

Warm Valley Historical Project  
Interview of Winnie (Welsh) St. Clair  
Interviewed by Anne Slater  
January 9, 1991

AS: A conversation with Winnie St. Clair about her experiences in the mission school at St. Michael's and then the other school she attended. Winnie, your fathers name was?

SC: Herbert Welsh.

AS: And your mother was?

SC: Fanny Richards.

AS: Your dad was one of the first people that Mr. Roberts raised and he was with him for a long time.

SC: Yes.

AS: Where did you go to school when you were a little girl?

SC: At St. Michael's Mission.

AS: Do you remember what year you started to school?

SC: Probably 1917.

AS: How many years did you go to St. Michael's?

SC: I went to the fifth grade.

AS: So you were there for about five years.

SC: Yes.

AS: Where did your father and mother live? Did they live at Ethete?

SC: Yes they did.

AS: Were they north or west of where St. Michael's is now? Was it up near Kinnear?

SC: They lived east of Ethete. They had one of those tent houses. That's what they lived in.

AS: Your fathers house was further east than it is now. It's been moved right?

SC: As far as I know, its been where it is.

AS: But your parents were out a little bit east of Ethete?

SC: Yes.

AS: Do you remember when you first went to the mission school?

SC: Yes, I kind of remember.

AS: What was it like? It was a brand new school. Do you remember going there the first time?

SC: Yes.

AS: What was it like?

SC: I thought it was fun.

AS: It was organized a little differently. It wasn't like the government school. It wasn't like the Shoshone Episcopal Mission School either. What are your early recollections?

SC: I hope I don't embarrass anybody.

AS: You're not going to embarrass anybody. [laughter]

SC: Because, in the early days, they had to make dress".for the girls. They made some canvas dresses for them, but they dyed them different colors like green, yellow, and blue. I never wore one [laughter].

AS: Canvas dresses?

SC: Yes. That's what I thought.

AS: They were heavy?

SC: Yes. They started with those and pretty soon they had to make the other kind of dresses.

AS: What were the other kind?

SC: Just gingham or percale.

AS: Did you have uniforms, or did each person have a different kind—color?

SC: Yes. We did have different colors. We weren't like the boarding school with the same colors.

AS: They provided clothes for you?

SC: Yes.

AS: The gingham or percale—who sewed those?

SC: The matrons. The matron that was with the—unit. There was a matron at each unit. It was just like living at home. You had breakfast there and you slept there. It was like a home.

AS: About how many girls were living in each of those units?

SC: I think it was about ten.

AS: Were they all different ages or did they keep the little girls together?

SC: No, they had different ages. They had big girls, maybe three, and then the middle sized girls, and then the little ones. That's the way they had it.

AS: When you went, did you speak any English or was Arapahoe your language?

SC: Well, I spoke a little English and the other language too.

AS: And Arapahoe?

SC: Yes.

AS: Those were all Arapahoe children in school there?

SC: Yes.

AS: In the units or houses, could you speak Arapahoe to each other or were you supposed to speak English?

SC: We were supposed to speak English.

AS: Did you get into trouble if you spoke your own language?

SC: [quiet laughter] I don't think I ever did.

AS: Did children?

SC: Yes, I think they did.

AS: Because you learned English pretty quickly.

SC: Yes. My dad spoke English so I wasn't so bad off.

AS: It was easier for you.

SC: Yes.

AS: Did your mom speak any English?

SC: No she didn't, but she understood English.

AS: Did you have a lot of brothers and sisters?

SC: I had two brothers [long pause]. I had three brothers, but one died early. And I had one sister. Well, I had an eldest sister from my mother's first marriage. Her name was Maggie.

The [Trosopers] are her family.

AS: Oh, so she was married to a—

SC: A white man before. And then she married dad. (See the government, or the state of Wyoming ordered all people who were intermarried to leave their wives. That was true)

AS: They did? [asked with surprise]

SC: Yes.

AS: That's terrible. I never—

SC: Yeah, they did that.

AS: So she was forced to leave [Trosper] .

SC: No, his name was Jim Adkins. He was from Lander.

AS: So he didn't die.

SC: No, they were just forced to leave their wives. I don't know how many of them did.

AS: I'll be daw Boned. I'll have to look into that. In one way, it doesn't surprise me, but I didn't know that it had actually happened.

SC: Wyoming isn't so proud of that. See, after that, they named this an equality state,

but it sure wasn't.

AS: No, it's never been the equality state as far as the Indians are concerned. That's true. And I don't think any state has. That's bad. Did your brothers and sisters go to St. Michael's?

SC: Just one did.

AS: It would have had to have been a younger one.

SC: Yes. Because they had a school here. Remember the boarding school? That's where the elder ones went. My brother and my sister Alberta. She came down there later.

AS: The older ones wouldn't have had the chance to go to St. Michael's. It would be the younger ones.

SC: Yeah.

AS: You really came speaking some English, so that wasn't a problem for you. What were some of the things about living in that unit that were really different from the way it was living at home?

SC: Well, for one thing, we had to go to bed at a certain time. The little ones had to go to bed early. Early, after supper.

AS: But you weren't ready to go to bed.

SC: We just played. [laughter]

AS: You just played in there?

SC: Until we got sleepy and went to sleep.

AS: So the daily schedule was different than it was at home.

SC: Yes.

AS: When you were at home, did you have a bedtime, or did you just go to sleep when you got tired?

SC: Yeah, I guess that's the way it was.

AS: You stayed with the big people until it got late?

SC: Yes, we went to bed with the big people. But they didn't stay up late.

AS: No, but there wasn't this big difference between what the children did and when the big people went to bed. You all did it at the same time.

SC: Yeah.

AS: Was what you slept on at school different from at home? Did you have beds above the floor at home, or was that something that was new?

SC: I think all of us had a bed. The folks did too. My father used to fix beds out of boards. The frame. And then we would put our mattress in there, or whatever it was.

AS: So that wasn't a big difference the way it was earlier on for children who hadn't seen those funny beds.

SC: No. They used to use straw. That's what we used to use, was straw.

AS: For the mattress?

SC: Yes, the bottom. That was warm.

AS: I believe it. Was that on the floor of the—

SC: Bed.

AS: Okay, that makes sense. In the unit that you were living in, did the children have different responsibilities? What was it like living in there? Were you in there a lot during the day, or was it just evenings?

SC: It was mostly in the evenings and mornings. We had to have breakfast. Some girls washed dishes. We all helped.

AS: Did you learn how to keep house?

SC: Yes, I think I did. Some of them cleaned the dining room and took them into the kitchen and handed them to the big girls who were washing dishes. That's what we did.

AS: Did they change your chore assignments or did you just do the same thing all the time.

SC: We just did the same thing all the time.

AS: But as you got older, then you'd...

SC: Wash dishes. Set the table and put the food on. The house mother cooked.

AS: So in each of those units, they were doing their own cooking?

SC: Yes.

AS: What were meal times like. If there were ten or twelve of you in there, were you all at the same table?

SC: Yes. [interruption] I:When you were having meals, did you all sit around one table?

SC: Yes.

AS: Did you have assigned places, or was it kind of like a family--you could sit wherever you wanted to?

SC: I think we sat anywhere we wanted to.

AS: What about the food. What kind of food did you have to eat?

SC: The house mother took care of that. She made bread. She also went to the store to get food.

AS: What did you have for breakfast?

SC: Oatmeal.

AS: With crispy things on top of it [laughter]?

SC: Sometimes we had bananas on top of it.

AS: And milk?

SC: Yes. The boys milked the cows. There were boys there too. They got the milk every morning.

AS: So you had fresh milk.

SC: Yes. They took care of the milk too.

AS: You did it all by hand?

SC: Yes. Later on, they had the separators. So that was better.

AS: How did you keep it cool?

SC: We had an icebox on the back porch. It would be cool, the way it is now.

AS: Yes, in this kind of weather you wouldn't have that worry.

SC: But when it got warmer, they had to get ice. We had an ice house. The boys had to go get the ice too.

AS: Where did they get the ice?

SC: Down at the river. They cut it where nobody goes and they stored it in the cabin. It had straw inside.

AS: So you could keep it cold for a long time.

SC: Yes. Straw on the roof and straw on the bottom.

AS: So straw will keep you warm and it will also keep things cold.

SC: I wonder if they make anything out of that straw.

AS: Now?

S.C. Yes.

AS: I don't think so. But it's a good way to keep warm and it's a good way to keep cool.

SC: That's what the people used in the old days. When you thrashed that straw, it was a good place for us to play too [laughter].

AS: You liked to play in it?

SC: Yes. Some of the piles were as tall as this house, and we would go up there and slide down.

AS: Was this at school?

SC: No, at home.

AS: What kinds of--for example, at lunch. What kind of things did you have?

SC: She fixed stuff like stew or something. Bread, butter, and milk.8

AS: And what about supper. Was it the same kind of thing?

SC: Sometimes we had salmon or something like that. With fried potatoes.

AS: Did the girls do any of the cooking?

SC: Yes, the older girls did the cooking.  
AS: So they were learning how.

SC: Yes. Fix potatoes. Stuff like that. They used to fix that salmon. They used to drain it and put it in the fried potatoes. That way it was a main dish. Did you ever fix it like that? I've never.

AS: I never have.

SC: I was going to try it.

AS: Mix the salmon with the potatoes?

SC: Yes. You know that red salmon in the can. I always did like that and now I never see it.

AS: That's good salmon. I wonder where they were getting it, because it sure doesn't come from around here.

SC: Alaska, isn't it?

AS: Yes.

SC: I wonder if they still have the canned salmon.

AS: They do.

SC: I never see it anymore.

AS: I'll tell you what. If I ever see any, I'll get you some. All right?

SC: Yeah.

AS: And you get the potatoes and we'll see if we can reproduce that stew. [laughter]

SC: It was kind of hash like.

AS: And it was pretty good to eat?

SC: Yes, it was pretty good.

AS: Did you have a lot of bread?

SC: Yes, we had a lot of bread.

AS: Was that different from at home?

SC: Yes. See, my mother just made biscuits all the time. Sometimes she made that other bread. That light bread. But she had to make that out of dry yeast.

AS: You had meat at school quite a bit. What about vegetables? You haven't mentioned vegetables. [laughter].

SC: We had vegetables. We had cabbage once in a while, without dogs, or something like that.

AS: What did you think of that cabbage?

SC: I thought it was all right. I ate it.

AS: I've talked to several people in the last few days. Every one of them has mentioned that cabbage.

SC: Oh really?

AS: Yes. There's something about that cabbage that really caught people's attention. [laughter]

SC: I didn't mind the cabbage much. I thought it was all right. My dad was a rancher too. He worked for Roberts first, and then he quit and started ranching. He raised a garden. He was a good gardener.

AS: He stopped working for Roberts, but he was a catechist still.

SC: Yes. They never got another catechist after him.

AS: And he was catechist for his whole life?

SC: No, he stopped. We were already grown up. And that's when we went to the ranch. We went to Kinnear. We had a ranch back there.

AS: Oh, you went north.

SC: Yes.

AS: Do you remember about what year that happened?

SC: Must have been in the 1920s when we went back there.

AS: While we're talking a lot about what is going on in the units where you were living, we haven't talked about school at all. [laughter]. Did you go to the school in the morning and afternoon? Do you remember what that was like?

SC: We had to go to school all day.

AS: What did you study?

SC: At school?

AS: Yes.

S.C.: We studied how to write and stuff like that. And we took those phonics.

AS: Learning how to read English.

SC: Yes.

AS: Did you have arithmetic? Did you learn how to add?

SC: Yes, we did.

AS: Did they do history?

SC: I think when we were older. When we got to a little higher grade, we did have that history.

AS: And did you do drawing and art? Anything like that?

SC: Yes, I think we did. I don't remember, when I was little, whether I did or not. But when I got older, that's when they started having art.

AS: Did you learn how to sew or any of those kinds of things? Sewing, handwork?

SC: Not until I went to school in South Dakota. I learned to mend and to embroidery and those kind of things.

AS: In the evenings, when you were not in school, were you just always busy in the units working? Or did you have some time to play and do other things?

SC: Yes, we had time to play. We used to have swings that we would run to and swing and swing and swing. Then we came back and later they used to have magazines that we used to look at.

AS: Did you do any bead work or any of your native?

SC: Yes, we did. What do you call those little...

AS: Looms?

SC: Yeah, looms.

AS: Belt loom?  
SC: Yeah. We had some of us at looms to make a headband or something. A necklace.

AS: So nobody tried to keep you from doing the arts that you had learned at home.  
SC: No. That was our spare time. We could do what we wanted to.

AS: Some children did and some didn't?  
SC: Yes.

AS: Now there were swings, and you did that. Were there any other kinds of games that you played?  
SC: We used to play hide and go seek and like that. And jump rope. We did a lot of that—jump rope. There would be about two girls on each side swing that. And then we would have a big rope.

AS: Were there any games that you played at home that you continued to play at school?  
SC: There were a lot of things in the winter time. We would go down to the ice and we would get those rocks that were oblong, and spin those. And get a whip with a rag on the end of it. An old rag or something. Then we would tie it on the end of a stick and whip them things.

AS: Those rocks?  
SC: Yes. That's what we used to do. We would be on the ice on a weekend, we used to do that.

AS: Was that down on the Big Wind?  
SC: No, the Little Wind.

AS: But down there just north from the school?  
SC: Yes.

AS: Were there—well there must have been—people living around the school?  
SC: Yes. Not too close though. There were some Indians living—you know where this village is, that when you go down, towards that intersection.

AS: Easter Egg?  
SC: Yes, Easter Egg village. Well that's where those people who had—that was their

land and they were living there. That's the closest they were to the school.

AS: What people?

SC: [Willow]. That was their name. Sidney [Willow] and his family.

AS: When you were there, that was a boarding school.

SC: Yes.

AS: How often did you get to go home?

SC: Fridays. Friday evening we went home after school. We didn't come back until after Sunday evening.

AS: And your parents would come to get you?

SC: Yes. On the weekends. On Friday.

AS: In the horse and wagon, [affirmative response] or did you walk home?

SC: Well we didn't. Some of the kids did. Some of the older kids that were with us, walked home.

AS: That wouldn't have been torfar of a walk.

SC: No. Just down to the river—to the mission.

AS: Were you happy to go home?

SC: Yes. Happy to see the folks. I never saw them during the week.

AS: Was that hard, that they weren't really that far away and you were at school and you couldn't go home? Did children feel bad about that?

SC: I don't know. Some of them, it was kind of hard for them, I think.

AS: There you were at school and you would go home for the weekend. What was different at home? Or maybe there wasn't much. I don't know. [long pause] Was it any different?

SC: Missed your friends.

AS: Missed your friends at school?

SC: Yes. You know, your playmates.

AS: Yes. That was important, to have playmates.

SC: Yes.

AS: And there were more children to with at school than there were at home?

[End of side 1]

SC: When we were going to school every day. We used to have programs. We had a program in the Spring and I was a little Japanese girl with an umbrella. And it was about a little girl that lived in Japan. Anyway, her brothers name was Woo Sang. [laughter].

AS: What happened in the play? Do you remember? What was the story?

SC: I came in with an umbrella and trotted with this...

AS: Little short steps?

SC: [laughter] Yes. Japanese. And I used to sing that piece.

AS: And do you still remember it?

SC: Some of it.

AS: You do?

SC: Yes.

AS: Can you sing it for me?

SC: No. It's just a little lecture, or what you call it. A little Japan. I wished I kept that.

AS: Well, do you remember what the story was about?

SC: It was about the Japanese. How they lived. Anyway, it mentions the brothers and sisters of far off lands. It was a nice one. That was during that war. Do you remember? 1917.

AS: Oh for heavens sakes. And you were learning about Japanese people.

SC: Yes. It was either 1917 or 1918. Somewhere in there. I had a German teacher, and she was the one that had us put that program on. Her name was Ms. [Flebil]. She was from that way. New Jersey or somewhere. She kind of took to me for some reason. I don't know why. She would take me home, because my folks lived way over in Kinnear and they weren't over to pick me up. So she would take me home and I would stay over night and come up with her. See over the weekend—that would be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night. I would stay over there and come

up real early with her. She taught school. She was my teacher. We used to ride a horse up. We had to ride her horse. The first time when we came up together by horse, we both got on the same horse. She put me on and she got on. And we started and that horse started bucking.

AS: Did he throw you off?

S.C.: No.

AS: But he didn't want to ride with both of you?

SC: I guess not. She said to jump off, so I jumped off. Some man came along with a team of horses and a wagon. He put me on the wagon and brought me up to the school. She rode up by herself on the horse, because she had to go home that evening.

AS: Did you go home with her often?

SC: Yes, I did. She was married.

AS: Where did she live?

SC: She lived down there, bellow Ethete.

AS: Down east?

SC: Yes, down that way. They had a ranch. Her husband was leasing a ranch. His name was Lewis Meers. He was from that way too—east.

AS: We talked a little bit this morning about what you wore when you went to school. What about when you went home to visit for the weekend or went to that school teacher's. Did you have clothes that weren't school clothes, or clothes from home?

SC: No, we had to change and go home then. We wore our everyday clothes that we played in.

AS: But you had clothes at school that you could go away from school in that weren't a school uniform.

SC: Yes, we had them.

AS: Now, you stayed there until you were in fifth or sixth grade?

SC: Yes.

AS: Why did you happen then to go to the school in South Dakota?

SC: I don't know. There were a lot of kids going away to school, so we thought that we had better go while we had a chance.

AS: Where did you go?

SC: I went to South Dakota. Up to Rapid City..There was an Indian school at that time. It wasn't a sanitorium.

AS: But you don't remember the name of it.

SC: Just Rapid City Indian School. That was the name of it.

AS: Was it both boys and girls?

SC: Yes.

AS: Were there a lot of children from here that went?

SC: Yes. There some girls and some boys that went too.

AS: How long did you go to school there?

SC: I was there four years.

AS: Which made you into high school.

SC: Yes. Ninth grade. But they didn't have a ninth grade at this school. And there was no bus that took the kids in. So I just stayed down here and went to school for a year. This boarding school down here. They had a government school.

AS: Oh, you went to government school for a year.

SC: Yes.

AS: Was that different from St. Michael's?

SC: Yes. A lot different.

AS: How was that different?

SC: I don't know. I was little when I was down here. Up here we had to work in each department. I went and worked in the bakery.

AS: Did you do that the whole year you were there?

SC: No, half a year I think. Because I was sewing the first time. I worked in the sewing room.

AS: Did you go to school in the morning and do work in the afternoon or something like that?

SC: I think that we worked in the morning and then went to school after lunch. That's the way it worked.

AS: What were some of the things you studied over here at the government school?

SC: Oh, we studied economics and like the home economics. That's what I took, was that home economics. They taught you how to cook and take care of your home and your garden and chickens and stuff like that.

AS: So you weren't studying reading, writing, and arithmetic. You were studying how to do things in the home.

SC: Yes. With your hands.

AS: You lived in dormitories over here at the government school?

SC: Yes. We didn't have our own rooms. We had to sleep in a dormitory.

AS: Did you have your own rooms over at St. Michael's?

SC: No, we had a dormitory there too.

AS: Was it harder at the government school than it was at St. Michael's?

SC: I think so.

AS: What were some of the ways it was harder?

SC: You had to march to breakfast. That way.

AS: You didn't have to do that at St. Michael's?

SC: No. We had to march to school too.

AS: Did you have to go out and practice marching?

SC: Not here, but I did in Rapid City. It was kind of a military school.

AS: Over here at the government school, they had the boys over at one end of the building and the girls in the other?

SC: Yes. They had a different building for the boys. Way down on the end. The girls were up above the kitchen. The kitchen was in the middle.

AS: That part of it's gone now isn't it?

SC: Yes, I think so.

AS: Did you have any classes with boys or were you doing strictly home economics?

SC: Yes. We had classes in that—building, the big girls and the big boys.

AS: What kinds of things did you study when the boys and girls were together?

SC: Oh, the regular—mathematics and stuff like that.

AS: So you did do some school subjects as well as learning how to sew and take care of the home.

SC: Yes.

AS: Were they stricter over here at the government school than at St. Michael's?

SC: I think so.

AS: Did they punish students over at the government school.

SC: I don't know. I don't remember. I was only there one year.

AS: Did the children all stay at school or did any of them want to go home? Did they run away?

SC: I think they did.

AS: Did they run away from St, Michael's?

SC: No, I don't think they did.

AS: So it was a little bit harder over here?

AS: Now you said that at St. Michael's that you had this teacher that was a friend and she would take you home with her. Were the teachers over here at the government school friendly that way to you?

SC: Not too much. They didn't favor us. That teacher with-it seems like I was her favorite. I don't know why.

AS: Now, when you were over here at the government school, you were even further away from home than you were at Ethete. Did you get to go home on many weekends?

SC: No, not very many. I went home with friends sometimes because my folks lived far away.

AS: The people that you went home with. Did they live around here?

SC: Yes. They lived over here at the fort. They were my cousins. Have you heard of Nellie Scott?

AS: Oh yes.

SC: She was my cousin.

AS: And here family lived over...

SC: Yes, they lived over here.

AS: You didn't have to stay at the school?

SC: No.

AS: When the children went home on weekends, did everybody go?

SC: Yes. They all went home.

AS: So there wouldn't be anyone at the government school on the weekend.

SC: No, they all went home.

AS: So you got to go to your cousins and that wasn't very far. How did you get over there? Did you walk or did somebody come to get you?

SC: I think somebody took me over there and dumped me off. [laughter] Sometimes she could come and get me. She and her husband. Her husband had an old pickup truck. That's what I rode in.

AS: Was that an open truck?

SC: Yes.

AS: That must have been a fairly early truck. But there were motorized vehicles up here pretty early on?

SC: Yes.

AS: Did the people at the school have trucks or early cars? How did the teachers get around?

SC: I think they had cars at that time. The 1920s and early 30s. Yes, they had cars.

AS: So you went off to the government school in Rapid City because you had gone as far here at government school Ft. Washakie as you could go.

AS: And then you went over to Rapid City.

SC: No. I came back and I took that. Because they were closing that school and transferring it to a sanitorium. That's why we had to leave.

AS: Oh, you went to St. Michael's, then you went to Rapid City, then you came back to the government school at Ft. Washakie?

SC: Yes. For one year.

AS: And you finished.

SC: Yes. I finished the ninth grade but then I got married [laughter].

AS: I was going to ask you, what did you do after you graduated. You got married.

SC: Yes, I got married.

AS: And where did you meet Mr. St. Clair?

SC: At the school. They used to have dances. And. all these young guys used to come down there, at the school dance.

AS: Did he come down for a dance or did he go to school there?

SC: He went to school earlier, but they used to come down to the dance. He used to work at the store.

AS: At J. K. Moore?

SC: No, Matt McGuire's. He had a store there. J. K. Moore had a store too but he also had that Post Office. But Wallace worked at that other one.

AS: Where was the other store?

SC: Oh, you know where that old agency is. That old building up here?

AS: Yes.

SC: Well, on this side is where they had that store. I think they tore it down.

AS: Yes. That would be in there sort of where there are some houses now, right?  
SC: Yes.

AS: But J.K. Moores store is where the Post Office is now, and then this other one was close to the old agency.

SC: Yes. There's a building there. I don't know what they are using that for. Whether it has offices or places for people to stay. I never did question them about that. It's something that they're using that for. There used to be a place where employees at? in there. And then people had rooms there too. Some of the women that worked in the office.

AS: Now, you got married pretty quickly after you finished school.

SC: Yes.

AS: Was what you learned in school pretty useful to you?

SC: I think so.

AS: Where there things that you learned at home from your family that they didn't teach you in school that were useful.

SC: I don't remember. I know I took child care at school when I was in the eighth grade. And home ec. My mom taught me to cook too. I tried to sew, I could never sew. [laughter]

AS: Oh, I don't believe that. When you and Mr. St. Clair got married. What year was that?

SC: 1929 I think. See right after I got back from school, I got married. That spring or summer.

AS: Did you then live around here?

SC: Yes. We lived over to his parents place. We had a little pent house there. I was telling these girls, when it got so cold like it's been—it was forty below that year.

AS: Was the temp pretty cold.

SC: Yes. We just sat next to the stove. We ate on the stove to keep the food warm [laughter].

AS: While you ate it.

SC: Yes. And drank our coffee.

AS: So you've lived down here ever since 1929.

SC: Yes.

AS: You've seen a lot of changes on the reservation. When you think back to when you were going to school—what are some of the differences between now and then? I mean, there are so many that it's probably pretty hard to put your finger on it.

SC: Well, I think the kids now have more opportunity to go to school. In our day there wasn't anything for us to use to go to school. Like money.

AS: So there wasn't any opportunity beyond the government schools and the mission schools.

AS: And they were really training you to be housewives, ranchers, and farmers.

SC: Yes. To take care of your home.

AS: So there wasn't really anything there that would have given you the opportunity to study something that you might go somewhere else. They educated you but they educated you to stay home.

SC: Yes. To take care of your home and to raise your family. That's what I recall. Even working in the hospital at the school—I worked in that hospital. I waited on the patients and treated eyes and such. I was what they called first year nursing.

AS: When you say treated eyes. Was there a lot of eye problems here?

SC: Yes, there was, over there in South Dakota. That's where I took that first year nursing. I treated their eyes and their wounds and stuff like that. I worked in there during certain days to. There was a boy there that had something wrong with his glands. I forget what they call that. They have a name for it.

AS: What was wrong with his glands?

SC: I don't know. They were swollen. Quinsy?

AS: Quinsy. Yeah, yeah.

SC: He had that. I had to wait on him.

AS: Did he get better?

SC: Yes, he got well. He wanted to get well before graduation so I worked on him and got him up and he went to graduation. He told my sister, "you know your sister really took care of me." [laughter] He graduated with her.

AS: That's good. But there wasn't any opportunity here to study nursing?

SC: No. I sure wish that I had went on to do it.

AS: So that's something that you would have like to have done but you didn't get to do.

SC: Yes.

AS: What did Mr. St. Clair—now he went to school over here?

SC: He went to Haskell.

AS: He did? That's right. You said that he had already finished.

SC: He was working at the store.

AS: And then he was a rancher?

SC: Yes. He was a rancher. He had cattle. I still have some of them.

AS: You do?

SC: Yes.

AS: For heaven's sake.

SC: Yes. They're out on the ranch but them boys are supposed to bring them in this weekend. They were supposed to bring them in but they didn't. They just left them out there until now.

AS: Where is that?

SC: Sage Creek.

AS: You have property up there?

SC: No, it's a tribal property. I had to pay for that lease every year.

AS: So you bring them in in the fall?

SC: Yes.

AS: Did you keep a garden and things like that? All those lessons that they taught you—

SC: Yes. I had a garden.

AS: And you raised a lot of children.  
SC: I took care of the kids when they were sick. Measles, Mumps...  
AS: Chicken pox.  
SC: Yes.  
AS: Those are things that you don't see much of anymore, but that must not have been easy.  
SC: It wasn't.  
AS: How much difference is there between the oldest and youngest, in years?  
SC: Maybe one and a half or two.  
AS: So you still had little children when you had the big ones?  
SC: Yes. And the big ones helped when they were old enough to do things. My oldest daughter is Velma. She works with that housing.  
AS: She's a hard working lady.  
SC: Yes. She is. She was on the school board but they went and elected somebody else. Younger people that aren't even matured to work like that. I don't know how they're going to be.  
AS: I don't know. It keeps changing. Did there used to be powwows and gatherings the way there are now, or were they different?  
SC: They didn't have so many things like that. Not powwows so often.  
AS: What did people do to get together? They did have—maybe Christmas. Not very much, it was so cold in those days. Then in the summertime they had Sun Dance or something like that. The Indians had farms you know. They were busy. They all had to put up hay and raise crops. And don't know since when they didn't do that anymore. They start moving, going to powwows different places now.  
AS: And they didn't have the prize money then the way they have now?  
SC: No. They didn't have that. That's why they worked.  
AS: There still are a lot of people that are ranching. I don't see so many farms anymore.  
SC: Yes.

AS: Does it feel different—this business of having cars and things that go high speeds. That must seem awfully different from when you were really little.

SC: Yes. They had buggies and teams.

AS: Yes. You could. get there, but if you ride down to Ethete, it takes about five minutes. That would have been a whole days ride.

SC: Yes.

AS: In the summer, you weren't home with your family. You were staying with white families?

SC: Yes. I didn't stay home all the time at my home at my mother's or dad's. I stayed with these white people.

AS: Did they live close to where your family lived?

SC: Yes. They lived just above us.

[End of tape 1]

AS: So when you were staying with those people, in the summer, up there below your parents house—that was when your mom and. dad had to walk and do business over—

SC: [short response inaudible due to tape flaw].

AS: And they would be gone for about a week at a time?

SC: Yes.

AS: And you would go with them to parties on Sundays?

SC: Yes.

AS: What was that like?

SC: That was fun for us young people. We would go on the hay rack with some guy and get hay or something. [laughter]

AS: And what about the ice cream. Did you have—

SC: Yes. Them people used to make ice cream. Home made ice cream. We could all gather in the building—in the living room—and we would all have ice cream and cave.

AS: And that would be in the middle of the hot summer.

SC: Yes. They had an ice house. That's why they made ice cream. They would get ice and churn that thing.

AS: And they could keep ice in there year round?

SC: Yes.

AS: Did they have straw in it?

SC: Yes, they had straw in it. It was down towards the river, under the trees.

AS: So they would do an ice harvest in the winter and get it full.

SC: Yes. They used that in the summer.

AS: Did anyone ever go in there to get cool? [laughter]

SC: The what do you call it men may have. The ones that worked for them.

AS: But I bet you had to keep it shut to keep it cold.

SC: Yes.

AS: Did you visit with other white people in the area? What was it like with the white people then?

SC: Well, they were nice people. There were some that lived at Ethete too that were nice.

AS: Do you remember their names?

SC: Well, I don't remember that woman's name. I seen the [Nyriders]. I wonder if they are still that way. Their son is living there now. They used to live down there.

AS: So, in fact, there were white people living all around.

SC: Parks too. There were some people named Parks. They were nice too.

AS: How did they manage to get a place here?

SC: I think they opened that up for leases or something like that.

AS: So they hadn't married into the community. They had gotten land probably through that 1905 reclamation.

SC: Yes, probably. Could be.

AS: And some of those families are still around here?

SC: I think so. The [Nyriders] are still here. But the Parks are gone. I don't remember the other people. There were other people too. They seemed to be real nice.

AS: They were friendly relations?

SC: Yes. They were friendly. And then they had [Sawries] here around Mill Creek. [Sawries] and Guthries. They were all nice people. They would visit with you, and like that.

AS: So it wasn't like the problems you have with the water stuff now.

SC: No. They used to come to the Ethete store and buy stuff-their supplies.

AS: Was that store at Ethete once bigger than it is now?

SC: I've never been in this one.

AS: Oh, this one. Well, this one is really a convenience store. You wouldn't buy heavy— But there was a store at Ethete where you could get—

SC: Yes. General store. There's a Post Office there too.

AS: Well the Post Office now is over at the mission.

SC: Really?

AS: Yes.

SC: I haven't been down there for a long time.

AS: Well, maybe it isn't. It was there the last time I was down there.

SC: You know where that parish—is at Ethete?

AS: Yes

SC: Well next door is where the Post Office used to be.

AS: Yes. It is. That's where it is.

SC: That's where it's begin. They moved the store out of there.

AS: Oh, it was a store?

SC: Yes. There was a store there. That's where the general store used to be.

AS: Oh, so it was right in the mission.

SC: Yes. The store was right there at the mission.

AS: Who ran that?

SC: [Tindell]. Walter [Tindell]. He moved to town. He retired and moved to town.

AS: Didn't one of his son marry one of Roberts' daughters?

SC: He married, one of Roberts' daughters.

SC: Oh, he did.

SC: I think her name was Mary—and them should know them.

[Pause in tape]

SC: Their name was Dalton. He had a man who ;corked for him. I forgot his name. All I remember him by was A1. He used to get my dad to go over there and help them butcher. And then they would give him the heart and tongue and stuff like that. That was really helpful.

AS: And those were parts of the beef that people liked?

SC: Yes. Heart and liver. That was good. And great big ones. Great big heart and liver.

AS: And that would make a pretty good meal?

SC: Yes. It would last a long time too, if you kept it in a cool place. It was good in the winter time like this. That was good. Helped us out like that.

AS: Was food difficult here— Getting enough on the table. Was that hard to do?

SC: I think it was for people that didn't raise gardens. But we always had a garden and a cellar where we kept all the potatoes, onions, squash, carrots, and turnips. All that we had in the cellar.

AS: But if you weren't raising your own?

SC: Yes. We would have problems I imagine.

AS: Because there wasn't any money.

SC: No. And I think that some of these people that got the rations. You know some of them got rations. The older citizens got rations. I think they helped the younger

people with those rations. Because how would they get along.  
AS: So they were sharing?

SC: Yes. I think they were. They got coffee and salt pork. Stuff like that. Rice, beans, flour, and everything—near everything that you needed.

AS: Yes, it would be. About what time was that? Was that w~zen you were a little girl or when you were grown up?

SC: It's when I was really grown up.

AS: But the older people got some assistance.

SC: Yes. They did. I think that's how the younger people got along. If there was an elder living with them, it helped.

AS: That makes sense.

[End of tape 2]