Thelma Milne (Thelma Milne interviewing GLADYS HALL)

T  Gladys, can you remember you're having a lot of clothes. Did you have a closet full of clothes? How did folks dress in those days?
G  We had one Sunday dress and if we wore it to church or Sunday School we came home and took our dresses off and hung them up for the next Sunday, and then we had plenty of clothes for school and for every day. I can also remember wearing underwear that was made out of flour sacks with Five Roses that wouldn't wash out.
T  Across the bottom eh? With your clothes, can you remember that you got clothes for any special occasions? Were there any times during the year that you might get a new dress?
G  I can remember my grandmother Caldwell passed away. I was nine years old. And we got, my sister and I, got the cutest little new dresses to go to the funeral.
T  How about on the first of July? Was that a time to get new dresses?
G  Well, now when we were younger we didn't celebrate the 1st of Julys. We come from a community where they do that until we moved here to the US, here to the church people, that--
T  Tell us, if you remember, how Christmas would be celebrated in your home.
G  Yes, we always had Christmas. Santa Claus always came. We didn't have a Christmas trees when we were smaller, but after we moved up by Pincher Creek and the Porcupine Hills, we had Christmas trees, but the only way we could light them was with candles, and so we didn't get lit up very often, because my father was afraid of fire.
T  Right.
G  But later on in our lives we did have Christmas trees, and celebrate.
T  What kind of gifts would you get?
G  Oh, we always got our dolls, we girls, and the boys got balls and skates and--
T  --things like that.
G  Yes.
T  You had some good Christmases.
G  Yes we did have good Christmas, and my mother always made the plumb pudding for Christmas.
T  Was turkey a common thing to have?
G  Not when we were younger, but as we grew older, we had turkey a lot, but we, my father always raised his own beef, and his own pork, and those kind of things.
T  So you had lots to eat?
G  Plenty to eat.
T  Tell us, did you ever go to any dances?
G  Yes, I went to lots of dances, long before I was old enough to be able to dance.
T  How old was old enough when you were young?
G  Well, we weren't supposed to go until we were sixteen, but up there where we lived, they had what they called Whist games, and my parents and the older children would play Whist and played that until midnight, then we'd have lunch, and then we'd dance. There was one man that played the piano, and he played the piano and everybody
else danced, and I had plenty of opportunity to learn how to dance, because my brothers all danced with me, of course.

T Oh, that's interesting. Why do you think it went on so late? Like today they start at eight o'clock and end at twelve.

G Well, they only had a dance maybe once a month.

T Oh, yes.

G We had them in the school house. I say they were one room schools.

T Uh huh.

G And there would maybe just ten or twelve families that had children coming there. And the community thing--

T Well, tell us when you became engaged to be married. Can you remember about that? Where were you living then?

G I was living in Cardston. I met Vern and was engaged to be married, but we didn't have, I didn't have diamond rings at that time. I had a little wedding band when we were married, and I still wear it.

T Oh yes. And what were you doing at the time? Working, or?

G Yes, I worked in Cardston. I worked in Cardston Hospital for six years.

T What doing?

G Cooking.

T Oh, yes.

G And then after I was married I stayed on there for a couple of years.

T Any other place that you worked in Cardston?

G I worked in the post office. I've worked in Ken's Store, and--

T Well, you were an early career girl, were you?

G I guess that's what you'd call me. Career! if cooking and washing dishes was a career, I had it. For six years at the hospital.

T Oh, that's interesting. Now having lived how long?

G Ninety-one years.

T Ninety-one years. You probably learned a lot. What advice have you got to give the youth of today?

G Well, the best advice I can say is, do the best you can. We didn't have the opportunities for education and that kind of thing when we were younger, but we learned to work, we learned to be honest, we learned to do a good day's work for a dollar a day, sometimes less than that. But all I can say is, that we do the best the best we can with what we've got, and try and help other people, too.

T Do you think that because you have had a life time of working, Gladys, do you think that this has made you happy or unhappy?

G Oh, it's made me happy. What would you do if you couldn't work and learn new things and how to do things. Take advantage of every opportunity of work that you have because you always learn something.

T All right. I was wondering if today's youth look on work as a sadness or a bad thing in their life, and the playing is the good thing. I don't think that was true in your case, was it?

G No, it wasn't. And it isn't now. The more you can work, can do, the more mischief you can stay out of--

T --and the better off you are.

G And the better off you are.
The first part of this tape will be an interview with Frankie Ellison, conducted by Ruth Jacobs Glenn on the 22 February 1984.

R Hello, this is Ruth Glenn Walker from - I have to say Glenn because I thought you'd know me better by that name. I'm trying to get some information for the Historical Society, but Leo Stutz has asked me, and I have several questions here I would like to ask you. The first one was, do you know anything about the lime making material that they had in the old kiln out at Kimball?

F Say it again.

R The old, the lime, they had a lime kiln, l-i-m-e, out at Kimball at one time. I don't know anything about it but he wondered if you did.

F I remember they did have one, but I don't know anything about it.

R You don't remember who ran it or what time it was.

F No.

R Okay. Then he wanted to know if you knew anything about the Colles, it was the first community in the district, C-o-l-l-e-s.

F Colles.

R He said it was the first community in the district.

F No that doesn't ring a bell.

R It was probably before your time. Okay. Then, do you know anything about the cheese factory. There was a cheese factory out by the Kimball bridge.

F Yes. We lived right across the street from it.

R Is that right? He says that the first operator apparently was the father of Glen Gardner and he said it was there from 1907 to 1910, and he wondered if you knew who the second operator was, of the cheese factory.

F The ones that I knew that run the factory was, oh, who was it now?

R Were they local people?

F Yes, they still live here.

R Isn't that funny how the name [escapes you] so easily?

F Yeah.

R Well, you might think about it.

F [She asks someone else] Do you remember who run the factory out there? I don't think I ever knew who. I can't remember the name now.

R That's okay. It might come back to you later.

F Linders.

R Linders.

F Linders.

R Uh huh.

F They run it when we lived out there.

R And would that be the Herman Linder family?

F Yes.

R Uh huh.

F Their dad.

R I see. Herman Linder's father. Okay. And we might be able to get some information from them, then. And he said you may not know anything about this, but he wondered if you knew what was the first church in Spring Coulee. He said they are not sure who built the
firs church, whether it was the Presbyterians, the Methodists, or the Congregationalists.

F  I don't even remember that.
R  Uh huh. Okay. Okay, now, I was wondering what you could tell us about the tabernacle. Do you know when the tabernacle was built?
F  Mm hm.
R  I bet you sure remember when it was taken down, don't you?
F  Yeah.
R  I couldn't believe it when I came down. I hadn't heard a thing about it, and I came down and--
F  Sure.
R  There is was gone. I just--anyway, it takes my breath away. What a beautiful landmark it could have been.
F  Oh, I'll say.
R  Anyway, I wondered if you had some real, some vivid memories of some of the outstanding meetings or events that took place there.
F  At the tabernacle?
R  Uh huh. Yeah, they held their meetings too on, when they had the stake, they used to have stake meeting on, once a month.
F  Mm hm. On Saturday. I think they call it priesthood meeting. That's what my mother used to call it. She always had to go to priesthood meeting on Saturday.
F  How about that?
R  Oh, dear. I remember some very lovely events they had there. I remember one they had, I think it was the school chorus, but they had all the boys and girls, like the girls were dressed in white. I think the boys were dressed in black and they came in carrying candles and all the lights were out, and they sang, oh dear, that angel song from Hansel and Gretel, "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep".
F  Yes.
R  It was just a gorgeous day. I remember Ardith Holland, Ardith Carlson now, and I don't know who else up in the balcony, and when they sang "Silent Night", we were the echo. You know. I remember another very lovely event when Brother Gerald Brown, Victor L., you know, the presiding bishop's father. I remember when he was made the stake president of the MIA. He had a beautiful conference, sort of a concert there, and that's the first time, I think it was the first time in Canada that the song "Carry On" had ever been sung, you know, by Ruth May Fox. And you remember how high it was at the end.
F  Yes.
R  And I remember I was just quite young. I must have been seven. I just remember the chills went up my spine. In fact, they had streamers that night going from, you remember the big arch, where the choir loft was?
F  Yes.
R  They had streamers going from the side up to the center of that archway, and they had orange, one orange and two blue maple leaves, and the streamers were attached to that. I guess it was so difficult when they went to get them down, they just pulled down the streamers and those maple leaves sat there, and I said to myself, if ever anything happens to that tabernacle, I'm going to ask for those maple leaves.
F  Yes.
R  But I'm sure you could tell me something about President Wood and those spiritual meetings.
He always used to speak in these priesthood meetings. Couldn't miss them, that's all, you just couldn't.
R He was really uplifting, wasn't he? with a lot of courage.
F Yeah.
R In fact, he was kind of our Canadian prophet, wasn't he?
F Yes, he was. I read his book now.
R Are you reading it now?
F Uh huh.
R Oh. I bought it, but I have read his life story.
F I have, too. I've read that book.
R ... by Sister Neilson. ...about his mission in the island.
F Uh huh.
R I hope to find time to read that in the near future. That's the one by Sister Olive Neilson, by his daughter.
F Mm hm.
R Well, you don't have any particular meetings that you remember then? regarding the tabernacle? Just that you couldn't miss them and--I used to even tell them when to plant their grain and almost when they should harvest it, didn't he? Even if it was spring.
F Right.
R Oh, dear. We was a most encouraging man. He surely filled a wonderful mission here, during those difficult times. You know, last night I was at a stake leadership meeting and they honored all of them--the stake board members; and of course, your daughter being one of them, they told really cute things about her, and I thought, oh, don't our children do us proud.
F Yes.
R She is just the sweetest girl. We had a valentine party--maybe she told you about it.
F Yes, she did.
R She ad Dean and --
F I knew they had one.
R ... sister Remington, Duane and Elaine, and they had a lovely Chinese supper. There was about 40 of us there, and we each brought a couple of white elephants and had this beautiful dinner, and after the dinner, they had us all playing games. Anyone that was caught with their ankles or the legs crossed, then they had to forfeit their white elephant, and you could run and grab your elephant.
F Ha ha.
R Oh, what a good laugh. And then at the end they had special prizes for certain things, like I had the one for having the most grandchildren. We had 66 grandchildren.
F Ha ha.
R Let me tell you, Christmas is a busy time.
F Oh, dear.
R Well, anyway, so how are you keeping?
F Oh, I'm fine.
R Isn't that wonderful. I just absolutely marvel at you. You must have done something good.
F You know, today I was out shoveling snow out of walk here and there was a man come along and he just walked right up to me, and he says, "I just had to come tell you how I've never seen a person 90 years old out shoveling snow."
R Is that what you are, is 90?
F 'Yes, I was 90 last May.
R Oh, my goodness. You are on your way to 91.
F Yes.
R For goodness sakes. That's just remarkable. You have fair eye
sight, do you?
F Oh, yes.
R Your hearing is excellent.
F I really are.
R You know what I think. I think that you are in such health
because you have controlled your diet. The rest of us, when we get
older, we eat and get bulgy, and - I'm sure that you don't eat a
great deal.
F I've never been a heavy eater.
R No. Well, it's sure pays off. It's been a real blessing.
F Yes.
R Now, in talking, do you have any pioneer memories that you
would like to relate, or tell us something about? You were born in
Canada, weren't you?
F Oh, yes. Right here in Cardston.
R I don't remember back that far. I just remember mother told me,
that you were President Hinman's daughter. Now, your father died at
a very early age, didn't he?
F Oh, yes.
R Do you remember him at all?
F Oh, I wasn't even born till seven months after he died.
R I knew that one of you, then Rhoda is older than you, is she?
F Yes.
R So of course you wouldn't remember him. You might have met him
on the way down.
F I might have. I've often thought that. I wished that I could
have seen him.
R Isn't the church wonderful to let us know that you will see him
eventually.
F Yes.
R Isn't that a blessing? And how long has your mother been gone?
F I'd have to look back in my genealogy.
R No, it's all right. I just,
F She was near 90-96, I believe.
R Oh, really. Do you know, I remember when Aunt Alice's son died,
Owen. He was moving a building and he was killed. I remember one of
the first people who came to our home, Aunt Alice lived in
Hartlyville, and she was in town when the first people came to our
home was your mother, and I remember this free spirit of love she'd
got, and how she just wrapped Aunt Alice in her arms and they wept
together and when, you know, the sweetness and the love that they
had, why, you know, I can see how we're all going to be dear friends
in the hereafter.
F Yeah.
R Oh, she was a sweet lady.
F Yeah.
R And then Wilda, how long has she been gone? For quite a while.
F Yeah. A few years.
R Uh huh. Were they just the two of you?
F Yes.
R I wasn't sure whether there was a third on or not.
R: Uh huh.
F: Well, you don't have anything particular that you would like to tell about the pioneer days, that we could really make a record of? That's kind of getting you on the spur of the moment, isn't it?
F: I have to think about it a bit.
R: Well--
F: My grandmother, you know, Grandma Hinman,
R: Uh huh.
F: Mother worked in the store down here. She worked in the --
R: Would it be the HFR and store?
F: No, it wasn't, it was down Smith, no. Wasn't that Spencer who started it? The mercantile I think, yeah. Mercantile.
R: Uh huh. Cardston Mercantile.
F: And she worked there after her husband passed away. She worked there for about seven years.
R: Oh, really.
F: So she was alone for that long before Dewilton.
R: Uh huh. My goodness, those were struggling years.
F: Yeah.
R: But it made beautiful people.
F: Yeah.
R: I remember mother relating, there was an Italian man and his wife lived I don't know how far out of Cardston, but anyway, he apparently he wasn't very kind to her, and she came in and she wanted a corsetta, a new corset, and she had apparently been trying, you know the fitting room, was occupied and it had been raining hard, and I guess she was wet and uncomfortable, but I guess her husband wasn't going to give her very long to look around, and she had to hurry, and she said it was all right and she'd just try it on behind the counter.
F: Ha ha.
R: And so she remembers how she held her breath for fear somebody would come along when she tried on her new corset. The name was--it will come to me eventually. Anyway, mother worked in Allen's store for quite a number of years and she became quite fluent in speaking the Indian language. Anyway, it's been nice talking to you. Although I should tell you this. They told me that I should let you know that we had taped this all they'll do is just take anything off that you might have given us that would be historical, and otherwise the whole conversation will be destroyed. But I told you before, you might freeze.
F: Ha ha.
R: So is that okay?
F: Yes.
R: That's fine. Well, it's been nice talking to you. I hope to get better acquainted with you as time goes on. I find myself quite busy being new bride and a new grandmother to a flock and all the other things that go with it, but life is really good. Anyway, goodbye to you for now.
F: Okay.
R: All right. 'Bye.