

Oral History - Frank Grant Harbour

Interviewer April A. Bernard

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This is an oral history interview for the Park County Oral History Project with Frank and Midge Harbour in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at their home on the 9th of June, 2005.



The first thing is to pull together some biographical information so I just need your full name.

Frank: Frank G.

What does the G stand for?

Frank: Grant.

Date of birth?

Frank: July 22, 1904. I'll be 101 in July.

Wow! Okay, an ethnic or cultural group?

Frank: What are you referring to? It's like Caucasian, I think, don't you?

Midge: Uh, yeah. If you aren't you've been holding out on me!

Frank: Yeah, I was born in Colorado Springs in Old Colorado City.

I think that's on here. Okay, names and occupations of parents.

Midge: What do you call it? A clothing store? Your father had a . . .

Frank: Well, my father had a men's clothing store in La Junta, Colorado. L-A J-U-N-T-A. And he also ran a general store in Harbourdale, Colorado, which isn't there anymore.

And what's that? Harbor . . . ?

Frank: Harbour, like our name, exactly as father named it. H-A-R-B-O-U-R-D-A-L-E.

In Colorado?

Frank: It was on Horn Street. He had a country store (inaudible).

What was your father's name?

Frank: What was my father's name? Grant, just Grant. G-R-A-N-T. No middle initial.

Your mother's name?

Frank: Eda. E-D-A.

What was her maiden name?

Frank: G-R-O-E-N-I-N-G. Groening.

Did she have a middle name?

Frank: No.

No? And what did she do for a living?

Frank: A housewife.

Okay.

Frank: (Inaudible). She cooked (inaudible).

That sounds pretty good, though.

Midge: She was quite the elite of La Junta and all up there. She was the (inaudible) society.

Oh, okay. Wow. Were there others who helped to raise you?

Midge: Nobody else helped to raise you, did they?

Frank: Oh, no, no, no. (Inaudible).

Midge: And he came to Colorado, I mean he graduated from La Junta High School.

Frank: Yes. It was here I sat closer to Midge.

Midge: I already asked him.

Where did you graduate from high school?

Frank: La Junta, Colorado.

Midge: 1924.

Frank: 1924.

Wow, okay.

Midge: And then he graduated from the University of . . .

Frank: Yeah, she'll ask that in a minute, honey.

All right, what university did you graduate?

Frank: Colorado State University. 1934.

And that was the one in Ft. Collins?

Frank: Yes.

Okay, so they have all these different satellites.

Frank: And a master's degree from Colorado College in 1944. A master's to be in education.

Okay, then that's how the superintendent part came in?

Midge: Well, he was superintendent before that. He was superintendent after he graduated from college. Well, he started out in this high school so he come out of Holly, Colorado, for one term and during the dust bowl and the whole story's in there. And during the dust bowl when . . .

Frank: Are you going to give her that story? You have another copy of the book?

Midge: Oh, yeah. I made that copy. Anyway, and they got so sick and tired of the dust he didn't (inaudible) and they decided they wanted to go see, when spring (inaudible). When summer came they wanted to go see something green. So they drove up from here which they had been amazed with and they got on up to Woodland Park and they said, "This is it. We love it." And so Frank got a hold of a couple of the school board and they said they were looking for somebody to be in charge of the school (inaudible).

Frank: They wanted me to start at the high school.

Midge: So, they hired Frank to do it and that's how Woodland Park High School started.

Oh, okay. So that's how you ended up in Woodland Park.

Frank: Yes, yes.

Midge: For 40 years, I guess. Long before I ever met him.

Better put Woodland Park down, too.

Midge: Too?! That was 40 years of your life!

Frank: Good life, good years, too.

Okay. How about the names of your grandparents?

Frank: Name of what?

Midge: Your grandparents.

Frank: Let's see. I don't know my mother's father's first name but it'd be Groening, I think, that they . . . where was he from?

Midge: Germany.

Frank: He was from Germany and my father's father, I think was Grant. And he lived in Monroe, Iowa, if you need that.

Okay. How about your grandmothers. Do you remember their names?

Frank: No.

Midge: I don't think you ever saw them. I never saw any of my grandparents. (Inaudible).

How about names of siblings?

Midge: He had one brother. Kenneth.

Kenneth?

Midge: Kenneth. Kenneth Frank?

Frank: Kenneth Roy. R-O-Y. He didn't like that name.

So Kenneth Roy Harbour. And it's Kenneth, K-E-N-N-E-T-H? Okay.

Midge: Deceased. He was six years younger than Frank.

Okay. And then it says name of spouse. What's your middle name, Midge?

Midge: (Inaudible). I guess we'll use Beasley. It's Mildred. My real name is Mildred. Nobody knows who that was. I'd rather you put it in as (inaudible). Midge Beasley.

B-E-A . . . ?

Midge: S-L-E-Y.

And when you were you all married?

Midge: April 30, 1977.

Frank: That was a good one.

Midge: He was married to Catherine first but she died.

Is that a K or a C?

Midge: C.

C-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E?

Midge: Is that right? Spell Catherine.

Frank: C-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E.

Middle name?

Frank: Her middle name was Marguerite. I can't spell it.

Midge: Is that where Mary Marguerite got her name?

Frank: Not Margaret, not Margaret. Marguerite.

What was her maiden name?

Midge: Shea, right?

Can you spell that?

Midge: S-H-E-A?

Frank: Yeah.

What's your maiden name?

Midge: Beasley.

Oh, so that's why I have the Beasley in there? Names of children with ages or birth dates?

Midge: Children?

Frank: Who's children?

Midge: Yours, I guess. You mean him?

Yes.

Frank: I have a son named Grant, no wait a minute. It's Kenneth Grant but he didn't like the name Kenneth. Well, he (inaudible). Kenneth Grant (inaudible).

Okay. How old is he?

Midge: Is Grant '36?

Frank: He was born in '35, yeah.

Okay. Any other children?

Midge: He had a son, Dan. Daniel.

Frank: Daniel Frank was his name. He liked that name. He was born two years later.

In 1937?

Frank: '37.

And names of friends or other persons significant throughout your life?

Midge: Me! What does that mean?

So, like if he had any best friends or if he hung out with particular groups of people or like a teacher that played a big role, things like that.

Frank: No.

No?

Midge: President Truman.

You knew him?

Midge: No. But he did in his job as postmaster when there was no PERA. I don't know if you're familiar with that term.

I do. I'm a state employee.

Midge: All right. There was no PERA for teachers in the state and Frank and Catherine evidently decided they needed some kind of a pension to retire on so Frank began to look around and they decided they needed a postmaster for Woodland Park so after teaching for 20 years, he became postmaster of Woodland for the next 20.

At the same time?

Midge: No.

Separately? Oh, I was like you were busy, huh?

Midge: Well, he taught (inaudible) his first graduation class had one student and there's a picture in the paper now that seems like 400 has graduated.

Wow.

Frank: I think now they have 300. Yeah.

Just a little bit smaller than my graduating class.

Frank: Where'd you graduate?

Arvada West. Okay, places that you've lived throughout your life? We have Colorado City, we have La Junta, we have Woodland Park.

Frank: Harbourdale.

Oh.

Frank: We were there eight years, about.

Midge: That long? I didn't think it was that long.

Frank: Well, (inaudible) and my dad actually grew up, it was around 1915-1920, yeah.

Now, where is Harboursdale located?

Frank: About 30 miles south of La Junta.

Oh, okay.

Frank: It's, now it's gone now. There's just one building. (Inaudible) country food store.

Midge: You had your store and you had your house.

Frank: Oh, yeah, there was two buildings. Yes, yes. The store (inaudible) and the home. Yes, you're right.

Midge: I guess, from the stories you told me.

Okay. Any place else besides those?

Frank: Well, Denver.

Midge: You lived in Denver for a year or so.

Frank: Who?

Midge: You. Lived in Denver.

Frank: Oh, when I retired from the postmastership in, let's see . . .

Midge: '72.

Frank: '73?

Midge: '72.

Frank: Okay. Catherine and I lived in Denver until she died in '74 and then I went to Ft. Collins.

Midge: He was in Ft. Collins.

Frank: When my son was in Ft. Collins. And then I married Midge and for a year were lived down here, didn't we?

Midge: No. Well, we lived in Ft. Collins first and then we came down (inaudible).

Frank: (Inaudible) for a year.

Midge: We moved down into this, no, well, we were at the ranch all the time. We bought the ranch in '77.

Frank: Yeah. Tell her where that is.

Midge: Well, that's a little town called Tarryall.

Ah, ha! And that's where this came in? Okay.

Frank: We was there until 1995 (inaudible). When did I get sick? '89?

Midge: Yeah.

Frank: Yeah.

Midge: And I still write for this newspaper. All the (inaudible). I've done it for 23 years so people call me if they have anything (inaudible).

Sure. That's good, though.

Midge: That's why I can still do it and I still have connections. Plenty of connections. Once he had to go on full-time oxygen we came down here. So, we deeded our ranch over to Dan so he's working on it.

Frank: How long were we in Tarryall?

Midge: '77 to . . .

Frank: '89.

Midge: 20 years. No, 12 years.

Oh, okay. So, I have Tarryall and Ft. Collins and Denver. So that pretty much . . .

Midge: Colorado Springs!

I have that.

Midge: Where we live now.

So, now when I was asked to do the interview, they just gave me some information and said that, Frank, your family had been in the Tarryall area probably since the early 1900's.

Midge: Uh, yeah. Please help me, here. You had been in the Tarryall area since the early 1900's. You went to school at the old Tarryall school.

Frank: I have to tell you I don't remember.

That's okay.

Frank: When I was six years old, in the summertime, there was an epidemic of smallpox in La Junta and I had an uncle who lived in Tarryall. He was a hornsmith. He had a horn shop. No, no. There was a rancher, what was his name? Bay. Yeah, Mr. Bay and his wife. A rancher at Tarryall. Now, this is when I was six years old and they sent me for the summer to spend the summer in Tarryall. That was my first time in Tarryall, Colorado, at a ranch that we later bought which is a rather strange coincidence.

Now, that was the ranch that you and Midge bought?

Frank: Yeah.

Midge: Well, he and Catherine bought it one time and they paid \$1,000.

Frank: Paid \$1,000.

Midge: In 194 . . . ?

Frank: '44.

Midge: '44? Okay. Then they wanted to take a trip to Europe and a woman friend of theirs offered to buy the ranch from him for enough money so they could go over on the Queen Mary and come back . . .

Frank: The Queen Mary and back on Elizabeth.

Oh, cool!

Midge: The Queen Elizabeth. Then when Frank and I were married, she'd never done anything more with it. She just leased it part of the time to one of the other ranchers up there to run his (inaudible). So when we decided (inaudible) she decided she'd like (inaudible) she called Frank and asked if he'd like to buy it back. She had bought it from him for \$10,000 and he had originally paid \$1,000. So it ticked up \$5,000 for each of them if they (inaudible). So they bought it for \$10,000. So, when she wanted to sell it back she said well I think it'll be only fair since property's gone up that you pay us ten times what you paid for it.

Frank: No, not ten times. No, ten times was what she paid me. \$20,000.

Midge: But anyway, that's how we bought it back the second time.

Now, how did your family know that local rancher in the Tarryall area? Was that your uncle, you said?

Midge: His uncle is Otto Groening. It's all in my book.

Frank: I lived in Tarryall and he was the harness maker and had a little saddle shop. He'd fix saddles and he later had to fix shoes for my son when he (inaudible).

Midge: But when the people that lived on that ranch one time, I guess, they must have rented it from Sylvia?

Frank: Yeah.

Midge: She was ironing and back in those days they heated the irons on a wood stove and she had to go outside to do something and the original house caught on fire. And Frank's uncle, which is also all this is in my book, Frank's uncle said, "Well, I'm not using the old harness shop," and they loaded it (inaudible).

Frank: He loaded that.

Midge: They loaded it on four wagons and drove over the hill from Tarryall down to where the ranch is and set it down so that woman had a roof over her head.

Frank: And it's still (inaudible).

Oh, so it's still being used. Did you go back over the years to Tarryall after you had been sick?

Midge: Oh, we can't go back there.

No, I mean after . . .

Midge: We left in '89 because of his health and we've had him up there a couple of times. Oh, there for the first couple of years you used to go back up and ride your horses.

Frank: Yeah.

Midge: This is the house I'm talking about. Now, that's this part of the ranch (inaudible).

So, it's different?

Midge: But it still has this original part.

Okay. So, now you said when you were six years old that was the first time you went there then did you go there every other summer after that?

Frank: Yes.

Midge: Here he is with one of his horses. And here's the (inaudible). This was his uncle, this is Bay (inaudible) and they're the ones that he lived with.

Now, when you would go there to visit your uncle, did he have you working on the ranch or what kinds of things did you do?

Midge: He was six years old the first time!

Well, you never know.

Frank: Well, he was my uncle. I'd visit him in his house in the town of Tarryall and our ranch, the big place, is a mile north. It joins the town but the house is a mile north.

Midge: All of that is in the book.

So, just also refer to the book, too.

Midge: Maybe that would straighten it out. And then this is more of his early (inaudible).

Frank: I think it is of interest that she ran for County Commissioner in Park County.

Oh, you did?

Frank: I never would run for any public office in Park County. I was never employed in Park County.

Midge: I ran for (inaudible) and at the time I (inaudible) good-looking younger man that was a cousin to Ron Egloff who was one of the big Denver Bronco players so the name was very well known like Elway today. It was Egloff then. And 1982. And I was elected and he said, "It's impossible. I want a re-count," and they re-counted and I lost by four points. So he stayed about six months in the job and ran off with one of the secretaries. Never saw him again.

Frank: But she was real good-looking!

Midge: Well, I don't know whether she was or not.

So, after he ran off with the secretary, did you then get the post or what happened?

Midge: I don't remember. Oh, in those days, I think (inaudible). And I think that the next election then they'd go (inaudible). I got into (inaudible) Tarryall and Fairplay (inaudible).

Yeah, that would've been tough probably. Now, how did you get into the writing?

Midge: Oh, I've always written something, I think. In college (inaudible) I got in the list because one day apparently they were starting a Brownie troop in 1980 up in Lake George area and one of the, my daughter's friends, (inaudible) my granddaughter (inaudible) at that time and she said, "Could you write it up in The Flume so they know we're starting a troop down there," and I said sure so I jotted up a little article and took it up. At that time there was an editor that would put (inaudible) and you see them still. They were kind of printed themselves on the old presses and the building's still there and what they're (inaudible), I don't know (inaudible). And he said, "Say, you do much writing?" and I said, "Yes," and he said, "You wouldn't consider starting a column would you on what was going on down in your area?" and I said, "That might be kind of fun," and that's how I got started and 23 years later I'm still writing.

So, now you were a regular correspondent then for The Flume?

Midge: Until they got some young girl in there. Fresh out of journalism school and she moved into Bailey and was they're editor and she said one day, "You know it'd be nice if you'd like to continue to send me your column each week but I can't promise they'll be published," and I said, "I can't promise I'm gonna send it to you. I'm getting paid for doing the same thing for The Flume," and I said, "I can't send them to you for free with the thought that you might and might not run it." "Oh, well, anytime we'd run it I'd pay you," and I said, "Uh huh, I don't work that way. I'm either in or out." "Well, then you're out because people in Bailey are not much interested in what goes on in Lake George." Anyway, so that's why I'm no longer writing for them.

Now, you wrote for them from 1980 through . . . ?

Midge: Well, in 1981, I guess it was, after I'd written for almost a year, the Ute Pass Courier called and said, "Is there any way you could send us a copy of what you're writing for The Flume because most everybody down at our end of the country is taking the Courier," and so I said, "Sure," and they said, "We'll pay you \$10 each," so I told The Flume \$10 and they said, "Well that's cheap enough," so I was getting \$20 a week.

That's good.

Frank: And you're still with them, too.

Midge: I'm still with the Courier. It's the Courier now, they're paying for it.

But the Fairplay Flume lasted through like the mid-80's?

Midge: Let's see, 3 years ago.

Oh, so you were with them for quite a long time.

Midge: Yes.

So, all the way through 2002.

Midge: But this new little girl . . . they go through editors like (inaudible). I don't know how many . . .

Frank: They don't pay them anything.

Midge: But they're fresh out of journalism school and they're gonna change the world and they stopped Lake George and Lake (inaudible). She wanted to change the world so . . .

Now, so you were helping with the ranch at the same time you were doing the articles?

Midge: Helping at the ranch?

Well, you said, I thought you said you lived on the ranch from '77 through '89, right?

Midge: We were gentlemen ranchers. All we did was play with the horses.

Oh, I didn't know if you meant cattle or . . .

Midge: We just played with our horses and we repaired fence.

Frank: She's actually a good rider.

Midge: What?

Frank: You were a good rider.

Midge: Oh. Horse rider?

Frank: Oh, gosh.

Midge: He taught all my kids and his kids and grandchildren (inaudible). You don't sit like a sack of potatoes. He could sit a horse (inaudible).

Now when you went to the ranch when you were six years old did they teach him how to ride the horse then?

Midge: No. When did you learn to ride horses? You rode them down in La Junta, I mean when you were down in Harbourdale.

Frank: My dad brought me a pony when we lived in La Junta, when I was eight years old. A pinto, a Shetland pinto, when I was eight years old and we still had her at Harbourdale and, let's see, there was a period in Woodland Park, the first few years, in the '30s, I didn't have a horse but as soon as I got the ranch in '44, we had a (inaudible) but I still got along.

Oh, you did?

Frank: Yeah.

Midge: Well, there was more than that on the ranch (inaudible).

Frank: Yeah.

So, do you keep your horse up at the ranch still where your son lives at?

Midge: (Inaudible). He's got five, I think. Four or five. Oh, 160 acres. (Inaudible).

Now, was the ranch always that big? That 160 acres?

Midge: Oh, yeah. When they were homesteading in those days, anybody that homesteaded could homestead 160 acres.

Frank: It was, still is, 160 acres.

Just curious because some people, they said they pulled together more pieces of land or they sold some pieces off.

Frank: We sold the ranch to my son . . .

Midge: '94?

Frank: '94? Yeah, 1994. And he lives there now. He had H&R Block agency and retired and moved back to Tarryall, I mean he moved into Tarryall. So somebody on the ranch, now.

Now, you said . . . you were telling a story about how a log cabin was moved to help this woman out where the house burned down. Were there any other buildings that were moved around? I've heard a lot of people say that a lot of ranch buildings were moved around just based on what your needs were.

Midge: Well, that old barn of ours is, was built by all the ranchers at one time.

Frank: Now, you're talking about the 1880's.

Midge: Yeah.

Frank: Open range. It was open range. All the ranchers in that area built a big barn.

And that was for everybody?

Frank: That was for everybody.

Midge: And that was where they held our rendezvous to sort the cattle out. All the cattle . . .

Frank: In October, when we gathered the cattle, (inaudible), they brought the cattle in and have a great corral and sold them off to the various different ranchers. (Inaudible) and the cowboys slept up in the hayloft. (Inaudible) and, I can't get it straight in my head, but I think it was on government land. I don't think anybody owned it. And Mr. Bay homesteaded it about the turn of the century. About 1898 and that old barn is still there. That great big ol' barn.

That's cool that it's still there.

Midge: That's something you ought to put on there. The National Historic Registry. I got the old schoolhouse in Tarryall on the National Historic Registry and we ought to get the barn. It has to be something that's been in, that was built more than 60 years ago so that's (inaudible).

But it sounds like regionally, at least, it was pretty significant to those ranchers in that area. Now, were you ever a part of that when they brought all the cattle?

Midge: Oh, heaven's no! He wasn't born yet. He wasn't born until 1904!

Well, you know, later on.

Midge: She wanted to know if you were a part of sorting out the cattle.

Frank: That was in 18 . . .

Well, later, you know.

Midge: No, it didn't go that long. At that time it was Bay that homesteaded and then it was the Bay place and it was back on that old ranch.

Frank: Yeah, I wasn't born until 1904.

Just, you know, some of the activities, some of the same stuff continued.

Midge: Not this because people were homesteading their own places. They did not use that anymore to gather stock.

So, then who . . . is the barn still like a community type thing or does it belong to a specific person now? When did it kind of transfer over?

Midge: When the Bays homesteaded it.

So, they took over that?

Midge: Yeah. Oh, about late 1898.

Frank: (Inaudible) but before that it was all open range and they really had no fence.

And that's when he put the fence up?

Midge: Yeah, when he homesteaded. See, they had to homestead it to live on it for three years and then it was yours.

Now, how did your uncle end up in Tarryall? How did he end up getting there?

Frank: He . . .

Midge: Came over from Germany and was looking around to see what he wanted to do and he ended up, what was the name of that town? In Nebraska?

Frank: I can't think. It was where they captured Sitting Bull. It's in the history book. I forgot the name. What's the name of it?

Midge: And so he wandered in there . . . well that's where Fort Robinson also is and he was in a bar, I guess, he went in to have a beer or something. He was just a young man, 16 or 17.

Frank: He was just 20 years old.

Midge: Oh, was he 20? And two of these military men came in and spotted him and, I guess, one of 'em picked him up by one elbow and one by the other elbow and his little feet were just a-goin' like that and they said, "You're in the Army now. We need a harness maker."

Frank: We need a saddle maker. It was a cavalry unit so they had him enlist. He enlisted in the U.S. Army. And then he retired as an Indian fighter.

Midge: On a retirement pension.

Frank: The U.S. Army. An Indian fighter! He said, "Heck I just stayed in my own (inaudible)."

Once he retired then did he go to Tarryall?

Midge: How'd he get to Tarryall? Oh! He saw the mad rush for Cripple Creek and he decided he was gonna start his own mad rush up to Tarryall.

Frank: There was a big boom. I think it was a little before Cripple Creek '98. I think it was around '96. There was a gold rush boom and people were flocking in, men were flocking in and panning for gold up and down the Tarryall River. There were 3,000 men at one time and they needed a shoe shop. They only had a saddle shop. None of 'em had horses. And he had (inaudible) and he didn't like mining so he started himself a shoe shop in Tarryall in about '98.

Midge: His parents were married in Cripple, no, married in Denver and moved to Cripple Creek in about '98.

Frank: What?

Midge: Your parents were married in Denver and moved to Cripple Creek about '98.

Frank: They started a little store and they couldn't make it so they moved back to town. They didn't like it either.

Yeah, I don't know if I'd like it either.

Midge: I wouldn't like it.

So, that's how he ended up there in Tarryall. He started a shop to make saddles and shoes.

Midge: For the miners.

That's interesting.

Midge: Some of those stories are in my book. I think you'll enjoy reading it.

Oh, I think so, too.

Midge: You want me to sign it?

Sure, if you want to sign it. Do you think it's getting a little late? I mean I can keep going or is there anything else you want to put on the tape?

Midge: Alice, isn't it?

April.

Midge: April, April.

So, now when you went up to Tarryall to visit your uncle, did you help him with the harnesses?

Midge: No.

What kinds of stuff did you do when you were there?

Frank: It was school.

Midge: School. He was in school. That school's in here. That's why I asked you when you first called if you had read it. The book.

So, they held school in the summer?

Midge: No.

Oh, you actually went there during the year, too? So then, it sounds like you were there in the summer and during the regular school year, too.

Midge: Well, that one year, or two years, when there was so much sickness down in La Junta, his parents sent him up there.

Frank: I was just there one summer when I was six years old.

Midge: When you went to school.

Frank: I went to school there when we moved to Harbourdale, when my dad . . . he was a homesteader and doing the store and he was postmaster and the first year we were there, in 1915, there was no public school there was just . . . you didn't have schools back then. They enforce it now. For two or three years there was absolutely no school in that whole area so in 1915 I went and stayed with my uncle. I was in the fourth grade, fifth grade, yes, I went to school in Tarryall for that term.

That one term?

Frank: Yes, yes.

Midge: That one year.

Frank: Yeah. One year. Then the next year we had a school in Harbourdale. Mr. Porter was the teacher.

Midge: I don't know how I got so involved in all this but (inaudible) he's pretty famous for figuring out things for me to do for him.

Frank: Yeah, right. I'm good at it.

Midge: You know, nobody's ever written history of any of these old-timers and they're all dying off and that's why I did the book. I knew so many of those people but they're all dead now. They've all died in the past 15 years.

So a lot of these people were still up there when you all were ranching there? What are some of the names of those people?

Midge: Well, you probably should go through the book.

Well, I have to go home and read it, you know.

Frank: Midge, why don't you make some notes in the book so she can find it.

Midge: These were the people who helped me. Edith Denny Wille just died about two years ago. She moved to Wyoming. Nora Jane Parker, she's been here for quite awhile. Joan Gordon is still right over here. Margaret Gerdes died last year. Gladys Daniels Johnson, her mother was one of the school teachers up there and Gladys is a secretary for the Tarryall School Association. Sue Daniels Curtis, she and her daughter both went to school in Tarryall. Elmer is dead. Jack and Mildred Smith is dead. Emil and Daisy are both dead. Marie Warling is dead. Gretchen Ford's dead. Alice Toms moved away. I don't know where they're at. Bill and Jean Cavett moved away. Roy and Ruth Caylor are both dead. But they were all alive when I wrote the book.

So you were able to . . .

Midge: Talk to 'em. Lawson and Myrte Gilley, they're both dead. Sumner. Marion, now she's dead. Genevieve, she's dead. John Quick is dead. Carl and Gertrude. I heard from him about five years ago. I think he's dead. I'm not sure. Carl and Gertrude. Gertrude Quist is still around. Now she was talking (inaudible).

She actually is the Gertrude Quist that's still living in Tarryall? Okay, maybe I'll tell them that may be a person to talk to also.

Midge: She's got a tremendous memory. That's why I had to do it when I did it. And her book (inaudible). I saw Gertie, oh, (inaudible) a day. So I know Gertie best.

Frank: Really and truly you should mark some of those chapters so she can . . .

Midge: Oh, she's gonna read the whole book.

I am.

Frank: Or else you won't have time. That's a big book.

No. This is fascinating!

Midge: It goes fast. It'll go fast. The book starts out with almost every rancher (inaudible) of Tarryall.

Now, you mentioned Gertie. What did her family do in the Tarryall area?

Midge: Oh, cripes! They weren't in the Tarryall book. They were down in . . .

Frank: Hold it just one second. Who?

Midge: Gertie Quist. She was down in Lake George area when the history (inaudible).

Frank: We lived in Lake George.

Midge: When we first moved up there their name was either Caylor or Quist. You never said anything against anybody to somebody else because they were related. I know that. When I first went up to (inaudible) you didn't know it. It didn't take me long to find out. You don't open your mouth about anybody to anybody because they would be related.

So, the Quists and the Caylors were two big families up there. Now, where were the Caylors?

Midge: And the Stolls. You know, there's Stoll Mountain up there.

And where were the Caylors at?

Midge: They were south of 24. On down in Florissant. She just died about three years ago. She was one of my dearest friends. I just loved her. She was one year younger than you are. She would have been 100 this year.

Frank: What?

Midge: Ruth would have been 100 years old.

Frank: Yes, yes, yeah.

Now, were these all families who ranched or homesteaded or both? How about the Stolls?

Midge: S-T-O-L-L. Out in (inaudible) is another big family of ranchers.

What part were they . . .

Midge: Most all of those, the Stolls and the Caylor, well, Stolls were both sides. Some of the Stolls were up close to Tarryall around (inaudible) about half way up to Tarryall. Caylor were south and that great big . . . are you familiar with Florissant at all?

A little.

Midge: All right, there's a great, big, huge house that's now a daycare center or something and that's always been known as the Caylor house. That's Ruth's husband's brother's house. And they owned that (inaudible) so it's exciting to me, you know, so I could write it up. And Jack Smith is another big rancher up there. He's been up there ranching, oh, I think 18 or so first up around Hartsel, not Hartsel, Jefferson. And now (inaudible). And the old Farnum family, the old Allen family, all of those were early ranchers along the Tarryall.

So, those folks were there at the same time that this rush happened?

Midge: No. I think it was later. It was part of migration all between 1900, well, about 1900 to 1910 was migration from what I know.

Now, after spending the year at school in Tarryall and between the time that you all bought the ranch, Frank, did you spend any more time there?

Midge: He bought it in 1941, sold it in '56, bought it back in '77.

But between that time where he spent a year in school . . .

Midge: He was in Woodland Park.

In 1944. But did he go up (inaudible)?

Midge: Yeah.

Frank: Let me interject here. I am a sort of a pioneer in Teller County in Woodland Park. All my 40 years of employment as school teacher and as postmaster was in Woodland Park which is Teller County and you might say that this ranch as she said a minute ago was a second, what do you call it? A vacation home?

Midge: Yeah, at first.

Frank: It was like a second home. It was not a main home.

Midge: It was not a working ranch is what he's telling you. He tried cows and lost his shirt.

Frank: Well, the thing was this: I'm a Charter Member of the Lion's Club and a Charter Member of several other organizations in Woodland Park which is Teller County. Now, she was actually in politics in Park County but I never was. I never lived in Park County.

Midge: Yes, you did.

Frank: I mean, when I was grown up.

Midge: Oh, you did after you married me.

Frank: Yes, yes. I mean to say that I'm a pioneer of Park County is not exactly . . .

Midge: Jack Smith. Now if you want to talk to somebody, talk to Jack.

I'll just write his name down. He may be on that list. They have a list of people who they want to talk to.

Midge: Jack Smith would be one you want to talk to and Gertie Quist is another one. Now, Jack Smith's wife and Gertie Quist are sisters.

Frank: Have you interviewed Jack Smith?

Midge: That's who I'm talking about.

Frank: Well, you see, I don't know unless you tell me.

Midge: That's who we're talking about.

Frank: Excuse me. He is a real pioneer. Jack Smith.

Midge: He went all through school there in Tarryall. Whether he went any further than that, I don't know. Jack and Mildred. And his wife was a pioneer. Hayman, in the old town of Hayman.

Frank: Where the fire was a few years ago.

Midge: (Inaudible) and Gertie Quist. I think she's got a phone. You'd think the seniors (inaudible).

Now, if there's anything that you would want to say about the time that you spent in Park County or the things that you've seen, is there anything like that that you'd want to pass on.

Midge: I think I've said everything I want to say about it in there.

You wrote a book about it.

Midge: Well, he's the one that would tell me so much of it. It has to be Carl Quist.

(Tape ends).