

Warm Valley Historical Project  
Interview with Bea Snyder  
Interviewed by Anne Slater  
4/1/91

AS: Bea, you said you were born September 30,1939. Is that right?

BS: Yes.

AS: When you were about five years old, that's when you first remember the Mission?

BS: That's when I think I went, I'm not sure.

AS: What do you recall about that?

BS: I lived so close to the Mission and I remember standing by the fence and looking up to the house, and wondered why nobody would come and get me.

AS: So your house was west of the school, across the ditch. Was it on the other side of the ditch?

BS: No, it was right behind. West of the Mission, there was a fence there and I don't know, it wasn't even a quarter of a mile.

AS: Well, you went to the school, but do you have any memories of seeing activities there, of the kids, before you went to school?

BS: No, I don't. I just remember being there and I don't know why I was there.

AS: But you were a little girl, maybe five years old. What do you remember about that?

BS: I remember they made us wear long brown stockings and plaid dresses and I think we wore either navy blue or black sweaters with the little red caps, but that was when we went to church. I think that they made us put them on. But the dresses and the long stockings, I remember that.

AS: And everybody wore the same?

BS: Yes, they all had the same kind of clothes.

AS: Do you remember going to church?

BS: Yes.

AS: That was the little chapel of the Holy St. Johns'?

BS: Yes.

AS: What was your impression?

BS: Well to me, that little chapel seemed liked it was a great big church then. When I was little, it seemed like a great big place.

AS: It was bigger than your house?

BS: Yes.

AS: Did you go to school in there or did you just go to church in there?

BS: I think we just went to church in there. I remember the classroom being in the back of the Mission. But I don't remember what we did in there, like if we were writing or what we did. I can't remember too much of that. But I remember in the dining room and they would feed us at these tables and the bigger girls, I guess might have served the little ones, I don't recall, but I remember this dining room was pretty big and it had a lot of tables in it.

AS: Was the school room beyond the dining room, in that same building?

BS: Yes.

AS: Because earlier, they had had classes in the chapel, but that was a long time ago. So you don't really remember what you studied?

BS: No, I don't. I remember at night, we would go upstairs. They had a little dormitory up there with a bunch of beds and stuff, and we had to share a bed with the older girls.

AS: You had to share a bed, or the same room?

BS: There was a bunch of beds in there and I'm pretty sure that some of them had to share a bed. The little girls maybe slept with the bigger girls, or something.

AS: But you didn't go up there during the day?

BS: No, I don't remember being up there during the day, but I remember the beds.

AS: Do you remember anything about the teachers?

BS: I think Mrs. Roberts was the only one that was there.

AS: She seemed to have been there through the long period and everybody went to school under her.

BS: I don't remember anybody else being there but her.

AS: Do you remember Reverend Roberts?

BS: Yes, I remember him.

AS: What do you remember about him?

BS: I just remember that he was an old man with a white beard and whiskers. He kind of reminded me of Santa Claus.

AS: So he wasn't really active and he was quite elderly by then. That was only a few years before he died?

BS: I think so.

AS: Because he died in 1949 and I think he was blind for the last few years of his life. You don't remember where he stayed?

BS: No, I don't. I remember that Mrs. Roberts had a bedroom upstairs, but she had a bedroom of her own. The other one was kind of a dormitory-like with a lot of beds in it.

AS: Did it seem like there were a lot of girls there?

BS: To me, it seemed like there was. Maybe there wasn't, but to me, it seemed like there was a lot of girls.

AS: It's what you remember that we are interested in. Do you remember anything about the food?

BS: I don't really remember too much about what we ate or anything like that, but I know they always had milk.

AS: Was that different from home?

BS: Yes, because we didn't hardly ever have fresh milk at home because there was no refrigerators and no place to keep it.

AS: Is there anything else about the food that struck you, that you can remember, that was different from home?

BS: Well, milk and Graham Crackers.

AS: You mentioned the church. What are some of your recollections of going to that church?

BS: I remembered a little bit more after I left there because we would walk down there from our house on Christmas Eve and they had services, and they had this great big tall Christmas tree. I thought it was a tall Christmas tree that was there and there was so many people there that the little church was crowded. It was some special thing that we had to be there on Christmas Eve. My father used to be the caretaker, or help take care of the Mission, or something and he would go down early in the evening and build a fire in the stove there so people would be warm when they got there.

AS: What was your father's name?

BS: John Meyers.

AS: So he was a descendant of Barbara Baptise Meyers and your family has always been in that area just west of the Mission?

BS: My grandfather owned the piece of land that was right behind the Mission, and that is where we lived.

AS: And your mother is?

BS: Her maiden name was Shonghasee, Lucy Shonghasee, and my grandfather's name was Cyrus Shonghasee.

AS: This may be because we are going back when you were really, really little, but did your family speak English at home?

BS: No, we didn't. All we did was speak Indian and so a lot of the girls, when I went to the Mission, spoke Indian. So it was easy to communicate with them. Maybe that's why I don't remember too many things about what went on, because we all spoke Indian together. But I don't remember ever, when we were there, being disciplined because we spoke Indian to each-other. It was later on, when we went to the Government, that it was bad to speak Indian and I didn't know how to speak English when I went to the Government school.

AS: At the Shoshone Mission school, you don't have any memories of having to do English?

BS: No, I don't. But when I went to school there, I think it might have been around Christmas time or I went there during September to Christmas, I can't remember the time, but I remember it was around Christmas time, because when my mother and my aunt and grandfather came, they were there and we were eating supper, or something, I can't remember what meal it was, but I had to keep my eye on them so they wouldn't leave me there again. They left me there, but I don't know why they took me down there, because I lived so close there, and all I remember is standing by that fence and looking up to the house and crying because I wanted to go home.

AS: So you don't recall going home for weekends or anything?

BS: No, I don't.

AS: You went down there, and as far as you remember, you stayed?

BS: I stayed. And I was so afraid they were going to leave me again, but they kept telling me that they were going to take me home with them and it must have been around Christmas. I remember hanging up stockings.

AS: For Christmas?

BS: Yes, and when we woke up Christmas morning, they had some little pear necklaces and little different items stuck in the socks for everybody to get when they got up the next morning. I remember that.

AS: Do you remember being with the other children, and again, I know when you are talking about what you were doing when you were five years old, most people don't remember that at all. Do you recall playing with the other children?

BS: I don't really know what we did. I can't remember. Actually, what we did was those special things, like the socks and hanging up the socks for Christmas and going to church or about the—

AS: Those things stand out in any little kid's memory.

BS: And the dresses that we had to wear are the main things that stick in my head about going to school there.

AS: There are things that were different from home?

BS: Yes it was.

AS: So you were there from September until December, or however long.

BS: I think that's how long it was, but I don't remember when they took me home, whether they ever brought me back. I don't remember anything beyond that Christmas.

AS: Do you recall when you first started down at the Government school at Fort Washakie?

BS: I remember getting on the bus and going down there.

AS: Do you have brothers and sisters?

BS: I have an older brother that would go to school there to. We would catch the bus together and go down. I had a younger sister, she was two years younger than I was. When my mother was fixing my hair, she wanted to go so bad that when my mother got done fixing her hair, she went out to the bus and caught the bus with us and went to school with us.

AS: Oh, your little sister?

BS: Yes, and in those days, they didn't require birth certificates when you went to school. You just told them how old you were. I think they let her stay in school.

AS: By then, it was a day school?

BS: Yes, a government day school.

AS: And they would send a bus around?

BS: They sent a bus. They had big orange bus, I remember that. And then we rode the bus.

AS: What was it like down at the Government? Are your memories more clear of that?

BS: Well, I went to school there until I was about in the third grade and then my mother moved out to this ranch and she wanted to take me and my sister out there, and we went to school there until I was about in the seventh grade, I think.

AS: And that was up?

BS: Out to Bar G.

AS: Where is that?

BS: It is a ranch about sixty miles from here, up around Pavillion. She had remarried and her husband owns some cows, and stuff, and had a ranch out there. We went to school there. I think my sister was just in the first grade and I was in the third grade when we went out there.

AS: What do you remember about the Government school?

BS: The Government school, they taught us how to dance little dances and reading and writing.

AS: If you were reading and writing, then you were learning English, weren't you?

BS: Yes.

AS: Do you recall anything about that?

BS: I remember we didn't want to talk English when I went to school there and I don't know how I got along.

AS: Did the boys and girls go to class together?

BS: Yes they did.

AS: Do you remember how the teachers would treat you?

BS: Well, the teacher that taught me when I was in the second grade, ended up being a teacher for my own children and she was still teaching second grade. But she was a very nice person. Everybody liked her. But the teachers before that, I don't remember which teacher, but she was the only one that I remembered cause she was so nice. She is the one that taught us to read and write, I think.

AS: Yes, well that would be about when you were learning that. Did you do arithmetic, do you remember that?

BS: I remember doing arithmetic and then we must have eventually learned how to talk English, cause most of us didn't know how when we first went to school. All I remember is the teacher asked me what my name was and I told her my name was Bea Meyers and that's the only name she ever knew me by. I didn't know my real name until, I don't know how old I was, maybe I was nine years old.

AS: And your real name is?

BS: My real name is Belverda. All I knew was my name was Bea Meyers and that is what I went to school by until I was in the eighth grade, or something.

AS: Do you know how you got your name?

BS: No, I don't. I asked my mother one time but she just said she thought it up.

AS: Really, how do you spell it?

BS: B-e-1-v-e-r-d-a.

AS: Do you know what it means?

BS: I have had a tough time with that name all through life, though.

AS: It sounds like it.

BS: It sounds just like it is spelled.

AS: In Italian, it would be short for Belleverde, which is a 'beautiful green.'

BS: Oh really!

AS: Yes, but I was wondering that it also could have been Bellevedere with the r and the d reversed.

BS: I don't know where she came up with the name, but she didn't give me a middle name cause she said my name was long enough by itself. All my other brothers and sisters had middle names and stuff.

AS: Do you have any memories of riding that school bus?

BS: All I know is that there was a lot of little kids riding the school bus and we just went to school.

AS: There were a lot of children up there on Trout Creek?

BS: Yes there was. They had all the different routes. Trout Creek and the South Fork and the North Fork buses. They would pick up all the kids and get them there. They had all these public schools too, that they had one up here.

AS: That one was Workman?

BS: Oh, what did they call it, Countryman School.

AS: And that is where Sam went to school?

BS: Yes, he went to school at the corner up here. They had the Wind River School, they called it Wind River cause it was located down there on that old Wind River road. It was right on that corner where the crossroads are. That's where that school was. Then they had a Fort Washakie school where the Head Start used to be, or where Head Start is now.

AS: Now, were these B.I.A. schools?

BS: No, those were public schools.

AS: Did children from the reservation go there?

BS: Some of the children went there, yes.

AS: So it was a double system?

BS: Yes they had the three schools and then they had the Government school. They didn't have big buses like the government schools did to haul the kids.

AS: Do you have any recollection of how people decided to go to which one?

BS: I don't know why the other kids were going to the other schools. But all I know is they said the bus came by our house and we got on that bus and went to school down there. Maybe cause that's where all the Indians went to school, I don't know.

AS: Okay, well, did these public schools around have white children going to those?

BS: Yes.

AS: But there were some Indian children too?

BS: Yes, there were some Indian children too.

AS: So it was a public school system that was probably aimed primarily at white children?

BS: It might have been.

AS: That's what it sounds like, because I think that was a later development that the mission schools and the government schools came first. Then they began to get some of these public schools, but I would have to go check on that. I don't know, the first I knew on the public schools was when Sam said that he had gone to Countryman schools all around.

BS: Well then, after we went out to Bar G, there was a little public school up there. That's where we went to school. When I was there, it was from the first to the eighth and there was only five of us went to school out there.

AS: Total?

BS: Total. I was the oldest, in the third grade, I was the oldest. In fact, when I first went to school there, there was only four of us. And these other three younger than me were all in the same grade and I was the oldest one in the third grade. My sister and these other two boys were all in the first grade and I was in the third.

AS: But you said you had an older brother?

BS: He stayed with my aunt and my grandfather and he didn't go out there with us. So he continued his school down here at the Government school. Then when I was in the eighth grade, I wanted to go back down and go to school with the rest of my friends that I grew up with, so they let me come down and stay with my aunt and my grandfather again and that's where I graduated from, was from the Government school.

AS: Oh, so now your aunt's name is?

BS: Pearl Meyers. She was my mother's sister.

AS: Okay and was she still living up here where Susie is?

BS: Yes, she stayed in that log house right beside where Susie's house is.

AS: Yes, there are two log houses out there.

BS: The other log house used to be our main house. That was our kitchen, the one that is falling over.

AS: The one that's really coming down was the house that you grew up in?

BS: Yes.

AS: And the house that is still standing is Pearl Meyer's house?

BS: Yes, I think it was built like in 1954.

AS: Okay, so it is pretty recent. When you were up there near Kinnear, you stayed in touch with people down here?

BS: Well, once in awhile we would come down here to get groceries and different things. Maybe on the weekend they would bring us down. They would get all their groceries and stuff, it was probably like once a month.

AS: You wanted to come back down here?

BS: Yes I did.

AS: So you did come back here for high school?

BS: Well I came down and graduated from the Government school and then they, my mother, wanted me to go to a boarding school when I was a freshman so we, my brother was there before I was, and they sent us to Flandreau, South Dakota.

AS: Well, before we talk about Flandreau, what was it like coming back to the Government school and after you had been up at Kinnear?

BS: Oh when I was the oldest, it was the same kids that I went to school with when I first started, were in the same grade as I was. They were all there yet.

AS: What kinds of things did you study?

BS: Well, we had English and Math and Arithmetic and Science, I think.

AS: This would have been about 1951 or 1952, wasn't it?

BS: Somewhere around in there.

AS: So you were doing what I would call academic subjects, math, science, English. Was there any home economics or anything like that?

BS: No, I don't remember doing anything like that.

AS: What was the day like?

BS: Well, we just went there and sat in the same classroom. We didn't change classes or anything. Then after a certain hour or so, he would tell us to get up. We only had one teacher for the seventh and eighth grade. He would teach the seventh grade for awhile and get them busy and then come over on our side and then he would teach us, or have us doing something like doing math or writing something for English. I remember doing math, but no, we didn't have any home economics or anything like that.

AS: Yes, and that is a big change from what it was earlier when it was largely home economics for the girls and farming and agriculture for the boys.

BS: Yes, they learned how to cook and things like that then. But I remember the teacher, when I was in the seventh grade, was the one that would get mad when we would talk Indian together.

End of Side A of Bea Snyder Tape

SK: So that eighth grade teacher?

BS: Well that eighth grade teacher, I don't know what happened, but all of a sudden there was maybe three or four of the girls and we were standing out on the sidewalk and we were talking and laughing and joking and we were talking Indian. I don't know what I did, or whatever, but he shoved me and he told me that he didn't want to hear any Indian talk, or something like that. We had to all try to talk English to each other. We didn't say anything about him at all. Maybe he thought we were talking about him, I don't know. We were just talking and joking among ourselves. But I remember him shoving me and telling me that we shouldn't be talking Indian out there.

AS: Yes and you don't forget those things. Do you remember any other instances.

BS: That was the only time I remember him doing anything like that.

AS: Even in the eighth grade, you were still comfortable talking Indian and you preferred when you were among yourselves to do that? You were comfortable with that, and they didn't like for you to do that?

BS: No, they didn't. I don't know how many other children did it but that's the only

incident I remember where he shoved me and told me not to talk Indian.

AS: Well, do you remember, this of course was after it was a boarding school, was there any particular social life among the students that last year, the eighth grade year, that you were there?

BS: It wasn't a boarding school then.

AS: Did you have social activities that were a part of school or did you just go down there, go to school and come home?

BS: We would just go down there and go to school and go home. The buses came and picked us up in the morning and then in the evening would take us home.

AS: You didn't wear uniforms there?

BS: No we didn't.

AS: So there was a pretty big separation between school and the rest of you life?

BS: Yes, sometimes there was. You always run into bullies, them kind of things. You couldn't go home and tattle on anybody cause if you did, they would threaten to beat you up.

AS: Were these other girls or boys?

BS: The girls used to do that to me a lot, and funny my grandfather caught on to what was happening and he went and talked to the teacher. When it was happening, he wouldn't let me go to school. Maybe I wouldn't go to school for sometimes two weeks because I would come home with bruised up arms and being sore where they were hitting me. What she did was she got her cousin to do this and she would go and tell him things and if I didn't do what she told me to do, then she would get this cousin to beat me up.

AS: Were they older than you?

SK: No, they were in the same grade as I was. But he was a boy and he was kind of a mean kid, so my grandfather wouldn't let me go to school, maybe two weeks, and finally the teacher came up to ask him why and so he showed the teacher my arms and they were bruised up, and he said if that boy kept doing that to me, he wasn't going to make me go to school.

AS: And that stopped it?

BS: Yes, well the teacher talked to the boy's parents, I guess, I don't know.

AS: Do you remember who these people were?

BS: Yes.

AS: Were there both Arapahoe and Shoshone, or Shoshone and Arapahoe?

BS: No, just the Shoshone was the only ones I know that went to the Government school. As far as I know, they were all Shoshone kids.

AS: So you didn't have the split where the Shoshone children could talk among themselves and it was a split in the students. So if you talked Indian, you were all talking the same language?

BS: Yes.

AS: What about school jobs earlier on down there? Students were assigned jobs as a part of their program as students?

BS: I don't remember too much. There was some eighth grade girls that used to work in the kitchen to help wash dishes, for maybe an hour, I don't remember. But I think I do remember that we did work in the kitchen either serving the food or washing dishes. It wasn't for very long though, maybe like an hour or so.

AS: So still, you did some labor?

BS: But there wasn't that many in our eighth grade class. Maybe there was about ten eighth graders and ten seventh graders that shared the same classroom, but the seventh graders were separated on one side of the room and the eighth graders were separated on the other side of the room.

AS: Did they separate the boys from the girls?

BS: No, they were all mixed up. I think they made us sit boy, girl, boy, girl, or whatever, in those little desks that went behind each other.

AS: And did they open up?

BS: Yes. (They both laugh)

AS: The top would lift up and you would put your things in there. Did they have an ink well in them?

BS: Yes, they did.

AS: Did they concentrate on penmanship, on writing a nice hand, or did they pay any attention to that?

BS: It seemed like they stressed penmanship, like we had to write the slants and O's

over and over again until we got it right.

AS: Does the term Palmer Penmanship ring any bells?

BS: I just remember penmanship. I don't remember if they had a name for it.

AS: Make circles all the way across the page and 'L' all across. Yes, you and I went through about the same time, different schools, but same stuff. Do you remember anything, because you were only there for the middle meal, but were you there just for lunch?

BS: Yes, but it seemed like they served a pretty good lunch. I mean, it was a big meal, like maybe potatoes and gravy and they forced you to eat spinach.

AS: Okay, anything else that you liked or didn't like?

BS: Oh, the spinach is the one I didn't like very much. I ate a lot of vegetables at home because my grandfather had a great big garden that he used to grow his own vegetables in, so we had a lot of that at home. The spinach, I don't know whether he even knew what it was. I just remember peas and corn and beets.

AS: You said there were a lot of mashed potatoes?

BS: Yes, they served mashed potatoes and gravy and they served them in bowls instead of like a dinner table. Then when the kids would sit down at the table, we would have to pass the bowl around and everybody got a helping of everything.

AS: At the table, was it mixed boys and girls, or did they assign you?

BS: No, they didn't assign us. But it seemed like every day we would sit at the same places, though. I don't remember them telling us we had to.

AS: That teacher shoved you around for talking Indian. Do you remember anything about discipline and if somebody got out of line or got in trouble, did they get punished?

BS: I think if they got sent to the principal's office, or something. But the teacher we had was a man teacher.

AS: Yes, that's what you said. You had a man as a teacher before?

BS: No, that was the only one that I remember as having.

AS: Do you remember any particular reason why you went to Flandreau?

BS: Oh, Flandreau, South Dakota?

AS: Yes. What made your family want to go there?

BS: Well, the kids at school had this notion that they couldn't get along with the white kids at school in Lander. We had a bus that came out from town that would pick up the kids, but a lot of the kids from out here didn't want to go to school with the whites from town.

AS: Were they in town?

BS: They were afraid of them. Some of the older kids had younger sisters and brothers that went to school down there with us and they talked about going to Flandreau. It was an all-Indian school and it was a government school. It was an all-Indian school, so that's where a lot of the Indian kids would go.

AS: Some still go there?

BS: Yes, my older brother graduated from there and I went there until I was a junior. Then I came back and graduated from Lander when I was a senior.

AS: Oh so you did go to school in Lander for a year?

BS: My senior year I did.

AS: You graduated in 1958?

BS: Yes, in 1958. Well, I came home in 1956. My father died in October of 1955. He had a ruptured appendix and when they cut him open, they found he had cancer in his stomach and that there was no hope for him. He never did recover from his appendix operation. He just died there. Then a few months later, my stepfather died, the one that lived out to Bar G. So I just never went back to school when I was a sophomore. I could have graduated in 1957, so when I went back to Flandreau again, I had to go back as a sophomore again. So I was a year late graduating.

AS: What was it like at Flandreau?

BS: It was a boarding school and there was kids from different states that would just go there, like Wisconsin and Minnesota and Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

AS: So it wasn't just this western rocky mountain region you came in contact with. What was it like to come in to contact with Indian students from other parts of the country? Was that interesting?.

BS: Yes, It was interesting because a lot of the students that came from the other reservations, or whatever, they had home economics and they knew how to sew and cook. We didn't have that experience. I learned how to use the sewing

machine from my mother, cause we used to watch her sew. But to actually sit down and cut a pattern, I didn't know how to do that. And then, to do all this cooking, cause I don't think we had any gas stoves and no kind of propane. When I first went to school in Flandreau, we didn't have anything like that. We just barely got any electricity, I think when I started going to high school not too long after.

AS: What did you used to cook over there?

BS: We had the wood stove. We didn't have a refrigerator. I remember if we had milk, or well, when my dad worked down at the Mission, he would milk the cows and then what the Mission didn't use, they would let him bring home a gallon of milk, or whatever.

AS: And drink it up in a hurry?

BS: Yes, we had to and then we had this little ditch that ran all the time. I remember they had a rope tied in it, or a box with wire, or something, to hold the butter and keep it from floating away. It would keep it cool.

AS: It would keep it good and cold, I would think. But that, you couldn't do in the winter, but you could leave it outside in the winter?

BS: Yes, we could leave it outside in the winter. That's how we used to keep our milk cold. By the time you came back, the Mission school had closed, so there wasn't anything going on there. No, just the church. We went to church there. Am trying to remember in between times when we would come down and spend the summer with my aunt and grandfather. My grandfather would take us, and we'd go and visit Dr. Roberts. We'd go down there with him and he would give us apples because they had this great big orchard in back of the Mission, and him and my grandfather would sit and talk. I don't know what they talked about. We never paid any attention. We'd just sit there and stare around at the big Mission. The kitchen, or wherever we sat, seemed like it was so huge compared to our house.

AS: There is almost nobody that I have talked to that hasn't said that place seemed awfully big.

BS: It did. It seemed like it was great big, huge. But now when I go in there, it's not as huge as I thought it was.

AS: Well, you grow up and you could get most of the Mission in this house that Sam built. At Flandreau it was interesting to be with other Indians?

BS: Yes, to see what the other kids were like. When we went to school down there, they had a half a day of academics and the other half would be vocation.

AS: Well it sounds like Flandreau, when you were there, was a lot like the way the Government school was before you went to it.

BS: Yes, it probably was.

AS: I believe some of the people who have gone there, have told me that it was split up, that you went to school half a day and then half a day you learned cooking, sewing, and household kinds of things. But that wasn't your experience at the Government school?

BS: No, not at the Government school.

AS: What was it like to go to Lander Valley that last year of high school?

BS: Well, it wasn't so bad, not as bad as ,you know, the kids made it sound like it was going to be. We got along with everybody.

AS: They bused you in?

BS: Yes. We had to catch a bus to get to town and then catch a bus to come back out. It wasn't as bad as, well my mother said I told her I was going to quit school when I was a senior, and she said oh, when I came back, it was like in September only, I was in Flandreau about a week or two weeks, when I came back. And then she said, "Get ready, we are going to town." So I just thought they were going to go to town, so I got up and got ready and I drove us in. When I got to town, she said, "Stop in front of the high school," and I said, "Why?" and she said, "Cause you are going to go in and register." I said, "I just quit school!" and she said, "No you didn't, it is either go to school here, or you go back to Flandreau." So I ended up going to Lander. That was in 1957.

AS: Where was the high school then?

BS: It is right where it is now, only they didn't have all those additions on there yet.

AS: So part of the school that is there now, you went to school in?

BS: Yes.

AS: What did you do after high school?

BS: He had something to do with education down here at the Agency. He is the one that you would get you applications from to go to college. Well after everybody graduated, I guess it was his duty to go around to all these graduates and try to get them to go to school. He kept coming to the house all summer long. He finally caught me at home and I would hide from him most the time. He finally came real early when I was still asleep, then he talked me into going down to Casper and registering down there. He helped me fill out all the papers and he even

wrote the letter to the Council asking for a scholarship to help me. Then after he did all that, then he took a government car and took us down to Casper to help us register and stuff.

AS: And that was at Casper College?

BS: Yes. I went to school down there for a year and a half. Then my grandfather died. In the meantime, just my mother and my aunt, with my grandfather were home and then, my grandfather died in 1960, I think, and I was on my last semester of going to school there and they were struggling with the finances and stuff, so I quit school there so I could get a job.

AS: So that was the first time you ever got a job working?

BS: Yes, working for the tribe. I worked there till I got married. Then Sam told me that I didn't need to work anymore, that he would work. He made me quit working.

AS: When you got married, did you move up here on North Fork?

BS: No, we bought our trailer house and we moved it around for a while. We had it sitting—you know where Eva McAdams lives now?

AS: Where the Head Start used to be?

BS: Well, it is right across the road from there, where Eva McAdams lives now. That's where we had our trailer house.

AS: When did you move up here?

BS: Well, that was way later when Susie was like nine months old. Sam has a piece of land out to the other North Fork above Mill Creek. Well, they got a piece of land up there and they wanted to move the trailer house up there and live up there. We lived in the trailer house up there, and then we lost our little boy that we had, in the river, and that's when we moved our trailer back out. We stayed at Maude's Trailer Court there, till Sharon was a baby. Then his Uncle Fin keeps wanting us to move up to his place and he said he wouldn't charge us any rent or anything, so we moved up there. We stayed there until maybe 1970, or something, then we sold our trailer house to my brother and Peggy and then we moved in one of the Agency houses. We lived there for maybe one year and a half and then he fixed up his folks' old house and that's when we moved up here. It must have been about 1972, or something. We have been here since.