.

MS: We bought our property from him.

RM: Is he a Pioche . . . ?

LS: He was not a Pioche person, but he leased my dad's property. My dad had property on the south end of the Timpahute Range, and he had a lease with my dad for several years. After Dad died, I took the lease away from him because he was just a promoter he was about the only one who made money out of some of it, I guess.

RM: What was the name of the mine?

LS: Did we ever have a name for it?

MS: Timpahute? That's all I know it by.

LS: No, they just took the mining claims out there the north and south drifts were mining claims. I finally took the lease away from him and sold the property to a fellow by the name of Reland Johnson. When he was a kid he worked out there in the place where Dad's property was. Dad had 2 groups of claims out there and they were all patented. I sold it to this fellow and he did pretty well with it until the price of silver went to pieces.

RM: It was a silver mine?

LS: Yes. Old Wesley Koyne had property up in around Timpahute, too he and his wife, Eva Koyne. She wrote a book about that.

RM: I've seen it, yes.

LS: Dad liked him. He was a sort of likable sort of person.

And Dad let him get away with a lot of stuff. Dad owned a half-interest in it and some fellow back east owned a half-interest in it. Dad owned it first, but for some reason or another he gave a half-interest to this fellow back east. One time I said to Dad, "Well, Dad, let's get this in one outfit. You offer your half to him for \$1000, or I'll give him \$1000 for his interest." And by golly, he took me up on it, so I bought his interest.

RM: So you ended up with all of it?

LS: I ended up with half of it. When Dad died, Donald and Dorothy, my brother and sister who are twins, came in. Dad had turned everything over to me and I was to distribute it, so that's what I did. When I sold the property, each one of us had a third interest. But then, I had a half plus a third. But I divided it up with Don and Dorothy and settled everything. And when I sold the office, I gave them their share of it and everything. There were no problems.

But old Koyné, he promoted it and got it into a lawsuit down in Vegas. Dad finally got it out of that lawsuit, but Koyné . . . well, he was pretty sharp. His wife died, but he's still out there. He lives down at what they call the pump station, down where they put in the pumps for the water up to Wah Chang's.

RM: Oh, he didn't live at that mill across the street from Rachel?

LS: Oh, he had that. That was his.

CHAPTER NINE

- RM: What was Pioche like in the '50s, after the mines closed down and things opened up at Timpahute?
- LS: It was pretty quiet here in Pioche then, but we had the business and the family. Some of the other families stayed here in Pioche till they built housing out at Timpahute. Then they built housing out there. They were nice homes. Wah Chang did that.
- RM: What was it like here in town?
- LS: It was just pretty quiet. There wasn't much going on here at that time.
- RM: What was the next big thing that happened in Pioche after the mines closed down and they opened Timpahute?
- LS: There wasn't a lot going on here. It was just a good old town, that's about all.
- RM: Did anything happen in the '60s, at all?
- LS: The Atlanta did a little work, but it didn't help us any. That was 55 miles out towards Ely. When you got to Pony Springs, you took a road off over into that range of mountains to the east.
- RM: What kind of mine was it?
- LS: It was an open-pit gold mine. Originally it was a mine shaft, but they later went to the open-pit mine. We had the power line from here out to Geyser, then we ran a branch line off from it, from out there at Pony over to Atlanta. They had a pretty good mill out there.
- RM: Pioche is more and more becoming a town for retirees, isn't it?
- LS: And widows. This town has got more widows I think per capita than any town in the country, I think.
- MS: And widowers.
- RM: How do you see the future of Pioche?
- MS: We're going to be here, always.
- LS: I think it's going to be just the same here, I hope. They're trying to get this incinerator over here, and I'm sure hoping they don't get it, because I really don't believe that it would benefit the town that much.
- RM: It would be a terrible thing for the town, I think.
- MS: I think so.
- LS: A lot of people are for it, but . . .
- RM: Why?
- LS: They are people who would benefit from it business-wise or something.
- RM: How many jobs is it supposed to create?
- LS: It's supposed to create about 30 or 40 jobs.
- MS: At the beginning . . .
- LS: But I don't think it would do that much. I can't see how it could. At one time they had a lime operation they put in a lime kiln over at Caselton. That was in the '60s or '70s. That's what they're trying to use to incinerate the

stuff.

RM: What do they want to burn? Toxic waste, isn't it?

LS: Toxic waste, yes.

RM: Oh, that's just sickening. You'll get the toxins if they put it in here, you can believe that.

MS: You bet.

RM: Because they'll lie and tell you anything.

MS: Just like Yucca Mountain.

LS: A lot of people, the commissioners and the district attorney, made a mistake in allowing that there, and it's still in turmoil. They never have really got it settled.

RM: What kind of industry would you like to see come into Pioche, if any?

LS: There's one outfit that came in here, that's farming alfalfa and grain out at Pony Springs, and he put in a plant to handle alfalfa hay and make it into pellets. He's a Hope from over at Enterprise, and the Hope brothers have plenty of money to operate. They've increased their power use out there by quite a bit.

RM: Where is that, out at Rachel?

LS: No, the one at Rachel is a different one. Rachel is taking off from Timpahute. This is out halfway between Pony Springs and Geyser. The one out at Rachel is a pretty good operation too. But that's on the Lincoln County Power District.

RM: Scotty, I'd like to back up now and do what I did with Mary have you tell your name and talk a little bit about your folks and that kind of thing. What's your name as it reads on your birth certificate?

LS: Louis Henry Scott.

RM: And when and where were you born?

LS: I was born in Pioche, Nevada, July 30th, 1911.

RM: And what was your father's name?

LS: Albert Louis Scott. And he was born in New York, July 7, 1879.

RM: New York City or New York state?

LS: That's all I know; just New York.

RM: And what was your mother's name?

LS: My mother's name was Mona Lee Bowling. She was born September the 7th, 1891.

RM: How did your father happen to come out here?

LS: My father studied in foreign countries, and he spoke 6 different languages. He was very well educated. His parents left a trust for his education, and the only way he could get [the money] was through education. When he came back to New York, he came to work as a bookkeeper for Pembroke's Book Company in Salt Lake.

RM: Why did he come out to Salt Lake?

MS: I asked him once. I said, "Grandpa, how come you came from New York out here?"

And he said, "Well, you know the old saying, 'Go west young

man, go west.' "

He never talked much about himself. He was rather like my dad. His parents died when he was 12 years old, and evidently they'd died rather close together. They left him money to be educated, and he was educated abroad.

RM: Were they business people, or . . . ?

MS: I don't know. You'd never get him to talk about his parents.

LS: He never divulged anything about his family or anything.

RM: And what about your mother? How did she get out here?

LS: She was born in Virginia. Her father was a carpenter and he came west the same as the rest of them. He came to Boise, Idaho, and they were there for several years. He was quite a carpenter. And he came here to Fay. Mother waited on tables out there.

RM: Is that right? And her father . . .

LS: He was a carpenter and he built a lot of the buildings out at Fay. There was quite an operation at Fay at one time. That was a gold proposition, too.

RM: How did your parents meet?

LS: Well, Dad had come out to Pioche as an accountant for the Boston-Pioche Mining Company. I just noticed the other day that he got a hoisting license so he could run the hoist at the Boston-Pioche. Mother and Dad met here in Pioche.

MS: And he got his law degree.

LS: After he was here he passed the state bar to practice law.

RM: Did he study law with a local attorney?

LS: I think he had all of the education that he needed I think he just went right in [and took it] because he passed the bar exam in 1915.

RM: How many children did your parents have?

LS: Three boys and one daughter. I have a twin brother and sister. I had a brother who was just a year younger than I. He died when he was 21 years old. It was a sad case. Don and Dorothy, the twins, were born 10 years later, in 1922.

Walter was born in 1912. He had all the education; he studied to be like Dad. He was going to the University of Nevada up in Reno, and taking a correspondence course and teaching. He was a teacher of shorthand and typewriting at Sparks High School and he got pneumonia and his heart gave out on him. But he had all of the qualifications. He was a studious person, altogether different from myself. Had he lived, he would have taken over Dad's business. I never graduated from high school, but Walter did, and he worked for Dad in the office for a year, and learned all the office work and everything. He was very good at shorthand and typing. He was one of the top students down here at Lincoln County High School.

RM: What kind of a practice did your father have here?

LS: He had a good practice. He handled all the legal matters

for the mining people here. He got into politics, too. He was president of the chamber of commerce here for quite a while. His office building was the Commercial Club. They had a food table and card tables and everything down underneath there. He was a very intelligent man. He was county assessor here in the early days he did the assessing on horseback.

RM: Is that right? Would that have been when Clark County was still part of Lincoln County?

LS: No, that was after they split it. And he served as a state senator. He was assemblyman first, and then state senator.

RM: When was this?

MS: It was in the '30s.

LS: He was serving as senator when we were married, in the 1930s. He was very, very, very powerful in the senate. He was against the divorce colony in Reno that hurt him quite a bit. And he was against the 100-car limit for the railroads.

RM: You mean, he was for making it more?

LS: Yes. The railroad wanted a 100-car limit, you see, but the [assembly] cut it down. They couldn't have that many cars. Now we've got it.

RM: Right, they get anything they want.

LS: They get anything they want, and they don't even have the caboose anymore.

RM: How did he vote on legalizing gambling?

MS: He probably was for gambling.

LS: He was quite a gambler himself.

MS: The divorce was what he was against. He worked for the Department of Interior back in Washington, D.C., for about 4 years.

LS: He worked there during the Depression. He had a pretty good job, and while he was back there Senator Key Pittman offered to put his name in for United States Attorney for Nevada. [He didn't get the job,] but they came back here and he had a pretty good clientele from then until his death in 1966.

RM: How about your mother?

LS: She died in 1965. She was very, very active as a news reporter. She wrote the Pioche local news for years.

RM: Is that right? For the Lincoln County Record?

LS: The Pioche Record.

MS: And the Caliente Herald.

RM: What was it like growing up here?

LS: Oh, it was a great life. We had donkeys to ride. And we had quite the marble games; we really had some good marble players here.

RM: What kind of marbles did you play? Did you have the circle?

LS: Yes, we had the circle. Then we had what we called "King's Heaven," or maybe "Nigger's Heaven." You dug about 5 holes

and then you lagged with it, to start out. Then you'd shoot into it, and as you got into the first hole, you'd shoot for the next one, and so on.

RM: And then what, you got to the top hole?

LS: The one who got up there got the marbles.

RM: So the first one to get up there . . .

LS: Would get the marbles. One fellow, Charlie Blake, was a little younger than I was, and he was a shooter. He'd have to spot us so many before we'd play with him. If we were playing for 3 or 4 onyxes, he'd have to spot 2 or 3 more because he was a shooting son-of-a-gun. Then we had what they called a "flint." They were beautiful.

RM: Were they agate shooters?

LS: Yes.

RM: That was the prize, wasn't it?

LS: Yes. And then we had a lot of good snow sledding.

RM: You got more snow, didn't you?

LS: Oh, we had snow here from the last of September until April. You'd never see dry ground here like you do now. We didn't have any plowed roads, either. Old Walker Lee had a couple of horses, and he had a sleigh, and Montgomerys had mules.

RM: What was Montgomery's first name?

LS: I know Percy Montgomery, but I can't remember the old man's name. Old Walker Lee had a coal yard here, I believe. He was right next to Chinatown. He had quite a yard there, with the horses. We had lots of fun with the donkeys in the summertime. It was a good place to grow up. We had 8 grades at the school the first and second were in one, then the third and fourth, fifth and sixth and then seventh and eighth; 2 classes in each group. Then for high school we went down to Panaca.

RM: They never had a high school here?

LS: I don't think we had a high school here.

RM: Even now?

LS: No. They finally got one over at Alamo; Alamo used to come to Panaca for high school.

RM: When people here went down to Panaca did they ride the bus or did they have to stay there?

LS: We had a bus that ran from here. I drove the bus for one year. We had old Dodge Graham as the driver when I was going there. The bus has run as long as I can remember. I used to miss the bus so I could take Dad's car to go down there. [Laughs]

RM: Did you have a lot of dances and things like that?

LS: We used to have a Saturday night dance up here that was really good. And we had all of the high school dances there, like the junior prom and the senior prom. And they had other dances during the summer.

RM: What about the movie theater? When did that open?

LS: They called it the electric movies, and it was open when I

was just a kid. I can remember when they had old Art Acord serials. Art Acord was kind of an actor in Hollywood. He married one of E. L. Nores's daughters from here Art Acord was one of those fellows who really whirled that rope.

RM: Was E. L. Nores a local person or a Hollywood person?

MS: He was from California.

LS: He had a wife who had a lot of money, and he came in here and bought a ranch. I remember his son, Richard (Dick) Nores. He bought this ranch out here and Art came there.

He was quite a movie man. Nores stayed here he opened a drugstore here. Didn't he have control of the Pioche Record also?

MS: Yes, he had Pioche Record and he also ran for either assemblyman or senator.

LS: And he was mixed up with . . .

MS: Benny Binion?

LS: Yes, down in Vegas. He had a car, and we called it the "Binion V-8" because Benny Binion bought it for him. He was in the legislature, and I think he got mixed up with old Benny Binion down here.

RM: So he was taking care of business for Binion?

LS: We always thought that.

MS: He was always for Pioche, though, and Lincoln County.

LS: Oh, he was a promoter. Boy, he was a promoter.

MS: Always a very great promoter for this area.

LS: Yes, we've had a lot of different characters here through the years.

CHAPTER TEN

- RM: Mary, what was World War II like for the wives who stayed behind?
- MS: I went to work at the courthouse, but I chose my hours because my son was in first grade. I went to work at 9:00 and he got out at 3:00. I would work during the noon hour because he ate lunch at school, so that made up for the extra hour. Then I worked in the assessor's office for a while while Scotty was gone.
- RM: Was it tough in town with all the men gone?
- MS: No, we all had fun. We had a great time down at the courthouse; they were all great people to work with very dedicated officers. They only had one deputy where now they have half a dozen.
- RM: Only one deputy for the town?
- MS: No, one deputy for the offices down there. The town had one sheriff and one deputy. My brother Jack was the sheriff here for 8 years.
- RM: And was he Lincoln County sheriff or the Pioche sheriff?
- MS: Lincoln County. From here he went up to the state prison farm, then he went in as warden. And he spent one year as an assemblyman. He also served as justice of the peace in Pioche.
- Let's see, during the war years there was the rationing. You did without things, but you weren't really deprived; no one suffered.
- LS: You didn't get very much allotment from me, did you?
- MS: No, that's why I was working. It was \$35 a month or something like that.
- RM: And what did you get, Scotty? What was your pay in the military?
- LS: I got about \$25.
- RM: So you didn't have a whole lot of money, either one of you.
- MS: No.
- LS: I never was able to send any home to her. It seems funny that they didn't give more for your dependents, but they didn't at that time.
- RM: What about after the war Mary, what perspective do you have on that?
- MS: I think life just kind of went on, as before. Of course the husbands were home then.
- RM: Were there a lot of men gone during World War II?
- MS: There were quite a few gone from Pioche, yes.
- RM: What role has the incredible development of Vegas played for you folks up here? Vegas starts as this little town down there and suddenly it's a giant mushroom.
- MS: Yes. It's a giant mushroom. Do you think it's growing too fast?
- RM: Oh! It's grown too much, period.
- LS: That's right.

RM: Vegas is ruined, that's what I think.

MS: I was in Vegas in '28 and '29, and it was kind of like Pioche just one big main street. We went down on the train . . .

RM: What do you recall about the '50s in Pioche, Mary?

MS: Oh, the '50s were more or less devoted to our son, who was in high school and on the football team. We went to all the football games and all the school activities and so on.

Bambi McCracken: When did you start writing for the paper?

MS: Oh, you mean "Scotty's Column"? I did it all the time he was in the service station about 5 years.

RM: What about later years the '60s and '70s. Does anything stand out in your mind about Pioche history?

MS: No, not really. I was always interested in the history of Pioche, kind of like my brother Jack.

[Tape is turned off for a while.]

RM: Tell us why they call you "Wormy."

MS: We had a workhorse out at the ranch which had worms, and of course he kept getting poorer and poorer each day. And he was one of my favorite horses. (Of course I loved all the horses. Still do.) When he died I just shed buckets of tears. The other girls and boys were sad too, but I guess I spilled more tears than they did, so they named me "Wormy." They've called me Wormy for I don't know how many years. My brother Jack was named John, and he's called Jack. My next sister was Louise and she is called Sukie. My sister Olympia is called Doc. My brother George is known as Jigger. My next sister is Teadora, and she is known as Dee. My next sister is Josephine Genevieve and she is known as Jo, or Teeter. And my last sister is Esther Catherine, who is known as Pete.

[Tape is turned off for a while.]

MS: When brother Jack left to go to high school, George, a wee lad of probably 11 years of age, became the cowboy in the family. He had been riding and working with the cattle since he was 6 years old, and he was good at it. After several years of riding the ranges with the older cowboys, some of whom chewed tobacco, we'd catch George with a wad stuck in the side of his jaw. He'd wallow it around and spit on every grasshopper he saw. I thought, "Gee, that's looks good; I'd like to try it." So one day while we were fixing fence in the meadow I caused him to let me try it. Boy, was I sick. I lay down in the shade of a tall sagebrush until it was time to go home. I got no sympathy from George, as he had to fix the fence alone. I don't ever remember Dad chewing tobacco he always smoked a pipe and I don't think he knew George chewed until years later.

[Tape is turned off for a while.]

RM: What did you do for Halloween?

MS: I don't think we did anything except just dress up crazy.

The kids dressed up crazy and went to school and we had treats . . .

RM: They'd make their own costumes?

MS: They'd make their own costumes.

RM: Was Halloween always a big day?

MS: Oh, I don't know. The big day was really Arbor Day planting a tree or planting something.

[Tape is turned off for a while.]

MS: Every fall and spring the cowboys from Eagle Valley, Round Valley, Camp Valley, Hamblin Valley and other surrounding areas would bring their chuck wagons and camp at our place for the roundup. My sister and I couldn't wait till they got on their horses and went out after the cattle. Then we would go up and, oh! they made the best stew, and the best baking powder biscuits, baked in the dutch oven. We just couldn't wait to get up there and get into that. My dad caught us one day. He said, "That's probably some of the food that they need for their dinner. You kids shouldn't be up there taking their food. If you want it," he said, "you ask them if you can have it."

In the evenings the cowboys came to our house to visit. I think they were interested, too, in seeing the new schoolteacher. Sometimes one of the cowboys would have a guitar or banjo and we would all sing or recite poetry. At times they cranked up the old Edison phonograph. The cowboys would dance with the teacher and my 2 older sisters, Louise and Doc. We younger ones would sit back in a corner and giggle or poke fun at the way some of them danced of course, out of eyesight and hearing of our parents, for we were taught never to make fun of anyone. How we enjoyed those evenings, listening to the exciting stories of the cowboys' experiences. We learned a lot of the cowboy songs from them.

[Tape is turned off for a while.]

RM: Tell us about building your house here.

MS: When did we build the house?

LS: We moved into it in 1940.

RM: Did you build it yourself, Scotty?

LS: No, Clyde Blackburn and Dee Cottino built it.

RM: They did a good job.

MS: It has a full basement, 2 bedrooms and insulation upstairs, but not on the walls.

RM: So you've been in it for over 50 years?

MS: What do you think it cost?

RM: I haven't the faintest idea.

LS: We built this house for \$5000.

RM: And how long did you live in the one next door?

MS: We moved into that one right after we were married and my son was born over there. We moved in this house the first year he went to school; we were over there . . . we were married in '31, he was born in '35.

RM: Does anyone live in that one now?
LS: No. I used to rent it but I got some bad renters once.
MS: We had some good renters. We had renters one year who raised their own rent. Can you believe that? They didn't think that we were charging enough rent for it.
LS: Now we just use it as sort of a guesthouse.
[Tape is turned off for a while.]
RM: If your brother calls you from Washington . . .
LS: He works in a bank back in Washington, D.C., and he has one of those intercommunication things so that he can contact my sister, and both of them will talk. She lives in Silver Springs, Maryland. So we get to talk with both of them at the same time. And what he asked last time is, "How much snow is on my mountain up there?" When he came out here, I had to take him up to the top of the mountain. We went up there 2 years ago this Thanksgiving and there was over a foot and a half of snow up there.
RM: What's the name of the mountain?
LS: Wilson Creek Mountain.
RM: And you can see it from your living room?
LS: Oh, yes. It's a beautiful mountain.
RM: Are there a lot of deer up there?
LS: There used to be lots of them up there. They've kind of cleaned them out now.
[Tape is turned off for a while.]
RM: You're showing me a picture on your wall of a cabin.
LS: Five of us got together we'd located a spot on White Rock Mountain and we decided we'd build a cabin up there. That was in 1949. We practically carried the Model A up to the site. We went up and looked over the site and everything and decided that's what we wanted. My brother-in-law Jack came and framed all of the timber for the cabin down in his shop. We got an old D-4 Cat, and we built a road up there and built the cabin up there. My brother made an application to BLM for the ground, and they sent in a filing fee and everything, but they didn't pay any attention to it; they sent the check back.
In 1961 we tried to make another application, and they came back and fined us \$40 a year for 8 years and then leased it to us for a 3-year period. We leased it for 3-year periods for \$50 a year up until 1980. Then in '85 they raised it from \$50 to \$113 a year.
And when I went to renew it in 1990, they said that they had to make a survey; they'd have to go up and appraise it. They said, "We'll give you a year extension of \$113." Well, in January of last year, '91, they came back and said, "We want \$216 a year for it, and we want you to post a \$5000 bond." And they had 15 or 20 regulations that we had to adhere to, which we had already done. We took care of this place for 40 years, and it's in the same condition. We have a beautiful place up there, we kept everything

clean and nice, we hauled off the garbage all the time. We left it unlocked all the time that we were up there it was unlocked for the cattlemen or anybody who came along; they could come in there and stay.

RM: What's the status of it now?

LS: Oh, I told them to shove it. They wanted us fellows to put up a \$5000 bond. There are only 3 of us left now, George and Edwin and myself, and no way could we transfer it to our descendants. What the heck are you going to do when they do something like that?

RM: I don't know. More and more people are running into these problems with the BLM.

LS: My wife wrote a letter and we're sending a copy of it to each of our senators and congressmen, and the Sacramento office and Reno office and Ely office of the BLM to tell them just what the . . . it's terrible.

RM: It is.

LS: And all the people would come in. The sign there, if you could read, it says, "Chalet de Hoodi, 1950."

MS: They said the reason we couldn't buy it was because it was too nice a place and it should be open to the public. Well, it's always been open to the public. We've had an artist, we've had cowboys who have stayed there for spring and fall roundup. We've had game wardens who have stayed there, stranded deer hunters, rock hounds, 2 women and 2 children 2 years ago. They went up there and got caught in a snowstorm and couldn't get back down the mountain. So it's been open to the public, and we've abided by all the laws and rules that BLM has ever put out.