

Palisade Historical Society
Oral and Video History Project
Interview

Oral History # OH-526, #1 - #4

Date: 06/16/ and 07/09/1982

Place: 3581 E ½ Road (East Orchard Mesa)

Palisade, CO

Length:

Interviewee: Ann Stokes

Phone:

Interviewer: Harriet Hamlin

Phone:

This is a summary of an audited transcription of an oral history by Ann Stokes, recorded on four cassette tapes from the Museums of Western Colorado/Mesa County Historical Society. The tapes were transcribed by Jean Page in August and September 1985. The tapes and original transcription are on file at the Museum.

The text in *italics* is not part of the original transcription and is added for clarification.

Family:

Ann's parents came from Wales. Her father was Thomas Y. "Tom" Reese and her mother was Elizabeth "Lizzie" Reese. Her father was a coal miner. After Ann's parents were married in Wales in 1893, they came to Scranton, Pennsylvania for their honeymoon. They had friends who came to Scranton from Wales a few years earlier and wrote about how nice it was there. Ann's parents had enough money to travel back to Wales, in case they did not like the United States, but they fell in love with Scranton and stayed.

Moving to Colorado:

Ann and her four siblings were born in Scranton. Ann was the second-oldest, born in 1896. The first child died about six months after birth, making Ann the oldest living child. She had two brothers and one sister. When Tom was about thirty years old, he got black lung disease, a common form of consumption associated with working in the coal mines. His doctors advised him to move to Colorado where the altitude and drier air would be beneficial. Tom moved to Colorado Springs with his brother and lived there for about a year, discovering that his breathing was much better. He came to Grand Junction by train to visit old friends and neighbors from Scranton, the Lloyd family and Edith Pryor. The Lloyds were Edith's parents.

Mr. Lloyd told Tom he would never be able to work in the coal mines in the area, but he showed him a homestead on Orchard Mesa, saying soon they would be digging canals and would be building a dam upriver, so the area could be put into agricultural use. Being out in the fresh air and sunshine appealed to Tom, so he wrote to Lizzie telling her to sell their home in Pennsylvania and join him. At this time around 1903, Tom was doing masonry work on the railroad depot and the YMCA building in Grand Junction. He specialized in using forms to make decorative concrete work, such as rosettes around the doors and windows; this work is still

visible today at the railroad depot. (*The YMCA building on 5th St. and Rood Ave. was torn down in 1969.*)

So at eight years of age in the spring of 1904, Ann and her family travelled by train, relocating to their homestead on Orchard Mesa. Traveling through Glenwood Canyon made a lasting impression on Ann. Having never seen such high mountains, she was sure the canyon walls would cave in on the train, and they would never make it to Grand Junction.

Homesteading on Orchard Mesa:

At the time of the interview, Ann was living on the family's original homestead property. The homestead was a 160-acre plot of land. Ann thought her father paid the Government \$1.25 per acre for the land. In the early days of living on the homestead, there were no canals or irrigation water. The nearest water source was the Grand River (*now the Colorado River*), so they took a horse and wagon loaded with two wooden barrels down a canyon to the river. They used buckets to fill the barrels and hauled the water back to the homestead. The water was used for drinking, cooking, bathing, and doing the laundry. They never boiled the water or had any concerns about typhoid fever or other illness. Tom did not build a cistern to hold the water, figuring as soon as they "proved the place" they would go back down to live in the valley until the canals were built. (*By "proving," Ann was probably referring to the requirement of the Homestead Act to build a cabin, make improvements, and live on the land for a certain period of time in order to permanently own it.*)

Initially, they all lived in a one-room cabin. Ann recalled her father bought a horse from the livery in Grand Junction. The horse was expected to have a colt. One night there was a big spring storm with lots of rain, thunder, and lightning. The horse was tied up to a pole outside, and Lizzie was worried the horse might not be able to stand the storm. They had not yet built a barn, so they brought the horse into the cabin to spend the night. Lizzie tied the horse to a doorknob. The horse kept stomping its feet on the bare board floors, so no one got any sleep that night.

Ann related the story of the first time her father brought her mother and the family to the cabin. Her mother was not impressed. Even with his lung condition, Tom was able to do a lot of things. He fenced in many acres of their land, and the year before the canal was finished, he planted about a half-acre of peach trees. Of course without irrigation water, they had to haul water up from the river in barrels to water the trees. A ring of soil was built up around the trunk of each tree to hold the water, and the trees were watered about once every ten days. It took days to do this, and by the time Tom had watered every tree in his orchard, it was time to start over with the trees that had been watered first. Ann estimated this would have been around 1909. Some ranches, such as the Vincent Ranch, the Watson Ranch, and the Hoberts got water from Krusen Springs. The water came down through Blow-out Canyon from Grand Mesa. Ann's father's orchard on the original homestead was one of the first to get water from the newly-dug canal system.

Moving to East of Palisade:

In the meantime, they had "proven up" the homestead and moved down into the valley. Tom bought a one-year-old orchard on four acres east of Palisade. The property had a small home on

it, where they lived until the children were all raised. Eventually, Tom sold off most of the 160-acre homestead but gave five acres to each of his children.

Although they had other fruit trees, peaches predominated. Most were Standard Elbertas, since they were deemed the best for this climate and survived shipping in better shape than most other varieties. In the early days, people had many different varieties of peaches, some with white and others with yellow flesh. Some peaches came on as early as late June.

When Ann was twelve years old, she learned to pack peaches. The family had a little packing shed where they lived on their place east of Palisade. They packed their own peaches and hauled them into town with a wagon and a team of horses. Her brothers were teenagers, so they learned to drive the team and wagon. Everyone worked in the harvest and enjoyed it.

School:

Ann recalled she first went to school for only a few months in Grand Junction. She was eight years old at the time. Her teacher was Miss Copeland, whose family owned the Copeland Drug Store. It was located where Lende's Drug Store was later. (*554 Main Street. Copeland's drugstore was later located on the northeast corner of 5th and Main Streets.*) Then when Ann went to school in Palisade, she and her younger brother walked the four miles from their house into town. They followed the cow trails, walking up and down the gullies or canyons. Sometimes they saw coyotes. The coyotes were not afraid of them and sometimes stood their ground showing their teeth and snarling. The children threw dried cow chips at the coyotes so they would move a little further away. As they walked into town, other children joined them. By the time they got to school, the group grew to about eight or ten children. They packed their lunches in three-pound lard pails or five-pound lard buckets. By the time they arrived at school, some of the town children were already out playing at recess. They were so tired from the long walk to school, they sometimes just sat down and ate their lunches. The school term was about nine months long, ending the first of June. On stormy days or if there was a lot of snow on the ground, they just did not go to school. Ann recalls her father teaching her times tables and spelling lessons at home. When Ann finished third grade, the teachers advanced her to fifth grade.

Crossing the River:

There was a little swinging foot bridge across the river beside where the ferry crossed the river. You could walk across the bridge but could not ride a horse on the bridge. For twenty-five cents, you could take your horse and wagon across the river on the ferry, which landed near the Seventh Day Adventist Church on the Palisade side (*at 4th Street*). In 1909, they built a larger bridge and removed the footbridge. Horses and wagons could cross the river on the new iron bridge. Later on (*in 1949*), they built the bridge that exists today (*at 8th Street*) by the park. Ann said the old foot bridge was moved to Cameo, so the coal miners could cross the river to get to the mine. They tied up their horses (*on the east side of the river*) and walked across the bridge to work.

The only other access to Cameo was via the railroad. There was a small depot building with a flagman who stopped the train if passengers were waiting. There was a little store in Cameo, but if people had more shopping or other business to take care of, they rode the train to Palisade or

Grand Junction. Then they returned on the 4:00 p.m. train. Except for storekeepers and business men, most people living in Palisade worked in the mines.

Palisade Businesses:

Ann recalled a merchant, Mr. Kluge, after whom Kluge Avenue is named. The Kluges had a son, William. Mr. Kluge later became a State Senator, so they made their home in Denver. Mr. and Mrs. Kluge had both passed away at the time of this interview, but they had a niece, Mrs. Sam Rosette, still living in Palisade.

There was a grocery store facing Main Street up by the railroad tracks. The store backed up to what was later Bill's Market (*now Food Town*). In the vacant lot (*now the Town Plaza*) Ann recalled there was a butcher shop, a tailor shop, and a small restaurant named the Chili Parlor. Then of course, there was the beautiful Jordan Inn. It was a red brick hotel on the corner (*of 3rd and Main Streets*), which caught fire and burned complete down (*in November 1915*). Ann recalls receiving a postcard from someone named Mrs. Snooks. On it was a picture of Lige and presumably Mrs. Jordan, standing beside an old car with the hotel in the background and an elk draped across the back of the car. Ann gave the postcard to the Museum.

Joe and Clara Smith owned the tailor shop. She was a milliner and made pretty hats decorated with lace. Not long before this interview, Joe and Clara had passed away in Clifton, Colorado.

The Palisade Tribune was the local newspaper. There were several publishers over the years. Ann recalls Mr. Sherman may have been the one who originally set it up. (*The original publisher was Clint Martin. E. S. Sherman became editor in July 1909.*)

End of Tape 1, Side 1

Tape 1, Side 2

Ann recalled the bank was located on the corner (*of Main and 3rd Streets*), and that Mr. (*George W.*) Bowman was the banker. The bank building had just been built and was one of the finest buildings in town. Mr. Purdy built the Midland Hotel, a stone building east of the bank. It was torn down when the nursing home (*Palisade Living Center*) was built.

Life in Palisade:

The road between Palisade and Grand Junction (*US Hwy 6*) was called the Midland Highway. Lizzie used the Midland Highway to take the children to Grand Junction via horse and wagon right before peach harvest for clothing and shoes. She let them pick out material for their school dresses and Sunday dresses and made most of their clothes. They had one school dress and one Sunday dress. Then the following winter, the Sunday dresses became school dresses when they got new Sunday dresses for Christmas. Lizzie made winter coats, as well as shirts for the boys. They bought overalls for the boys to wear. Trips into Grand Junction were an all-day affair. They left very early in the morning, took their lunch with them to eat in the park, and did not get home until almost dark.

Tom did not usually go to town with them, due to his health. He attended church on Sundays and sang in the choir. He had a lovely tenor voice and sang solos or with a quartet for various functions. Ann's family went to the Baptist Church. At first, (1902) this was a small square house behind the lumber yard, but they moved it over to where it is now (at 5th and Main Streets), put it on a concrete foundation, and added onto it.

Tom died about ten years after coming to Colorado. He passed away at their homestead in Palisade and is buried in the Palisade Cemetery, along with Lizzie and Ann's brothers, and sister.

In the early days before there was a road through DeBeque Canyon, you had to cross the river at the old State Bridge, go up Plateau Canyon, and over the top of the mountain to get to the town of DeBeque. The Stokes Coal Mine was across the river from their place east of Palisade. They got coal from the Stokes mine for heating and cooking.

Ann told of a time when she was about fifteen years old and Mrs. Stokes was in her 60's. Her son's wife had passed away, leaving a little girl (Margaret) about 17 months old. Ann and her sister went to the Stokes on Saturdays and brought the baby in a buggy over to their house for the day. They bathed the baby in a big washtub by the stove and put clean clothes on her. Although she did not know him at the time, Ann would later marry little Margaret's father, Bill Stokes.

Ann's mother, Lizzie, was a nurse working with Dr. Roberts in Palisade. She also traveled to Cameo frequently to see to medical needs there. She had little formal training. Ann tells of Lizzie and Dr. Roberts performing surgery on Daisy Bauer (*Bower?*), right on the dining room table. Lizzie administered ether while the doctor removed Daisy's appendix. Lizzie also worked for Dr. Leo Lloyd in Palisade. They delivered many babies. Lizzie kept a little satchel with her uniform because she never knew when the doctor might come by to get her to deliver a baby.

Ann recalled going to the movies in Palisade. Dr. Roberts' wife was a fine musician and played the piano for the picture shows. Dr. Lloyd often sang solos during intermission. They usually went to the movies on Saturday nights. The movies were shown once or twice per week, but they could not go on a school night. Sometimes Bill took Ann, her two brothers, and her sister to the movies.

Ann did not meet Bill until baby Margaret was about three years old. At the time, his parents had the Stokes Coal Mine in Palisade, and Bill operated a coal yard in Grand Junction. Bill was seven and a half years older than Ann. When Ann was about sixteen, they started going to the Stokes on Sundays to see the baby. That's when she and Bill met. In the meantime, Bill turned the coal yard over to someone else to run, so he could run the mine in Palisade. His father contracted black lung disease and could no longer work in the mine.

Bill and Ann knew each other for about a year before he asked her out for a date. She had concerns because he was older, had been married before, and was a father and widower – things people worried about in those days. Another complication was, because of her religious beliefs, Ann's mother did not approve of dancing and other things young people liked to do. Bill asked Ann to a New Year's Eve dance at Bower Hall in Palisade. This was a dance hall above the

Bower Garage on East 3rd Street. Ann finally agreed to break a date with someone else and go with Bill. He visited Ann frequently, and over time, Ann's mother came to like Bill very much.

Bill and Ann Marry:

Bill and Ann married on April 21, 1917 when she was nineteen years old. Ann wanted a big wedding, but Bill was more in favor of keeping it small, even suggesting they elope and keep it a secret for a while. This may have been because he just did not want to go through a big wedding again, this being his second. So, they agreed to a small wedding, and Ann wore a dress she had made herself for Easter.

There were several old one-room cabins at the mine where the miners lived. Ann and Bill lived in one of the cabins until they saved enough money to buy a piece of property. The mine is no longer in operation, and the old coal tippie was removed in about 1972 *when the highway was widened*).

Bill bought a four-acre tract of land along the river in Vineland. They built a nice home on the property and had a small apricot orchard and a peach orchard. It was a beautiful park-like spot with the river in their backyard. Bill passed away due to a heart attack at the age of 57 in 1929. Two years after Bill passed away, the road into Vineland was widened, and since the house was in the way, it had to be removed. Tom McCall, a local carpenter, built a packing shed on the property. When the house had to be moved, Ann had a small house built on her family's original homestead property on Orchard Mesa. At the time of this interview, she had been living in this house for 33 years.

Ann had two children, both adopted. Margaret Allen, the little girl who was Bill's daughter from the previous marriage, lives on the property where the coal mine was located. Her other daughter, Peggy Rice, had a large house on Orchard Mesa. She passed away due to cancer seven years prior to this interview (*approximately 1975*).

End of Tape 1

Tape 2, Side 1

More About Life in Palisade:

Ann remembered a small movie theater on the north side of 3rd Street, *just west of where the Clinton Insurance Agency office was later located. (which later was The Palisade Tribune at 124 W. 3rd Street until March 2015, when the building was sold.)* In later years, the movie theater was moved across the street and became known as the Elberta Theater, named after the popular Elberta peaches.

In the summer, a small carnival often came through town with a merry-go-round (*carousel*) and sometimes a Ferris wheel. Ann's mother gave each of the children a nickel so they could ride the merry-go-round. Ann had a boyfriend, Wright Hoffman, whose family owned the Hoffman Garage. Dwayne Hoffman was Wright's older brother. Wright stole a dollar from his parents'

cash register to spend on her and himself for rides at the carnival. Wright admitted to Ann he had taken the money, but she hoped no one thought she had anything to do with it.

More Memories of Ann and Bill's Wedding Day:

Ann talked more about her wedding. Since they were not going to have a big church wedding, Ann let Bill plan the whole thing. They decided to ride the train to Glenwood Springs, where a minister would marry them. The only people who knew of this were the couple's mothers. On the appointed day, Bill came to pick up Ann to catch the train. When they arrived at the depot there were a lot of people on the platform, which interfered with their plans. They had some concern that people would try to play pranks on them, since they were about to be married. Bill planned to leave the horse at the livery stable, so they went there and talked Fred Bower into taking them to the Clifton depot in his car to catch the train. Fred agreed. As they rode the train through Palisade on their way to Glenwood, they ducked down so none of the people around the depot would see them.

All went well until they got to the town of Grand Valley (*now Parachute*) where a freight train ahead of them had derailed. The rails were up in the air and two or three boxcars were off the tracks. A westbound train from Denver had to reverse directions to take passengers from the eastbound train to Glenwood. They were supposed to arrive in Glenwood at noon, have lunch, and then meet the minister, but with the wreck and all of the ensuing difficulties, they did not get into Glenwood until 8:00 p.m., and it was raining! They went to a nearby hotel with their suitcases and asked the clerk to keep them while they got married. Bill asked where the minister lived, and the clerk said there was only one minister in town, but he was away in Nebraska for his mother's funeral. The clerk said there was a Justice of the Peace, whose office was just across the street. Judge Rice had left his office for the day, but the clerk called his home and the judge returned to marry the couple. Bill and Ann did not have anyone to stand up with them as a witness, so the judge caught a young woman named Dora as she passed by the office door and asked her to come in to witness the ceremony. After the ceremony, Bill offered to take everyone to dinner. The judge declined, but Dora and her boyfriend joined Bill and Ann for dinner. After the trials of the day, they were exhausted!

Ann said she never worked at a regular job, but volunteered at the rest home in Palisade. She helped the ladies with their care, read to them, and wrote letters for them.

Bill was on the list of men from Palisade to serve in World War I, but he was exempt because he was needed for coal production for the war effort. Ann's two brothers were too young to serve in World War I. Her oldest brother, Dave, served in the Air Force in World War II. He took his basic training at the air base in Casper, Wyoming and then was stationed in Salt Lake City for more training. After that, Dave was in Florida when the war ended, so he did not see any combat action. Ann recalled the night the ammunition cars exploded in Grand Junction. They could hear the explosions at their home in Palisade and wondered what it could be.

Memories of the McNeil Family in Cameo:

Ann went only as far as ninth grade in school. About that time, Maggie McNeil, who lived in a big house in Cameo, became ill and asked if Ann could come up there to cook for her and her

husband, George. Ann did this for the summer, and when it was time to go back to school for 10th grade, Mrs. McNeil wanted her to stay on with them and to consider moving to Denver with them if they were transferred. Ann's father was against this because it was so far away, but as it turned out, the McNeils did not move to Denver until sometime later. So instead of returning to school, Ann stayed with the McNeils and helped them that winter. The following spring, Ann's father passed away, and Ann never went back to school. Ann recalls that Maggie's sister's children in Palisade would come up to Cameo to visit. One was Jeannie McCall, who was a teacher. (*She later married and was Jeannie Milleman, who taught math at Palisade High School for many years.*)

Mrs. Martin's Illness:

Prior to building Martin Mortuary in Grand Junction, the Martins lived in Palisade across the street from the Methodist Church. Mrs. Martin came down with typhoid fever, so Lizzie nursed her back to health. During this time, Ann and her sister helped with the housework, cooked for the other three children, and learned to sew on a sewing machine.

End of Tape 2, Side 1

Tape 2, Side 2

Another of Maggie's nieces was Jessie McCall, a trained nurse who worked many years at St. Mary's Hospital. She lived across the river from Ann and married Max Dalton. They all had a lot of fun at the McNeil home in Cameo. Finally, George was transferred to Denver, so all of that ended. This was about the time Ann started seeing Bill before they were married.

Celebrating Independence Day:

When they lived at the homestead, they celebrated Independence Day by going down the canyon to the river for a picnic. All of the neighbors congregated there with picnic lunches and spread tablecloths out under the cottonwood trees. The men fished in the river, catching catfish and suckers, but no trout. Later on after they were married, Ann and Bill went to rodeos in Collbran for the Fourth of July. Sometimes they went up on Grand Mesa because they enjoyed fishing.

Hunting:

They took hunting trips in the fall, visiting some friends, the Cuthberts, who had a big farm up above Collbran on the road towards what is now the Vega Reservoir area. From there, they went up on Baldy Mountain to hunt deer and stayed there until hunting season was over. They taught their daughters how to shoot. One year they hunted in the Meeker area. Sometimes they canned the deer meat, but most of the time they cured it, using salt and brown sugar or wrapped it in muslin or flour sacks and stored in the basement where it was cool.

Adopting Peggy:

Bill's daughter, Margaret, was about five or six years old when Ann and Bill got married. They did not have children but adopted another daughter, Peggy, when she was only three weeks old. Ann and Margaret drove to Denver and found the orphanage there. When they got to the orphanage, the head nurse asked if they had any references. They had not prepared for this, but

they told the nurse Dr. Weidlein was their doctor, and Archie Tilton was their banker. The nurse asked if they knew anyone in Denver, so they gave her Herman Kluge's name. He was now a State Senator living in Denver. The nurse immediately called Mr. Kluge, who gave a good recommendation. Then, they went to look at the babies. There were so many of them, and it was so hard to choose. Margaret, who was about twelve years old at the time, finally said, "Let's take this little one. She's slept the whole time we've been here and she hasn't cried." So Ann agreed. After picking up the baby, Ann and Margaret immediately turned around and drove back to Palisade. Bill wondered where they had been all this time and was quite surprised and thrilled when he found he had a new baby daughter! He said they should have picked out a baby boy while they were at it, but Ann told him that might be a bit much all at once. Bill and Peggy were always close throughout their lives together.

Ann never knew much about Peggy's biological parents. Apparently, there were other siblings at the orphanage and their mother had passed. Peggy never had children. She was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 42 and was treated by Dr. Moran in Grand Junction. He asked about family history and learned Peggy was adopted. Oddly, he too was part of a family that came from the same orphanage, so he and Peggy could very well have been siblings. After a long, painful illness, Peggy passed away at age 46.

Ann's mother became ill, so she cared for her for 22 years before her death. She never went back to get that baby boy they talked about! At her mother's death, Ann encountered Mrs. Martin, who recognized her and said Ann's mother saved her life many years ago when she had typhoid fever. In the early days, there were a few cases of typhoid fever, but it was not widespread by any means. People put lime in their cisterns to purify the water, and they sometimes boiled water. Others drank untreated water and never became ill.

When Ann moved into town from the homestead, Palisade had a domestic water system. The water came from a small reservoir, fed by springs under the rim of the Grand Mesa. Up at the homestead, they now have Ute Water, which comes from the area around Vega Reservoir.

Ann recalled a friend, Fred Hulbert, whose father was the mail carrier when they lived on the homestead in the early days. He had a horse and buggy and took the mail from Palisade up the river to the State Bridge via the railroad tracks, and then came down through Vineland and the Narrows and up onto Orchard Mesa. He had a homestead over by Watson Ranch. Traveling in the area was a challenge because of the lack of bridges across the river. Ann remembered the State Bridge, the swinging bridge for foot traffic, and the ferry for horses and wagons. After that, there were no bridges until you got to the Clifton Bridge. Even the Clifton Bridge was not there in the years they homesteaded on Orchard Mesa, so you had to go all the way to Grand Junction to cross the river (*at 5th Street*). It took all day to travel to Grand Junction and back by horse and wagon.

Cross Orchards in the early days was a big operation. There were many acres of apple trees and a large shed for packing apples. Many people were employed as apple pickers and packers. Ann never worked there, but she worked in some of the smaller apple orchards around Palisade. When they went to Grand Junction, they did not pass by Cross Orchards. Instead, they used the Midland Highway, which went down the road past the State Home (*D Road*). They went through

Oldham Bottoms, where there were a lot of apple and pear orchards and followed the railroad tracks that ran between there and Palisade.

When Ann's father grew apples, they had to spray for insects. It was a crude operation with a barrel of insecticide and a pump on a sled. One person manned the pump while the other used the nozzle at the end of a hose to apply the spray around each tree. As each tree was treated, a horse pulled the sled with the barrel on it to the next tree. The codling moth was the demise of the apple crops in much of the valley. The farmers could not keep up with it laying its eggs and the larvae eating up the apples.

End of Tape 2

Tape 3, Side 1

Bill's Family:

Ann told what she knew of her husband Bill's family. His father and mother both came from Scotland, although they met when they lived in Cañon City, Colorado. Even as a boy, Bill's father worked in the mines in Scotland. He had a brother who came with him as far as Chicago. His brother wanted to go to Canada, but Bill's father wanted to go to Colorado, so they parted ways and never saw each other again.

Bill's parents were married in Cañon City and were living in nearby Rockville when Bill was born. His father was involved in the coal mining industry. There was a miners' strike with conflict between union and non-union workers, to the point the militia was brought in. Ann described the violence as being similar to what occurred in the Ludlow Massacre. (*The Ludlow Massacre was an attack by the Colorado National Guard and Colorado Fuel & Iron Company camp guards on a tent colony of 1,200 striking coal miners and their families at Ludlow, Colorado, on April 20, 1914. Some two dozen people, including miners' wives and children, were killed.*)

After the strike, it was difficult for the Stokes' to remain, so they moved to Pear Park in Mesa County and acquired a small farm where they grew grapes and pears. Bill attended the Pear Park School. Bill's father was a miner at heart and was not happy being a farmer, so he and another man pooled their resources to open a vein of coal in Palisade. Ann thought this would have been sometime around 1890. He sold the farm in Pear Park and built a little cabin where they lived near the coal mine. From then on, Bill went to school in Palisade.

Mr. Stokes ran the mine for many years. As a teenager during the summer, Bill hauled coal with four horses and two wagons into Grand Junction every day. When Bill was about 19 years old, his father acquired about 30 city lots and opened a coal yard on Pitkin Avenue near the railroad tracks in Grand Junction. Bill moved to Grand Junction to run the coal yard. They had a scale for weighing the coal, so he and an older man shared quarters in the weigh shack. The older man operated and maintained the scales, and Bill sold and delivered coal to homes and businesses in Grand Junction.

Bill met and married his first wife, and they lived near the coal yard. Their daughter, Margaret, was born there. Bill's wife died 17 months after Margaret was born, and his father developed black lung disease. Bill decided to move back to Palisade, where he could run the mine and his mother could take care of the baby. Ann began her acquaintance with the Stokes family when Margaret was three years old. After she and Bill were married and living on the mine property, she became well-acquainted with the mining operation.

Mining Operations:

Coal was hauled out of the mine using a mule to pull out one carload at a time. The coal was weighed so they would know how much to pay the miners. Then it was dumped into the tippie. The mine employed 25 or 30 miners. They worked in pairs in various "rooms" in the mine. There were springs nearby, so water was constantly seeping into the mine. They ran pumps day and night to pump water out of the mine. There was a track system inside the mine, allowing the miners to load cars and push them to the main track, where they were hauled out by mule. There was a slight downhill grade from the rooms toward the main track, so they were usually able to just give the cars a little push to get them started down the track. The mine extended a mile or two into the mountain.

Ann went into the mine many times, often to find Bill to take care of coal contracts, such as furnishing coal to the schools. Sometimes she went down into the mine in the dark before they got electric lights. In the summer, there were only a few men working in the mine, mainly laying track in preparation for the mining operation, which commenced in the fall. In winter, Bill had a big crew of miners to meet the increased demand for coal. Other miners drilled holes into the rock and coal for blasting, but Bill was the "fire boss," handling, placing, and detonating the explosives. There was always good ventilation in the mine, so they never had problems with dangerous gas, fire, or explosions.

Even in the early days at the mine, there was a telephone. People who did not have telephones in their own homes went to the grocery store or various other places to call in orders for coal deliveries. Since Bill was often out delivering coal, people sometimes just caught him wherever he was to place their orders.

There were numerous coal mines in the Palisade area. In addition to the Stokes Mine, Ann named the Gearhart, Mt. Lincoln, Midwest, Palisade, PV (*later called the Roadside and Powderhorn Mine*), Cameo, and Red Flame mines. (*Probably the Blue Flame Mine, though the Midwest was also called Red Arrow.*) There is still a lot of coal back in the mountains. The mine owners were constantly faced with union demands for higher wages and sometimes strikes, which drove up the price of coal. In the end, the local coal industry succumbed to oil and natural gas development.

Two or three years prior to Bill's death in 1947, they ran into a big rock upheaval in the mine, so Bill was thinking about going in from a nearby canyon to make another opening. His health was failing, so he never pursued that idea. They had worked about 40 acres of coal underground, and there was another 40 acres that had never been mined. As far as Ann knows, it is still laying there underground and untouched.

Ann and Bill moved from the mine to the property they acquired in Vineland, where they built a house near the river. Then not long after Bill died, plans were laid to widen the road, which would take out their house. Ann recounted her move back to the homestead on Orchard Mesa. The house in Vineland was moved to a lot on Houston Avenue near Mesa College (*now Colorado Mesa University*) in Grand Junction. Since it was impossible to haul the house up the Orchard Mesa hill from Palisade, Ann had a new home built on the homestead property her father had given her.

Ann related her memories of Lizzie's nursing profession. As she said earlier, Lizzie kept a bag packed, in anticipation of the doctor coming by to summon her to help with a patient. Oftentimes, she assisted with births and attended to the mother and infant after the event. She stayed in the home for a few days caring for mom and baby and took care of cooking, cleaning, laundry, and caring for other children in the home until the mother was strong enough to resume these duties. The doctor returned periodically to see if everything was all right. Sometimes, she worked for free if the family was unable to pay for her services. Lizzie's longest case was that of taking care of Mrs. Martin for six weeks when she came down with typhoid fever. The work was exhausting, and on top of that, Lizzie had her own family to care for. Ann learned to do a lot of this work for their family, which was especially needed when her mother had to be away for extended periods of time.

Bob Rice was one of the babies Lizzie delivered. He was born into the Jenkins family as one of several children. Bobby's father had black lung disease, like Ann's father, and his mother had a large goiter, which caused breathing problems and eventually led to her death. Ann's parents were friends of the Jenkins family, so Lizzie took care of them until the girls were old enough to help out. Bobby's parents both died while he was still a baby, so Paul and Evelyn Rice adopted him. Ann remarked that when people died in those days, children in the family were absorbed into the families of relatives and neighbors. As an adult, Bob taught at Mesa College.

Ann further recollected the businesses in Downtown Palisade. On the east side of Main Street were a drugstore. The Jordan Inn was on the west side of the street, along with Kluge's Mercantile. On East 3rd Street was the livery stable, above which was Bower Hall where dances were held. The *livery* building was located where the nursing home now sits and the Bower Garage and Bower Hall *were located to the east of the livery*. Live orchestras, which included violins, piano, horns, and saxophones, played for the dances. No one ever noticed any odor from the livery stables below!

End of Tape 3, Side 1

Tape 3, Side 2

The interview continues on 07/09/1982.

The stone hotel (*The Midland and later the Carolyn Hotel*) was east of the *Palisades National Bank*, across East 3rd Street from the Hoffman Garage. After the hotel was torn down *in 1959*, Hoffman's Garage used the empty space for a car lot. When the livery stable down the street was

taken out, dances were held above the Pool Hall, in the same building where the undertaker's parlor was located. In those days when someone died, the funeral parlor was used only for preparation and display of the deceased person's body. Funeral services were held at a church or a private residence, usually the deceased's home or that of a relative. Friends and neighbors rallied to have a "sitting up" when a person was ill and near death. Sometimes, the "sitting up" continued until the day of the funeral.

Ann's father passed away in 1915 when Ann was 19 years old. At the time, her mother had friends from the same town in Wales, who lived in DeBeque. They were coal miners and lived in Palisade at one time, but they got out of mining and bought hay fields in the DeBeque area. The friends came to stay with Lizzie when Tom died. His funeral was at the Baptist Church in Palisade.

Ann belonged to the ladies' missionary circle in the church, which met once a month. They made quilts, rolled bandages made out of old sheets, and knitted items for the soldiers in World War I. They also made and sent items to missionaries in foreign countries.

A typical day in Palisade included going to school and sometimes attending basketball and baseball games. Palisade played against teams from Clifton and Cameo, often on a Saturday afternoon. Bill played on the Palisade baseball team.

On Saturday evenings, there were band concerts in a little park located where the Baptist Church currently sits. There was a small bandstand in the middle of the park, where the band would play for an hour or two. Generally, the band consisted of only a few musicians. Jack Watson sometimes sang with the band, which played popular tunes, Sousa marches, and the like. After the concert people sometimes shopped at the grocery store, which stayed open until 9:00 p.m. Some years later, the Baptist Church bought the land where the little park was, built a foundation, and moved their small building from behind the lumber yard onto the foundation. Ann did not know what became of the old bandstand.

Bill was a member of the Palisade Volunteer Fire Department at the time the Jordan Inn burned. This was the only big fire Palisade ever had, to her recollection. Ann thought no one really knew how the fire got started, but the building was quickly engulfed and fell into the basement as it burned. No one was injured in the fire. Ann recalled salesmen came by train and stayed at the Jordan Inn, selling their wares to the local stores before getting back on the train headed for their next destination.

Ann recalled a gazebo atop a tower near the river, built by Colonel Bower (*beside his house on East 3rd Street*). She said you could sit up there and look down at the river. Colonel Bower owned and operated the livery stable. He had two sons, Phil and Fred. Later, the livery became the Bower Garage, which Phil ran until 1952.

Mr. Oliver, the wealthiest man in town, had the first car in Palisade. Bill and Ann's first car was an old Maxwell or something similar. It was not a reliable car and sometimes would not start. Bill, knowing nothing about cars, gave up on it and they went back to a horse and buggy for a while. Then they got a Model T Ford Coupe. Ann learned to drive right away, as did many

women of the day. The cars came with books from the factory, through which the men learned to maintain and repair their cars. The Model T was a reliable car, although it was often difficult to start in cold weather. Later when they got a new two-seated car, they converted the Model T into an orchard hoopie.

More on the Trip to Denver to Adopt Peggy:

Ann elaborated further on the trip she and Margaret took to Denver to adopt baby Peggy. The road was gravel with lots of chuck holes, making it quite rough and dusty. They met only a few cars along the way. Ann recalled they took a route through what was later the Vail area and cut across to Bailey, went through Tiny Town, and then to Morrison. They left Palisade early in the morning and did not get to Denver until about 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. Most of the return trip was in the dark. The baby slept most of the way, except when they stopped for gas. There were quite a few gas stations along the way, which was good because they had to stop often for fuel, buying ten gallons at a time. At one point, they needed to get hot water to make more formula for the baby. It was late at night, but they saw a light on at a little place, which turned out to be a sheepherder's wagon. The people there had gone to bed, so they were awakened by the knock on the door. After they got the formula prepared they were back on the road again.

Wash Days and Clothing of the Day:

Ann's mother usually washed clothes on Mondays. If she was out on a nursing case, Ann and her sister took care of washing clothes, but they left the larger pieces, such as bedding, for her mother to do later. They put a large boiler on the stove, filled it with water, and added lye soap to the boiling water. Using a big stick, they punched the laundry up and down in the boiling water. Then they used the stick to lift the laundry out of the boiling water into a tub of clean, cold rinse water. The smaller items were first scrubbed on a washboard before they went into the boiling water. After the laundry was rinsed, it was hung on a clothesline outdoors to dry. Women generally wore white underwear with black bloomers over the top and black stockings. In the early days, shoes were black or brown, but later on more colors were available, along with an array of more brightly-colored clothing and hats.

End of Tape 3

Tape 4, Side 1

In 1917, Ann bought the hat she wore for her wedding from Clara Smith at the millenary shop in Palisade. In those days, women almost always wore hats but did not usually wear gloves, except in cold weather. Ann had long hair, which she tucked up under her hat. Lacking shampoo in those days, she washed her hair with regular soap when she bathed. In those days, there was no beauty shop where women could go to have their hair styled. Ann recalled wearing tall shoes with heels and black silk stockings. She made many of her own clothes. Tom bought Lizzie a Singer treadle sewing machine, which Ann learned to use. For everyday attire, they wore pinafores, sometimes with aprons. Women did not wear slacks then. For fancier dresses, they bought patterns for cutting out the cloth. Sometimes the dye in the fabrics tended to run. Lace, such as that on their petticoats was crocheted by hand. Even their coats were handmade from heavy wool material, and sometimes the neck and cuffs were trimmed with small pieces of fur or

velvet. Buttons were covered with cloth, and buttonholes had to be stitched by hand, since there was no buttonhole attachment for the sewing machines. Everything that was washed had to be ironed, as there was no such thing as “drip-dry” fabric back then. Later on, they wore more ready-made clothing bought from stores or from mail order catalogs.

Sundays and Church:

Ann recalls going to church with her parents. Her father always sat with the choir because he sang. The children usually sat with their parents and sometimes were joined by other children whose parents did not attend church. There were strict rules about not talking or whispering in church, and the Sunday sermons could be quite long. Nevertheless, Ann looked forward to going to church and Sunday school.

Sunday meals, such as a roast or a pot of soup, were often prepared the day before and were warmed up with maybe some potatoes and gravy added to the dinner. Sometimes they attended the evening service, as well. Because of his health, Tom did not usually attend the evening service. The children sometimes went back for a youth group meeting on Sunday evening, but their mother insisted they come directly home afterwards. Ann remembers occasions when they ran home before it got dark. Every year, the church had a big Sunday school picnic. People brought food to share; Ann especially liked the cakes they brought for dessert, along with ice cream supplied by the church.

Food Storage, Preservation, and Cooking:

The house had a basement, which was always a cool place to store food. They put meat and dairy products in large stone crocks with a piece of muslin placed over the top. The crocks had tightly-fitting wooden lids and sat on the dirt floor, which was sprinkled with water daily to keep it damp and cool. A large crock was used for fermenting foods, such as sauerkraut. They raised pigs, which they got in the spring and butchered in the fall. The meat was rubbed with brown sugar and salt to cure it, and sometimes it was brined in crocks. After a time, the meat was taken out of the brine and sewn up into muslin bags made from flour sacks, to be hung from the rafters in the basement. In winter, they bought whole legs of beef and other meat from farmers up in Plateau Valley. It was cut into chunks and hung in cloth bags on the porch. If it froze, Ann’s mother brought it in the house to thaw out on the kitchen table overnight before cooking it. They raised chickens, so there was always plenty of fried chicken and eggs. Tom sometimes went out to hunt rabbits, which were dressed, cut up, and fried like chicken.

It was always easier to store and preserve food in cooler weather. Ann made reference to people sometimes having what they called “summer complaint,” which actually was food poisoning due to the poor conditions for preserving and cooking food in those days. Some people had iceboxes and ice houses or caves where they stored ice in sawdust to keep it from melting. Since they had the basement, Ann’s family did not have an icebox until some years later when ice was delivered once or twice per week. Later on, of course, they got a refrigerator.

The cook stove, fueled with wood or coal, had a reservoir on the side to heat water for cooking and washing dishes. There was a warming oven above the cooktop for keeping food and dishes warm. The fire in the cook stove was kept burning day and night, and there was always a teakettle of hot water on the stove. At the homestead, they had only the cook stove for cooking

and heat. When they moved to the house east of Palisade, they brought the cook stove with them and had another stove in the dining room for heating the house. It was a daily chore to take out the ashes. A soft cloth was used to wipe the top of the stove frequently, and occasionally they rubbed black stove polish all over the stove to preserve the metal.

There was no hospital to go to when people fell ill, and women had their babies at home. Contagious diseases, like scarlet fever, were common, and the whole family often came down with it. A lot of people died from these diseases. If a woman's husband died, she had to find a way to support herself and her children. Women who were left with a producing orchard had a way to make a livelihood, at least to some extent.

They always grew a big garden and had a nice strawberry patch. Ann recalled her mother making strawberry, peach, apricot, and plum jam. They canned lots of fruit and made peach butter and applesauce. Ann recalls being especially fond of applesauce pies, and there were usually baked goods such as cookies or a cake on hand. Carrots, cabbage, beans, potatoes, radishes, onions, and lettuce were grown in the garden. They ate vegetables in season and did not can them. In winter, they bought canned vegetables from the store.

End of Tape 4, Side 1

Tape 4, Side 2

Ann recalls her mother making "seven-minute frosting" (*cream of tartar or corn syrup, salt, water, and egg whites cooked in the top of a double boiler*) for cakes and cookies. Sometimes she used chocolate to flavor it. In later years, she used powdered sugar to make frosting. Butter was often substituted for shortening in cakes, but lard was used in bread and pie crusts. Ann did not recall her mother ever using a cookbook – she just remembered how things were done. Women at church often shared their knowledge of preparing various dishes. As Ann and her sister grew older, they started seeing cookbooks in the stores and bought them.

Sometime later when ice was delivered, they acquired an ice box, which had a compartment on the top to for the ice and a drip pan underneath to catch water. They kept it in the basement and just let the water drip out onto the dirt floor. In addition to ice for the icebox, they sometimes bought a chunk of ice from the iceman for making ice cream. They had an old ice cream freezer and made ice cream using half cream and half milk with beaten eggs and a little vanilla flavoring.

The house Ann spoke of is the one they moved into when they left the homestead on Orchard Mesa. The house was already there when they moved, along with the peach orchard, which was newly planted. The house is no longer there. At the time of this interview, the orchard still stood and was owned by Allen Jones, who owned about 200 acres of peach orchards in the area.

The Narrows:

Ann talked about an area known as "the Narrows." It was a small, narrow wagon road that went between the river and the cliff and then up the next canyon past where the current Orchard Mesa

Hill road (38 Road) is located. (*The Narrows River crossing was near the current State bridge.*) The road was barely wide enough for a wagon, so if another wagon was coming from the opposite direction, they could not pass. In high water during spring runoff, the road was impassable for several days. After the County acquired better equipment, they were able to build another road, which was wider and high enough above the river where it would not be flooded.

In the summertime, people went to the river to swim. During low water, people gathered by the river, often with picnic lunches, to play in the water and on the sandbars. They waded at the edge of the water but did not go out very far. Oftentimes, mothers would come with their children to the river to cool off. They did not own swim suits, but just rolled up their dresses and waded or even lay down in the cool, shallow water at the edge of the river. People also went up Plateau Creek to cool off in the water.

Ann did not recall the men ever getting into the water. They mostly fished and sat around talking and smoking their pipes. The women did not smoke but most of the men smoked, even Ann's father with his breathing problems from the black lung disease. They smoked pipes and cigars, and in later times cigarettes. Some also chewed tobacco.

Ann shared a few other memories from the early days. The moon was sometimes viewed as a romantic thing, or people just never gave it much thought. It was considered merely as a "dead planet" reflecting the light of the sun. People living during those times thought it would be impossible for man to ever go to the moon. Ann remembered Halley's Comet when it passed particularly close to the earth (*in 1910*). As children, they were afraid because adults told them if the tail of the comet touched the earth, it would burn everyone up and destroy the world. She also remembered a 1910 solar eclipse when they moved to their place east of Palisade. As the sun was covered up, the chickens went to roost at two o'clock in the afternoon. Everything turned a pinkish-rose color, and then it got dark enough it was hard to see without a light.

At the end of the interview, Ann mentioned her sister-in-law, who lived on the Redlands. She wrote a book on her life, beginning with when they had a homestead there.

End of Tape 4

Summary by Gary Hines, 04/20/2016