

## **ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**NARRATOR:** Lorraine Nugent

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Lorraine Nugent was born March the 14, 1923 on a farm southeast of Cimarron, Kansas, the second of four children. She graduated high school in 1941 and attended Kansas State University and received her teaching certificate. She returned to Cimarron to teach Home Economics in the high school where she continued to teach for twenty-five years. She then retired but she has remained in Cimarron ever since.

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** July 18, 2003

**INTERVIEWER:** Rachel Pederson

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Cimarron, Kansas

**NUMBER OF CASSETTES:** 2 audio cassettes

**LENGTH OF CASSETTES:** 60 min.

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 1 hr. 23 min.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:** Lorraine's family history; Farm life; Electricity and modern appliances in the 1920s and 30s; experiences in elementary and high school; Dust storms; Cimarron's high school band, music program, and school; World War II; Kansas State University and it's campus; Rationing; Differences in healthcare; Girls' sports in the 30s.

**Lorraine Nugent  
Narrator**

**Rachel Pederson  
Interviewer**

**July 18, 2003  
Cimarron, Kansas**

Lorraine Nugent –           **LN**  
Rachel Pederson –           **RP**

**(Beginning of side A, tape A)**

**RP:** It is July the 18, 2003 and I am interviewing Lorraine Nugent. When and where were you born?

**LN:** I was born on a farm in Gray County, eleven miles southeast of Cimarron.

**RP:** And when was that?

**LN:** Uh, March the 14, 1923.

**RP:** You were born on a farm so your parents were farmers.

**LN:** Yes, they built their farm, they built their home and they farmed and uh, much later in life in the early '40s my dad started working in town in the First National Bank.

**RP:** So did you move in town then?

**LN:** No, we stayed on the farm. The farm home that they built in 1921 is still there. My brother and his family moved in after my parents moved to town in 1950 and uh they raised their family there. His name was David [Ellsworth?] Bryan and uh, his wife was Wilma Rose Bryan, (Davis) Bryan, and they raised their family there, Melinda and David Bryan. And now David and his wife live there and they raise their family there so it's gone down to three generations and it's still there and still farming.

**RP:** But your parents were there originally. Where were they from?

**LN:** My parents . . . my mother came from West Virginia when she was seven years old and, and came to Gray County and lived, her, with her parents and they lived six miles east of Cimarron, on highway 50.

**RP:** Why did they come to the middle of no where? Do you know?

**LN:** Well, my . . . They lived in West Virginia and my dad had – my grandfather was named Jefferson Davis Butcher, he had a large family of girls and two boys and he did not want his girls to marry coal miners. And so they came to, out here. They came this far because most of the land was already . . . They purchased their land. It wasn't homesteaded and they purchased as soon as they . . . the further west they come, that's where the land was available. That was my mother's parents. And then my father's parents were from eastern Kansas. They lived in Southeastern Kansas. Their home was in Missouri and their barn was in Kansas so it was right on the line and they moved out here for the same reason and they purchased land south of Cimarron which was close to where my parents built their home. And so they moved here to farm and they moved for the reason that it rain all the time and it washed their crops out and they couldn't get them planted so they wanted to get to a dryer area and they did [laughing].

**RP:** Yeah, no kidding.

**LN:** They come a little further west than they hoped but again they purchased the ground and this is the only . . . This is, they had to come this far to find available land to purchase. So that's why . . . my mother taught school here in Cimarron. Graduated from high school here and taught school here and in Pierceville.

**RP:** What did she teach?

**LN:** She teach, she taught grade school and she didn't teach too many years because she got married and started her family. I was the second of four children.

**RP:** So you have a brother and . . .

**LN:** I have a brother.

**RP:** You do have a brother and there's two more.

**LN:** And two sisters. One is not living. My youngest sister is not living. She uh, thought she'd out live all of us but she got cancer and she died in '98 of esophageal cancer so my sister that is . . . and my brother is deceased. He was Postmaster here in Cimarron and he had a heart attack and died at age sixty.

**RP:** That's interesting.

**LN:** And uh, he is deceased. So I have a sister that lives in Pensacola, Florida and her name is LaVonne (sp?) Marie (Bryan) Carsons and her husband is still living and they travel in their motor home during summer and get back home during our winter months here but of course it's not winter there and they live in Pensacola and we talk to each other two or three times a week and e-mail each other a lot and she is six years younger than I. There's just two of us left now, my sister and my self and she's six years younger. My brother was a year and half older than me. My youngest sister was eight years younger and she is six years younger so we are the only two left and we enjoy each other.

I go down to Florida to visit with her and stay with her some and she comes here. We had a family reunion here just year ago and had the house full of her family. They were going to Denver for a Carsons family reunion - her husband is from Colorado and they all stopped here for a few days so we had air beds and everything all over the place so it was fun.

**RP:** Sounds like a good deal.

**LN:** That's a little bit about my family. My mother and my dad married and she taught school and graduated from high school here and went to Emporia to school before she taught. My dad, he went to business school in Salina and graduated from there. He went to school at Cimarron also. And that's about all, all I can think of right now. They uh, my father lived on a farm and raised the four of us and all four of us went to college. My brother was in World War II and he went to KU and my younger sister Lavonne who lives in Florida went to KU and my youngest sister graduated from KU. I went to K. State all four years and graduated from K. State.

**RP:** The Rebel.

**LN:** Uh-huh. Now I have a nephew that graduated from there, from K. State this year so I'm real proud of him. I had a niece that graduated from Kansas State University a few years back so I got a few of them to go to Kansas State. And uh, I graduated from Kansas States and was going to everything but come back home but I ended up coming back to Cimarron to teach and I hadn't really planned on it but I could get more money here than I could in the towns east of here. And the Superintendent called me while I was senior in Kansas State University and, and I was a graduated in education - home economics and education - and wanted me to teach because they really needed a teacher here. And I didn't take his first offer because I had another offer that was pretty close and I did end up coming to teach here and it was very . . . Let me see. . . It wasn't much compared to what you get today by any means but better than anywhere I could get without going further west so I came here and I did not live at home. I lived in Cimarron. We'd go home on the weekends and ended up getting married that December my first year of teaching over Christmas Vacation and live here ever since, not in this home but in Cimarron.

**RP:** So tell me about the chores you did as a child on the farm.

**LN:** On the farm? My mother always kept us busy when we weren't asleep or eating. My brother helped my father milk cows. He helped him with farming in the fields. We raised wheat mainly. No irrigation then and uh, I helped my mother and my sisters were six and eight years younger so I helped with them. And then when they did get old enough to do anything, they didn't do it because I was around to do it. They didn't do much until I got away and when mother said when I went off to school, was gone, they just took over and could do just as well as I did but they wouldn't it as long as I was around. Uh, we had a garden in the summer time and we had cherry trees. We picked the cherries. I would pick the cherries and my sister Lavonne would make cherry pie

because she'd rather make cherry pie than pick cherries and uh, I would work in the garden with mother and we didn't mow the yard too much then. We kept the weeds down. I don't remember exactly about that . . . And we cleaned house. See I was born in '23. I lived there during the Dirty Thirties and I really, really did clean house, all the time it seemed like. I dusted; I . . . and we did have a pretty modern home for those days. We had a uh. . . I remember, we had a vacuum and I did use a paint brush and a dust pan in the windows. We had a nice home too and we had electric lights. Not like we have today, they were the center of the room, a light would come down. We had a bridge lamp or two and we had one bathroom for six of us. It had all the modern up-to-date facilities but just one. And uh, didn't have that now when I was born but we did later on in the twenties. We improved the electricity and the electricity was generated not but RCA like today but – not by Victory Electric, I should say. It was by a Delco Plant, batteries and an engine that generated electricity and we had to be very conserving and then my father finally got a wind charger so it could supplement the batteries and that way we didn't have to be quite so conservative with turning off the lights which was always turn off the lights and shut the doors. But I did do a lot of house cleaning and I did, I was in 4-H, my brother and I both were so I did do project like they do today.

**RP:** So 4-H has been around for a while.

**LN:** Oh, it's been around . . . I think I joined at age . . . I know I was in at ten. My brother was in, he would, we would both do projects during the summertime. I would do. . . I remember one summer I had a pig and he had a pig. Mine got the blue ribbon and he had done most of the work with it but we had sheep another summer. Each of us had a lamb but most of my projects were gardening or cooking. I baked, I always won blue ribbons or Grand Champions on my angel food cakes and I baked them from scratch. No mixes then.

**RP:** I love Angel Food.

**LN:** So we were busy with 4-H and keeping up the home and, and my mother was in clubs and uh, she would do . . . we all worked together very nicely. We did washing and I remember ironing. Then we ironed. WE didn't have polyester. I remember ironing the Shirley Temple dresses of my two younger sisters and they had real puffy sleeves so I remember . . . You asked me what I do, and that's about the size of what I did. I helped cook, I helped with meal preparation [unclear].

**RP:** So you mentioned washing and ironing. Was that, was that, was that electric then since . . .

**LN:** We had a Maytag washing machine in our basement. Later, now at first, before I was big enough to do much they didn't have... they had the old fashioned tubs that they put around in a hand ringer but we finally got a Maytag when we got electricity. Uh, we even had a yard light but we uh, uh wash our clothes in this Maytag washing machine. It had a ringer that was electric and you run the clothes through that ringer into the first rinse water, then into the ringer it would turn into the next rinse water. Then it would

run, the clothes to be taken out and hung on the line. NO dryer. And uh, when we didn't use that machine for washing clothes we used it for other things.

**RP:** Like what?

**LN:** We, it had . . . you'd take the agitator, you took the agitator out of the washing part of the machine and set this kind of milk can made for it down on the agitator so you filled it full of cream and you made your butter. It turned in, agitated and made butter. And my parents had bought a grinder that they could put on this agitator.

**RP:** That's interesting.

**LN:** And my father, they would butcher a steer or pig and they would grind sausage or hamburger.

**RP:** In the washing machine.

**LN:** I didn't do it, but my, my, but in this . . . not in the washing machine. This grinder was just like a grinder that you turned the crank only the machine turned the crank and you put the meat in with your hands and it, it made hot dogs too but I don't know how to do that. And then it would come out over here into a pan so it would be already ground. It wasn't down in the washing machine.

**RP:** So there was the washing machine --

**LN:** And this grinder had something that set down on agitator but it ground up here. I mean it had. . .

**RP:** So it was like the agitator was like in the center like they are today right.

**LN:** Right. Like they are today.

**RP:** Ok, so there was something that set down on it and then it kind of set on top --

**LN:** Set on top and you put the meat in here (left side of machine) and it ground it and it came over here (right side of machine).

**RP:** Ok, I got you.

**LN:** So it was not down in there. And the same way with the cream that we put in there. The tank of it was like a cream. It set down on the agitator so they used it for lots of things. My parents did. I didn't do that particularly but I would watch them do it and I would help mother with it.

**RP:** So did you have electric ironing too or did you --

**LN:** Uh, I did, the early days I did some ironing with what they called the Sadd iron so that we heat, had to heat on the stove.

**RP:** Was that (the stove) electric?

**LN:** No.

**RP:** No. Ok.

**LN:** That was on a coal burning stove that we heated these on. But that was just very, when I was very young. Then we got an electric iron and uh, we had the regular ironing board and that was when I was ironing the Shirley Temple dresses were with the electric iron. And I ironed my brother's white shirts too. Mother didn't like to do those so she put me . . . I did a pretty good job I guess or she won't let me stay with it so I did do ironing. And we had press, iron more than we do now. We didn't have . . . we had cotton and uh, we, uh in 4-H work I did to sewing and cooking and other things. I took things, I took a project one summer of photography but they didn't have near the projects that they do now, then.

**RP:** Photography, did you have your own camera then?

**LN:** Yes. It was just a box camera. Brownie Box Cameras.

**RP:** The black cameras that have the little fold out lenses that you see?

**LN:** Yes, and you just snap them. It didn't have all the light fixtures and flashes, they didn't have that then but it was a good training project for me because it taught me to center the object and I had some good pictures so I took them to the fair too. And we would go swimming.

**RP:** Where would you go?

**LN:** We came to Cimarron to a swimming pool that was in south Cimarron and it was a free pool and when we went to Dodge we would go to the Dodge City pool so we didn't swim on . . . didn't have any pool on the farm to swim in like they do now but we didn't have anything at home. But I can't think of anything other than that. Oh, my brother and I rode a horse to grade school. I rode the first years of my life on a black pony without a saddle. He and I rode together every day that we had school, five days a week, to and from school. And this school was a country school named Sunnyside.

**RP:** Sunnyside.

**LN:** It was six miles north of Ensign, no it was five miles north of Ensign.

**RP:** How far away from it were you?

**LN:** Two miles and a half. We would go two miles east and a half a mile north, morning and evening on this black pony. And she had been a race horse. She was young yet and she ran pretty fast but we had only a bridle, no saddle.

**RP:** That must have been interesting.

**LN:** My brother would sit in front and I hung on to him and my legs at first would just stick straight out. But we rode morning and evening, to and from, unless . . . even in the dirt storms we did. It wouldn't be dirty when we went in the mornings and then it be bad in the evening and uh, we carried a sack of feed for the horse. It was shaped like an hour glass. We had wheat here (indicating one side) and wheat here (indicating the other) and then it lay over her neck. I don't remember how it hooked on there but it stayed on there. And my brother would feed her and water her at noon. We had a building there at the school that we kept her in, with a manger that they tied her to. We were the only one that had a horse. The rest of them must have walked, I don't know. And he fed her and watered her every noon and we'd ride her home at night. One night, I don't remember. It must have been . . . I must have been in the second or third grade, that would have been . . . We had a nice link, yard fence around our farm. It was very neat, done real nice. Well, the wind was going to come up and get bad that day so my dad didn't want to catch dirt and thistles in this yard fence so he got out, early in the morning and rolled it up, it had to, had to be several big roles because there was a lot of it. Well, that night we couldn't see coming home, it was that dirty. And my brother lay down on the mane of the horse and I lay down on his back and we just hung on and she run and got home. When we came to – we never did raise up and look because we knew she'd take us home. She cut through the yard because the fence was gone and went under the clothes line and you know what that did with us. We ended up on the ground. When we got up and got our bearings, she was drinking out of the horse tank so that was one of the, remember that story about getting peeled off on the, under the clothes line because she cut through the yard. But I did ride a horse for six grades. Then my brother was an eighth grader so we had to go . . . We didn't have any grades any higher. No, we had up to eighth grade at the country but since he had to go to Ensign – we were in the Ensign District. Since he had to go to Ensign to go to junior, to go to high school I went to Ensign too. I was in the seventh and eighth grade.

**RP:** So how far was that –?

**LN:** From our place it was six miles. It was, from Ensign we would go four miles north and two miles west and we drove. And my sisters were getting old enough then to go to school so we drove in a car and uh, we took a neighbor boy, a cousin that lived within a mile with us so that . . . And so my brother [unclear] . . . no, his brother was older so he drove us. We all, there was about four of us, six of us went in the car to Ensign to school. We all went there three years. My two sisters, my youngest sister wasn't old enough but my one that's six years younger than I, she went her first, second, third grade to Ensign and I went my seventh, eighth, and ninth. And uh, they kept promising us that they would get a band and we all had . . . oh, that's something we did growing up. We took piano lessons, all of us did. My brother started when he was five and I started when I

was six and music teacher came by once a week out of Dodge and gave us our piano lesson in our home.

**RP:** So she, she, she traveled then.

**LN:** It was a man. He was a man. His name was Henri (sp?) Robins. He traveled in his car and he preferred pay. Rather than money he preferred chickens, eggs. We gave him money too but if we didn't have . . . but if we had fryers, we gave him fryers. If we had eggs, we gave him eggs.

**RP:** So he preferred that.

**LN:** He preferred that food, because he lived in Dodge and he preferred the farm food. Anything we had. If we had good cream why we could pay him, my parents could. But we took piano lessons, winter and summer when, all time was growing up and uh, my brother was a really good musician and I had two sisters that majored in music. I didn't. But I could always sing pretty well and I could always play piano pretty well, but I didn't major in music. I majored in Home Economics instead because I think I cleaned, spent most of the time cleaning house, cooking. But anyway, uhm, that's another thing that we did. Oh, we went three years. I went seventh, eighth, and ninth grade to Ensign and they kept saying they were going to get a . . . they had vocal teachers but they didn't have a band and they had real good band here in Cimarron and that one fall they didn't have a music teacher, the band teacher from Cimarron came out to our home. He needed band members and he recruited all four of us because my youngest sister was in grade school then and she played a little pipette thing and we uh turned around, turned our car around and came to Cimarron. We were in that district, the Ensign district and my brother and I could go to high school without any expense, without any added expense but my two sisters had to pay tuition because they were grade school and to go to grade school out of district you had to pay tuition to that district. I don't know when that stopped. It probably stopped with Ensign and Cimarron . . .

**RP:** Kind of interesting.

**LN:** But they paid tuition if you went out of the district. I don't know how much it was but anyway, a dollar then, you know every dollar counted but uh, we came to Cimarron then. I came and went and graduated from Cimarron. I came here my sophomore, junior and senior year. My brother only went his senior year and my sister Lavonne went from fourth grade on here and my sister Joyce went from about second grade on here, maybe first. I can't remember but that's how we got to Cimarron and then while I was, and then I taught school here after I graduated from college and we finally got the two districts joined. Any other questions? I've just rattled on and on enough.

**RP:** So, you mentioned the Dirty Thirties, you mentioned the Depression . . .

**LN:** Oh, when we came to school here that year, they needed a band, needed to get a good sized band because the band was going to go Kansas City that year to the American [unclear].

**RP:** To the American What?

**LN:** Royal, I think they called it.

**RP:** Rural?

**LN:** R-O-Y-A-L.

**RP:** Ok, royal.

**LN:** And we went to Dodge City Days that year. We marched doing . . . oh, what was it . . . the movies, was it Dodge City? Oh, dear [unclear]. Anyway the band went to Dodge City and we marched up and down the streets from north side of Dodge clear to the park south side of part of, in that year. We went to Hutchinson State Fair that fall and we went to the American Royal sometime during that year. But we, my brother played the trombone, since we had music all along. He played the trombone and I had a clarinet and we got to go on the band trips that first year we came to Cimarron school.

**RP:** You went on quite a few band trips then.

**LN:** Uh-huh, we did back in those days. Even, even when I was teaching the band would go to, like KU and play during the half of the football games and things like that. They don't do that much anymore. It's too expensive I imagine.

**RP:** Now, when you were younger though, that was still in the middle of the Depression.

**LN:** Well, the depression was over.

**RP:** It was kind of over.

**LN:** It was in . . . '30, '32, '33, '34 it was over. I graduated from high school in '41 and it was over then. Oh, we weren't . . . it was just like typical farmers. They have better income some years than others so it was . . . but my dad did, I don't know how he did but he managed to get us. . . We didn't have scholarships to go on then like you do now. We didn't have the scholarships. We worked while we were going to school. We worked at the colleges, all of us did, yet we made it.

**RP:** So do you remember jackrabbit drives?

**LN:** Remember, I was quite young. I remember them organizing them and we, I remember two or three but I did not, I was too young to help in them but I do remember the jackrabbit drives. The men did, the grown-ups.

**RP:** Tell me a little bit about World War II.

**LN:** Two? Uhm, my main memories was, I was a freshman in college at K. State, Kansas State University and on December the seventh, 1941 was when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and it was a Sunday and I was riding in a red convertible.

**RP:** Was it yours?

**LN:** No, heavens no. I didn't even own a car. We didn't own cars then, uh but this couple was seniors in college. . .

**(End of Side A, Tape A. Beginning of Side B, Tape A)**

**LN:** During World War II, on that Sunday, December seventh, 1941, uhm, two college seniors – they had, he had the convertible, and they were going to be married after graduation. And uh, a friend of mine and myself was out riding around and we went to early church and uh after church we were stopped at a filling station because we were going to go for a drive and we had to fill up with gas and we had the radio on. And uh, well, then you didn't fill your own tank. The station attendant filled it. While they were filling our car we had the radio on and they announced that Pearl Harbor had been hit and it was about, I think around eleven o'clock in the morning. And uh, needless to say, we did not . . . and they went on and told about what was going to be rationed. Gas was going to be rationed. Sugar was going to be rationed. Shoes were going to be rationed. These things affected me see. Tires . . . there were several other things to that we had to . . . that were going to be rationed so we just drove the car and they brought us, took us home and they didn't go for our drive that day. And that was the first experience, and we all had radios at school so we could listen. We didn't have any televisions. We had newspapers and uh, I took a history course – that was my freshman year – and I was taking this one hour history course and our text book was Time magazine and we had to keep on the war by radio and by reading the magazine and we had to report what Time magazine. The class only met once a week so, but that's how we kept up on the war as college students was reading the newspapers and radio and uh magazines. And uh FDR (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) was president of course. But I went, I wanted to quit school my third year and join the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) or something because I wanted to travel.

**RP:** Join the WAVES?

**LN:** That was the women Navy people. But my brother was drafted and he was already in the Navy because he was through college at KU and uh, he talked, he talked me out of it. He did not want . . . he wanted me to finish school and my parents wanted me to finish school so I didn't go but I wanted to stop and see the world, I guess. So I didn't have the true picture of what war was at that time but I did uh . . . when I, I, I started out as a freshman year with, in all my classes were about half boys and half girls. By Christmas

or by second semester I went to Biology classes and Chemistry classes . . . the boys were gone.

**RP:** It must have been hard.

**LN:** Yeah, they were gone the second semester of college. And that was December see and the second semester then, was in January, started the second week in January. The boys were gone, all but one or two here or there that maybe were unable to go, physically or something and uh, then the ROTC started up that was on the campus.

**RP:** ROTC, what does that stand for?

**LN:** I can't tell you. They were in uniform, army uniform. They were training and they were college students that were in the army but they were – I don't know exactly but . . . I don't know that part of it. I should. But they marched to classes in uniform and we would have to get off the sidewalks to for them to go by and I knew some students. I know two of them – they were all men – were from Ensign and I knew them school, Ensign. They didn't dare move a hand or something but if I'd see them pass, and I'd watch for them and they'd look at me and smile and they'd go on and I'd wave but they didn't. But uh, they were in school, in college but they were already, that meant that they went, they had joined the army but they had not been drafted yet. Maybe they got to finish college or something like that, the men would know more about that. But anyway that was the way - and I went to school all during World War II – and my senior year it almost turned into a girls' school. My senior year the boys started coming back and some of the boy that were in my English classes, Literature classes when I was a freshman were coming back. I was a senior and they were coming back to college to finish, so it was nice to see them again. And then I taught my first year of school in Cimarron. Uh, I started December, I mean September, 1946. Oh, I forgot something.

**RP:** Ok.

**LN:** I stopped two years. I went my freshman, sophomore year in college and when I wanted to join the WAVES, I stopped that winter and didn't go back to school but I taught school. They needed a teacher at Montezuma and I taught fifth grade in Montezuma and uh, I had the necessary courses then as a grade school teacher. They gave emergency certificates because they could not find enough teachers.

**RP:** That was because of the war.

**LN:** Uh-huh. So I had an emergency teacher, a certificate. I had had the psychology courses and the, different courses that were required for this emergency certificate with two years of college. So I taught fifth grade. I do think I learned more that winter than I did when I was a fifth grader for sure. And I learned how to handle young children and I thoroughly enjoyed them. That's when I did decide to make my major education. That's how come I decided to be a teacher. I wasn't sure what I was going to be and I did enjoy the kids, the fifth graders. And uh, they brought me an apple, put it on my desk every

morning. Now they didn't do that when I came back to teach as a high school teacher. I didn't get any apples but I didn't like the grade school. Now lived in Montezuma during the week and would come home on weekends. I didn't have a car. There was a teacher in Cimarron, her name was Mary Holland. She taught in Montezuma also. She was an older lady – like me – and she taught in the grade school also but she uh . . . I would come to town. My dad was in the First National Bank, and I would come to town with him on Monday morning, get in a car with her, and go to Montezuma to school, to teach. So I taught that winter. Stay there five days, come home every weekend. Taught that nine months and two days after the last day of school I was back to Manhattan, enrolled in summer school, for they only run an eight week session then during the war. They didn't run, run all summer, just eight weeks so I had to be there to Monday and I enrolled in two courses: Family Finance and Physics that summer and I went to school for eight weeks and then I was back home. And uh, that winter I was back at Manhattan and I finished up then so it did take me about five years to get through school.

**RP:** I was going to say, I was counting up, I'm like, "You were a senior after . . ."

**LN:** Yeah, uh, my senior year then was 1946 and I started teaching in Cimarron September of '46.

**RP:** So you lived . . . spent time at college as well as at home during the war. How . . . was there a big difference between the two? How the war effect people at college between . . . at home?

**LN:** I think it affected people other than taking students out of college like the boys . . . particularly men. Now there were some women. There were some women who actually joined the WAVES or the WACs (Women Army Corps). The WACs were the uh . . .

**RP:** WACs? W-A-X?

**LN:** I don't know how, no it'd be C-K. They were the Army and the WAVES were the Navy women. And I, there was some that went to the service.

**RP:** So those women, they joined. What did they do then?

**LN:** Oh, they went to the service and probably were nurses or . . . probably nurses or . . . I don't . . . I think mainly nurses to take care of . . .

**RP:** So the army trained them then as nurses.

**LN:** Uh-huh. I imagine they were trained as nurses and uh, they were in, they were in the service just like they are today but there wasn't near as many. Uhm, then we . . . What did we, did we, there was something I was going to tell you. What did we do at home? How did it affect us? When I came home, it effected because we couldn't . . . we had a rationed amount of gas. I remember the things that I couldn't; we couldn't drive back and forth to school. We had to go . . . I took public transportation like a Greyhound

bus to come home for vacations like Christmas and holidays and Easter. Thanksgiving, you never got home because they cut the college year shorter too. They didn't give you the number of years (days) of vacation that they did normally. Thanksgiving . . . two years I know I didn't get home because they only gave Thursday and Friday off and the time I got home and got back; I couldn't make it you know. Uh, well, we didn't have, I remember one year we didn't get home so we just got evidently Thursday off and then went back to school. Uh, it effected transportation because of tires rationing, fuel rationing. Oh, another thing that really affected me was you had . . . then you wore hose when you dressed up. No nylons. Had to be back to rayons. Well, rayon would not stay up and we didn't have panty hose then so we painted our legs and hose at that time had a seam up the center in the back and we took eye-brow pencil and drew a line up the center of the back of our leg. We didn't have jeans then. We wore dresses and skirts, sweaters and skirts to college and saddles and anklets, saddle shoes. And at home, affected at home, it affected fuel and tires. I know my mother gave me a shoe stamp to get a new pair of shoes because I didn't have any dress shoes. And I bought a good pair of shoes in Manhattan. I paid what I thought was a pretty good price for them. With her coupon.

**RP:** How much did you pay?

**LN:** Oh, probably fifteen dollars, maybe twenty. They were cheap then. And I wore them to church on Sunday. And we had to walk home because I didn't have a car. College students took a bus and so instead of taking the bus that day – it cost ten cents to get on the bus to get back to the college campus – we decided to walk through the park. Well, it started raining and I walked in water. The shoe soles instead of leather were paper, cardboard.

**RP:** They were paper?

**LN:** Card board. Yeah, cardboard.

**RP:** Oh, no.

**LN:** So my shoe stamp that my mother gave me that hers and I used it for my dress shoes. They looked good but the soles were made of cardboard instead of leather. So you see it affected a lot of things. So that was wasted money and stamp and so the main thing they wore were saddle oxfords. When I started teaching I even started in bobby socks and flat shoes. And it affected meat. They used, started using soy beans for protein instead of meat and soy beans is still very good protein. We use them more today than we did then. And it affected the things you could buy in your grocery store. Sugar was rationed and that effects a lot of people, you know, sugar does. And that cut down on baking, cut down on any thing sweet. And that's my main memories of it.

**RP:** Did you eat in the cafeteria?

**LN:** At college? Yes. We had a college cafeteria on the campus. I did not have a cooking facility. I did not cook. I ate at restaurants too. It was more social thing – and

the college cafeteria. We didn't cook at home like they do now. We didn't have cooking facilities.

**RP:** So tell me about teaching in Cimarron a little bit.

**LN:** It was a very good experience. I enjoyed it. I should, I taught long enough. I taught a total of twenty-four years in Cimarron. With my year in Montezuma it was twenty-five. I was, I taught here the longest of any teacher in the Cimarron High School until the last group of teachers. There's several that taught longer than I did, because I taught twenty-four years here and Janet Beery taught longer than I did and uh, I can't go ahead and name others but anyway, there's several, two . . . a couple three maybe that taught longer than I did. Sue Getcher for instance. I can call them off, they taught longer than I did but up until then I had taught here the longest. I taught . . . when I started teaching, I taught just the course of Chemistry to boys and girls because I had a lot of Chemistry in my field at K. State and Physics but gradually I got . . . also taught girls phys. Ed. because I kind of minored in physical Education.

**RP:** So the girls and guys were separated then.

**LN:** OH, yes. Oh, I guess you'd say they were separated, just like they are in high school now. They've had . . . But they still had their courses together like English.

**RP:** Well, I meant Phys. Ed.

**LN:** Yeah. Phys Ed was separated, yes. We had just girls physical Ed. . . . It wasn't necessarily basketball like it is today. We played, for physical education in nice weather, we had softball outside. In the wintertime we had what we called Quoite (?) tennis and volleyball.

**RP:** Quoite tennis?

**LN:** It was round, donut thing and you threw it over the net.

**RP:** Ok. You just caught it and . . .

**LN:** Yeah, kind of like volleyball. And you see, we played softball and I taught uh physical exercises, what we call today gymnastics. That was only the first year and I was spread too thin with the Home Economics and the . . . it was vocational and with the . . . I taught junior, seventh and eighth grade when I started and ninth and tenth is all. But I finally got the courses . . . so I still taught seventh and eighth grade just one semester but I taught sophomore, juniors, and seniors . . . freshman, sophomore, junior and senior girls, not just sophomore, freshman and sophomore. And then I taught family living for boys, mixed class of boys and girls.

**RP:** That's kind of Home Ec. isn't it?

**LN:** Well it was typically . . . I taught it in a classroom in the high school. It was not in the home economics laboratory or in the kitchen. It was just a book test. However I did teach . . . The industrial arts teacher would take my girls for a semester and I would take a class of his boys for a semester and we would – maybe it wasn't for a whole semester, maybe it was just six weeks – and he would teach the girls things like they should know in his class like how to fix electrical hook-ups and things and I would teach the boys how to, to uh, I'd have them make an apron to work in the kitchen just to teach them how to use the sewing machine so they could sew up their pants but the main thing they were interested in was cooking. So I would teach them some foods but in the . . . I teach them some sewing. They wanted to know how the machine worked and we didn't have computerized sewing machines then. And they would take them apart and put them back together because they wanted to find out how, why they worked. If they didn't work right and if they didn't sew, they couldn't figure out why and they were machines that you could take apart and put back together then and they would do that, like taking a car apart you know. They thoroughly enjoyed it and they'd oil them and everything and then if it didn't sew they would find out why it didn't sew then. The girls didn't care that much. They would take my word for it. But I enjoyed teaching students. I enjoyed seeing them learn and I stayed after school with students and helped them with projects and they came here. We had FHA then. We had slumber parties. They'd come here and have slumber parties here and we'd sleep out in the yard and we sleep upstairs, we'd sleep everywhere with bags and we'd plan our program every year and we'd come here have a slumber party and stay all night and plan our program. I had lots of students that I worked, that I bowled with after I quit teaching. I quit, the final year I finally quit in 1972.

**RP:** When did you stop teaching Chemistry and Physics?

**LN:** Oh, I didn't teach that more than a couple years. Uh, we needed to have it here but we couldn't get enough enrollment because they did [unclear] to difficult a subject. I don't know if they still have it or not.

**RP:** They do.

**LN:** I think they do now. I said, I told them, "We need science, other than Biology." Because when I went to K. State, they stuck me in a Chemistry class, General Chemistry first semester. I didn't know a pipette from a test tube hardly and I said, "We need to teach these kids science." Because if you go, if you go into anything to be a science teacher or if you go into, a lot of courses if you want to become a doctor of any kind, you need your science and today it's very important. I taught the girls a lot of nutrition. In fact, I was a dietician. I really enjoyed dietetics and I taught them dietetics from A to Z and I enjoyed teaching, and I enjoyed the clothing work but Home Economics wasn't just cooking and sewing. It was family living, management, child care. Uh, it was just family living, everything you experience . . . in fact we'd spent a eight week session of sewing and maybe eight weeks of cooking and the rest of the time was in home management, family living see so it wasn't just cooking and sewing as people often think it is but it was always fun and a teacher could make it challenging if she wanted too. I

always tried to keep from getting bored myself so I tried to keep in challenging for the student, and that's about it. I did quit in '72. My daughter graduated from high school in '73 and she got to go to school a year without momma being up there and she thought she would enjoy that and she found it didn't make much difference.

**RP:** So Cimarron was without a science program.

**LN:** They didn't have anything, even when I graduated from here. I only took uh algebra. We didn't have any Chemistry. We had biology . . . I can't remember what else we had. We didn't have any Chemistry or Physics. We had Biology and General Science when you were freshman and that was all.

**RP:** So even when you were teaching they didn't have any science.

**LN:** They didn't. Well, they had this General –

**RP:** Well, they didn't have Chemistry, Physics.

**LN:** No. I taught just a semester of Chemistry, and they didn't have for quite a while even after I quit because I had too many other fields to . . . They finally got it incorporated over a period of years but they finally had to do it because of necessity to get these students educated to go off into college for . . . Well, they started having to have it when they started setting prerequisites for college. That's when it had to come in and it was a good thing. It was a good thing. Because you def . . . I went down there and, my freshman year and I had to take Physics... not my freshman year but through school and I found out I really liked Chemistry. I like science. In fact, Home Economics is science, largely. Look at all the science connected with foods and the science of clothing, fabrics, all the textiles now. At first we used just to have wool, cotton, linen and silk. See, wool and cotton are animal fibers. Linen is a plant and uh, silk is animal and wool is animal and cotton is plant fibers, linen and cotton. And that's what we had. And when I was in my latter years of college we started getting . . . Well, we had rayon and we got nylon. We were wearing nylon hose when we started to college so, and that's science see. And uh, it involves, science covers a lot of territory. Dietetics and food, a lot of science in food, so I think it's very important for everybody to have an education. What are you taking?

**RP:** I am studying Humanities mostly.

**LN:** Well, that's good. Well, that's what I called my Family Living: Humanities courses.

**RP:** I'm taking a lot of literature, and theater courses.

**LN:** I think that's good, dramatics.

**RP:** . . . and Bible courses . . .

**LN:** And that something that you need.

**RP:** Coming this fall I'll be taking uhm . . . A and P, Anatomy and Physiology.

**LN:** Now Physiology was another course that I really enjoyed. I enjoyed health courses. Even today, my reading, I like to read, you know, science and doctors and horses. I just like to read and keep up on all those things.

**RP:** Well, you read now. How is what, you know, what we know now different than what you had, what you learned –

**LN:** But yet you know I taught the girls what wasn't considered important back then in every day life. But I knew it, we knew it. We had it in our teaching in school but it wasn't considered important, like a balanced diet. Just so you got full, you know. Didn't realize that too much protein wasn't good for you, or too much of anything isn't good for you. You need a balance between the different nutrients. And the public is much more educated about it now then they were then. You talked to some people, they just said I just poked nutrition and science down their throat and they'll, but now they say, "Now we see why." But then they didn't so it's, it's come to it. But I think if your going to school and your getting your Humanities courses you're getting a balanced education.

**RP:** I'm also taking some EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) courses in the fall.

**LN:** Oh, yes. I had to take nursing course in Home Economics. I spent a whole semester working in the hospital, one day a week.

**RP:** That's interesting.

**LN:** And I spent a day a week cooking in a high school lunch, at K, at Manhattan, just to see what it was like. On hands doing, you know. Of course the cooks gave me the jobs they didn't like to do. Oh, another way that World War II affected . . . it brought margarine into the picture because I was working in the high school and they gave us all this big chunks of white stuff. It looked like lard and they had me put into this mixer, big mixer like this and pour this yellow food coloring in it and then I would dish it up and put it on the tables as margarine. And that's what margarine was. It looked just like Crisco. White Crisco and then we put the coloring in it and then we dished it up in these bowls and put it on the tables at the lunches for the noon meals. That's when margarine came in was during World War II.

**RP:** Why was that? Just because of the rationing?

**LN:** Animal fats. It was cheaper and uh, I don't know. Butter was more expensive I suppose but that's what we feed the high, kids at grade school. But then after years later they started making into sticks like your butter. It is just nothing butter. It's vegetable oil. You see, it's the fat out of vegetables instead of animals. That was [unclear]. Use of

soy beans as human consumption started in World War II. Soy beans contained complete protein.

**RP:** Before it was just animal consumption?

**LN:** Animal consumption. Peanuts are vegetable and soy beans are vegetable and are complete proteins like your animal proteins and they started using them in World War II because meat was a commodity that was rationed also.

**RP:** Really.

**LN:** Yeah, I forgot. It was rationed. You could only have, go to the grocery store and you only had so many coupons or whatever you call them that you could buy meat with so they had to get protein other ways. That would be the vegetable sources. So that's what the, World War II did bring out the use of soy beans and your vegetable oils for human consumption. You see now all our oils are . . .

**(End of Side B, Tape A. Beginning of Side A, Tape B)**

**LN:** . . . cheaper and we found were just as nutritious. And like your vegetable oils now, we use . . . oil is better than . . . for you as far as cholesterol goes, like your canola oil, even corn oil is better for cholesterol because it doesn't clog the arteries like your . . . now vegetable oils will clog your arteries. It's when they hydrogenate them, make them solid. That's when they are not good for arteries, that's when they're not good for you. So, and I do have a cholesterol problem so I have to watch this very close. It runs in my family. That's the reason my father died young at fifty with a heart attack and my brother died at sixty of a heart attack and they were both corroded arteries so I've had to watch it very closely.

**RP:** You said you spent some time in a hospital nursing.

**LN:** Yeah, one semester. It was a health course called home nursing is what it was and I taught, I worked, I worked and it was . . . and the course was home nursing but I did work in the hospital under the supervision, like student supervision of a nurse or doctors. We learned how to take temperatures. We learned how to turn patients in bed. We learned how to shampoo their hair and give bed baths, how to make beds, hospital beds, how to make them. There's a certain way. We learned how to do a lot of things as far as home . . . That's the reason in my high school I taught about a three week course of home nursing and we had . . . And then I took another course that I spent a whole semester with the pre-school children and the playgrounds. It was during World War II and we had all the army bases at Fort Riley, they had small children and they all went to this nursery school so it was college students that – with adult supervision – that worked and took care of them. We had a course in that, taking care of child care, see? That would be from three to five years old. We didn't go through kindergarten stage. So I had a semester of that and a semester at the high school of cooking in the lunch room and a semester in the nursery school. A semester teaching junior high at the high school that

was teaching, not lunch room work. And then I had to go to Council Grove and taught six weeks of high school, not junior high, high school, in my field. And I missed my college courses. That was my senior year. I had to go back and take finals and I hadn't even been to class but I made it. So uh, they were all hands on courses. You were uh . . . Let's see what were some of the other courses? We taught nursery school, we taught junior high, we learned how to work in the lunch rooms. Oh, I had a course that I had to live in Denison Hall a semester and learn how to manage every phase of that. We had to, from the house keeping to the cooking to the . . .

**RP:** And that was a dormitory?

**LN:** Dormitory, yeah. It was the only dormitory Manhattan had then, Kansas State had but they got a lot of them now.

**RP:** So did you live in the dormitory?

**LN:** We lived in there. I had to live there one semester and take this course.

**RP:** So you had a house the other times then or . . .

**LN:** Well, yes. The . . . Sorority Houses or uh, group living homes. We lived in Group Living but they were not prominent during World War II because there were no Fraternities then. There were some girls' Sororities but there wasn't too much of the bandage to them, you know, but you lived as groups of girls under the same roof.

**RP:** Tell me really quick, how is health care different? I mean . . .

**LN:** We know so much more about it today.

**RP:** Right. Did doctors still make house calls? Do you remember them making house calls at any time?

**LN:** Well, my brother and my self and my younger sister were all born at home, in my farm home south of Cimarron, so the doctors came out there to give birth.

**RP:** Right.

**LN:** And one of my sisters was born in Cimarron here in a home but the doctor took care of her but she was born in Cimarron here at home. Doctors, I don't remember doctors coming to my home for anything other than child birth. I can remember when they came for the birth of my sister, my younger sister because I was old enough to remember that. But uh, we came to the doctor in the office here in Cimarron on Main Street. We'd go to the doctor for colds or for shots or for . . . I had my tonsils taken out by a doctor here in Cimarron.

**RP:** So you didn't go to a hospital for that?

**LN:** No, uhm, the doctor's office – the buildings still down there. The doctor had the office down, that's where the beauty shop on Main Street is.

**RP:** Uhm, Mrs. Addison's?

**LN:** Yes, the office was downstairs.

**RP:** Isn't that where the old movie theater used to be?

**LN:** No, it's not the same building.

**RP:** Not the same building. I must be thinking of just something else then.

**LN:** I can't think of what's in there now.

**RP:** It's a beauty shop . . . Is it the one along the highway?

**LN:** No, it's right there where the theater was but it isn't the theater. It's the one right next to it, I think. But anyway, and he had beds upstairs and he took my tonsils down here – of course I don't remember – and then they put me upstairs overnight and then they dismissed me and you went home. It was over Thanksgiving that I had this done.

**RP:** That's really ruin a holiday.

**LN:** But they didn't put me in the hospital.

**RP:** That's interesting.

**LN:** But he had nurse and they took care of me. I took ether. Ether was what they used then. It made you awful sick. It made you nauseated.

**RP:** I was going to say.

**LN:** So that's the reason they kept you over night. Now they don't need to keep you over night. I had my gall bladder taken out last November in Dodge and got over there in 6:00 in morning, took me into surgery at 8:00, took my gall bladder out. I came to at noon and they brought me home. My granddaughter brought me home and stayed all night, all afternoon with me and all night. So it's different now.

**RP:** Were you vaccinated for small pox?

**LN:** Uh-huh. I had, I had vaccinations then but we didn't have . . . Name some other diseases.

**RP:** Uh, measles. Did you have measles?

**LN:** I had measles.

**RP:** Or, uh . . .

**LN:** We didn't have all the vaccinations then we do now – because as a child . . .

**RP:** Mumps?

**LN:** I never did have mumps but my sisters and my brother did. I don't know, I didn't catch them but we didn't have vaccinations for them. I had . . . What was the other . . . That crippled you.

**RP:** Polio.

**LN:** Polio. We didn't have that vaccination then. It came while I was teaching. We were vaccinated for it. Uh, I didn't have Chicken Pox until that year that I taught in Montezuma. It was in October and I kept saying to my pupils – they were fifth graders – I said, "Is it hot in here?" "No." Pretty soon I'd say, "Is it cold in here?" They'd say, "No." "What's the matter with me?" And that night about mid-night I broke out, I just broke out with chicken pox all over and it's good to have chicken pox when you're a child not when you're an adult.

**RP:** Yeah, I've heard that because . . .

**LN:** It's good to have it – And I gave them to my sisters.

**RP:** Well, that was nice of you.

**LN:** And they were really upset. But they got them while they were in school, not while they were teaching or in college so I told them they should thank me. I didn't give them to them intentionally.

**RP:** Well, yeah.

**LN:** I didn't stay with them. I stayed with my grandmother Butcher, was my grandmother Butcher was Butcher, my mother was a Butcher. We have Butchers in town today. They're cousins but she lived down, out east here [unclear]. I stayed all night with her, all the two weeks I had to stay there and I had a bathrobe, it was a chenille bathrobe. When I left to go back to teach, I left this bathrobe there and my sisters' stayed all night because they would stay all night with her to go to play practice or to go to something and they put on my bathrobe.

**RP:** Oh, no.

**LN:** And she hadn't washed it. So that's how I gave them chicken pox, but I said, "Just be thankful you had it when you were in high school, instead of in college or teaching school."

**RP:** That's awful, oh gosh.

**LN:** But we did vaccinate later. We vaccinated for all that stuff now which is great. Needles made me awful sick, Chicken Pox made me awful sick but that's the only diseases that I can remember.

**RP:** Well, I think I've taken up enough of your time.

**LN:** My time is not too valuable but if there's anything else you have a question . . .

**RP:** Uhm . . .

**LN:** I get carried out, talking too much sometimes.

**RP:** Oh, that's, that's, that's great. Uhm, how has Cimarron changed?

**LN:** Oh, of course I've changed; you just change along with it. Uh, the school teaches much better today. I mean they teach . . . I think athletics and sports are excellent for both girls and boys. In fact, like I said I was, I enjoyed gymnastics and I think girls should have it.

**RP:** Did they have girls' sports teams when you were --

**LN:** I was, I was, they had basketball at Ensign when, girls' basketball when I went to school there and they had boys' basketball but girls only played on half-courts, because we weren't strong enough to play on full courts. Not that we didn't think so but that was the rules. Girls just played on half courts and you'd switch halves, you know. I don't remember how we did it, but then I came to Cimarron and Cimarron did not have girls' sports. They had boys'. Sports did not take up all the time that they do today. Uh, but we need money and sports brings in money. Other things don't bring in money to the community like sports do but I do think that some of our academics are neglected.

**RP:** Yeah.

**LN:** Because when I was going to school I didn't remember studying too much at home but I think you still need your sleep and I think that sometimes with, with cheerleading -- I think that's wonderful -- and with all the games that we have so many during the school week that the student can be over taxed too much with their academics. And they need to hit a medium there that doesn't neglect their academic studies. Because when you go off to school you need that background.

**RP:** Yeah, you do.

**LN:** And if you kind of had to . . . Over, and physically it's not good for you. I think you need your rest in high school too when you're growing up. But uh, that's the main thing I've seen that the uh . . . I think it's great that girls, I think girls need to be more active than they were at the time. I hated to quit teaching girls Phys. Ed. but it [unclear] but the time, the number of hours in the day didn't allow it. And girls need to be active. I think it's great. If I'd have been going to school I'd be playing basketball, you know, if they'd have let me, if I'd been any good. I did play at Ensign. We played other schools. We went . . . We had small schools. You know, it was a smaller school so we had like, smaller football teams but we went to other, like Ingalls and Pierceville. We played other girls and it was a good experience for us. I wasn't quite tall enough but I played.

**RP:** Did you play in skirts or shorts?

**LN:** Oh, no, no. We had, we had, I call them bloomers. They had, they were . . . elastic down here.

**RP:** Elastic around your knee.

**LN:** I don't remember the top, t-shirt or something. Like, like what you have on (short sleeved knit top). But they were bloomers kind. And we had some kind of tennis shoes. We didn't play in our shoes. I just don't remember too much but I do remember walking in one time in Ensign in junior high. I went back after school to get something I'd left in the locker room. They didn't have separate girls' and boys' locker rooms . . . shouldn't record this . . . and I had left something in my locker, in my gym locker and I went and opened the door and there were all these boys in there. And course, I never saw . . . I closed it immediately. I just saw these boys' faces and I closed it. But it was kind of embarrassing at that stage of the game but I do remember that. We didn't have separate facilities for the boys and girls and they were after school and I was going back after something from having maybe last hour class of Phys. Ed. So the facilities, it takes more facilities for your athletics when both your boys and girls are as strong in it as we are today and I think it's great as long as they hit a happy balance between the academics and don't over tax . . . Of course we need to keep students busy to keep them . . . you know, they get in mischief if they're not kept busy.

**RP:** Of course, I guess. I suppose.

**LN:** So it's different than it used to be. Anything else that you might think of?

**RP:** Well . . .

**LN:** I could probably think of a dozen things but they probably aren't important.

**RP:** I'm sure we could talk forever but . . .

**LN:** I can't think of other differences except they do a better job now of preparing the student for college because they have requirements. The biggest changes are the scholarships. Like this organization that I'm making these beads for, we, they give a scholarship ever year to a high school, two or three high school students. And other, other organizations do too. We didn't have those when I went to college. Of course, college has increased in cost immensely but it was quite expensive back there because uh when I cleaned – after my mother passed away – I cleaned out her house and I went back through. She saved everything and I would go back through where my Daddy deposited a hundred dollars to my account in Manhattan at the bank while I was college. He didn't have that really. I've checked. He really didn't have that hundred dollars to put in my account. He had to sacrifice at home, you know. They uh, would uh, I worked and everything but I had my board and room I had to pay and all this kind of stuff but uh it's so good then. Even then college was expensive for the parents.

**RP:** Do you remember how much tuition was?

**LN:** I wished, a lot of times I wished I would have remembered that. It sounded, I felt like it was awful high. I just can't give a dollar figure now but it seemed high because when ever you took lab courses like Physics and Chemistry and those kinds of courses you had to have all that tuition in there to pay for the equipment that you might break, you know. I don't know, how much is it now?

**RP:** I go to a private school so . . .

**LN:** Well, I put my granddaughter through school. She went to private school. It's around five . . . or something. . .

**RP:** Well, I go to Tabor which is fairly expensive. Full package is twenty thousand a year.

**LN:** Yeah, it didn't cost that. But I think in comparison it's quite similar. For instance, when I started teaching school here, I was one of the higher paid women teachers. Women teachers didn't get as much money as men. But people like me were getting up there, not quite there yet, but I got twenty-three hundred dollars the first year I taught school was all. But that was good then.

**RP:** Yeah, that's . . .

**LN:** And uh, even though I only got my bachelor's degree from KSU I went to school every five years I went to summer school and would take courses. By the time I quit teaching I had the hours, more hours than I needed for a masters. But you have to get your masters within five years, or six years, you know, and so I didn't ever get my masters but today I would. Today, then I had to go back to Emporia or back to . . . I went to Emporia summer school and took courses while I was teaching. You had to get five, six hours every five years in order to get a raise in pay every year so I would go back to Emporia, I'd go back to K. State. Uh, I went even Dodge City Community, no St.

Mary's over in Dodge because it was close and uh, where else did I go? Anywhere. One summer I took three hours of bowling at Emporia. You didn't have to take it in your field you know. You could just get additional hours and then I took another course. I took a Bishop Method of Tailoring here at Emporia along with my three hours of bowling so I took about eight hours. But anyway it's good to keep . . . and you got an increase of pay that way. I had a life certificate. I could have taught school forever but I wouldn't have got a raise in pay without getting more education, which is good. But I think schools today do a better job of preparing students for college in every way. And more kids, more students go to college today. I think out of my class, I remember one other girl went to college and I don't even know if any boys did.

**RP:** Did they all join the army then or they farmed?

**LN:** They farmed, well if they farmed they'd to end up going to the service and uh, some of them went to vocational schools. I think the vocational schools are excellent, for two years and they learn a trade at least. And then too, the service taught boys. My husband, he did go to Dodge City Community College for two years and then he went to the Navy. He and I were the same age. And then he went to school in the Navy. He got a lot of college credits in the Navy before he went overseas. So they got education in World War II, when they went to school.

**RP:** What did your husband do after the war? He farmed . . .

**LN:** We needed, somebody needed. . . my dad was working in the Bank and he was getting older and he needed help on the farm and uh, my brother was graduated for KU but he helped on the farm and uh, and uh, let's see. They all farmed and my husband, he was an electrician by trade.

**RP:** Is that something that he learned in the Navy then?

**LN:** In the Navy, and he was a diesel engineer. He learned to run diesel engines on the ship so he could run anything diesel and knew how to run machines but never did graduate with a degree from a four year college but he had about three years of schooling and he had two years of JUCO and then he had about two years, at least two years of college education when he was in the Navy. So, and he could fly an airplane and he could do a lot of things that he would not have done had he not been in the Navy. He was uh, in the Navy but he learned aeronautics flew airplanes off the ship, you know, like they do. I don't know what, I don't remember what, he didn't have, he went . . . I can't think what the college was. He graduated top of his class on some Navy school on the east coast. And he was the Rural Route Letter Carrier. We farmed and he was rural letter carrier and my brother was postmaster and farmed. My dad was a banker and farmed.

**RP:** Everybody farmed.

**LN:** We still got the same land.

**RP:** That's cool.

**LN:** And I still farm. I own the ground and my nephew David that lives in the home that I grew up farms for me.

**RP:** Sounds like a good deal.

**LN:** So that's my Social Security. I get Social Security of course but I couldn't live on that. And uh, my farm is my extra income. Sometimes it's pretty good and sometimes it isn't. That's, it does me pretty well.

**RP:** Well, thank you very much.

**LN:** Well, You're welcome.

**RP:** I really appreciate you letting me talk to you.

**LN:** I think I did most of the talking but I appreciate you coming. I would never have told, I never have told most of this even to my grandchildren would enjoy knowing this.

**RP:** There is a lot of good stuff here so thank you.

**(End of Interview)**