

Warm Valley Historical Project- Interview with Eva Enos
Shoshone Episcopal Mission
January 25, 1991
Interviewer - Sharon Kahin
Transcribed by Nick Chaney - St. Michael's, Ethete

Interviewer: This is a conversation with Eva Enos, for the Warm Valley Historical project; we'll be talking about her experience at the government school. I should start out by asking, how old are you?

Eva: Well, I'm seventy-six now, I have a birthday in March.

I: So, then you were quite small when you went to the government school?

E: Well, I went down here, this Gravy high as you call it, for two years. Before that I started out school at the Mission, at ah, St. Michael's Mission.

I: Oh, you went to St. Michael's mission?

E: Uh, huh, I went down there for a while, till I was, oh, about twelve. And then they sent us to Rapid City Indian School. It was you know the Indian school there.

I: Oh yeah.

E: And a bunch of us had to go there, to school. And we was there about four years, in that school. And then when they canceled that school out, you know, closed it, down, well all the kids had to come back, you know, to the reservation, here or wherever they were at—come from. And then we—I had to enroll in this school down here, this government school here.

I: They closed down the one in Rapid City?

E: Uh huh.

I: Okay, now let me see, who um, Winnie St. Clair, did you go with her to school?

E: Yeah, uh huh. I was with her in Rapid City, and then when we, um now I don't remember her coming to this school.

I: I don't think, I don't think she did. I think she went to the Mission.

E: Uh huh—I don't think she, cause when I went, to this school here, after I come back from Rapid City, I don't remember her going here at, all.

I: Hmm, was she in your same class? Was she, or was she younger?

E: No, I think she was in the grade ahead of me.

I: Ah, the grade ahead of you. Okay. So, um, where were you born, Eva, you're Arapaho and you were born...

E: Yeah, around here, around this reservation here.

I: But, around Ethete?

E: No, up here, Wind River.

I: Wind River, okay.

E: Uh, huh. I think my father was working for the irrigation.

I: Uh, huh.

E: At that time, in those years. And so we lived over there, in the—around that place, Wind River, over there—the old Wind River over here.

I: Old Wind River?

E: Uh, huh.

I: Was that a government irrigation project he was working on?

E: It was then, uh huh.

I: Now, um, just so we have it for the record, what was your father's name?

E: Charles Felter.

I: What was the last name again?

E: Felter.

I: Felter?

E: Uh, huh.

I: And your mother's name?

E: Her name was Dorcus.

I: Dorcus.

E: Uh, huh.

I: So, um—when you went to St. Michael's, how old were you?

E: Well—I must a been—I don't know about six. I started school there, six years old.

I: Six years old?

E: Uh, huh.

I: Was that the youngest they took them at St. Michael's?

E: Oh, yes. Because this was the mission see?

I: Uh, huh.

E: And they stayed, you know, right in them buildings there.

I: So it was a boarding school?

E: Sort of, yeah. It was run by the Episcopal Bishop, see?

I: Okay, um, and did Reverend Roberts come over there at all, did you.

E: No, I don't remember knowing him coming down there. Because they had another reverend down there.

I: What was his name?

E: Belcomb.

I: Belcomb?

E: Hmm, hmm.

I: Reverend Belcomb.

E: Oh, he was from back East somewhere—and he was there years I think.

I: Hmm. What kind of a person was he? Do you remember him'?

E: Yeah, he was—he was a nice man—I mean, you know, he run the school down there, pretty good down to the Mission, all them Arapaho kids you know going there.

I: Was it all Arapaho kids at St. Michael's?

E: Yeah. Uh huh. At that time.

I: No Shoshones at all?

E: No, because they had their's up here, see, the girls.

I: Um. Did Reverend Belcomb have a family like Reverend Roberts did or was he a single...

E: Yes, he had a family, a wife, and ah, I don't remember the children. How many he had or what, but. I know he had a family there.

I: Um, did they help in running the Mission, did any of them teach or work

E: No, cause they were all small you know.

I: Oh, just little ones.

E: And, he wasn't—oh he was, as I remember him he was about maybe fifty or something years old, when I was, you know, when I was there.

I: Were there any children there younger than you or were you kind of—one of the youngest?

E: No, I think they took 'em from home when they were about six.

I: About six.

E: You know. From the families down there, and put 'em in the Mission school.

I: And how long did you stay then at St. Michael's, until you were twelve? Is that what...

E: About twelve years old.

I: Six years there. And would you come home on weekends?

E: No. We stayed there all from one school year to the—say September clear till May. Then we'd go home for the summer.

I: Uh, huh.

E: For a little while you know.

I: Um, what about Christmas, or anything like that?

E: Yeah, we got out at Christmas.

I: Got out at Christmas.

E: But not Thanksgiving.

I: Not Thanksgiving.

E: I don't remember ever going home for Thanksgiving. (laughs). Um—but Christmas week we had a whole, you know week.

I: But did you celebrate Thanksgiving at the Mission?

E: Yeah, they had you know regular dinners, and like that.

I: Well, um, about how far was it from your home to the Mission?

E: Well, I lived with my grandmother. See my mother died during that time too.

I: When you were quite small.

E: Uh, huh, when I was small and I really didn't remember her too good. Just you know—when she died my dad, he went off somewhere else to work. He left, and then we had to live with our grandmother. See there was three of us then. My older sister and me and my brother. And so we just, you know, stayed with her.

I: Now what was her name?

E: Julia Herford

I: Julia Herford.

E: Uh, huh.

I: And did your sister go to St. Michael's with you, and your brother too?

E: Yeah, uh huh. My brother.

I: Were they older or younger than you?

E: They're older than me.

I: Ah, did they go at the same time you went or...

E: Hmm, hmm. We were all put in their the same time.

I: Um—How did, well can you remember back what, what was your first impression of the Mission?

E: Well, I didn't like it when I first went there cause I was small of course but, you know—had to, had to go to school somewhere so that's why they put us all in that

one school.

I: Did your grandmother want you to go to school?

E: Yes, uh huh.

I: She did?

E: Uh, huh.

I: Why hadn't—about how much older were your brothers and sisters?

E: Well, my brother, he's still alive so he must be about maybe four years older than me. And my sister was older than him. About two years older than him. But she's—she passed away quite awhile ago. But my brother's still alive.

I: What's, what is his name?

E: Alvin Felter.

I: Alvin Felter. Well um, you all went at the same time. Why hadn't your brother been sent to school before?

E: Well he was there too, in that same Mission.

I: But did he go at a—when he was six or did he go when he was older?

E: Mmmm, he musta been older.

I: Uh, huh.

E: He had to be older, see. But I don't know if he went anywhere else. Pretty young then, see, I don't remember if they put him somewhere else or what, but.

I: Yeah.

E: All I know, we was all three of us in the same place.

I: Uh, huh. Well, um, can you describe what a typical day was like at St. Michael's?

E: Well, we had regular, as I remember we had um—you know we lived in little—you've been to the Mission haven't you?

I: Yeah, I have been, uh huh.

E: You know them buildings around there?

I: Yeah

E: Them a—look like ahh—houses. I mean you know, them big buildings?

I: Hmm, hmm.

E: I'd say maybe fifteen girls, small ones clear up to the teenagers, you know.

I: Hmm, hmm.

E: Put in the buildings. Maybe about fifteen in each cottage. They called 'em cottages then.

I: So fifteen girls to each cottage?

E: Uh, huh.

I: Fifteen boys.

E: And maybe there'd be about six or seven little kids, you know. Little, like my age, 'bout six years old. Then they'd gradually get up to teenagers. Teenagers—more or less had to look after the, you know, the little ones.

I: So in one cottage they'd put some little kids and then bigger ones to look after them.

E: Yeah, uh huh.

I: And did you have a matron or some one like that?

E: Yeah, uh huh. We had a—we used to call them housemothers.

I: Housemothers.

E: Uh, huh.

I: Now were they from your own people or were they...

E: No, they were white.

I: They were white.

E: Uh, yeah all of them was white.

I: Did you have any teachers from your community?

E: Yeah the teachers had a, uh—the school building was in a different place see—and that's where they had the school. As I remember.

I: UH, huh. But were any of your teachers either Arapaho or Shoshone or from another tribe?

E: No, nuh huh.

I: All white?

E: They were white.

I: Oh, what about the cook or handyman, or, were any of those, um Arapaho.

E: They musta had some, you know, but I don't remember. Ahh, seems like we had, I remember, an old, a man there. Friday his name was—And he used to take of all the like changing the bulbs, and you know, cutting the grass in the springtime or, you know sweeping the snow off the sidewalks and stuff like that. I remember him doing that, he was a kinda oldish man.

I: But for the most part it was all strangers to you?

E: Uh, huh.

I: Well, that must have been rather frightening if you were six and you got...

E: Yeah.

I: —plopped down in the middle of that.

E: And the worst part of it too, was we didn't have no bathrooms in them buildings—They had regular outside, you know toilets—outside.

I: Uh, huh.

E: And they were in the back of them cottages, you know like you see them now, they had 'em in the back of there. And kids had to go out there you know, and that used to sure be scary, you know, if you had to go in the middle of the night.

I: Yeah, had to go by yourself, did you?

E: Uh, huh. Or else get somebody to go with you. I used to have my sister there, so I, you know, more or less hung on to her.

I: And she was a couple years older?

E: Uh, huh.

I: Well, um. Had you ever, before you went to the school, had you had much contact with that many white people, before?

E: Ahh—I don't remember—don't seem like it. Seem like we just you know, grown up with the kids around there.

I: Uh, huh. Did your grandmother ever take you to church at the Mission before you went to the school there?

E: No. Of course we had the church right there see.

I: Oh, right at Wind River.

E: Right at the, right at Episcopal Mission. That's where I know something about church, you know.

I: Was going to the Episcopal Mission right here.

E: Uh, huh. At a St. Michael's.

I: Yeah, call it St. Michael's?

E: Uh, huh.

I: Well now what about, did you speak English at home, or did you speak Arapaho?

E: Oh yes, my family all spoke English. They didn't know Arapaho. But I did! Because I grown up around them see? And of course I had Arapaho relation too. You know, aunts and stuff like that.

I: Hmm, hmm. So, by the time you went to school you could speak English...

E: Yeah.

I: —as well as Arapaho?

E: Uh, huh. Cause I'd grown up around my grandmother and them, that's all they spoke is English see. They didn't have no Indian language, I mean they didn't talk it.

I: They didn't?

E: No.

I: Were they pleased that you learned Arapaho?

E: It didn't seem to bother 'em any.

I: Well, what about your classmates, could a lot of them speak English before they came, or did a lot of them come and just speak Arapaho?

E: You know that, um, as I remember most of 'em knowed English before that. I don't know how, how they ever learned. You know, maybe they were there way before I got in there see—but ah,

when they were alone or in the building alone, why they'd talk their own language. But when the teachers or something like that was around, you know they talked English.

- I: And what about, um, some one told me that it was against the rules to speak Arapaho, when one of the teachers was around. Was there punishment if you were caught talking Arapaho?
- E: No, they never had anything like that. It didn't seem to bother the housemothers like I was telling you about. The ones that was there. Looking after the kids and that, you know. It didn't seem to bother them.
- I: So they didn't mind if you, if you spoke Arapaho?
- E: No.
- I: Just in your classes you were supposed to speak English?
- E: Just speak English, uh huh. And learn.
- I: Well can, um, can you describe—go through what a typical day at school, you know when you got up, when you went to classes, what kind of chores you had to do. That kind of thing.
- E: Yeah. We had to do all that ourselves. We had to make our own beds and get up, get up and get cleaned up you know. It was kinda hard in them days to take a bath because you didn't get a bath every day. Because it was just you know, heated water on the stoves in there. So you could take a bath and that was about once a week.
- I: And did each cottage, you had a bath in each cottage?
- E: Just a little tin tub, you know a regular tub.
- I: And would the older girls heat the water? Or the housemothers?
- E: They'd help her.
- I: They'd help her?
- E: Uh, huh.
- I: So what day was bath day?
- E: Oh—I know it was on a Sunday or a Monday
- I: Sunday or a Monday?
- E: Something like that. Because see, we always had church on Sunday.
- I: Did you have a bath before church, was that...

E: No.

I: Were all the kids there during the week or did some of them, I mean during the weekend, or did some of them go home on weekends?

E: No.

I: None of them went home on weekends?

E: No, none of them went home. Had to stay there all the time.

I: So, uh, what about Sunday then. You had church—in the morning?

E: In the morning and evening.

I: And Evening?

E: Hmm.

I: And, play time in the afternoon or...

E: Yeah, they had their own time you know. A lot of the older ones, the older girls, they'd do their beadwork. They'd make things and even the little ones they tried too, see. Tried to, you know, cause they'd furnish the beads for them and all that. And most of the older girls they'd be making their belts and you know, things like that.

I: So that would be Sunday afternoon?

E: Uh, huh.

I: Well, who taught them how to do the beading, was there some one at the school who taught them?

E: I don't know. Hmm. They just naturally picked it up I think, on their own. At home I guess.

I: Learned it at home.

E: Uh, huh.

I: But the school would provide beads for them?

E: Uh, huh.

I: And what about the buckskin?

E: That too. You know, provided all their, whatever they wanted to make.

I: So that was Sunday and then you'd have classes—Monday through Friday.

E: Monday through Friday, yup.

I: Well how did it go in the morning, after you woke up and got cleaned up and...

E: Had breakfast, and some would have to do the dishes before they'd have class, school.

I: Um, in things like dishes did you take turns or was that—like did you do the dishes one week and someone else did them another week. How did you work that?

E: Well, they had rules. Each house, ah, cottage, had rules, set a rules. And they had to, you know, work 'em out in shifts like.

I: So—

E: So if you'd done dishes say a week, well somebody else would have to come in the next week and do them, see? I mean separate the girls...

I: Yeah—So the girls would do dishes from one, one cottage would do dishes one week and then...

E: No, each cottage had to do their own.

I: Oh, each cottage had to do their own dishes.

E: Just like a family affair. You know, family.

I: Well...

E: The kids in that one building had to do their own.

I: So ,you had a separate dining hall in your cottage?

E: Uh, huh.

I: Oh, I was thinking you all went to one big dining hall.

E: No.

I: So only about fifteen of you would eat with your housemother.

E: Uh, huh.

I: And your housemother would do the cooking?

E: Uh, huh.

I: Okay, what about things like laundry or baking, did you have to, was that part of your work, as

children, did you have to help with that?

E: Seemed like, seemed like the older ones. And when I got older too, when I was a bout eleven, ten, eleven years old. We had to, they had the old fashioned washers, in them days. And you know, you had to, it had a thing on there, you had to push that thing back and forth, back and forth like that. A stick you know...

I: Yeah.

E: —and that made that thing go around and around. After that, and they didn't put real hot water in there because it'd burn you, see? But you'd have to wring 'em out by—or if you was lucky you'd have one of those things—

I: Yeah.

E: ...one of those hand wringers. You know that you turn?

I: Uh, huh. So each cottage would have its own washing facility?

E: Uh, huh. Had their own washing. They had their own lines. They had to get out there and hang clothes. And that was terrible in the winter time—hanging clothes.

I: I bet it was. They could freeze-dry.

E: Yeah freeze your hands and then run back in, warm up again, run out there and hang some more. You know, each cottage had their own clothes lines.

I: Huh, well did the, um, the housemother teach you girls how to cook too? You helped her with that?

E: Yeah, they had to learn how to cook.

I: What about sewing, did she teach you how to sew?

E: Yes, uh huh.

I: And that was the housemother too?

E: Yeah. Cause you had to keep your own, uh, buttons on your clothes see. Now I was pretty small then, I couldn't you know, I didn't know much about that kind of stuff but I had a sister in there with me, see. And she'd do my clothes and she'd do hers see. You know, like sewing and stuff—'Til I got older of course, then I done my own.

I: Yeah.

E: Then I learned how to bead and you know things like that.

I: Well, did they teach you other things like how to embroider or did they teach you other things there?

E: I don't remember them doing anything like that.

I: I was just curious because apparently down at this Mission they taught them how to...

E: Yeah.

I: How to hem.

E: uh huh.

I: Well, um, then you'd have classes in the morning.

E: Yuh, regular reading, writing and all that stuff.

I: Geography, did you have geography?

E: Geography, uh huh.

I: History?

E: History. You know whatever they taught.

I: And, then did you have apply time around lunch or did you go right back to school.

E: After school, then they'd let 'em play around for a while or whatever.

I: So you had classes both morning and afternoon?

E: Yeah, most of the day.

I: Um, and did you have um—grace before each meal?

E: Yeah—that was—they really had that, we had to say that.

I: What about some of the rules and regulations. Can you remember what some of the rules were?

E: Well, I know one thing we had to really keep clean. I mean, you know the cottage had to be clean. Some of those ladies, the matrons or whatever you want to call them—housemothers, we used to call 'em house mothers. They used to really be strict on that. We kept the floor clean.

I: Did you have to scrub it?

E: And we done our own mopping and all that stuff. Washing windows and everything like that had to. I mean the kids that were in that cottage had to do all that housework and all that.

- I: Yeah.
- E: And the bedrooms, I mean big old dormitory, in the back. Beds, you know, lined up. It was—keep your bed clean. I think once a week or something like that we had to change our sheets and take 'em out there and wash them.
- I: Take them outside and wash them?
- E: No it was like a little porch deal. It was on that, you know the main part, they had that porch on there. And that's where that washer and stuff was. Dryer, I mean not dryer...
- I: Wringer.
- E: Wringer—We had to wash the clothes out there and hang 'em out.
- I: But that, each cottage had its own washer?
- E: Had their own washer—and their own clothes line.
- I: Hmm. What about other rules, like were you supposed to sit up straight or do you remember any, being taught that kind of thing?
- E: They were kind of strict on that. Most of these people, I think they came from back East, you know, that were working in there. Working in the—like housemothers and stuff. And they were, you know, strict—we had to be doing things just right. As I remember that part of it anyway (laughing)—I was pretty small I couldn't even tie my shoes half the time.
- I: Um, well that musta been, was that, that musta been quite different from what it was like living at your grandmother's?
- E: Uh, huh. It was cause at home you know, you're, you're not—oh, I used to be so glad to get home in the summer—Free. And I used to dread for September to come again (laughs)—when I would have to go back to that school. Boarding, that's like a boarding school you know.
- I: What was the hardest thing about going back, I mean what was the hardest thing for you when you had to go back in September?
- E: Well, when they put you in there when you're little, you're lonesome see. But after you've grown up you're going back to the same thing, you know, you kinda know what they expect and all that. And you're going back with the same kids you were with the year before you know. Wasn't too bad really.
- I: Well, one of the reasons I ask, I was talking to some one, she said the hardest thing was the regulations. You know you had to be in a certain place at a certain time, or doing this at a certain time. You know at home she was just much freer...

E: Yeah

I: —Was that the same way with you?

E: Same way, yeah. Same way. When you went back to school why you were right back in all them things, you had to do it all over again. Like keeping your places, beds clean and—and so many kids they'd ahh get head lice, you know in the summer time. After they'd go home. And then you know, I don't know how they'd do it but—and then they'd go back to school, before you know it the whole school is—you know—the whole building you'd have to clean all, everybody's head out. Clean their hair.

I: How did they do that?

E: But I never had that problem cause my grandmother was clean you know. Strict. We never lived in tents or nothing like that.

I: You lived in a cabin, or house?

E: Houses.

I: Yeah—Was that unusual? Did most of your schoolmates live in tents at that time?

E: Most of them lived in tents.

I: So—

E: A few cabins but not, you know. They lived in you know, like real Indians, Indians, Indian ways.

I: So headlice was a problem?

E: Yes (laughs). That and sore throats.

I: What, um, what kind of other health problems do you remember amongst the children at the time?

E: That's about all. Just common colds and you know things like that. They weren't really that bad.

I: Do you...

E: I used to hate it you know, when you'd go back to school and lot of little lice in your hair and then you had have to sit for an hour or so every day and have somebody fine combing your hair and then they'd put some kinda kerosene on your head or something and get 'em out, you know. Oh, I used to hate that (laughs).

I: Oh, I wouldn't blame you. Kerosene, that's what they would use?

E: That's what they'd use. That's the kinda lights we had too when I first went and you know, rode up there. When I was little, was kerosene lights.

I: Kerosene lights?

E: Uh, huh.

I: And, outhouses in the back?

E: Uh huh.

I: What about your heating, what kind of heating did you have?

E: Had big old pot-bellied stoves and uh, I don't know who used to bring in the coal, I don't remember that.

I: It was—burned coal, not, not wood?

E: Uh huh. Big old coal, you know, hunks of coal. And it seems like some of the kids would have to get that in...

I: Boys or the girls?

E: Girls.

I: Girls—Did the boys have...

E: The boys never stayed with the girls

I: They were in separate buildings?

E: They had their own dormitories, they called them. It was a separate building completely. They had their own dining area and their own—everything their own.

I: Oh, their own dining area.

E: Uh huh they had their own dining hall and their dormitories and they had a great big building there. Down there.

I: It's not there now is it?

E: No. I think it burnt down or done something—I don't know what happened to it.

I: Uh, well, your classes, did boys and girls have classes together?

E: No.

I: Separate, everything separate?

E: Everything separate.

I: Did you ever get to see your brother then?

E: Only at home. During the vacations.

I: So you never saw him at school?

E: Nuh, huh.

I: Didn't play games or anything like that together?

E: No, cause they were you know, separate from us—from the girls you know. I just lived with, just with a bunch of girls in that building.

I: So your own brother was in the same place and you never got—you had your sister there...

E: Uh huh, yeah, she was older see. She took care of me.

I: Yeah—Was there ever any problem with the bigger girls bullying the younger girls, did that ever happen?

E: Some did, they were kinda, some were kinda mean, but not really, you know. Sometimes kids, you know, would ask for it too. As I remember I used to stay really shy of the big ones (laughs).

I: Well, what was the classroom like then? Was it just one big room for all of the grades, or...

E: No. As I remember we had our own classes. Seems like, now maybe I'm mistaken or what—I just don't remember—if I remember we just a, lotta times we'd just have classes in our building.

I: In your cottage?

E: Uh huh. That a, housemother had to come in to be there to, you know, to show us what to do.

I: So sometimes the housemother would help you with the schoolwork?

E: Hmm,mmm, uh huh.

I: Did you have teachers besides your housemother?

E: I don't remember seems like they used to have somebody come in to help her you know, like an outside teacher or something.

I: Uh huh.

E: But I don't remember, I was so young then, I don't remember much.

I: Did you, um—well, about how many cottages were there for the girls?

E: Let's see—all them buildings are still here, still down there—three on that side I think.

I: And those were all girls?

E: They were all girls.

I: And the boys just had one big...

E: They had a great big old building, on this side—it's the Parish space there now.

I: Uh huh.

E: That was BIG, I mean you know compared to what we was staying in.

I: The boys' building?

E: Uh huh. Cause they had to go upstairs to sleep, the dormitories up there.

I: And classrooms below?

E: Uh huh. Classrooms down below.

I: Well, did you play with the children from the other cottages—or—

E: Yeah, uh huh. You know, we got out in the yards. They let 'em play together. The kids, you know, had to go back to where you were staying. Whatever one you were at.

I: Did the cottages have names?

E: Yeah, they had names on them, but I don't remember them now.

I: You don't remember the name of your cottage?

E: No, I—don't remember.

I: What about, ah, what about the games. Did you play basketball or any kind of organized games like that or—what did you do for play?

E: I know I used to, just have me a bunch of jacks, and I used to sit on the sidewalk, you know?

I: Uh huh, I used to play jacks too. (both laughing)

E: That's all I liked to do, I didn't like to get out and play ball with them or—but that, you know

that circle in the middle? At St. Michael's there...-you know that circle?

I: Yeah, uh huh.

E: The kids used to be all over in there—playing around, I don't know, they'd play ball or throw and catch. Like that—but I never did like to get out there cause sometimes you know they'd be kinda rough. I and my friend we'd just sit on the back steps, you know, they had a back door on each cottage. And they had a thing, you know, a cement high wall, I mean a thing, step that you could, you know. We'd just clean that off, we'd just play jacks there all, when we had time. I didn't even go to play ball or anything like that.

I: Uh huh. Well what about Saturdays, did you have the whole day free or?

E: Whole day, yeah.

I: Whole day free, what did you do?

E: Just messed around, whatever they had to do. Some would bead, some would read, some would be—housemothers would be teaching them how to make cookies or something like that. Or whatever, you know, whatever they wanted to do. But we didn't leave the place.

I: Did anyone ever try and run away?

E: Lot of 'em did I guess.

I: What would happen—

E: But they'd bring them back.

I: Oh. Now when you say they would bring them back, who would bring them back?

E: What you call, kinda like a sheriff or some cop or something. I don't remember that now.

I: Would he be um, a—

E: He'd be around there, like a guard or something.

I: Would he—

E: Be around the buildings all the time. He'd go get 'em, bring 'em back. I don't remember.

I: Was he an Indian cop or was he white?

E: Indian! If I'm right, I think it was an Indian.

I: Um—did the girls run away or boys...

E: I don't remember any of the girls running away, I know the boys used to.

I: And that was his job?

E: Yup, bring 'em back.

I: Did it happen a lot?

E: No, not too often, they didn't have no place to go anyway. Unless they went home and maybe the parents would bring 'em back anyhow. I know I never did run away from there, cause I know my family lived way out Pavillion, you know where Pavillion is?

I: Yeah.

E: Way out there. And they used to bring us in September from way out there. And—that was it, stayed there—til May.

I: Well that was a long distance.

E: Oh, Christmas time they'd come get us.

I: Would they bring you in with a team?

E: Uh huh.

I: How long...

E: A buggy.

I: A buggy?

E: Uh huh,

I: How long a trip was that?

E: That's a long ways.

I: Take all day?

E: Take all day, uh huh. Way out there the—its straight across, course it was not like it is now. Big old road, well the road's in the same place. Over them hills...

I: Did your grandmother drive you in?

E: She used to or my uncle, or somebody'd bring us back.

I: Were they ranching out there at that time or—

- E: They just lived out there, there were—I don't know my grandfather was workin' around there, in town or something. I don't remember that now.
- I: Uh huh. At the school, at St. Michael's, did they have gardens, and there own milk cows and that kind of thing?
- E: Yes they did, I think they did supply themselves. They had chickens and turkeys—After I got older, before I went to South Dakota. At the ah, before they—what do you call it—They had a turkey thing down there, turkey farm or something. And they had to you know, pluck all them turkeys and stuff. It seemed like they were selling turkeys or something, I don't remember now what. I know we had plenty to eat, you know turkeys for the school. It seemed like they had a turkey farm there or something. And the girls and boys had to get out and help them, you know, pluck them things.
- I: Did you ever gather any eggs, or do any milking?
- E: No I didn't ever, never did have to do anything like that, or the milking. Seems like the boys did.
- I: The boys did?
- E: I think that was the boys part. You know take care of the chickens and the, and milk cows and all of that. The girls, I don't think they had any, you know, part of that. But they supplied all the buildings.
- I: Did you ever do any of the boys mending or anything like that?
- E: No, nuh huh. They musta had people there doing theirs. I mean, you know whoever. They probably had, I know they had, what do you call them, disciplinarians.
- I: Disciplinarians?
- E: Uh huh, and then they probably had a housemother or—maybe a couple of 'em, I don't remember that. You know who did all that work for them.
- I: Did the girls have disciplinarians?
- E: No. We just had that one housemother.
- I: Housemother, and then some teachers.
- E: Uh huh.
- I: Is that cause the girls didn't get in trouble as much?
- E: Not as much.

I: Um. Did they have their own garden too? Did they raise their own vegetables?

E: I think they did, uh huh.

I: Fruit trees?

E: No, no I don't remember fruit trees. I know they had garden stuff, you know, of all kinds.

I: Uh huh. Did you ever work in the gardens there?

E: No. We never had to work at all out, like that.

I: Ah, well what about at home when you went back in the summer. How—what were your chores like at home?

E: Oh, the same thing.

I: The same thing?

E: Dishes (laughs). Packing water and stuff like that. You know.

I: Did your family have a garden at home?

E: My grandmother did.

I: Did you help in the garden?

E: Oh yes. I used to help her with that.

I: So that was part of your—job?

E: Uh huh. Part of the work I had to do at home.

I: Uh huh.

E: But we never had chickens or anything like that.

I: Well, what about, um, the food. Was that, was that different for you when you went to school from what you'd had at home?

E: Not too much. Because we ate, you know—they had good meals. And I can remember, this housemother, she cooked, you know more like home, homestyle you know. And the older girls'd help her.

I: Did she ever cook things like fry bread or traditional foods that you would have been used to?

E: If they wanted and then the older ones would help her. Yeah, tell her how to do it.

I: So, what about meat, was that prepared the same way?

E: Yeah, it was like roast, and stuff like that. Boiled meat, you know, soup.

I: Uh huh.

E: Same things.

I: Pretty much the same then?

E: Uh huh. But they had to, you know a lot of kids had to be taught to eat vegetables. Most a, Indians, you know, didn't eat—carrots and stuff like that. But I did because my grandmother had it all.

I: But some of the children didn't know what carrots and things were?

E: They had to be taught to eat it. You know they were...

I: Is that because they didn't have gardens at home?

E: Most of 'em uh huh. They probably just had, you know, like maybe, berries and bread and meat. That's mostly the diet you know. Some of them mighta had potatoes you know, they get them from somebody, somewhere. I don't remember that.

I: I guess I had the impression that almost all of the Indian families had vegetables in their garden but that wasn't um—

E: Not in them days—That was way back, I was about six or seven years old then. Don't remember them, you know. I used to go visiting you know, my friends, on some days they'd let us go, you know, go, let them go. I'd go home with them and I never seen anything like that.

I: Did they have potatoes though?

E: They had potatoes.

I: Squash?

E: Squash. But not carrots or stuff like that.

I: Well, um, when, when did they start to plant things like carrots, and peas—?

E: Well I don't know when but, they used to have uh, they used to call 'em Bogy farmers. And they'd come in here and they'd start to, you know teachin' the people how to raise a garden and stuff. And I don't know what year that was, musta been in, I don't know—'25, '24, somewhere along there. I don't remember then. What year it would be. But they had, you know, they called

'em government farmers. There used to be one here at Ethete, I think they had one up here. And down at Arapaho to, I think.

I: And that's...

E: Then they'd go around and teach the ah, farm—the families how to raise their own gardens.

I: But your grandmother did plant—

E: Yeah.

I: —carrots.

E: She did that quite a while.

I: Um, but the ones that didn't have carrots and peas, would be just potatoes and squash?

E: Uh huh.

I: Anything besides potatoes and squash?

E: Not that I know. But they used to, down around the Mission there, they had a lot of rhubarb. You know—plants?

I: Uh huh.

E: And the buildings used to get that. I mean the people, you know, I mean the kids. A lot of 'em wouldn't eat it (laughs).

I: Yeah.

E: Couldn't make 'em eat it. But I always did like it. I don't know why, guess because I had it at home see?

I: You had that at home too?

E: Uh huh. Didn't bother me much—I can't remember what kind of, they musta got like prunes and raisins and stuff, you know, like that.

I: Dried fruit?

E: Uh huh. They could you know get that and—the kids learned to eat that. And I used to eat that, good.

I: Had you had that at home, the dried fruit?

E: Hmm, hmm.

I: You had that at home. So you could speak the language and, and the food was pretty much the same.

E: Uh huh.

I: And you didn't have the health problems that, at your home.

E: No.

I: Um, so what was kind of, what were some of the big differences that you remember between, between home and school? What did you, what did you miss when you went to school? What did you miss from your home life?

E: Oh—I guess I just got used to, you know, being around the family. And then going back to school you see, is all different again, just with a bunch of kids you know, bunch of—

I: Yeah.

E: That was like, you know, how families are.

I: Do you think it was worth it? For you?

E: I didn't like it, but I had to take it (laughs). I didn't like it very well. 'Til I got older, then I went away to school, and that was altogether different.

I: Well maybe we should talk about when you went away to school, but I just, did you get along with your housemothers, were they...

E: They were pretty good, they taught us a lot of things. They were white people, you know. And they taught the girls how to, you know, do a lot of things. Make, like bread and you know, cook. Cook different dishes, you know. I think that was good that way.

I: Did they try and make up for your lack of homelife?

E: I think so.

I: So you were there until you were, um...

E: 'Bout twelve I think.

I: Okay.

E: Or thirteen.

I: Twelve or thirteen.

- E: Was when I had to go to South Dakota.
- I: Okay—was that the first time you'd ever left the reservation?
- E: Oh, yes. And that was even worse, I mean I didn't like that one bit because—strange you know with a bunch of—and that wasn't not just fifteen kids either to live with. That was about, I don't know how many, maybe forty, fifty, sixty kids, you know. Girls. And that was in a dormitory, see? It was in a large, you know, place. More like the army or something like that, was the way I figured it.
- I: Did they run it kind of like the army too?
- E: Well yeah, we had a lotta, they had people lookin after, you know takin' care—and then some of the older ones or the ones that'd been there for years, or you know, still go to school there or something like that. Why they'd have to know show the young ones, just coming in. You know like us, we was green, we didn't know nothing about you know that kind of boarding school. We didn't know, what was going to happen to us. And there was, I don't know, about ten of us girls from here went, maybe more than that. I don't remember now. When we got there, we was so, you know, kinda scared, you don't know what' going to happen to you. In a place like that you see a lot of other, you know, girls, all in the same place. Its like going into the army or something like that, I guess.
- I: Were there girls from other tribes there?
- E: Oh yeah, different tribe. Sioux, us Arapaho, and then there was some from Montana. I don't know what kind of tribes up there, Crow and everything else.
- I: Any Shoshone? Did any Shoshone go there?
- E: When we went, I don't think there was. No, they just took the Arapahos—I don't know, don't even remember their names now.
- I: Could you have stayed on at the Mission school, if you had wanted to?
- E: It seemed like they, ah, now I don't know what happened down there after, whether it continued on or they closed it down or what, I don't remember that. Cause when I left and went to South Dakota, I don't remember nothing of what happened down this way, see?
- I: Yeah.
- E: That was more or less three years, that was three years over there see. Of course I came home in the summer, then I had to go back see. Just like over here, went there in September and didn't get out 'til June. In South Dakota and then they shipped you home, you know, for a few months. Then the next year, went back there again see.
- I: And you didn't get to come home for Christmas?
- E: No, nuh huh.

- I: Did, um, did the government pay your train fair?
- E: Uh huh.
- I: Do you remember the first time you went by train?
- E: Oh yeah. I was scared (laughs). Seemed like we had to—where did we get on—we got on in Lander, I remember. Then we went all the way through Casper, Chadron, and then in to South Dakota.
- I: Hmm—how long did that take? Was it overnight?
- E: Well, it was a day and a get on at, let's say, eight o'clock in the morning, and then head down Casper I don't know what time in the afternoon. Then we'd pull into Chadron, and it was, they had to give us a room down there. We had to get off, see. And then we'd get on the train the next day and pull on into Rapid City
- I: Did they have any kind of housemother, or anybody traveling with you, any kind of person to make sure you got there okay and kind of keep an eye on you? Did anyone travel with you, any adults travel with you?
- E: I don't remember, no it don't seem like it. Seems like we went there on our own. I mean a bunch, you know, a bunch of us, all at one time.
- I: Well, that must have been kind of scary.
- E: Uh huh. When you're first going. You know, and we been there, you know, the reservation or something. Going into another place, you don't know what's gonna—When we got down to Chadron, I think it was Chadron, we had to stay overnight. I'm not sure. See that's, you know—we had to go over to a rooming house, that was kinda scary cause we didn't know whether-where you was headin' or what. And we all had to, I don't remember anybody takin' us, or bringing us or what. But after I got older, it was different, though, and I was there one year, see? I was about thirteen, twelve, thirteen years old. That was scary for me but after May, when they brought us back. See I kinda knowed...
- I: Yeah.
- E: —where I was heading. And where I was coming to. And I got off in Lander and went home. Next September, when I took off, I knowed what I was gonna have to do, see. I was gonna have to take clothes with me, and a—cause they let you have your own, you know, your own clothes. But when you was in school, you had to wear a uniform.
- I: And was that the same at the Mission, did you have uniforms at the Mission?
- E: Uh huh. We had uniforms down here.

I: What did your uniforms down here look like?

E: I used to call 'em just like government issue (laughs). Had to wear them big old shoes.

I: Did they tie? Tie or button?

E: Black shoes. Tie, you know, uh huh. Lace up here and tie.

I: Oh, above the ankle.

E: Yeah, black stockings and underclothes, you know, bloomers. Them old fashioned bloomers. And top and undershirts, and an old slip, and a skirt, and a, you know, top.

I: So you had skirts and blouse and—

E: Uh huh.

I: How did you keep your stockings?

E: (laughs) That was kinda hard, we had garters.

I: Garters around your knees?

E: Uh huh. (really laughs) Keep your socks up. And then those shoes, oh I used to dread them things. I don't know where they ever got 'em.

I: So the shoes would come up above your ankle?

E: Yeah, right here. To the ankle, you know, laced up all the way.

I: And when you went home, did you wear moccasins, or what did you wear?

E: No, you could wear anything you want. Could run barefoot, if you wanted to. (laughs)

I: Leave your shoes at school.

E: And my grandmother always had you know, shoes for us. Home, our home shoes. Tennis shoes or...

I: Something comfortable?

E: Yeah. Didn't have to wear them big old government shoes. I think that's where they'd come from, the government.

I: Um, I'm just curious, if you were running around or trying to do something, would your stockings fall down?

E: Not really, if you had 'em, if you had those garters up here.

I: Those musta been kind of tight, were they?

E: Not real tight.

I: Were they uncomfortable?

E: They were comfortable.

I: Were they?

E: Not real, you know, tight.

I: What did they give you, uniform coats and things like that too?

E: Uh huh. We had some kind of like a jacket.

I: And what about in South Dakota, what kind of uniforms did you have then?

E: They wasn't so bad in South Dakota, they had wool skirts, I remember that. And kinda like a white mini-blouse they used to call.

I: Yeah, with the collars.

E: With a big collar in the back, you know those kind. And the underclothes wasn't so bad either, they were made of cotton you know. Panties like, they weren't them old-fashioned bloomers (laughs). The stockings wasn't that bad either, they were colored, they weren't black.

I: What, red and blue, what kinds of?

E: No, kinda tan.

E: Tan.

I: The underclothes here, were they kind of itchy or...?

E: Yeah they were kinda, I don't know what they were made of. I really don't. They were heavy material.

I: Did you wear the same thing all year round here, I mean if it was cold, warm or cold, you had to wear the same, same uniforms.

E: Hmm, hmm. Same, yeah. Everybody looked alike, all the same material.

I: What about your hair here, with all the lice, did they make you cut your hair?

E: They did down there at the Mission.

I: They did at the Mission?

E: Uh huh. You had to cut your hair real short you know. Had to cut it off so you could get them things out.

I: Is that why they cut people's hair? Because of the lice problem?

E: You mean in the schools?

I: Hmm.

E: Yeah, sorta. Nowadays they don't do that. They don't even have things like that anymore.

I: Lice. And, um, did they have a lice problem in South Dakota too?

E: No, I never, I don't remember them ever doing that cause they checked their hair every weekend.

I: Well, how was South Dakota different then from here?

E: It was more, freer, you know then down here—at the Mission.

I: In what ways was it freer?

E: I mean you—like um, they'd let you go to town if you had money. You know if you had a little bit of money, and you needed something out of town. Then they'd let you buy shampoos and you know, lot of girls used to use powder in them days, you know, remember. Rouge and stuff like that. And they let 'em buy that, if they had money to buy it.

I: And these were, course these were older girls?

E: Uh huh, the older ones yeah.

I: And how did you get money to buy things? Were you allowed to work?

E: From home.

I: Oh from home.

E: See if you had money at home, and they'd send you money, well then you'd put it in your account there at the school. You could just draw it out if you needed it. They wouldn't give you a lot, but you know. Of course, them days things was cheap, you could buy quite a bit for a dollar.

I: Yeah. Could you work there if you wanted to?

- E: If you wanted to.
- I: What kinds of things could you do if, to earn spending money?
- E: Well, when I was there the last two years, last year—let's see, the first year, second year, and the last year I worked in the, they had private homes there, you know, for the teachers and all that. You know, the people that run the school, they had their own houses.
- I: Okay, so you got a job in a family home?
- E: Uh huh. And then I worked see, I washed dishes, and watched their children, you know.
- I: Babysitting?
- E: Uh huh. Right after school I used to go over there. I went to school about eight, about nine o'clock, I guess. In that, uh, South Dakota there. And then I'd get out for noon, and then go back at one. You know, school, another class, classes. And then by four o'clock, three-thirty, something like that, we'd get out of school. Well then I'd just go—go to the family's home and work. 'Til about seven, eight, then nine. So I earned my spending money that way.
- I: Do you remember how much they were paying you, how much you got?
- E: Naw, I don't remember now. Maybe, twenty cents, twenty-five cents. I don't remember.
- I: But enough so you could buy shampoo and—
- E: Uh huh. And then they had a watcha call them, at the campus there, a little store. You could buy candy or gum or you know, things like that. Whatever you want, popcorn or you know, snacks—whatever you wanted. That was good there, 'cause you could just, you know. You'd get hungry for candy and stuff. Well of course, the families would send you a box, you know. But that'd come maybe once a month or maybe even next month or whatever. You know with all the goodies in it.
- I: We used to call those care packages.
- E: Yeah. (laughs) Well that was the way they were. But at that little store we could buy a lot of things for maybe fifty cents, you know.
- I: Well did you like that school for the most part?
- E: I liked South Dakota, yeah. After I got used to it.
- I: Did you like it better than the Mission school?
- E: Hmm, hmm.

I: What did you like about it?

E: Oh, the classes was a lot better. 'Cause we had a big, a regular school building. You know?

I: Yeah, yeah.

E: A regular school building. And it had classrooms in it. You, you know learned in different classes, you know.

I: And what about there, did you have any Indian teachers or were all the teachers...

E: Uh huh. There were Indian and whites both.

I: Both there?

E: Uh huh.

I: And employees, like cooks and so forth...

E: Yeah.

I: Both Indian and white?

E: They were both—both Indians, whites, whatever. That was a pretty good school, way it was run. There was a lot of different tribes there.

I: What was that like, being mixed in with all of the different tribes?

E: I liked it. As far as different ones, how they, you know—every tribe is different you know.

I: Yeah.

E: You learn their ways, and they learn your ways and, you know things like that. You can talk with them and they'll tell you what they do and this and that. I liked that school. Really liked it.

I: And boys and girls'd go to class together there?

E: Uh huh. And the boys had their own dormitory, you know. But they all ate in the same dining hall, we called it. Cause it was a big, big, big building. And they had tables in there you know, and the boys well, the boys'd be on one side and the girls on the other side, see?

I: Did they have run away problems there?

E: They had quite a bit of that. But I don't know how they'd catch them or bring 'em back or what. I don't really know that.

I: Was it mostly boys again, or was it both boys and girls?

E: Sometimes the girls would slip away too. You know where the, the—have you ever been to Rapid City?

I: Yeah, hmm hmm.

E: You know, its down that hill?

I: Uh huh.

E: And then there's a hill up on the, kind of comes up from the town. Well the school sat up on the hill. Quite a few acres up there. And they were self-supporting too. They had their own beef, you know, and all that stuff. Supplied the kitchen. And it was here, ah, up on this hill, and the buildings you could just look down that hill and see the town. And if they snuck away, well they could sneak right off that hill and go right to town (laughs.) If they wanted to.

I: Did they get farther than town or did mostly they just go to town?

E: Sometimes they did.

I: Try to go home?

E: And they'd go home, 'cause a lot of them lived around, you know, Pine Ridge, and that's close.

I: Do you remember any fighting sometimes between the tribes?

E: No, no I don't remember them fighting like that.

I: Not like that?

E: Nuh huh.

I: Not tribes against tribes then but...

E: No, no I don't remember them doing anything like that. They all got along pretty good, far as I know. It was good, they had their own—and you know it was more ahh, civilized, or whatever you want to call it. Because they had dances, they had basketball, they had foot races, and all kinds of sports, you know.

I: For both boys and girls?

E: Both boys and girls, uh huh.

I: What kind of dances would they have.

E: Same—just like—waltzes and ah—in them days they had to, they used to call it the Charleston, you know, them kinda old-fashioned dances? (laughs)

I: Uh huh.

E: They danced all them kinda dances there.

I: Well, did you know how to dance the Charleston when you went there?

E: (Laughs) Nah, I never tried it. I guess I was too backward (laughs.) I tried waltzin' more than I tried that kind of dancing. That was too much. But they had, used to have a good time there though. All them kids—tribes—You know I never seen them have Indian dances there though. I never seen them have an Indian dance. You know like powwows, like they talk about nowadays.

I: Hm hmm.

E: I never seen anything like that. Played plenty of basketball—and like I said waltzing and—fast dances. And they had their own band, had their own school band, dance band, all that kind of stuff.

I: What about beading and things like that, in, at Rapid City. Did the girls still bead or did you do any...

E: Yeah, if they wanted to in their own rooms.

I: Um.

E: They had a class for it, I don't know anything about that 'cause I never went to anything like that.

I: Uh huh.

E: I never took up beading or nothing like that. I used to like to sew though, I took Home Ec. and you know like that.

I: And they taught that there?

E: Uh huh.

I: So you could learn how to—

E: You could make your own clothes.

I: What...

E: And the best part was they'd furnish material.

I: Oh, they'd furnish the material.

E: Hm hmm. They'd furnish the material for you. All you had to do was just sew it, and they'd teach you how to sew.

I: Hm hmm.

E: That was good.

I: Ah, were there other classes that were really different like that, different than here at the Mission?

E: Yeah, but it was more modern (laughs). Or, I don't know how you'd say it. I mean they made things you know. Made different things, and down here—they just did beadwork and things like that.

I: When you said different things, like clothing and things like that?

E: Clothing.

I: What other kinds of things would you...

E: And they learned how to knit and crochet if you wanted to. And like you said, embroidery.

I: Uh huh.

E: They learned how to tat too.

I: And the boys, did they teach them how to work with wood or metal or anything...

E: They must have. I don't know much about what they did, the boys. They had leatherwork and all that stuff. I know a lot of them was workin' in the bakery. You know, doing bakery stuff?

I: The boys or the girls?

E: The boys.

I: The boys were?

E: Uh huh. That's what they had to do.

I: Well how long—

E: They did not only furnish the school with the bread and stuff, they were taught, you know, how to make stuff.

I: And the girls, were they taught how to make stuff in the bakery too?

E: No, I never know'd the girls going in there. They just had the Home Ec.

I: Home Ec. for girls.

E: Uh huh.

I: Well was part of that because they wanted to teach people so that they could get jobs?

E: I think so, musta been.

I: And...

E: 'Cause a lot of them probably, the boys probably when they got out of that bakery business. Being taught that maybe they, you know, went on to learn how to be a baker or something. I don't know.

I: And what about you and your friends, did you ever, um, all the things you learned there, did you ever get jobs that were, ah, based on what you learned there?

E: No, nuh huh. When I got married I started raising a family. I had a big family, course I know, I know'd how to cook for 'em, and you know, like that. Take care of 'em. And a lot of the girls too, they'd pick up nursing, in that school.

I: So you could train to be a nurse if you wanted to?

E: Uh huh. If they'd pick there, and they could go on to a bigger school. A lot of them worked in the hospitals there, they had their own hospital.

I: Hospital for the students?

E: Uh huh.

I: So you could study nursing and go take...

E: A lot of them did I think.

I: But as far as your life went, cooking and sewing you did for your family, that you learned there?

E: Yeah.

I: Well, let's see then, how long were you there in South Dakota?

E: Three years.

I: Three years.

E: Hm hmm.

I: And then you said you came back here to the...

E: See they closed our school down. I think it was 1930.

I: 1930.

E: No, it must have been earlier than that, maybe twenty-eight—no, it musta been twenty-eight. I was still there—twenty-seven, twenty-eight—twenty-nine, thirty. I come back here and that's when I went to this boarding school.

I: Do you remember why they closed it?

E: I don't know why.

I: Hm hmm.

E: Later, later years, after they closed it down, they turned it into a sanitarium. A TB sanitarium.

I: For Indians or anyone?

E: For Indians.

I: For Indians.

E: Uh huh.

I: So you came back here, how old were you when you came back here?

E: Let's see, about fifteen—fifteen, I think. Sixteen, seventeen, I was down here in this...

I: Government school.

E: Uh huh.

I: How did that compare to South Dakota?

E: (laughs) I didn't like it.

I: You didn't like it?

E: Nuh huh.

I: How come?

E: Well I don't know, there was just nothing there. I mean, you know, it was just a school. Didn't have much activities, they didn't have much of—well it was so different. So different in the classwork too. We only had one teacher. He was, a kinda grumpy old guy down here. I don't even remember his name now. He was kinda—seemed to me he didn't take much interest in

what he was doing.

I: Poor teacher. And—

E: An old man, I'd say sixty maybe.

I: And at South Dakota, you'd had a different teacher for each subject?

E: Uh huh.

I: And here you just had one class teacher?

E: Just that one teacher, uh huh.

I: What were some of the other differences?

E: Food. (laughs)

I: Oh, tell me about the food (laughs).

E: That's why they called it Gravy High (laughs). Gravy in the morning with a boiled egg and a piece of bread. (laughs) Oatmeal. Noontime you got maybe boiled meat. Ahhh, I used to get so tired of boiled meat. Every day, every day, boiled meat, boiled meat, boiled meat. And maybe a potato once in a while.

I: Did you have gravy for lunch and supper?

E: Had gravy for breakfast and if you were lucky, you'd get out of eatin' gravy for supper, you know that was good. But you'd usually end up with gravy. [laughs]

I: What were some of the other differences then? You said, not as many activities, did they have any kinds of activities?

E: Just basketball, that's about all I know.

I: And classes, could you still take sewing and embroidery, knitting, and that kind of thing?

E: Yeah, they tried that, uh huh. The last year I was there they had ah, a Home Ec. thing.

I: Hm hmm.

E: 'Cause I remember, I made me a bathrobe. And they, they furnished the material that was one good thing. You didn't have to pay for it.

I: Were the students happier at South Dakota, do you think than they were here or what was the kind of general morale of the...

- E: Well, there was no Shoshones and this was run by all Shoshones up here.
- I: The Government school was run by the Shoshones?
- E: Uh huh, that's what I mean by Shoshones had it, see they were going to school there. There were a few Arapahos came up here to go to school. I don't know where they went to, or where they were going or what. After I left that school, I don't remember what happened to them, the kids that, you know went there. I remember, doing about the same thing day in and day out.
- I: Was it hard being an Arapaho with so many Shoshones, was that a problem?
- E: No, that never bothered me none, 'cause I grown up close here see, I mean I, we moved from ah, Pavilion over here, see. My grandmother was living right here.
- I: At the Fort?
- E: Uh huh. Down here to the, you know our place down here.
- I: Oh, ahh, so your own place—you had your own place, farm and...
- E: Uh huh. They didn't farm or nothing there, they just had a house.
- I: They had a house down here?
- E: Uh huh.
- I: Somewhere near Ft. Washakie?
- E: Uh huh. See, now when I was at this school down here, there was nothing really much to do. They just had basketball games and I don't remember them dancin' very much around here, they didn't waltzes. You know, like that in the school.
- I: So—
- E: White dances, they call it.
- I: They didn't have white dances?
- E: Not much, nuh huh. Maybe once a year or something like that, didn't go to any of them, you know.
- I: Well, what about if there was an Indian dance here at Ft. Washakie or at the community hall, could you leave school and go to the community dance, did they let you do that kind of a thing?
- E: (indicates no) When we were in that school down here we didn't get to go. Only on Christmas, you know, when they let 'em go. Let 'em go home.

I: Well that musta been kind of hard, so in, 'cause in South Dakota you were used to going into town and...

E: No, not in town. It was right the school.

I: Oh, right at school.

E: Way big gymnasium. It had all kinds of things going there. Dances, basketball, different things.

I: But uh, when you were at the school in South Dakota could you go into town if you wanted to.

E: They took us in town once a month. That's just to shop. And if there was some, you know like a circus or, a football game you know, important football game. Like South Dakota, I mean, the Rapid City kids, Indian school, was playing their football team...

I: Uh huh.

E: Well they'd take the kids downtown. And go to that game, see. That was good when they'd, you know, do that.

I: But here, there was nothing like that?

E: No, and so few—I don't think they even had a football team down there. Fact, I never, don't remember them ever having one. At that time.

I: Some one said...

E: That was way in the thirties.

I: That was in the thirties. Okay, some one said that they used to have rodeos there. But, was that later that, was that later? Do you remember—

E: That musta been later.

I: Later.

E: Musta been way later.

I: Um, they also mentioned ah, that they had fair here every year. That, do you remember that. Fair where people brought things like 4-H projects, and—

E: That was later.

I: That was later.

E: That was really, I was already married then. When they started all that.

I: So when was that then?

E: That musta been about thirty-five, thirty-four, something like—about thirty-five, thirty-six, something like that. That year, years.

I: Well when you came here, did they still have problems with children running away?—From the Government school?

E: Down here?

I: Yeah, do you remember children running away from the Government school?

E: Some did, I think. They'd just run home. That always did happen, 'cause they lived so close here you know, they'd just walk away and go home.

I: Do you remember what the punishment was for that at the Government school?

E: No, I don't remember.

I: Hmm, what about if you were looking at South Dakota and the Government school, was one stricter than the other?—More rules at one than the other?

E: Yeah, I think it was, more rules in the Government school. You had to really you know, do a lotta things. You had to obey.

I: Do you remember what ah, some of the punishments were. If you got in trouble, what happened to you at the Government school.

E: Seemed like they just—you couldn't do nothing you know. Between the place and stayed there. I don't remember having to do anything like that though.

I: You were a good girl?

E: I was pretty, learned the hard way (laughs) way.

I: What, and at St. Michael's, it you got in trouble what did they make you do?

E: I was so young down there I didn't really pay much attention when they got in trouble...

I: Well, how Long did you stay at the Government school?

E: Down here?

I: Yeah,

E: Two years.

I: Two years. And, and how old were you when you left?

E: I was going on seventeen, I think.

I: Did some of the children stay on longer than age seventeen?

E: I think they did, some of 'em, some of these people my age now, there's a few of 'em around yet. I don't know. Whether they left there seventeen, eighteen, I don't know. I don't remember. I know I got married in thirty—thirty-two.

I: Was that right after you got out of school?

E: Uuh huh.

I: Right after you got out of school.

E: Yeah, hm hmm.

I: And, um, what was your husband's name?

E: James Enos.

I: James Enos.

E: Uh huh. Everybody know'd him by Louie, around here.

I: Louie.

E: Uh huh. He ever did like the name of James—Louie calling (laughs)

I: Was he a rancher or, what did he do?

E: Oh, we didn't, we just—after we got married we lived here for a while, and that's when I had her, Audrey.

I: Uh huh.

E: I had a daughter before her but see, she was born, I lost here when she was born. Then I had her, Audrey, and we lived around here, about oh—she was about six, seven years old. I know 'cause she used to go to school over here at Ft. Washakie. Old school building stood over there. Right where The Head Start is today.

I: Yeah.

E: Around in that area?

I: Hm hmm.

E: That's where she started school. And we lived here that long, and then ahh, we was here about ten years, livin' here. In this place up around the Fort. Then we bought a ranch up to Kinnear.

I: Oh Kinnear.

E: Hm hmm

I: And you ranched there?

E: And we ranched out there. Johnstown?

I: Hm hmm.

E: We moved down there, and lived there the rest of our lives until we moved back over here (laughs).

I: And you moved back here when you—

E: We came back here in ahh—seventy-two I think or seventy-three. Or seventy-two, I've forgotten exactly what year it was that we moved back up here. Ft. Washakie, was sold out. In the meantime my husband was a ditch-rider And he worked for twenty-five years for the irrigation. So we lived, just naturally stayed over there see.

I: Now, a ditch--rider, his job was to regulate—

E: The water.

I: The water.

E: Uh huh. And give out the water, you know, where ever he went. Down. . .start over here, sign up and then he'd take off and go down to the east and it'd be all that area down there. Some of the area. Then he'd go back out to Kinnear, or Big Wind and finish his ride over there.

I: Hm hmm.

E: And ditch Johnstown, you know where that's at?

I: Johnstown?

E: Hm hmm.

I: I've heard of it, I'm not sure I know where it is.

E: Uh huh, it's down the valley on this side of the river.

I: Hm hmm.

E: Down in there.

I: Okay.

E: That's where we lived, way down the farthest end.

I: Hm hmm. Um, now you said your brother was still alive?

E: Hm hmm.

I: Uh, Alvin.

E: Felter.

I: Felter. Where does he live?

E: Down to, Ethete.

I: Do you think he'd be willing to talk about what it was like for boys to go to St. Michael's Mission?

E: He might. You could find out. He's way older than me so I don't know how he is. (Laughs)

I: Does he have a telephone?

E: No.

I: Doesn't have a telephone. Um, who would be a good person to talk to who could go talk to him? Does Zadora know him? (Break in conversation)

I: Okay, we're looking at old photographs now and there's a postcard of Edmo, uh, and...

E: Edmo LeClair.

I: Edmo LeClair and he is...

E: An Enos.

I: Ah Enoses yeah. And ah, what is the relationship between Edmo LeClair and the woman who is standing in front of the tent?

E: I don't know, cousins, I think.

I: Cousins, okay. But these are, um who are the people in the front of the tent then?

E: All her grandkids and her daughter...

Audrey: It's Merle and ah Bernice.

E: Uh huh.

I: Bernice is the tall girl?

A: Yeah.

E: And what is her—

A: Merle is...

I: Merle is this little boy here?

A: Yeah, uh huh.

I: And what is her name, her full name?

A: Lucy, what was her name Mom?

E: Sellers.

A: Sellers.

I: Lucy Sellers—and Lucy, how is Lucy is Lucy related to you then Audrey?

A: She's my Grandma.

I: She's you Grandma?

A: Hm hmm.

E: Hm hmm.

I: And she's Shoshone?

A: Yeah.

I: She's Shoshone.

A: No, uh, Bannock, I mean Sho-Bannock.

I: Sho-Ban?

E: Uh huh.

I: She's from Fort Hall?

E: No, she was from here, Ethete.

I: Oh, from here.

E: Yeah.

I: Um, do you know where this was taken? This tent.

A: Was it up here to—

E: Right here where she lives.

A: Right up here across from this child project up here.

I: Across from the Head Start?

A: Hm hmm.

I: Oh, do you have any idea how long ago?

A: Over at the office of the old Head Start.

I: Where the old Head Start was.

A: Hm hmm.

I: Any idea on the date on this?

E: That must be in thirty-six or thirty-eight.

I: Thirty-six or thirty-eight?

E: Hm hmm.

I: And that's a shack built on the back of the...

E: Hm hmm.

I: That's a wonderful picture.

E: Hm hmm.

I: And then uh, the picture...

E: This is old John Enos, you said?

A: Yeah, I think so...

E: And old Edmo LeClair.

I: John Enos and Edmo LeClair?

E: Hm hmm.

A: He was a hundred and three in...

I: Yeah. Do you know when that picture was taken?

E: Oh gosh, I don't know. His ah, his Indian picture in up there.

I: Oh, standing with the horse?

E: Uh huh.

I: There with the, wearing the blanket.

E: Uh huh.

I: And then the little girl you were age three or four, standing in front of the camera?

E: Yeah (all laugh). Yeah but—you don't, want these.

I: Oh, I think I'd like the one of the little girl.

E: Yeah, uh huh. That one.

I: That one yeah.

E: Uh huh.

I: Just 'cause uh—and that was, that was your mother's house?

E: Yeah. That's what we lived in (laughs).

I: Yeah. Was that a one room cabin?

E: Just a cabin, yeah, And that musta been over here. Wind River.

I: Wind River?

E: Uh huh, the old Wind River.

I: The old Wind River?

E: Uh huh.

I: When they had the agency down there?

E: Yeah.

I: Yeah.

E: Had the old agency sittin' there.

Yeah.. . Um, well. would it be alright, if I called this, photographer and see if he's in today?

(Tape Ends)