

Warm Valley Historical Project  
Interview with Hazel & Joe Sage  
Interviewed by Sharon Kahin  
April 22, 1991

SK: Which schools did you go to. Did you both go to the same school?

HS: Yes.

SK: Which one was that?

HS: The Episcopal school.

SK: Hazel, when did you go there? Do you remember what year or approximately how old you were?

HS: I don't remember the exact year, but I think I was about six years old.

SK: You were six when you started? And when were you born?

HS: February 13, 1916

SK: So that was the early 20's then. And Joe, how about you, do you remember how old you were when you went there?

HS: It was about 1920 is when I started.

SK: And when were you born?

HS: 1912.

SK: Well, I guess we'll start with you, Hazel, and Joe, if you have anything to add, then we'll go on to you and if Hazel has anything to add, then we'll go back to her. Was six about the age of most of your fellow classmates? Were they all about that age?

HS: I don't know, I think so. Maybe some were seven, six or seven.

SK: And it was a boarding school?

HS: Yes, they called them 'units' for the girls. The girls stayed in the units there. Unit one was the building by the church. And the next unit was unit three. Then the store was next, then the garage, then the next building was the dispensary they called it in those days. It was where the school children would go to get cuts and sores and headaches taken care of. They had a woman in there called a deaconess. I think her name was Proper.

SK: Deaconess Proper?

HS: I think so. She was the one that would take care of the school kid's cuts, headaches, or whatever. They had a bed back there. The little building there, between the garage and the other building, right in there, they used to call a dispensary in those days.

SK: Was she a nurse, do you know?

HS: Yes, I think she was. Then the next building was where the superintendent of the school stayed. The big building there, that's where he and his family stayed. Then the next one was unit three. Unit Five was another girl's dormitory. They called them units in those days. The girls prepared their own meals in those units.

SK: So you didn't eat with the boys at that time?

HS: No. Then the other side of unit five, is unit two. That was another place for the girls. Each unit had a matron, they called them, a house mother. Yes, they called them house mothers. She stayed with the girls.

SK: How many girls per unit about?

HS: Let's see, about, I don't remember exactly, but I think about twelve in each unit, I think. Some had a little more. On the last side was this big old building, two story building with gables on top. It was a great big building, just a nice looking building. That's where the boys stayed, upstairs. Their dormitory was upstairs. The classrooms were downstairs. The dining room was at the back of the classrooms, because it was a great big building.

SK: What happened to that building?

HS: It burned down.

SK: Did it? And the boys ate there, but the girls had all their meals in their separate units?

HS: Yes, we had our own individual places and we ate whenever we wanted to eat in our units. The house mothers, of course, they would tell us what to cook, and help us cook.

SK: They taught you how to cook?

HS: Yes. We all had details to do. Somebody might wash the dishes after meals and set the table, sweep the floors, make the beds, change the sheets and so on. The girls all had chores to do.

SK: Did you have any chores outside of your unit, or were they all within the unit? Did you ever work outside the unit?

HS: Yes. There was a lot of poultry and there were a lot of buildings down that way, east, and they had a farmer that used to farm for the school. I don't know much about that part. Maybe you know more. But that's where they stayed, in that building down there. There was about three small houses for them to stay in.

SK: For the farmers?

HS: Yes, for the farmers and the milkman, you know, to milk the cows. And some of the teachers would stay there.

SK: So did you gather eggs? Was that one of your jobs outside of the unit?

HS: Some of the girls would, I think. I don't remember gathering them. They used to send us down there for classes. They had this woman teaching us to make butter, the farmer's wife. We used to churn and make sour cream and butter for the units and she would teach us to cook, things like cookies and such. They used to call him, Farmer, the one that took care of the farm and the poultry and the cows, they had a milkhouse and a barn where they milked the cows.

SK: Then the farmer's wife would take the girls and teach them to do extra cooking and butter making and things like that?

HS: Yes, just the older girls. I don't remember, I think it was the seventh and eighth grade girls. I think, but I don't know. I have forgotten a lot of things! Anyway, we used to go down there.

SK: What other kind of details outside of the units do you remember? What kind of work?

Both: We didn't have any.

HS: It was just like we were at home. We would have to work in our units, they called it.

SK: Do you remember ever making fry bread or traditional Indian things like that in your unit?

HS: I don't remember. See they were trying to teach us not to be Indian, I guess. They used to forbid us to talk our native language and if they caught us talking our native language, they would give us a mark. They had a list and hang it up on the wall and they would put our names up and give us one black mark and next time they caught us speaking our native language, they would put another mark on and if we had five marks, well, we'd stay at the school. We couldn't go home that weekend, to our homes, to our families. We used to get punished for speaking our

language.

JS: That was the United States government. They gave people freedom of speech, but not us.

HS: They done wrong there. They broke their law. They wouldn't let us speak our own language. They forbid us. Then we had to speak their language, the White man language.

SK: When you were six years old, which was pretty small, did you speak English before you came or Arapahoe?

HS: Well, I probably knew a few words, cause my parents spoke English. My father and my mother, they went to school up here at Fort Washakie.

SK: Your parents went to the Fort Washakie school?

HS: Yes. They had a big, old school there for both tribes, Arapahoes and Shoshones. They went to school together.

SK: What were your parents' names?

HS: My dad's name was Allison Joshler, and my mother's name was Maggie Richards Joshler.

SK: Do you know why they sent you to St. Michael's, instead of the Government school?

JS: It's when they built the school up there for the Shoshones (I think, difficult to decipher)

SK: So when your parents went, they didn't have the school at St. Michael's?

HS: No. They had to go to school up there. That was a boarding school. They had to stay there all the time.

SK: Do you ever remember them ever talking about that school?

HS: I can remember a little bit, not much.

SK: Do you remember what they said it was like?

HS: They used to always talk about a favorite teacher, but I can't think of her name. I used to remember that woman's name, but now I can't remember.

SK: What was it like, I mean, six years old is very young. Do you remember what your first day at school was like or were you scared?

HS: I don't remember. I do remember I had long hair in braids. I guess I wouldn't let them cut my hair. Helen Cedartree, my cousin, was a little older than me and she had long hair too and we were the only two that had long hair of the girls. She would say, "I won't let them cut my hair." I would say, "If she ever lets you cut her hair, then you can cut mine." (she laugh) That's what I used to tell them. But she must have finally let them cut hers, cause then they cut mine. That's the only thing that I can remember about when I was little.

SK: What about you, Joe, did you have long hair when you went?

JS: No, but I didn't speak no English when I went to school. My folks didn't know any English, but I learned.

SK: Was it hard?

JS: Well, I think I used to hear my mother talk, say a few words in English.

HS: They went to school. They learned to read and write, but at home, in their homes.

SK: So when they came home, they didn't speak English?

HS: No.

SK: What about the punishment for the boys, did you get black marks?

JS: It was the same thing.

SK: Did you ever get paddled or whipped for doing bad things?

HS: They used to whip you or your dad and my dad—or was it a different situation?

JS: I never did, except for the teacher and ruler.

SK: Hit you on the hand?

JS: Yes.

SK: Was that just for misbehaving?

JS: Yes. Misbehaving at school.

SK: We were talking to Arnold Hedley and he said that he had to go through a paddle line. Did you ever have to go through a paddle line?

JS: No, never.

SK: He must be a bit younger than you are.

HS: Yes, younger.

SK: When you went home then, did your brothers and sisters and family still speak Arapahoe?

JS: No. I was the only one.

SK: That spoke English?

JS: Yes.

SK: Was that difficult to go home and be the only one to speak English?

JS: No, I don't think so.

HS: Once you learn a language, you never lose it.

SK: So, when you went back home, did you speak Arapahoe?

HS: Yes, I had grandparents that didn't talk English.

SK: Whereabouts, Hazel, were you living then? Where was your family living?

HS: Out Mill Creek.

SK: Would they come to get you every weekend?

HS: Yes.

SK: With a horse and buggy?

HS: Yes, with a horse and wagon.

SK: How long did that take for you to get home?

HS: It would take a long time, about a half day to get home. Stay home a few hours and then they had to bring us back. We had to be back to the school by five.

SK: On Sunday?

HS: Saturday and Sunday and the next day, they have to bring us back to school and next day we got to go home, after chapel. Used to have chapel all the time.

SK: So you mean you got to go home for Saturday night?

HS: No, we didn't get to stay all night. They brought us back to the school. We had to be back at the school by five.

JS: We would go home in the morning and have to be back by 5:00 (p.m.)

SK: So Friday night you were at the school. Then Saturday morning your parents would come and get you?

HS: Yes.

SK: What time would they come?

HS: About nine.

HS: About nine or so.

SK: The take you home and then bring you back. You'd have to be back by five on Saturday?

JS: If we were old enough, we could go home by ourselves.

HS: Yes, some of them would walk home. I think he used to. They stayed here. This is their home place.

SK: So you lived here, then Joe, you were real close and could just run home?

JS: Yes.

SK: But you still had to be back Saturday night?

JS: Yes and stay all night and get up the next morning and go to chapel. Then we could go home again and come back at five o'clock.

HS: I think it was real hard on our folks compared to what we go through now days as parents. We have it easy compared to them.

SK: That is the only time they got to see you then?

JS: On Saturdays and Sundays. Well, they used to come down by the store, come and buy stuff, so we'd see them

HS: For a few minutes, we could visit with them, if it was recess when they came around, otherwise, we were in the classrooms.

SK: I didn't realize that. I thought you got to go home and spend Saturday night.

JS: Well, once a month.

HS: Towards the end, way later on, they let us go home towards the end of the month and stay overnight.

SK: When you came back at five o'clock Saturday afternoon, did you have to go to chapel, or what happened after you got back on Saturday afternoons?

JS: We ate supper, the boys anyhow.

HS: Yes. We didn't have chapel. Some of us had to work in the kitchen in our units to get supper ready. Our house mother used to plan the menu and took care of that but we helped her. Some girls would get the meals and some girls would set the table. There would be, I think, about twelve girls in each unit.

SK: What was the house mother like? Was she someone who made the little girls try and feel at home, or did you have a good relationship with her?

HS: Yes, she was just like a mother (They both answered this question) She was nice. She would take care of the kids if they hurt themselves and she would take care of their skinned knees, or if we had headaches, she would give us aspirin and if we got sick, she would put us to bed. I don't remember some parts and I don't know if they used to get a doctor from P.H.S. or what to come down and see the kids if they got sick

SK: Joe, what about for the boys, was there someone that was like the matron or the house mother?

JS: We used to call them disciplinarians and the little boys had a house mother.

SK: And she was female?

JS: She was the disciplinarian's wife.

HS: And they stayed there themselves the whole ?? upstairs or somewhere.

JS: Yes.

SK: How many disciplinarians were there for the boys?

JS: Just one.

SK: just one for all those boys?

JS: About eighty boys.

SK: Eighty boys!

JS: We used to have to work in the kitchen and we took turns. We moved around



every month. But we worked in the kitchen and worked on the farm. We milked cows and hauled hay for the cattle. We raised our own cattle for the school.

HS: They had their own dairy.

JS: Hogs, dairy, poultry. We had a lot.

SK: What was the disciplinarian like? Was he like a father to you, the way the house mothers were to the girls?

JS: It seemed like it. We done our jobs, our chores, when we used to work for the farmer. We did everything you would do on a farm.

HS: They had a different man than that farmer as the disciplinarian. He stayed down in that ??

SK: Was the disciplinarian someone you could talk to, a good person, one you could tell your problems to ?

JS: Yes.

SK: But you just had one for all those boys?

JS: Yes. just one.

HS: The little boys had that woman. Wasn't it his wife?

JS: Yes.

SK: What were your details, Joe? Were they the same as your wife's or were they different?

JS: A little different, I think.

SK: You didn't help cook, did you?

JS: No, but we peeled potatoes. (They all laughed) We washed dishes, set the table, sweep, sweep the whole building.

HS: It was on detail wasn't it, details?

JS: It changed around. We worked on the farm and in the buildings.

SK: You kept the classrooms clean? The boys kept the classrooms clean?

JS: Yes, they did.

SK: That was the boys' job?

JS: Yes, because they were living in the same building. There were three classrooms.

SK: Three classrooms and the boys and girls studied together?

JS: Yes.

SK: So three teachers, or, more than three teachers?

JS: There were three, one for each classroom, sixth, seventh and eighth grades in one room.

HS: Wasn't it fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth and the other room had kindergarten, first grade, second grade and then fourth grade? I don't remember that part too good.

SK: And about eighty boys, and how many girls?

HS: There was four units and there was twelve girls in each unit, forty something maybe?

SK: About one hundred and twenty students all together then?

HS: I don't know if we are accurate on those numbers. Maybe somebody else remembers better.

End of Side A of Joe and Hazel Sage Tape

SK: So you would haul coal for the girl's units in wheelbarrows?

JS: Yes and wood.

HS: We had porches, they are gone now. These buildings they have now, had porches and that's where they would stack the wood, on the porches and they had a coal bin too.

JS: We had to milk the cows and bring milk to the youngsters.

HS: We had to do all the hard work. (they all laugh)

SK: I guess. (They all laugh) Do you feel that it was valuable later?

JS: Yes, you bet it was. We learned

SK: Well, who did the sewing if the boys were chopping your wood? Did you mend their socks or do anything like that for them?

HS: I don't know that part. I don't think I had anything to do with that, so I don't remember.

SK: Did you learn to sew, Hazel?

HS: Yes, they taught us. We had regular classes for sewing and cooking.

SK: When you sewed, did you make your own clothes, or what kinds of things did they have you make?

HS: I don't remember that part. I remember they taught us to do that cross stitch, that cloth that has little squares on it and we used to make designs. I think there is some around somewhere yet.

SK: Arapahoe designs?

HS: Yes, that they made in those days. They are around somewhere.

SK: Did you use them for tea towels or alter cloths? Do you remember what they were used for?

HS: Alter cloths, on the front of dresses, pillows for couches and things like that.

SK: And they were Arapahoe designs?

HS: Yes. The Shoshones used to use flowers, mostly roses, but Arapahoes have geometric designs.

SK: Did the teachers teach you the designs or did the students already know them?

HS: We made up our own designs.

SK: What about the boys, Joe, did you have any kind of hand craft or carving or anything like that? Did they teach you anything?

JS: They taught us a little carpentry. Mostly farm work.

HS: What used to be in that building where the Head Start is?

JS: It was a store and a garage. They used to keep their cars in there.

HS: I thought it used to be a carpentry shop.

JS: Oh yes. That's right.

HS: Yes. It was a carpentry shop for a while there.

SK: Can you tell me a little bit more about the store? What kinds of things were sold there and who came to buy?

JS: The Indians came to buy and some White people. They used to sell the merchandise from wagons. That's how they transported things in those days. So it was a post office too. My old man used to drive up on the wagon, stay all night and then come back. It used to take a long time.

SK: The store sold produce, groceries and clothes, or what did it sell?

HS: Mostly meat, they sold meat.

JS: Clothes too, and shoes. A good selection.

SK: So, if you were an Indian farmer, you could take your things there and sell them?

JS: I don't think they did, no. They just took their grain in on wagon and team.

SK: Did Riverton have a grain mill?

JS: Riverton didn't, but Lander had one.

SK: Lander was closer?

HS: Yes.

JS: On the east side of town there's a big tall building and it's still there.

SK: Right.

HS: The wagons used to go along that hill. It was closer to Lander, along those hills, what do they call those hills? Anyway, they had a road through there and it would go on the north side of Lander from here.

SK: Is there a road there today?

JS: Yes, but it is not kept up. They have just let it go. There are a few people who travel it (today).

HS: The road is quite sandy.

SK: I can't picture where that road went, like over by Plunket Road. Is it over close to there?

HS: No, it's on this side of those hills.

JS: Do you know where Boulder Creek(??) is, you just go around that hill, it's straight

south along that hill. There's still a bridge there, the North Fork bridge, on 2nd Street Road, they call it.

SK: O.k. Is there a fishing area there now where that bridge crosses the North Fork and comes out on 2nd Street?

HS: Yes, that one. We come through there ever so often just for old time sake. We'll make the loop around and come out at Milford again. It is a good road there.

SK: The farm produce that was sold at the store, did that all come from the school?

JS: The school used to use what they raised.

SK: Was there any surplus that they sold at the store?

JS: No.

SK: Just going back a bit to the weekends, when you came back on Sunday, did you have church again? I know you had church in the morning, but did you have church again in the afternoon?

JS: Yes, we did.

HS: Yes we did, all the time. We used to call it chapel all the time.

SK: Did you have it on weekdays?

JS: Yes, we had it in the mornings. The boys used to have to get up and do exercises, cold or not (They all laugh) The disciplinarian, he was an army man. To do exercises and drills, we had to wear regular uniforms.

SK: To drill you had to wear uniforms?

JS: Yes.

JS: We have pictures of those boys in uniforms, I don't know where it is.

HS: I don't know either. Our stuff is so scattered. My brother used to have some pictures too.

SK: Hazel, did the girls drill?

HS: No, I don't think so.

SK: Did you ever do calisthenics, exercises?

HS: Just in gym class.

JS: The boys, we went through the regular army (they laugh). That was at the time when we had that army guy, the disciplinarian. He was in the army in World War II and he knew how to use it! (they laugh)

SK: Did you do that every day, exercise and drill every morning?

HS: Yes, every morning.

SK: And you had a special uniform for that?

JS: Yes.

SK: Then would you switch to your school clothes?

JS: Yes, I think so.

HS: It is so hard to remember everything. It was so long ago. Joe is 79 years old now, almost 80. Joe says he's all artificial now. Hazel says yes, but he doesn't want to wear his teeth, only to eat. (They laugh)

SK: Joe, when you would drill, would you have to carry a gun or a real gun?

JS: Yes, but we had wooden guns.

SK: Fake guns? (they laugh)

HS: It seems funny now, but it wasn't in those days. That happened when that one disciplinarian was there. They used to change disciplinarians and house mothers. Some would stay a long time.

JS: That army guy stayed a long time.

SK: Do you remember the army man's name?

JS: Spalding.

HS: Did Arnold say anything about him?

SK: He said that he had to drill but his wife, Margaret, also had to drill.

HS: Well, she was in the service.

SK: Yes, she went into the WAGS but she said when she was at St. Michael's the girls had to drill. Is she older than you or younger?

HS: She is younger. She probably remembers that part but I don't. My memory is fading away.

SK: What about uniforms, Hazel, did the girls wear uniforms and what were they

like?

HS: For school, we wore dark navy skirts. I forgot what kind of blouses we had and a tie or something.

SK: A middy tie?

HS: Yes, a middy tie. And for Sundays, we wore red skirts and white blouse and red ties.

SK: Did you have sweaters or coats that were uniform, too?

HS: Sweaters, I think, but I don't remember what they were like.

SK: What about for gym, did you wear bloomers?

HS: We had to wear old baggy bloomers. That's what we wore for the team.

SK: What kind of things did you do in gym?

HS: I don't remember, but I know we played ball. We had a team. A first team and second team. The first team were unbeaten around here. Fort Washakie couldn't beat them, St. Stephen's, Lander, couldn't beat them. They called them Blue Diamonds.

SK: Was that basketball?

HS: Yes. Girl's basketball. Even in those days, they were undefeated.

JS: I'll tell you what the boys used to do. They had hard work during their games. (Hazel says he has always said this to her) We had the farm work, hauled hay, fed the cattle while these girls rested all day. (they all laugh)

HS: (They rested) For the games.

SK: No wonder they were undefeated. What did you play, Joe? What did the boys do in gym?

JS: Basketball.

SK: In gym classes, did you do anything besides basketball?

HS: Exercises, did you have any exercises?

JS: We didn't do nothing but work, the first thing when we got up! (they laugh, and Sharon says talking to Hazel, while you were still in bed!)

HS: They used to really get mad at us because our coach used to have us resting.

SK: What about uniforms, did the boys have to wear special things during school?

JS: Pants, suspenders, shirts, sweaters.

HS: What kind of shirts? Were they blue?

JS: I forgot, I think they were tan. We used to wear green sweaters.

SK: Green sweaters?

JS: Yes. They were pretty good.

SK: What about classes? What kinds of things did the boys study?

JS: They used to call it geography, spelling, history.

HS: And you had algebra.

SK: How did that work? Did you go to school in the morning and then work in the afternoon, or how did you work the studying in with your chores?

HS: We used to come home about eleven-thirty and help the house mother get the food ready, set table, and all that, for the girls to come home for lunch. We used to come home half an hour before twelve.

SK: Then have lunch?

HS: Yes, then the girls would come home for lunch.

SK: Then did you go back to classes in the afternoon?

HS: Yes, after lunch, about one, go back to school at one.

SK: Then when would you finish with your classes for the day?

HS: Four o'clock.

SK: Long day! Then did you get to play until dinner time?

HS: We used to have recess.

SK: From four till?

HS: No, from one to two-thirty, I think.



SK: Then after four o'clock, what did you do?

HS: Go home to our units and play around for awhile. Those that were on detail, certain ones would be on detail, but they would get to play too.

SK: What about for recreation, Joe? What kinds of things do you remember? Did they ever have dances, or anything like that when you weren't working?

JS: Yes, we used to have dances and the girls used to come over.

HS: Yes, in that dining room.

SK: You would dance in the dining room?

HS: Yes, in the boys' dining room in the school building.

SK: What kind of dances were they?

HS: I don't remember.

JS: I did the waltz.

SK: You did the waltz?

HS: There was square dancing and something else too.

SK: Who taught you how to waltz? Was that the job of the disciplinarian or the matron, or how did you learn how to waltz?

JS: I never learned how until at the dances and I watched on.

SK: Did you have movies or anything else?

JS: Yes.

HS: Yes, we had movies. That was the only thing we really had that was good.

JS: That was before they had comedies and we used to just read what they said (silent movies). That is how we learned to read. (they laugh)

SK: When you look back on it, what do you think is the most valuable thing that you got out of it?

JS: Out of school?

SK: Yes ,out of going to school. What was the best part or the most useful later in life?

HS: Well, the Three R's (Joe agrees) and then how to keep up our homes.

JS: How to farm and do house work. It was good help that they gave us.

SK: Did you used to farm, Joe?

JS: Mostly oats.

HS: We used to farm in the beginning. When we were first married, we used to farm.

HS: Not too much. There wasn't enough money for machinery to work.

JS: It paid better to work. All them years, he worked till he retired. He gets a pension now.

SK: Did you have a garden?

HS: Yes. I always did have gardens. Last two years we have gotten too old to plant gardens. Back here we had a garden

SK: Oh yes, I see where it was. It looks like someone is getting ready to plant it again. Going back to the language again. Did most people, when they left school, go back to speaking Indian during the summer, in your generation?

JS: Yes, we had to talk to our old folks.

HS: It seems like it just gradually changed. I don't know, somewhere along the way, well, we start talking English in our homes.

JS: When we first got married, we used to talk mostly Indian.

HS: Our older kids, they know how to talk Indian.

JS: Then they went to high school (Hazel says in Lander) and they started talking English. Now they talk mostly English.

HS: First thing we know, we are talking English in our homes. Like our Daisy, she can't talk good Arapahoe, she just doesn't understand. She understands Arapahoe pretty good, but can't speak it.

?: Byron is real good. He understands all those things we're doing.

HS: Yes, Jerry, Byron and Al. Jerry and A1 talk real good Arapahoe and understand it. But Byron had to go back to school to learn some more.

SK: So that was when people started to go to Lander High School, you think that changed?

HS: Yes.

SK: Did you both go to Lander High School or did you stop after St. Michael's?

JS: We stopped.

HS: They didn't send Indians to Lander in those days. There was no transportation in those days. It was after our children grew up that they started sending kids to Lander from the reservation.

SK: So when was that approximately?

HS: Did Al go to Lander (asking Joe. Joe says that he did go to Lander for one year.) That would have been the same age as Elsie and Junior had been, so it was way back at that time. I'm not sure exactly.

SK: When did you get married?

HS: 1934.

JS: It was when all the kids had graduated from high school.

SK: So it would be the late 40's, maybe?

HS: Yes, late 40's, I think.

SK: Did most people have cars in the late 40's after World War II, or when would you say people started to have cars?

JS: During the war we hardly had any cars. So it was after the war.

SK: After World War II?

HS: When we started getting these payments. I don't know when that started. 1947, or somewhere along in there. That's when everybody started getting new cars, cause they had the money. Before that, no one had the money to buy cars.

SK: So the cars and the payments and going to Lander High School, all started coming about the same time, then?

HS: Just about, one after another, not all at same time, but they followed each other.

[Tape 2]

SK: Okay, so at that time, you both had families living in log houses?

HS: My family did, but his lived in a frame house. Some still lived in tents.

JS: Teepees were sort of scarce.

SK: Teepees were?

HS: Yes.

SK: Do you remember any teepees, though you said they were scarce, so there were some teepees still when you were growing up?

HS: My grandmother had a small one that they made themselves, a small one. Her and her friends, I guess, they made a teepee, but it wasn't one of those big ones.

SK: Did she live in it year around or just in the summer?

HS: Just for summer time. Sometimes the houses would get too warm in the summer time and we'd sleep out in the tents or the teepees where it is cooler.

JS: When we were poor, some friends loaned us a tent. We stayed in that tent in the winter.

SK: What was that like?

HS: Cold. There would be frost on our bed in the mornings. Didn't have no coal to burn all night. We would build fire every morning from scratch again. It was cold. We were poor. We didn't have anything. No jobs around here.

SK: What was the date you got married?

HS: May 18, 1934 or 35

SK: So that was during the Depression?

HS: (They both answer yes to this question)

SK: What was it like? What kinds of things did people have to do to get work?

JS: Well, you just couldn't get no work.

HS: There were no jobs.

JS: Some of the older people, they got commodities every Friday.

SK: Could you get commodities, or did you have to be an older person?

JS & HS: You have to be older.

SK: Where did they have to go to get the commodities?

HS: Down there at Fort Washakie. You know that white building back there, behind the BIA building. That is where they used to go and get their commodities. You had to go for everything up there.

SK: But people your age, at that time, couldn't get commodities?

HS: No. Only old people.

SK: What did you do?

HS: They started working on the irrigation and Joe worked there with a team in the summer time. In those days, it was difficult working with that team.

SK: Was that one of those W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration, I believe) projects?

HS: Yes. That is what saved us. Things really got better for us after Roosevelt got elected President and started this W.P.A., all his programs.

JS: We worked for a dollar a day.

SK: A dollar a day?

HS: Yes. A dollar a day.

JS: A dollar went a long way then. Things weren't as expensive in those days.

HS: They are the ones who built that road going up to the mountain, the C.C.C.

SK: The Dickinson Park?

HS: Yes.

SK: That is what is in those old BIA photographs?

HS: Yes.

SK: Was that all year round, or was that mostly in the summer or fall?

JS: Mostly in the summer and fall. They used to cut timber in the winter where those roads were supposed to go.

SK: Did they put it in sawmills then, or what did they do with the timber or did they just clear it?

JS: They just cleared it. I remember they had sawmills, but I don't remember if they cut that timber up or not.

SK: What about the women, Hazel? Did you get any work with any of those projects? Were there jobs for the women?

HS: Well, there were, I think. I used to do some sewing but I never got on because I took care of the kids. I was working.

SK: Did you rely on your garden then?

HS: We hadn't settled here yet. We were camped across the river for a while, then Fort Washakie. We had to camp wherever Joe's job was at. We finally got settled down here. That used to be our house, this one down here (she is pointing it out to Sharon) And, we used to live in government houses.

JS: We lived in the government houses at Fort Washakie for about six years, I think.

SK: What were the government houses like?

HS: They were real good. They sold them, the slum part.

SK: The ones they are giving to Cleon, I'm not sure of this word?? They are cleaning the slum areas?

HS: Yes. And then the slum here at ?? It looks like the one we had! (she laughs)

SK: There is another one down here by the bridge.

HS: They are moving it down to the Fort and remodeling it and giving it to the old folks.

SK: So the government houses were around the Fort?

HS: Yes.

JS: They had a house here, about a mile from here, the irrigation building. That is where we stayed for three years. Then they moved us down, you know where the Riggs(?) live, right there in that corner. We finally got to sell it.

HS: When we paid for this house ourselves, we had to get a loan. Now days, they get houses real easy. But we had to pay for this ourselves. They took it off our per capita check over time until we got it paid up.

SK: Were there jobs available for women on the reservation at all at that time?

HS: I think they used to have some. I don't really remember because I was never

involved.

SK: Because you had the kids?

HS: Yes, because of the kids. I think they used to have jobs for the women.

SK: How about the employees at St. Michael's, when you were there, were they mostly White people or did they ever employ Indian people to work as the farmers or housemothers, etc.?

JS: Mostly White missionaries.

SK: It was all done through the Church?

HS: Yes.

SK: Did the Church run the whole thing, including the farms?

HS: Yes they did. It was quite a church.

SK: What about doing beadwork? Did anyone in your family ever do any thing like that during the Depression or just to help out with finances?

HS: Well, my older children were boys, so they didn't do any of the beadwork. Later on, I had girls. But by that time we could keep the payments up.

SK: Did your mother or grandmother ever do any of that kind of thing to sell?

HS: They used to do the beadwork, but not to make a living on. They did it for their own use, their family. But some people used to sell their beadwork and make money. There were some good beadworkers. They used to make moccasins and sell them all the time.

SK: Where would they sell them?

HS: They had a shop over here at the Mission. I don't know if it is still in operation or not. They had a bead shop over here (at the Mission) where they would sell their work. I think about the same time, they had another one, but I can't remember the name of it. I just wasn't involved in any of that. I do think they still have one up there somewhere.

SK: Yes, at the Senior Citizen Center.

HS: Yes, that's where it is.

SK: When you were at the school, did they let you out for special tribal ceremonies or celebrations or anything like that?

JS: We used to on occasion, like Christmas vacation, and others.

HS: We would get to stay overnight at home.

SK: Just one night?

HS: Yes. Well, at Christmas, we got to stay home for about a week. Then that one year, I don't know what year it was, we would get to stay one night at home at the end of each month, on the weekend at the end of every month.

SK: But that was just one year they let you do that?

HS: I don't remember. (she laughs)

JS: They had done that for the last few years or so.

HS: That was really something. It was great for us. We got to stay home with our folks instead of at the Mission.

SK: What did that do to families, having all the kids away so much? Do you think that weakened the family structure or did it make it stronger because when people did get together they valued their time? Do you have any sense of that?

HS: I don't know. I just never thought about it. I know my grand folks used to be able to go way up, way up to Dubois and camp for about three weeks to hunt. They used to bring home great big sacks of dry meat. They would bring lots of meat back. Three or four families used to go up there and camp because they didn't have to worry about us (the children) going. We used to always be at the school. I stayed mostly with my grandparents.

SK: Do you know whereabouts in Dubois they would camp?

HS: I really don't know. All I knew is that they went up that way and stayed. They would go up on wagons and be gone about three weeks.

SK: Was this in the fall?

HS: Oh yes, in the fall.

SK: What about during the Depression, Joe, did you hunt for your family around here? Was that still possible then?

JS: Yes. I used to go hunting. We could hunt at any time during that time. Now you can't. You could fish any time too. Just go down to the river and start fishing.

SK: What sort of things could you hunt at that time, during the Depression, when



things were so bad?

JS: Mostly rabbits and sage chickens (hens), pheasant.

HS: There used to be a lot of pheasants, but I don't even hear them any anymore.

JS: Yes, there used to be a lot of pheasants. Now, they are not around. We used to hear them hear, but I haven't heard any.

SK: There are quite a few down by Riverton.

HS: Yes. They eat the seeds, the grain. They probably can't kill them either.

SK: Sara, do you have any questions?

Sara: I don't want to wear these people out. How long were you at the Mission school? How many years all together, do you remember?

HS: Nine or ten years. (talking to Joe, she says) You were in ninth grade for many years. He says, only two years. They laugh.

SK: Is that where you met each other, at school?

HS: Yes. We went to school together. I went to school up here at Fort Washakie for one year.

SK: The Government school?

HS: Yes.

SK: How did that compare to St. Michael's?

HS: It was way different.

SK: How different?

HS: Well, we stayed in a dormitory, in that big building they had next to the school building. But the girls had their own rooms, with about four girls in each room. All the ones I went to school with are gone now, they died.

SK: How old were you when you went there?

HS: I was about 16 or 17, somewhere in there.

Sara: Was that after you finished down there (at the Mission)?

HS: Yes. I finished there and then went to the Government. But it was easier up there

(at the Government). (she laughs) It (the Mission) must have had a tenth grade, but it didn't seem like it, because everyone went down here (to the Government). You know, they had a real good teacher (at St. Michael's).

SK: So it was more advanced at St. Michael's than the boarding school?

Both: Yes.

SK: Was it as happy a place at the Government School. Was it more strict?

HS: Well, it wasn't all that happy because not many Arapahoe went up there. I was the only girl. All the rest were Shoshones. They used to always fight! There were half-breeds, they called them, half white and half Shoshone. The half-breeds and the full-bloods used to always fight. All the time I was caught in the middle, but I was mutual, I never took sides. I was wise, I stayed out of the trouble.

SK: I believe Helen Cedartree told me she went there also?

HS: I guess so. She must have went way before me. She is a little bit older than I am.

SK: Did the girls fight too, or was it mostly boys?

HS: It was the girls who used to fight! The full-blood and half-breed girls.

SK: All Shoshone?

HS: Yes.

SK: Were there any Sioux or Cheyenne at that time?

HS: No.

SK: And you were the only Arapahoe? Were there Arapahoe boys?

HS: Oh, there were some. My brother went and two or three others but they didn't stay all the way. They quit in the spring. They didn't stay the whole school year.

SK: Were there some other differences that you remember?

HS: We used to eat all together in one big place, boys and girls together. That was different. It was so different from there, from St. Michael's. I had to tough it out cause I didn't really care for it. But I just made myself stay there. I shouldn't have went in the first place.

SK: Why did you go?

HS: Well, me and my girlfriend decided to go up there just to be going somewhere

else, I guess. But, in the meantime, her mother died during the Christmas holiday so she had to drop out of school. So, it left me up there alone. She had to stay home and take care of her sisters, two sisters who were younger than her.

SK: Did they give you a hard time being the only Arapahoe?

HS: No. They didn't bother me cause I was mutual. I didn't stick up for anybody else or get involved.

SK: I understand it used to be called Gravy High?

HS: Yes. (they both laugh)

SK: Why was that?

HS: Because they used to have gravy and plain food like that, I guess. They had to feed a lot all at once. It wasn't like St. Michael's where they had individual places to eat. But up there, they had that whole school to feed, mostly gravy, I guess.

SK: Was the food better at St. Michael's?

HS: Yes. (she laughs)

SK: Can you think of anything else you would like to add or like people to remember or think it's important?

JS: You know, during my school year, everyone used to farm. Come spring, they would let us go to help those farmers. The boys helped their dads farm in May. This was something we learned at the Mission school.

SK: So you got out early so you could help on the farm?

JS: Yes.

SK: All the boys got to do that?

JS: Yes. Most were eighth graders.

SK: So you were able to use what you learned at school?

JS: Yes. At that time, we used horses. We had no tractors. That's when the Indians quit working was when the tractors came in. They couldn't buy them. It was hard.

SK: Was that during the Depression, or shortly after?

JS: Yes. It must have been during the Depression.

End of side one of tape 2

HS: We helped farm. One thing I learned at the Mission was to set bread. My housemother taught V~ me how to put the dough in those big bowls and make the loaves of bread. I used to churn butter. She would teach us to cook too, that dairyman's wife, and take care of the chickens. You know that big old chicken coop that is down there? That is where all the chickens were, in there, for the school, the eggs.

JS: They used to have turkeys too. We used to kill them, cut their throats and watch them run around?. That is how they taught us. We would have to kill the hogs too and we had cows, dairy cows.

HS: We had a dairy there. It is old now and falling apart.

SK: Yes. It hasn't been used for ages. You said when tractors came in, that is when the Indians stopped farming?

JS: That is when it started.

SK: Was it just too expensive?

JS: Too expensive.

End of side 2, Tape 2