

Winifred Erdmann-1

~~Mrs. C. O. Carlson~~ Region 9 Ward ~~County~~ County

This is Bob Carlson. The following is an interview I recorded with Mrs. Winifred Erdmann at her home in Minot, North Dakota, on May 30, 1975, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The majority of the recollections that Mrs. Erdmann had pertain ~~mainly~~ to McHenry and Williams ~~County~~ <sup>Counties</sup>; however, since she ~~is~~ is a resident of Minot and ~~has~~ has a great <sup>number of</sup> ~~many~~ friends in the area I kept her in the file for Ward County, but this tape will be cross-indexed for McHenry and Williams ~~Counties~~ <sup>Counties</sup>. The interview

with Mrs. Erdmann ~~occupies~~ occupies this side of this cassette and both sides of the succeeding ~~one hundred and twenty minute~~ <sup>120 minute</sup> cassette. On the flip side of this ~~cassette is the completion of this cassette~~ cassette is the completion of the interview with Mrs. C. O. Carlson of ~~Minot~~ Minot, North Dakota. <sup>That</sup> ~~The~~ interview is held May 29, 1975, and it began about seven in the evening.

Bob: What year did you come here, Mrs. Erdmann?

Winifred: It was the last of March, 1904. Just after a big snowstorm here. You couldn't see anything except snow and sky. It had covered over the claimshacks. →

Bob: Really!

Winifred: It was piled up on the trails; that's what <sup>we</sup> ~~they~~ had for roads.

Bob: Where did you come from?

Winifred: I grew up on a farm near Delphi, ~~indiana~~ Indiana. It's on the Wabash River.

Bob: What was your maiden name?

Winifred: Guthrie.

Bob: Is that English? ~~or~~

Winifred: Scottish, <sup>Very</sup> very much so. ~~That's our old castle up there in the picture. I have been in that and all over up in the tower where they watched for the enemy. There were winding stairs to go up and a rope from the top that you took hold of so that you wouldn't fall because the stairway was so narrow, you no. Say, you're not taking this now are you?~~

Begin here

Bob: ~~No, I have it on now, but that's fine what you are telling me.~~ What prompted you to leave Indiana and come up to this wild country?

Winifred: ~~Why?~~ <sup>We</sup> Well, it was the adventure urge <sup>I</sup> I suppose partly. ~~And then~~ One of my friends at where I was going to high school had come <sup>up</sup> here. ~~Her father~~

~~was Superintendant of Schools, Nina Douglas, in Littleport. She had come up to Towner and ~~she~~, she gave such wonderful stories about everything. We just thought we would come up, my sister and I. So we studied. We sent to seven different counties, though. Letters to the County Superintendent of Schools and sending in our credentials and all, ~~you know~~ to see whether we could get schools. We were accepted by every one of them, ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> we finally decided on Towner because <sup>e</sup>Mr. Fred Mullino was County Superintendant then and he wrote such a nice letter. Said he could use more than two of us <sup>↑</sup> you know. There were two other girls that wanted to come, <sup>too:</sup> ~~there~~. They'd been going to school. One of ~~them~~ <sup>1cm</sup> had been in my classes. One had a job clerking in a store and she thought she couldn't come unless she had really signed up for a school because she said she couldn't come up and get turned down. But the other girl came and that girl had never even combed her ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> hair. She was just that helpless like and she would lose things, lost her purse, one thing and another. ~~But~~ <sup>we</sup> finally got to Mr. Mullino's office. Well, we came up toward the latter part of March. There had been a terrific snow-storm and before we got to Towner we saw all that snow and we hadn't brought over-shoes. ~~We maybe had rubbers because we used those, you know, in Indiana when it rained to protect our shoes and one thing and another.~~ <sup>↑</sup> Anyway, we got off at Towner and we went down to the <sup>Pendora Pendroy</sup> ~~Pendroy~~ Hotel, the three of us. <sup>↑</sup> The other girl could speak German fluently and she was a wonderful singer. She was good in music, <sup>and</sup> she could sing like.... She was built like <sup>Schumann-Hanke</sup> Sherman Hike, one of those big, you know. <sup>↑</sup> ~~The next~~ <sup>The next</sup> morning we started out to the courthouse and there was a wooden walk down to the courthouse. It seemed to be quite a ways because the snow was built way up on that wooden walk. But if you accidentally <sup>stepped</sup> slipped off of it you went down, as deep as the snow was and sometimes. ~~It was more than knee-deep anyway. I won't say how deep it was. It wasn't the same depth in all places because it drifted in.~~ <sup>↑</sup> ~~Mary had come without having signed up for a school and he teased her a little. She began to cry; she got homesick right away. And he gave her a school in a German settlement, south of ~~Towner,~~ <sup>Towner,</sup> because she could speak German so fluently. <sup>↑</sup> ~~We girls, my sister and I, were sent to Deep River. We didn't like to be separated; Mary wanted to go with us. I think that Mr. Mullino~~~~~~

~~had a sense of humor. He was just enjoying her homesickness, that was what he was and he thought she might just as well as get dunced of it. So he sent us to Deep River. I was to have the Deep River school and my sister was to have the school out where Russell is now, out in their someplace. Or is their a Russell now? I don't know.~~

~~Bob: Well, I've heard the name. I don't know if there is anything like it there.~~

Winifred: ~~Well, Deep River was about... well, we had to go down to Granville and then take the stage. And so we went on the train to Granville and they didn't have much there in the way of accommodations. Now the Pendera Hotel was a big place, you know, in Farmer Town. Anyway, the two of us, I believe they had one big room that was the hotel. That's the way it was in those days. And people slept in there and people coming in to on their homesteads, you know, and one thing and another. I think some of them bunked on the floor and some had beds.~~

Anyway, then we took the stage out to Deep River. And I don't know what time we started, but the stage we had never seen anything like that before. It was one of those homemade sleds on runners and canvass around it and over the top. And he took the mail, the driver did, and we had to get in first before the driver because there was just the one door on this side. The driver sat here and here was the door. And we got in and we took this back seat. It was a board and and we sat on that. Then he got in and the mail bag was beside him and that's all the room there was there. We sat right close up behind the driver. Well, the snow was drifted in waves and we got very seasick. I had the attack first. The driver had to be so careful where he would stop because he couldn't let the horses get off the road, you know. It was solid built. But if they got off of it, they might get up to their ears in snow. As late in the season as it was, it was kinda thawing already right next to the ground a little. That's what made it hard, you know. So, anyway, we started out and we stopped at a halfway house where we stopped for dinner.

~~Bob: Oh.~~

Winifred: I can't remember the name of that place. And when we stopped there you couldn't see anything because it was tunneled into the door. It was just a

low shack-like affair and that was the Halfway Place. And what we had to eat, which we had almost every place, was <sup>potatoes</sup> potatoes that had been boiled. And to get a quick meal <sup>why</sup> they put them in a <sup>a skillet</sup> skillet and they took a ~~tin~~ tin can, you know, and went like this over the skillet with those potatoes in it. That kinda chopped them up ~~you know~~ and they had a little bacon grease in. Bacon was the meat and they had black coffee. Neither of us drank coffee. In fact, we never had. And the water was not very good any place where we stopped. It tasted like epsom salts and some of it was just like epsom salts. Anyway, we stopped there and he

~~changed horses there. Now that doesn't seem a very long trip either from <sup>out</sup> Towner to that Halfway Place because... how far from Towner to Deep River was it?~~

~~Bob: You mean from Granville to Deep River. Your trip was by stage, right?~~

~~Winifred: I still didn't get that.~~

~~Bob: You mean you took the trip from Granville up to Deep River.~~

~~Winifred: Yes, they called it the stage. Well, we had never been on the stage before and that was the best they had to travel with the snow and the way the roads were.~~

Well, we finally got out to Deep River. It must have been about

<sup>11:00</sup> eleven o'clock at night or <sup>12:00</sup> twelve maybe. And Deep River had an old store <sup>building</sup> at that

time and all the people were waiting there for their mail; which was mostly men, bachelors on their homesteads, you know. I don't remember if there ~~were~~ were any women in the store or not but it seemed to me I had never seen so many men

together before. ~~And they were all waiting for their mail, you know, and they~~

waited there until the mail was distributed and we had to sit there there and wait until they got all their through with the mail. And then they took us over

to the house. ~~Now the Buchholz family. This store was on their homestead and~~ <sup>[a]</sup>

they had a two-story house there. Now that was the only two-story house we saw after we left Towner. ~~Well, I don't remember about Granville, what they had there~~ <sup>but</sup>

~~now. They may have had something, it wasn't a very big place. Then they took~~

us over to the house and they had a room upstairs they had prepared for the teachers. They knew the teachers were coming from some place back East. So my

sister and I ~~stayed~~ stayed there that night. ~~That must have been Saturday night~~

because we had just finished schools in Indiana and come up. We only had a six

month ~~winter~~ term in Indiana and sometimes only five months. And then they had

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~~a summer school where the smaller children went to school in the summer. Mostly girls <sup>and smaller</sup> the children. That was what they called a subscription school. A girl went around and got signors for the school and she usually <sup>got</sup> earned enough money to buy her wedding clothes and get married at the end of the term. But, anyway, we had just ~~off~~ closed our schools and then travelled up there to Towner. At Deep River the next day, Peter Olson <sup>who</sup> was on the school board out there, ~~he~~ came <sup>in</sup> and got my sister and took her out to her school. She stayed at McGilvers. I don't know where they are now, but they had one boy in school and he was deaf almost. I don't know if she had any other pupils than ~~that boy or not~~ at all, or not ~~at all~~. Finally, she just taught the boy. She ~~boarded~~ boarded at McGilvers and roomed there. <sup>e</sup> She may have had some others at the beginning. She may have had two or three <sup>from</sup> from homestead there but they had either proved up or gone and that left only one. She had him at home; she ~~was~~ taught him at McGilvers <sup>reys</sup>. She used to get a chance to ride over and stay with me weekends in Deep River. Deep River was considered a little town. They had a post office and a store. They ~~was~~ built the new store there that summer. They started on it right away. They built a good-sized store. It was a two story ~~store~~ store and the Buchholz ~~Buchholz's~~ Buchholz's son, who came from Devils Lake, and wife came down and they ~~he~~ had living quarters upstairs in that store.~~

Bob: Oh.

Winifred: Julius Buchholz, he was the manager of the store and his sister, Emma, she was Emma Olson afterwards, she married Christ Olson. Emma, anyway, was the ~~(one word)~~ post mistress and also the secretary of the school board. Mr. Buchholz, himself, who owned everything around there the store, the post office building, the building where people stayed, and they had one building where the men stayed. The few women that went through stayed in the Buchholz home.

Bob: Oh, I see.

Winifred: But they had one long building ther where the men stayed and in that was a blacksmith and land agent. The blacksmith was Carl Anderson and the land agent's name was Babcock and he had ponies and a buggy. And he was at least ~~middle aged~~ middle aged maybe past. The Buchholz family had gone out there and filed on quarters ~~right around~~ together, you know. One of them for some reason

~~Start here new #1~~

~~on another only had a ~~one~~ half quarter, I believe, 80 acres. I don't know how that happened. Maybe someone else had filed for the other, I don't remember.~~

~~But, anyway,~~ Monday morning school started. And so they came with a bobsled.

~~Some~~ kind of a sled up in ~~front~~ front of the door and I got in and they took me and three of the Buchholzes went to school: ~~like~~ <sup>like</sup> Clara and Emma, Ella, and Elsie.

~~There~~ There may have been four, yes. They took me down to the schoolhouse. ~~It~~

It looked so small. It didn't look much bigger than a chalkbox when I first looked at it, <sup>especially when the children came.</sup>

And then Bert Corey, they called him laughing ~~Bert~~ Bert Corey,

he had a whole <sup>e</sup> bunch of hounds and went all over the country with an open buggy and those hounds following him, Hungry-looking things. They did pick up

something to eat, I guess, the hounds. And he had four children in school and every single one of ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup> was left-handed and cross-eyed. It was the oddest thing

I have ever heard of. <sup>(laughs)</sup> He was a widower at that time. He buried two wives, I

believe, right near his claim shack ~~there~~ someplace. He was looking for a third

~~one.~~ He was very nice. I had never built a coal fire, but we had to have fires in the schoolhouse. Well, the schoolhouse was almost covered over with snow. The

snow just all over it. ~~You know any little building,~~ <sup>omit</sup> ~~there was nothing else to track the snow. Any little building~~

~~Bob. Big drift around it, huh?~~

Winifred: ~~Yes,~~ got a whole drift of snow over it. ~~Well,~~ Well, he built the fire

for me and showed me how to do it. It was a box ~~stove~~ stove and you had ~~to~~ to dig the ashes out from underneath with a shovel and start your fire. Well, I watched

him do that and I learned. I think he came down for about a week <sup>though</sup> and started those fires. He was very much interested in the new school <sup>mam.</sup>

There were two toilets out back of the schoolhouse and they never shoveled those out at all.

~~So,~~ <sup>omit</sup> the children, you know, ~~It~~ It was rather inconvenient and long about the middle of afternoon we started out to walk back to Deep River. It was ~~one~~ <sup>a</sup> half

mile. The schoolhouse was ~~one~~ <sup>a</sup> half mile from Deep River itself, you know, over where I boarded and roomed. Mrs. Buchholz saw us coming and she knew right away

what was the matter and she just went out and told those men off in German. And then when I came in, she said, "I knew that those men wouldn't know enough to shovel

~~the~~ everything out." So, they went down and shoveled everything out both those ~~old~~ <sup>they</sup>

outdoor buildings. And the coal ~~was of course~~, was in the front of the building ~~where you go in~~, in the entrance. There ~~was~~ was ~~some~~ there for coal and there must have been some kindling there. So then school started. And it was dances. That's all they ~~could~~ could have. People were building barns way off some place ~~ten, fifteen, twenty~~ <sup>10, 15, 20</sup> miles. And when they get the barn built, then they'd have a dance in it. And they had two ladders side by side to go outside and go in the door where they put the hay in. That's the way we went to the dancehall. There were no older people, Mr. and Mrs. Buchholz, well they had a little girl, started to school, her first. Then they had <sup>children</sup> some married.

Bob: Did people bring their <sup>children</sup> ~~kids~~ along to ~~those~~ those dances, too? ~~I imagine they probably did, huh, unless they had someone to stay with them.~~

Winifred: ~~Yes~~ <sup>No, they</sup> didn't have babysitters. Those that lived on claims, some of them did and they left ~~the~~ 'em ~~of the on the claim~~ in the claim shack on the bed, the little ones, and the others kinda played around 'til time of bed. But we stayed all night at the dance<sup>s</sup>, you know. Sometimes, we didn't get there until midnight or after because we drove so far. Then when that snow melted, there was water everyplace. Why, talk about floods; every low place ~~was~~ was a lake all over. ~~Well, anyway, I have a picture of that school.~~

Bob: Do you remember what your salary was when you started teaching?

~~Wilbert~~ Winifred: I remember it very well, because I have had teachers stay here who got about ~~one thousand dollars~~ <sup>2 \$1000</sup> a month. These ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> the originals, the ~~inside and the outside of that Deep River School, and I had some copies made.~~ ~~Now, you see~~ Now you see how many children there were and they weren't all there. ~~There were three Kitzmann boys that weren't there. Alfred, Edwin, and Edwin, they both been dead quite awhile. Alfred and Edwin, what's the other one?~~ <sup>what's the other one, Bernard.</sup> ~~Bernard, the three Kitzmann boys. But now, didn't those children look nice to come. I had them copied.~~

Bob: ~~Ya, that's a very good picture.~~

Winifred: ~~And aren't they good?~~ ~~The man came~~ <sup>came</sup> along on a bicycle about the time school closed and wanted to know if he could take a picture. And I was so happy to get pictures to send back to my folks in Indiania, you know. He took the

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~~pictures. I told the children and that's why...course, they were neat anyway.~~

*[The children]*

~~They came always neat, shoes and stockings, they weren't barefooted or anything.~~

~~But you can see how nice they looked. Now, there's three Buchholz girls on there~~

~~Ella and Elsie, the little one down in the front with the dark hair was Elsie.~~

~~Bob: Here, I'll hand you these.~~

~~Winifred: And the Ranken children and the Stephans and the Konaoks and  
Schwartzs, that real dark boy here; that's a Schwartz boy, and <sup>Kneuphlies</sup> Konephils. This~~

~~one down the front is a Konephlit, this little blond boy. There was one of them~~

~~over here in the courthouse for awhile, a Konephlit, who was a grandson of a~~

~~one who ~~went~~ <sup>children</sup> to school to me. Then Bert Corey's <sup>children</sup> ~~one~~. There were three Rankens~~

~~there and there must have been...those Konephlites, there were many of them no~~

~~couldn't speak any English. the Konephlites didn't speak English nor the Bauers~~

~~and I had to seat three of those little Konephlites in those double seats. You~~

~~that was a little building for all <sup>these</sup> ~~these~~ little children. I think there~~

~~must have been over 30. They all came Monday mornings, but during the summer these~~

~~children had to work. You see, <sup>there's</sup> ~~there~~ are no trees; there is nothing there. Some~~

~~of these desks were single and some of these desks were double, ~~as I said~~. The~~

~~double desks I had to put three ~~of them~~ in and the single desks had one. And~~

~~maybe somebody would be absent, but you see we had a chart and a globe. First~~

~~thing on the chart was a <sup>cow</sup> ~~cat~~. And we had two flags. One real nice flag that~~

~~<sup>I</sup> we put up inside and the other one that hung outside. You see, there was nothing~~

~~to prevent the wind from keeping things moving all the time. It was hard on the~~

~~flag. ~~But you see~~ I told them that I <sup>had</sup> ~~have~~ a song on the blackboard and the black-~~

~~board was black oilcloth on boards. And the boards were those ceiling boards,~~

~~kind of narrow, and we could use ~~that~~ for a line to write on, ~~you see~~ because~~

~~you could see where the boards were.~~

~~Bob: You could <sup>ex</sup> ~~your~~ chalk fit into those little grooves <sup>kind of</sup> ~~there~~ and make a~~

~~straight line.~~

~~Winifred: Yes. <sup>room</sup> ~~But~~ it wasn't sealed overhead and we taught as long as we could~~

~~keep the school <sup>only</sup> ~~warm~~ in the fall. Started the first of April and taught almost up~~

~~to Thanksgiving, and then they decided it was too cold to keep school any longer and~~



*end of selection.*

they closed the school. ~~Mr. and Mrs.~~ Buchholz and Elsie and Ella, the two younger girls, were going to California. They had some literature from Lodi and another place in California so they wanted to go out there and look at that land. And we went in a big grain tank with something to warm our feet in there. What did we have? Stones, heated stones or something, I don't remember now to keep our feet warm. And we rode in one of those big grain tanks, you know, they went up like this and then they flared. You've seen those.

Bob: You mean a wagon box? A grain wagon box.

Winifred: <sup>Ya</sup> Yes, a box. I don't know how many bushels they held but they used for horses on ~~them~~ as a rule. And that's what we rode to Granville in and then ~~they went~~ we went to California.

Bob: Oh, you went along with them!

Winifred: And they had already written there was no lands for us to ~~take~~ claims at Deep River anymore. That was wonderful soil in there! ~~Maybe~~ Maybe you know how it is around there, ~~good~~ good, rich, black, soil. So we had written to ~~the~~ Oregon now, to different superintendants and we got schools ~~at~~ ~~the~~ Grants Pass, Oregon. That ~~name~~ <sup>of</sup> name sorta sounded historical or something.

~~Bob: Encouraged you.~~

~~Winifred:~~ And we ~~were~~ were curious to know why it was called Grants Pass. So we signed up for schools there. I was to teach second grade in ~~ah~~.... <sup>3</sup> No, first we were to teach out in the mountains. I taught out ~~an~~ Williams Creek, Oregon. Post office says Williamsons Creek <sup>omit</sup> there. It was way out in the mountains. We had to go out on a real stage there. I ~~have~~ forgot to tell you <sup>about</sup> ~~when~~ when we got seasick on that stage. Well, you know, he had to stop and let me ~~out~~ out. And after the second time why um... <sup>omit</sup> You see, it wasn't so cold at that time. He had to cut a slit in the canvass because he couldn't always stop at some places and I was in terrible misery so he cut a hole there. And I'd stick my head <sup>around</sup> out. We couldn't see anything in the ~~the~~ back seat because it was all covered <sup>around</sup> with canvass and my sister was alright yet and she'd keep saying to me, what does it look like out there, what do ya' see? And I said, snow and sky ~~and~~ that's all. And that's all there was to see not a tree <sup>omit</sup> not a building not a claimshack <sup>Nothing</sup> ~~nothing~~. And I don't

know if we met anybody as we went out. I ~~wasn't~~ don't believe we did. They didn't travel much.

Bob: Well what did you think of North Dakota when you <sup>first</sup> saw it? It must have been quite a change for ~~you~~ <sup>you.</sup>

Winifred: Oh, I was just thrilled <sup>over</sup> ~~about~~ the letters I was gonna write back home, you know. I liked to write letters in those days, you know. I got some of the old letters around here someplace. And then finally my sister got seasick, too, so he had to cut a hole on her side for her to stick her head out. So he didn't have to stop anymore, ~~that's what was delaying him, that was delaying him~~ because it was delaying him, you know, that's why we got out there so late. Everytime he stopped, you know, well it took ~~a little~~ a little time to stop ~~you know~~ and ah... There would be ~~not~~ places sometimes ~~where other~~ where other vehicles had gone off and made a place that you could see. They had gone off of that road, you know, and it was a little bit firm there and he could let us out there, don't you see. But we couldn't get ~~high enough~~ ourright out of that sled on the ~~less~~ loose snow, don't you see. Well, it wasn't so ~~less~~ loose but we'd sink in it.

Bob: How far was this Deep River settlement ~~from~~ now from Granville or from Upham or from someplace else that I would know about.

Winifred: Well, now I ~~don't~~ don't know where they put Upham. When I get out there the directions all seem wrong to me some way or other.

Bob: Well, Deep River would be north of ~~Granville~~ Granville.

Winifred: It was north?

Bob: Ya. Well, I can find that, too, ~~Jim~~ I'm sure ~~but~~ just by looking on the map but...

Winifred: Well, I do have old maps around maybe but... Well, anyway, we went to California. We went all the way to California. We found that... You see, that next spring was to be 1905 and the Lewis and Clark Expedition was to be at Portland, and that's one reason that we decided to go to Oregon and we thought maybe we'd rather homestead in Oregon. We <sup>could</sup> ~~go~~ homestead out there, too, you know, but we just thought we'd go out there and look it over as long as we couldn't get homesteads there ~~anyway~~ at Deep River anyway. And we knew what North Dakota was like, don't you see. So we clear to Los Angeles, California, with the Buchholzes. <sup>went</sup>

Bob: Oh, with the Buchholzs.

Winifred: All of us. ~~We~~ got rich you know. It cost us ~~der money~~ more to ~~stop~~  
~~off at Los Angeles~~ go clear to Los <sup>Angeles</sup> ~~Anglos~~ than to stop off at Grants Pass,  
Oregon, and our schools didn't start for about a month ~~or~~ so in Oregon. You see,  
we taught the year ~~around~~. Teachers were scarce and we had experience and college,  
both us us. They didn't all have that. Some had college and ~~some didn't~~ no  
experience and some didn't have either. They just went ~~off~~ from the eighth grade  
and took examinations. We had to take a examination here in North Dakota anyway.  
We went down to Towner and took an examination here and we both passed. I've got  
my old copy of my grades here; ~~Corabelle Brown~~ Corabelle Brown sent me a copy of  
~~them~~ at Towner. It took us two days at Towner for the examination. And then  
in Los ~~Los~~ Angeles I got a job <sup>of</sup> clerking <sup>up</sup> in a tea, coffee, and chinaware store just  
before Christmas and we were to go in January to Grants Pass, Oregon. We had our  
contracts for schools there. That County Superintendent ~~was~~ was Mr. Lincoln Savage.

Bob: That's quite a name.

Winifred: I suppose that name <sup>made us interested</sup> ~~finished us~~ too. Everything made us curious; we  
had to just find out. So I taught out on Williams Street until ~~the~~ the last of  
August and my school was to start the last week in August in Grants Pass, but I  
taught out ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> the mountains until that time. And I got through ~~just~~ <sup>just</sup> the week  
before and we took that week and went up to Portland to the fair. And it was at  
the fair ~~when~~ when we looked things over ~~that~~ that we ~~decided~~ <sup>decided</sup> to go back to North  
Dakota because they had a North Dakota exhibit. They had taken Teddy Roosevelt's  
cabin out there. I don't know if they took it apart and put it back together or  
how they had done it. But they took Teddy Roosevelt's cabin out and they had the  
most wonderful vegetables and grains in their exhibit. ~~Now~~ <sup>Now</sup> they ~~must~~ <sup>must</sup> have  
been from the Red River Valley; I would think they were. Then up above the  
~~Roosevelt~~ Roosevelt Cabin was like an arch and it said on there "North Dakota, the Only  
State in the Union with no Millionaires and No Paupers" <sup>(one word)</sup> And we had been quite  
interested. In the ~~mean~~ <sup>mean</sup> time, you know, we'd both been teaching a little while  
in Oregon before we went to this fair. And the people were very slow compared  
to the way they were in North Dakota. The people just went briskly around, you  
know, as if in their shirt sleeves when it was below zero. The air ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> dry, you

know, everybody seemed to have something to do and knew where they were going and what they were going to do and when and where and all sorts of things. Out there the older men with their long beards, ~~most~~ most of them had come from Missouri & there. I'm not saying anything against Missouri, but they had driven overland in covered wagons. And that's the way I had to go to school ~~there~~ out in the mountains there was in one of those covered wagons that picked us up because of those creeks you know, the mountain streams. They would come down. There was sometimes of the year that it rained; they had their rainy season and their dry season. But we rode in those.

Bob: Now, you and your sister had gone out to Oregon? Is that right?

Winifred: Yes, and we both taught in the mountains.

Bob: Ya, now the Buchholzes went to California and then came back.

Winifred: Well, we all went to California and then we took a boat up from California. We had some cousins there, my mother's cousins they were, and then some other cousins. And so, we kinda <sup>of</sup> stayed <sup>down</sup> with them <sup>a little</sup> a little off and on. And Buchholz stayed there ~~though at the time~~ 'til spring and then they went back to Deep River. Mr. Buchholz did get some land out there and later they went <sup>there</sup> out and lived ~~there and they died and they died there and they~~ <sup>and</sup> were buried there. But he made alot of money there <sup>at Deep River</sup> ~~apparently~~. He was a big man there. He was on the school board and everything.

Bob: Now, your sister's name was Mary?

Winifred: Well, there was four <sup>of</sup> of us came up. ~~finally.~~

~~Bob: Oh.~~

~~Winifred:~~ <sup>Blankenship</sup> No, that was Louise. She was Louise ~~Blankenship~~. She stayed down at Williston. You see, we went down there and got homesteads.

~~Bob: Oh, just a minute though. I want to find out here with you in the first place.~~

~~Winifred: That was Louise.~~

~~Bob: What happened to the other girl that taught in the German settlement?~~  
~~Bob: Louise. What ever happened to this other girl that went down to the German settlement? What became of her? We left her in kind of a bad state there!~~

~~Ha, ha,~~

Winifred: <sup>Well,</sup> I don't <sup>just like</sup> like just to say. She was a remarkable teacher. Oh, did she

ever have the personality and the voice. She taught back home finally in Lundsford, Indiana. And at Easter time she had the chorus get up on the hill, up on the bluff, and sing. And they could hear that over the city. It was just beautiful; she could do such wonderful things. She didn't take any homestead but the other girl, Edward Caryer, did. She went out to Montana to teach and she married a fellow named Lemke. They finally went to California and she died in California and so did Mary. But Louise and I stuck it out in North Dakota. We homesteaded and lived on our homesteads.

I bought a relinquishment. That was an experience I had too. I went out in January, you know, to file on that and when I went in the office there and when I began to fill out the forms, one question was, "Have you seen this land?" And I just said back and I said, "And right there, I can't sign that. I haven't seen that." It's a relinquishment and the man was farmer who had filed on it and I said I can't sign that because I haven't seen it. I wanted to go up there and look at it. And they told me there was so much snow and no road and I could never get up there in the winter time. Because nobody would take me up there, nobody would risk their lives to go up there, you know, and no roads. Well, I said, "I can't sign that because I haven't seen it." And the men thought that was the biggest joke. They said nobody cares whether you've seen it or not. And they said another thing, "what did you see when you came down on the train to Williston from Minot?" Well, I said, "I saw snow; that's all I saw was snow." Well, they said, "that's all you'd see up there. That's all you'd see would be snow and sky because there were no buildings or anything." Finally, they persuaded me that it was fair to sign that. That was the thing people were doing were signing up and they hadn't seen it at all. Well, so when I did go out there, Oh, I had written out! This was really funny. I had written out... This man that I had bought the relinquishment of had told me about a man that had a homestead right next to mine, a bachelor, they were all bachelors. I wanted a garden in. He'd put in a garden for me and he'd put in some crop for me. Well, the crop had to be oats or flax, you know. So he gave me his name and I wrote out to him and asked him if he would put in a garden for me. He would have to break, you see. He would have to break. And he was

start here

down to Williston,

because

haven't

who

they wouldn't

whether

I'd

to break so many acres and put in a garden and then some flax. <sup>and</sup> I believe there was some oats to go in, too. I was teaching and staying over at ~~the~~ Croups. I was teaching in North Dakota again. We came back to ~~the~~ North Dakota and decided we would get homesteads here in North Dakota no matter what.

Bob: This ~~must~~ would have been about 1906 that you came back. I suppose? ~~isn't it?~~

Winifred: Yes, ~~came~~ <sup>came</sup> back. And then I taught <sup>between</sup> between Drake and Balfour. I stayed at McCarteys there. Dale McCartey lives there and it was his father and mother ~~that~~ were homesteading. They lived in a claimshack and they had a young baby less than a year old. They just had the one-roomed claimshack and then a little lean-to, where she cooked, for the kitchen. They had their bed in <sup>the</sup> another room and that took up about ~~all~~ the room there and a stove. People burned flaxstraw, you know, quite a little.

Bob: Oh.

~~Winifred~~ Winifred: Oh, yes. First I had to go to Haux. Before McCartey's were going to board the teacher they had always agreed ~~you know~~ on where she was to stay and how much she was to pay. How much board and what she was to get and all that. They met <sup>me</sup> there. ~~When I got off at Drake~~ I had been down to Indiana and come up here just on a short visit and then bought my ticket to Drake. Now, they didn't know any better in Chicago than to sell me ~~me~~ a ticket to Drake, North Dakota, which they shouldn't have done. And the train stopped at Drake at about midnight and let me off. No lights in the depot, ~~No~~ lights anywhere. You couldn't see anything. But ~~it was toward morning~~ it was after midnight sometime and I got off there with my suitcase. I think they took my trunk on to ~~the~~ Minot; I don't know what they did with that. We all had trunks then; we usually had two trunks with our clothes and books and things. So I looked around. They just stopped and let me off ~~you know~~ and that was against the rules. They were not supposed to stop there but I had a ticket to Drake <sup>and</sup> so they stopped. And all those piles of lumber! That's why I couldn't even see the town. Piles of lumber all around ~~the depot~~ that little depot where I got off. I wasn't afraid of anything in those days; I had a pretty good muscle. And I ~~kind of~~ <sup>kind of</sup> looked around and I walked up a little ways where I could see around the lumber and I

decided ~~where~~ where the town was. I took my suitcase and I walked up there. And, you know, there ~~were no lights~~—was nothing, no lights <sup>at all</sup> anyplace, but I could see buildings so ~~I~~ I walked up and down the street in front of those buildings. Now, there had been a murder committed there <sup>in those piles of lumber</sup> just the week before. Course, I didn't know it.

Bob: Goodness!

Winifred: But it wasn't <sup>some</sup> anybody that got off the train ~~now~~. That was the first time that the train had stopped and nobody was prepared for it or anything you know. Finally, it began to get a little light enough <sup>that</sup> where I could read where it said, Benjamin Bennet ~~in Drake~~ in Drake had a store and post office and bank <sup>all</sup> in one building. Different little windows to go to <sup>of</sup> not exactly windows but counters. So as soon as it was light enough, I began to pound on doors <sup>the</sup> and I finally got into that building. Then there was what they called a hotel. It had an upstairs to it. ~~Somebody~~ <sup>the</sup> lived downstairs and the upstairs was ~~a~~ hotel. I forget who had that hotel. ~~It doesn't matter.~~ And the next morning I inquired about how to get out to the school. I already knew where I was to teach and go. I had my contract. My sister and I were careful about that. And so, right away everybody wanted to take me out!

Bob: New schoolteachers must have been quite popular <sup>er</sup> with all those bachelor homesteaders. ~~All these~~ <sup>and</sup> men around the country.

Winifred: Yes, they didn't wait to propose marriage any longer than they could help. They didn't get any encouragement out of me though. ~~Anyway, somebody took me out~~ Anyway, somebody <sup>got</sup> took me out. Mr. Strege, it was Strege Township. Drake ~~was~~ was where I was to teach ~~and~~ <sup>to</sup> someone took me out. It wasn't ~~any~~ more than seven or eight miles because I used to walk into Drake for my <sup>mail</sup> sometimes. They took me to Haux ~~They took me first~~ to McCartneys; they were to board and room the teacher. They just ~~hadn't~~ <sup>didn't have</sup> a bed yet extra; they just had the one bed ~~and~~ and there ~~wasn't~~ wasn't room in that claimshack for another bed. ~~And~~ And if they had they just hang ~~ed~~ up a blanket or something and that's the way we would get along, ~~you know~~ I stayed there. Oh, no, they took me to Haux! I stayed with Mrs. Haux and the girl, the three of us, on ~~two~~ bed. One of those beds, you know,

that you let down from the wall. It's just a pair of springs on hinges, up on the wall, and they had a curtain over it. Well, they let that down and that's what Mrs. Haux and I slept on. What Mr. Haux and Willy slept on in the next room, <sup>I</sup> ~~have no idea.~~ ~~have no idea, but I know.~~ But, I know, I had never had any experience with bed-bugs! My gracious, ~~you know~~ the insects like me! ~~I'd been out to those nat I've been bit often by these gnats. I'm all bit up just getting over it.~~ And they were on my ~~my~~ arms and all over and I couldn't kill them fast enough to get a chance to go to sleep. So, then, I went up to McCarteys, where I was to stay, and I said I just can't sleep down there. I haven't slept a night. Well, they said they weren't ready yet for the teacher. They'd put a pair of springs in the schoolhouse. So they put a pair of springs in there. And I only had two, three, or four pupils <sup>two,</sup> the first days. I had Serena Haux and Willy and some Rebee. No, they had six and not one of them old enough to go to school. I don't know how you counted that. That's why we got ~~and~~ populated so <sup>rapidly</sup> quickly I guess. ~~Oh, yes, Marcqwitz.~~ What was the other family's name? There were two others. I don't forget the Marcqwitz name. <sup>ell</sup> WLL, anyway, so then they put a pair of springs in the schoolhouse. They just put on a little... <sup>+</sup> there was a little platform in the schoolhouses those days. ~~you know.~~ Teachers was up a little higher ~~in these~~ <sup>down</sup> I think they put it on a platform. They said I shouldn't sleep <sup>down</sup> there alone so Serena Haux slept down there with me. She was a girl about ten years old or so. We didn't have any thrilling experience there ~~except the following years there~~ ~~was a big threshing crew on~~ although it was the following year and <sup>there</sup> ~~there~~ was a big threshing crew and the rain and they couldn't work and they got mischievous. They went out and stretched wire from my doorknob out quite aways, ~~you know,~~ and then they sawed on that. And ~~of all the noise,~~ no coyote could make a noise like that. Serena got a little scared. I said, "oh, don't get ~~scared~~ scared. That's just somebody playing a trick on us." I don't know what time of year it was. They were threshing <sup>yet</sup> ~~there~~ anyway and that was the threshing crew. They were going to have some fun with that teacher from the East, you know. They were going ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~scared~~ me to death. And I didn't get scared <sup>I</sup> at all. 'Cause I <sup>e</sup> know it was the most unearthly sound! Did you ever hear it?



Bob: ~~No!~~ No! That sounds like something that I don't try!

Winifred: I don't know what they used on that wire. They had stretched a wire from the doorknob to something else out aways. I don't know what they stretched it to and they sawed on that. And of all the noises! So then, I just laughed ~~about~~ about it. They aren't going to scare me. In the meantime, I had been out to Oregon and ~~a lot~~ <sup>down to</sup> of other places you know. Southern California and... ~~Am I~~ <sup>Am I</sup> taking too much time?

Bob: ~~No, No, Nono, no, no!~~

Winifred: ~~Well, Well, well,~~ then I went from there up to the Maladay <sup>end</sup> land of the county and ~~taught~~ taught the school in the Icelandic settlement. They hadn't ~~had~~ had a teacher before except Icelandic teachers and the children were not learning <sup>any</sup> English. And Mr. Mike Coup was the ~~President~~ President of the Board and he said we've got to get a teacher that doesn't know Icelandic because those children are not learning <sup>any</sup> English. So, that's where I went.

Bob: Now, that would be around what town?

Winifred: ~~Well,~~ Well, now there was Upham by this time but there hadn't been when I was first up there. But this was about 1906, was it?

Bob: '06 or '07 I suppose.

Winifred: Well, I went ~~to~~ to my homestead there in 1908. ~~Oh, I went up there from Drake. I had to take a livery team because my school closed on Friday.~~ <sup>Freeman</sup>

Bob: ~~Oh, Well, this...~~

Winifred: And I taught up there. Oh, I went up there from Drake. I had to take a livery team across to, 'cause my school closed on Friday, and I took a livery team across to this school in there by Freemans. Mr. Freeman, that was George Freeman, ~~he~~ was called "The King of the Icelanders". You know, when there was a settlement of the Icelanders there was one that ~~had~~ had a little more schooling and who was a leader in the bunch and they called him "The King of the Icelanders". Well, then ~~Mike Coup~~ <sup>he</sup> Mike Coup ~~he~~ was German, ~~and from Ohio~~ He was from Ohio and he was on the school board and Mr. Freeman was on the school board. I don't know what nickname Mr. Coup had, but anyway he was Mike Coup. He also went to California. He went to Lodi. But they had a daughter, Anna, that was ~~about~~ about my age and Anna

had filed on a homestead there in sandhills right in the middle of the Icelandic group. Mr. C. D. Rice, you don't know that name. He was a state congressman, and he was a senator, I guess, ~~and~~ representative. I don't know which, but he was a state ~~encouragement~~ congressman, and he lived in Towner. The Rices, and the Foxes and the Pendroys were the important people at that time. And then the man in the bank. Was his name Erickson? They were the important people around Towner. Mr. C. D. Rice and Mr. Coup were <sup>the</sup> friends and he used to come out <sup>there</sup> to Coups quite often. He had a wife and two daughters, Grace and I forget the other one. And they were from Tennessee and Mike Coups, ~~they~~ were from Ohio. ~~Well, anyway, I don't know where I am now.~~

Bob: ~~Was~~ this Icelandic settlement ~~that you went to to teach~~ must have been within driving distance of Drake with horse and buggy. ~~was~~

Winifred: I went from Drake up to Towner on the train. ~~and then~~ And then I got up there and then <sup>on Sunday</sup> I had to take a livery team out to Coups. ~~Mike Coups, he was on the school board.~~ And I was to ~~stay there~~ board there and stay with Anna Croup on their homestead.

Bob: Oh?

Winifred: ~~She~~ She had a shack out on the sandhills there and I stayed with her during that term of teaching. ~~AND~~ I was to pay her <sup>\$12.00</sup> ~~twelve~~ dollars out of my <sup>\$40.00</sup> ~~forty~~ dollars. Now, when I taught at Deep River, that was <sup>\$40.00</sup> ~~forty~~ dollars a month.

You only got school warrants. You didn't get any check or cash, ~~you know~~ because they had no money in the treasury. People were homesteading and the ~~taxes~~ taxes were not coming in ~~until~~, until the people proved up. Well, in the ~~meantime~~ meantime people had proved up ~~and~~ and I got a check at Coups. That was only about two years later that people had come in so fast and were proving up.

Bob: How did you get your money out of those warrants? ~~though?~~

Winifred: ~~We~~ We took them to the bank and they gave you <sup>\$35.00</sup> ~~thirty five~~ dollars and they got <sup>12%</sup> ~~twelve percent~~ interest on those warrants when the money came in.

Bob: ~~Oh~~ I ~~often~~ Not many people have <sup>been able to tell</sup> ~~told~~ me how they financed those schools. I wondered about that.

Winifred: That's the way they financed them. They gave you a school warrant, they called it. And when I wrote back home and told my mother that they had no

money in the treasury and I was ~~getting~~ school warrants. But I had taught before I ~~went~~ up there ~~And so~~. I had some money. ~~And I~~ took over my sister's and Edward Cary's school warrants as long as my cash lasted, ~~you know~~. I had money in the bank down in Indiana where I had taught. I didn't take over all of them; I just took over some. ~~What are they?~~

Bob: <sup>oh,</sup> I don't know.

Winifred: ~~Are they missionaries?~~  
~~(door bell telephone rings)~~

Bob: I have no idea. Well, back to the Icelanders I 'spose.

Winifred: Yes, I taught the Icelandic children. There was ~~just~~ one ~~German~~ in the bunch and the Icelandic children would pick on him.

Bob: Oh.

Winifred: <sup>after four o'clock</sup> One day I happened to look out down the road and they were having a regular fight down there. I started out down the road, you know, although I don't suppose I <sup>needed</sup> ~~needed~~ to. The whole bunch went off and left their lunch pails and everything. They ran <sup>just</sup> as fast as they could run. But this boy got to go home without being <sup>molested</sup> ~~molested~~ any further and I don't think they ever attacked him again. But ~~the~~ the Group's School was half Icelandic and half German and that was some problem. I had to stay right on the playground because if I <sup>let</sup> ~~let~~ them choose up for a ball, ~~the~~ the Icelandic children would all be on one side and the Germans on another. They wanted to fight all the time, ~~you know~~. And that's the way they did it. ~~I had the Benson boys in school, Austere and Esmander from Bettineau.~~

Bob: How long did it take you to get from the Icelandic Settlement to Towner? Was it a long trip?

Winifred: No.

Bob: I mean a day's drive?

Winifred: <sup>No.</sup> About a half day. ~~From Towner out to ~~where~~. You know where George Freeman lived out-by-the-Freeman-Bridge-didn't-you? where the Bob Freeman Bridge was didn't you?~~

Bob: m m m m

Winifred: ~~And then~~ There was another bridge across the river there <sup>the</sup> the Group Bridge. Because I know that at one of the school elections they ~~challenged~~ challenged

my vote and I had been there quite awhile. I had been living in North Dakota and I stayed over a year at Croups. ~~And so, one of the men got up and said,~~ <sup>George</sup> Freeman was County Commissioner long enough to get a bridge and a schoolhouse. ~~A~~ bridge at his back door across the river and a schoolhouse at his front door. And Mike Croup was County Commissioner long enough to get a bridge at his back door and a schoolhouse at his front door. ~~He~~ He was mad because I was going <sup>and</sup> to vote ~~it didn't do any good to challenge it because I had a right to vote.~~ I did vote but it didn't do any good to challenge ~~it~~ it because I had a right to vote. And I knew I did; I wouldn't <sup>have</sup> voted if I ~~didn't~~ <sup>hadn't</sup>.

Bob: ~~How did you teach those kids to speak English?~~ They couldn't speak English and you couldn't speak ~~Icelandic!~~ <sup>How</sup> did you communicate with them?

Winifred: Well, they came and stood around my desk if I stayed ~~in~~ <sup>at</sup> the house at recess or noon. And they were going to teach me Icelandic. And they'd tell me what a mirror is. In Icelandic mirror was ~~Spiegel~~. In German it was ~~spiegel~~ "spigel". In German it was "spiegel". And in English, we said mirror. Well, I had a little mirror there in my desk, ~~teachers did these things you know~~ ~~And different things~~. When they would tell me <sup>the name of something</sup> things in Icelandic I would tell them what it was in English and I would have ~~them~~ <sup>then</sup> say it. And in class it was the same thing. There were some of those Icelandic children who knew some words in English because they had been going to school ~~there~~ there for a couple of terms ~~before I~~ <sup>taught</sup> there. And they did know a little, but they weren't learning really conversational English. The German children - I don't know whether they picked up the ~~Icelandic~~ language quicker. The Icelandic children ~~were~~ Were very bright. They learned quickly and they could sing like little birds.

Bob: ~~Oh.~~

Winifred: They had such sweet voices. ~~Well, now what else?~~

Bob: Was that a difficult school to teach in?

Winifred: Oh, there was no vandalism, no unruliness! Now in Indiana and also out in Oregon where those children ~~had~~ had come from other states. ~~And they would put this obscene writing as far up as they could reach on the school.~~ I taught second grade there. And as far ~~as~~ as they could reach on the school there was writing

about former teachers and everything you could think of. And I said to the other teachers we can't have that. ~~So~~ as punishment when they did something that needn't to have their ~~children~~ attention called to ~~I suggested that they wash just as high as the writing was.~~ <sup>in the way of punishment</sup> ~~we have them~~ And we finally got that scrubbed off and explained to the children that ~~it didn't look nice~~ that was not nice. It didn't look nice for other ~~peo~~ple. Now the county superintendant in Indiana the first thing he did was go ~~out~~ and look around at all the outbuildings ~~or~~ <sup>and</sup> woodshed or whatever you had there and around the buildings and see if there was any of that. And the teachers ~~graded~~ <sup>was</sup> graded accordingly on her success as a teacher. ~~You see,~~ I learned about teaching in these different states by teaching in different places.

Bob: Sure.

Winifred: Course, I understood a little German. I had taken it in high school. And I could tell when the children in that Croup School would say ~~things~~ <sup>words</sup> that I ~~knew~~ not that I had studied those words ~~but~~ I ~~knew~~ they ~~were~~ saying words they shouldn't. They'd watch me, you know. You can just tell. That little Harold boy ~~he'd~~ say some ~~thing~~ <sup>thing</sup> and then he'd look up to see whether I understood it or not.

Bob: ~~Ya.~~

Winifred: ~~In~~ In none of the schools in North ~~Dakota~~ <sup>North</sup> Dakota—that's ~~what~~ <sup>was</sup> that I liked about North Dakota—one of the things about teaching here there ~~s~~ was none of that. Children came to school to learn and they worked just like their parents were working. And as soon as school was out in the summertime, you see, I taught all year around ~~s~~ both in Oregon and in North Dakota.

Bob: You mean you'd ~~go~~ <sup>went</sup> go from one school to another. One would have a winter term and ~~one~~ <sup>another</sup> would have a summer term.

Winifred: I went from the Drake school up to the Croup place. School closed Friday and Monday morning I was teaching in another school. That's the way we did it. I did the same thing in Oregon. You could teach out in the ~~m~~ountains through the summer months and then in the winter you could teach in town if you were qualified and I was.

Bob: Discipline was never much of a problem though in North Dakota, huh?

about

Winifred: No. ~~Disciplines~~ That's another thing in North Dakota. I never had children in my school who couldn't learn. In Oregon I had as many as three or four children. I had <sup>60</sup> ~~sixty~~ children <sup>There</sup> for awhile in my room ~~and~~ and they had to get another teacher. It was just <sup>pretty</sup> ~~too~~ much to handle so they got another teacher. That was during the fishing season, the salmon fishing, ~~season.~~ There was a certain season, ~~you know,~~ when they could fish for salmon. And <sup>just</sup> people came in from all over and lived in tents, ~~or in any kind of structure,~~ it was a warm climate. Lived in tents or in any kind of a structure that they could find room in.

Bob: ~~That's where you got all those pupils then from those~~ ~~lllllll....~~

Winifred: ~~Yes. And~~ Yes, and They had large families some of ~~them.~~ And some of them never got promoted because they went from one school to another ~~and~~ and later on they left your school and went another place and when they'd come back next year <sup>why</sup> here they were in the same grade. And that happened to some boys that were <sup>14</sup> ~~fourteen~~ years old. Here they came to school and in the second grade. And when I saw what had happened, how old those two boys <sup>I</sup> were, Herbert and Ralph, I went and talked to their mother. She was out of town a little ways, but I walked out there and I told her that those boys had to be put in a higher grade. And I asked her to help them ~~at home~~ read at home and other things. I wanted to promote them when they left into the next grade. I wanted to get them into the next grade before the end of school if I could. And I said I <sup>d</sup> ~~would~~ work with them extra if she would do that. And she agreed to do it. But that was awful, <sup>12</sup> ~~twelve~~ and <sup>13</sup> ~~thirteen~~ years, ~~and~~ those boys were ~~and~~ ~~come to school~~ there they were come to school and in the second grade with little children, you know, so big. That was this school.

Bob: That didn't happened too much in North Dakota. Is that right, that you would have older children in a low grade?

Winifred: No, I didn't have that. ~~But~~ But, you see, they had their seasons there.

Bob: Ya. Let me ask you a couple more things about the Icelanders. How did you get along with them? Did they dislike having someone come ~~and~~ and teach their children in English? The parents I mean.

Winifred: No, they were very ~~nice.~~ nice. No, they didn't seem to mind at all as

far as I know, you know.

Bob: Were they a close-knit group? Did they keep up customs, dress, and so forth from Iceland?

Winifred: Yes, they would gather up <sup>several</sup> a few families and go and stay a few days with another family. They went back and forth all the time, very close, very ~~close-knit~~ <sup>-knit</sup> families. The first day though on my way home from school, I guess I was <sup>walking over</sup> ~~walking home from~~ Croups that evening because Anna had been taking me and later they let me <sup>to</sup> ~~ride~~ a horse ~~come~~ back and forth some until she could come and stay, it was the fall of the year and they needed her at home. Then she came to stay in the shack and then I stayed with her. And then we kept one of those ~~democra-~~ "democrats", you know, a two-seated open buggy. We kept that and a team of horses there and we kept our horses staked out you know. <sup>We had that and</sup> we could drive around. We didn't need any boyfriends if we wanted to go to a dance, you know, we could drive over <sup>kinda early</sup> before dark and enjoy ourselves and have our own team to go home. We didn't have to depend on any boyfriends. That kinda worried <sup>them</sup> a little, but they never untied our horses and turned them loose.

Bob: Did you teach ~~out near~~ near Williston when you homesteaded there, too?

Winifred: No, there was one school ~~there~~ there and my older sister took the school.

Bob: Now, that was Louise.

Winifred: Yes, that was ~~no~~ Louise but she taught there right along. And then my two other sisters, Mary and Ann, came out and one of them taught out at Norge. Mary taught <sup>up</sup> at Norge. ~~I believe and these are some old snapshots~~  
~~That's my sister at her claimshack.~~

Bob: Oh!

Winifred: ~~I have a picture of mine but I don't know where it is. This was in 1910, that my sister, Mary, taught at Norge.~~ Now, I can't figure that flag out, but I think the way it's folded makes it look as though <sup>it</sup> there's a circle there and stars in the corners. And if it is, it's a very old flag and what it would be doing up there <sup>in</sup> at the schoolhouse I don't know. You see, my sister died and I found that among her things, ~~but that~~ But that's after <sup>4:00</sup> ~~four o'clock~~ and she

had....that was one of the cowboys, ~~who~~ I guess, I see his hat's there someplace.

Bob: You know, that's quite a picture.

Winifrd: And here's where we ~~went~~<sup>went</sup> out on a picnic. And there was one man, ~~his~~  
~~name was~~ Enoch Nelson <sup>he was Norwegian</sup> and he was very patriotic. He never ~~went~~<sup>went</sup> anyplace  
without his flag ~~and~~ and everytime we had a picnic before we opened up the  
lunch or anything he had to find a place to install his flag.

Bob: Well, I'll be!

Winifred: His ~~name~~<sup>name</sup> was Enoch Nelson. I don't know if he ever got married; I  
think he just died.

Bob: ~~Enoch~~ Here, you have written on the back, "Enoch Nelson was photographer and  
owner of flag." ~~His favorite saying was "I love America".~~

Winifred: Oh, yes, he took the pictures too.

Bob: His favorite saying/ was, "I love America" ~~He must have. ~~carried~~~~  
~~flag with him at all times.~~

Winifred: He homesteaded not very far from me. Now, you see, those ladies on  
there...there's myself, I'm over here and this is my sister over here and sitting  
betwe~~n~~<sup>n</sup> us is a Robi~~n~~<sup>n</sup>son girl. And this Robinson came up from Minnesota ~~and~~  
Robinson. I see there's ~~a~~<sup>one</sup> dog there, huh? And all the rest of those were home-  
steaders. There's Mrs. Robi~~n~~<sup>n</sup>son, Mrs. Hanson, there's two Mrs. Robertsons ~~and~~  
Mrs. Hanson ~~and Mrs. um...~~, and then the Robertson's daughters. Each of them had  
a daughter but it looks as ~~if~~<sup>if</sup> we had alot of women/ there.

Bob: Ya.

Winifred: This is Sylvia Manson's ~~shack~~<sup>shack</sup>. There's two of those girls that came  
up here to homestead and they chopped the sod out with an axe ~~and~~ their little  
hatchet.

Bob: They did! ~~All of that?~~

Winifred: I don't think these two did because I don't have it noted on the ~~back~~  
I did have a picture of the shack someplace here. It was in an old Williston  
paper where ~~they~~<sup>they</sup> took the hat~~ch~~<sup>ch</sup>et and they cut ~~out~~<sup>out</sup> sod and built themselves a  
shack. And those are the two that took a homestead right nor~~th~~<sup>th</sup> of me that I  
didn't think was any good. It was all bi~~g~~<sup>g</sup> alkali sloughs on it.

Bob: Were there quite a few women homesteaders around ~~there~~<sup>there</sup>?



Winifred: They came out as I left my homestead, some did. No, these two were teachers. Sylvia Manso, ~~they were French, she was Sylvia Steret,~~ they were French. She was Sylvia Steret; she had married a man named Steret. And these women were homesteading for the men they had married. The men had filed on homesteads and had their wife holding down the homesteads, but their weren't any of those when I first went out there.

Bob: Oh, I see.

Winifred: But they did come later and one had twins. And she had a twin go-cart about that wide, and she'd put her twins in the cart and go down to the store there at ~~Stady~~ to get her mail and buy a few groceries. She'd put them in the cart with her twins and take them back. ~~And her husband~~ And the strangest thing is ~~when my husband's sister and I were coming back from a trip~~ one time when my sister and I were coming back from a trip and we got to Aberdeen, South Dakota, and here this one lady's funeral, she had just died a couple of days before, and that was the day of her funeral, and we went to ~~her~~ <sup>the</sup> funeral because I had known her ~~from~~ out on the homestead, you see. But when I went out there, there weren't those but later on ~~some of them~~ <sup>some</sup> these ladies came and some of them had babies and some of them were all alone, but holding the homestead down while the men worked. Her husband was a salesman of some kind and Mrs. Steret I don't know what her husband did and the Manso girl but ~~they~~ they lived in Devils lake awhile, the other Manso girl, and the other one stayed in Montana. She got to be county of superintendent of schools out in Montana some ~~place~~.

Bob: ~~This was near a town called Stady?~~ <sup>Did you homestead near</sup> ~~begin here~~

Winifred: Yes, named for Alice Stady whose claim the first post office was on and she was postmaster there.

Bob: Was this right near the ~~border there?~~ Montana border or near Williston? ~~I've never heard of that town.~~

Winifred: ~~Stady? I have a picture of the remains around someplace.~~

Bob: ~~It's near Williston, though, is that right?~~

Winifred: It's <sup>40</sup> ~~forty~~ or <sup>50</sup> ~~fifty~~ miles north of Williston.

Bob: ~~Oh, north of Williston. I see.~~



~~Winifred: It was three miles over there to the Stady Post Office. But Mrs. Stady~~  
~~was a Harris and her father was there too. They called me from the Daily~~  
~~News and they didn't have any record about some things and they didn't have any~~  
~~record anyplace of this Fred Harris. You see, you see, he was Mrs. Stady's~~  
~~father and they had all homesteaded there. Filed on homesteads <sup>together</sup> there and then they~~  
~~had the post office ~~at~~ and the store.~~ When I first went out there I rode out with

a linemen crew. They had to go out that morning and they didn't have room for me. They had a three-seated open carriage or a two-seated one, but anyway there were two men sitting in the back yet with their legs hanging down. And I was to go out to ~~my~~ homestead that day. Well, so they looked around and they found a horse and buggy. Some <sup>body</sup> had driven in there from ~~there~~ their claim and left a pony and a little old open buggy, <sup>and</sup> ~~It was a lady, a Mrs. Dyerley~~ That was to be sent out the first time somebody came and wanted to go out to Stady ~~you know~~. So, the foreman of the crew was put in this buggy with me and it had no dashboard in front. It was kinda <sup>poor</sup> a poor looking outfit and the pony just wouldn't move unless he was persuaded. I don't know what was the matter with him; just lazy, I guess.

~~Was used to standing out picketed, you know, in the sun all day. Mr. Fred Blake~~  
~~was his name. He~~ was the foreman of the crew and he was instructed by the driver, ~~not~~ in my presence, not to be out of sight of the stage at any time, ~~to follow the stage, and to keep in sight of it at all times.~~ So, we got about out to Marmon where we were to have dinner. We were about two miles from Williston.

You see, the road wound, there were big boulders, hills, and the road wound. ~~It's~~ straight now. ~~So~~ Before we got <sup>to</sup> Marmon ~~oh, it got beastly hot-oh, it got~~ beastly hot-but I had an umbrella. Everybody had an umbrella in those days and so I raised that and we sat there, ~~you know~~. We didn't talk. He was going to be very <sup>very</sup> proper and so was I. Didn't say a word and all at once he looked <sup>down</sup> around and his coat was gone. It got so warm he took his coat off and he laid it down in the front, you know, at our feet. Well, ~~you know~~ it fell out, ~~where there was no Must~~ dashboard. ~~It have fallen out where there was no dashboard, I don't know. He~~

~~missed that.~~ And he had his ~~what do you call~~ <sup>3</sup> his wallet in there and he had his book that he kept his time, you know. <sup>He was the foreman of the crew and</sup> He had to have it. So he said he'd

have to drive back. Well, I said it would just lighten the load if I got out and sat on the boulder there while you drive back and find it. Well, you know, they could see what happened there. ~~They could see~~ That is they could see that I got out and with ~~my~~ umbrella was sitting on a boulder and he was turned around driving back toward Williston. And they were so puzzled but they didn't stop. It wasn't very far from Marmon. It might have been only a mile or two. He drove back quite a ways toward Williston and ~~then he met a man horseback~~<sup>a</sup> man came along horseback. I suppose he persuaded that pony a little more when I wasn't.... ~~Because~~<sup>!</sup> he did have a persuader. He asked this man on horseback if he would look for that coat and leave it at the hotel. He said he was going to Williston and he said he would. Then he turned around and came back without his coat and ~~went on to Marmon~~ picked me up and went on to Marmon. And it hadn't been very far from Marmon because they hadn't started up yet but they were through eating. They were kinda sitting at the table. So, we had to give an account of what happened. And one old man with a beard said he was sure he saw one of those "mirages" back there! Course, you know, we did talk after that and we forgot that we didn't know each other and hadn't been introduced. In those days, you know, you had to be particular. A young girl, ~~you know~~, going out on her homestead and one thing and another. You had to be particular or at least we thought we did but the men had alot of respect for women in those days, girls. They had alot of respect for them. ~~They~~ just wouldn't.... Course, there was that sawing on the wire ~~but~~ those were Eastern boys ~~in~~<sup>in</sup> that crew ~~that~~<sup>in</sup> that threshing crew. But these homesteaders, I tell you, they could just outdo one another to be nice.

Bob: Very proper ~~huh?~~ ~~to here~~

Winifred: Well, anyway, we got up to ~~Zahl.~~ <sup>Zahl.</sup> Now, ~~Zahl~~ <sup>Zahl</sup> was the overnight stop. It was only about ~~forty~~<sup>40</sup> or ~~fifty~~<sup>50</sup> miles up there but we wound, as I said, on the road and we got to ~~Zahl~~ <sup>Zahl</sup> and we had supper there. You've heard of Herman ~~Zahl~~ <sup>Zahl</sup> haven't you?

Bob: Ya, I know where ~~Zahl~~ <sup>Zahl</sup>... Well, there is still some of ~~Zahl~~ <sup>Zahl</sup> there ~~isn't~~ there? I think so.


Winifred: Well, kind of a one. But there was Mr. and Mrs. ~~Zahl~~ <sup>Zahl</sup> and she'd been ~~N~~

a Freeman ~~And~~ the Freemans had lived ~~aroundback~~ here around Towner someplace.

Bob: Ya.

Winifred: And so they brought the mail in. The mail had come out on the stage and she just dumped that mail on the ~~floor~~ <sup>P</sup> Mrs. Zaul did. She ~~was~~ was the postmaster, mistress, or master ~~whichever~~ whichever ever it is, on the floor. And those people were all waiting. All men. There was not a women in the bunch. All waiting and all hoping they got mail, ~~you know~~. I can just imagine how it was in the Army when the mail would come in and some of the boys got mail and some didn't. I can just imagine. Well, that's the way it was with the homesteaders. Some got mail and one got a registered letter. Well, she had to take care of that and she says now ~~he~~ he got a registered letter from that girl last year or last week. I believe there's going to be a wedding! How about it? And she chewed gum! That was Mrs. Zaul. She was a very outspoken person.

Bob: What did they have? Just a big house where they <sup>used you and</sup> put up for the night?

Winifred: A great big sod building! 

Bob: Oh.

Winifred: (The sod building was as long as from here... I think they had added on to it at different times ~~made~~ it roomier as the homesteaders came out, <sup>don't</sup> you see, and that was the hotel too. And just the one big room and then a little place in front where they ate <sup>both the women</sup> and that was sod, too. And they had a round table there. It was after supper. Then I remember Mrs. Zaul said to that boy, this Herman. He was about eight or nine years old, I would think, but he had never been to school yet; she was teaching him at home. He wore spurs all the time in the house and wore his cowboy hat. This boy was a regular character. She said to Herman, "Now, here's a real teacher in the house. Don't you want ~~her~~ her to hear your lesson tonight?" "No, I don't want to learn; I don't want any lesson!" Oh, but you must. You must learn to read. <sup>2</sup> But he wouldn't have anything to do with it. And at the supper table when the plate would come around he would ~~finger~~ finger everything on the plate. I hope his daughters aren't listening. He'd finger everything on the plate and take off what ~~ever~~ he wanted. And if he decided he didn't want it after he took ~~it~~ a bite out of it he'd put it back and take off something else. He was the spoilest. I suppose you'd call him a "brat"! If

there is such a word ~~I~~ I haven't looked it up. And, anyway, then when it came ~~at~~ time to go to bed why she showed me where I was to sleep. I says now, what are all these other beds in here for? Well, she said those are for the ~~the~~ men. You don't need to worry. She and Mr. ~~Zahl~~ Zahl were to sleep in the bed just about this far ~~from~~ mine. You had barely room enough to....

Bob: ~~Sausage~~...squeeze inbetween ~~them~~.

Winifred: Yes. So, she and Mr. ~~Zahl~~ Zahl and Herman slept in that bed and I was to have this bed to myself. I didn't have to share it and I said I'm tired ~~and I'd~~ like to go I'd had a big day and I'd like to go to bed right away. So, all right, that's the bed I had. And it wasn't very long-oh, sometime in the night- she came in and woke me up and said there's another lady ~~come~~ <sup>a</sup> come in and she's going out in the ~~the~~ morning and she has ~~to~~ to stay overnight and I'm going to put her with you. Then she kinda hesitated and then she said she has a boy with ~~her~~ her. I said, "how old is that boy?" Well, she told me. I said ~~well~~ "all right, if he sleeps on the outside." She says, "there isn't another place to put her." All the other beds ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> full and so I took her. And I went to sleep and I slept ~~until~~ <sup>til</sup> morning and when I got up we had breakfast. It was the same old thing. It was potatoes in a ~~tin~~ <sup>tin</sup> skillet with a tin can to chop ~~them~~ <sup>em</sup> up, you know, and bacon. By this time I was used to that. Then she said a candidate ~~for~~ <sup>group</sup> for sheriff was in the ~~men~~ <sup>group</sup> and his name was O'Riley, I believe, a great big Irishman. He sure would be a good sheriff. He was a big husky fellow. And she says ~~he's~~ he's going right up ~~your~~ <sup>your</sup> way and you can ride ~~right~~ <sup>right</sup> along up with him. And he's got a buggy. It will be alot more convenient. He's got a buggy and two spirited hor~~ses~~ <sup>ses</sup>. And she says he'll take you right to your homestead and right to your shack. I knew I knew I had a shack ~~on~~ <sup>on</sup> of it. I ~~didn't~~ didn't know what it was like or what ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> in it or anything ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> she says I know him. I've known him for years. He's out canvassing, you know, for the office." ~~And~~ <sup>And</sup> she said he knows al l the neighbors up there. So finally, she persuaded me to ride with him and when it came time to leave, ~~why~~ <sup>why</sup>, here she came with a gunny sack and she says, "I'm sending a cat along so you won't be lonesome there." And it was a great big orange colored cat. I just took it for granted it was just a tomcat. And so, all right, we went up there to my shack and before we got ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> the shack we came in on

the road to this Bolstead that was to put in my crop, you know. I told ~~him~~ him that the man's name was Bolstead. Yes, he knew him. So, he located my homestead right away. He was an old timer there. He knew ~~about~~ about homesteads. So, we started right at Bolstead's shack. His shack was ~~right~~ on the corner and ~~what~~ he ~~plowed~~ had plowed was from his shack down to my shack on that side to put in the crop. And mine was in the other corner, though, of that little shack.

It wasn't up near him. He hadn't moved it; it was a good thing. So, he had plowed that. ~~And what do you suppose the seed that I had sent him out for him, the freight didn't cost so much then, you know.~~ Mr. Croup was so interested in my success as a homesteader. ~~you~~ You'd think ~~it~~ was his own daughter. Well, his daughter was homesteading, too, you know. So he gave me a sack of potatoes and I don't know what all and I had freighted that out. And he was to get that, you see, and all the seed. I had a cousin that was a congressman down at

Washington D. C. and <sup>at</sup> that time they sent to their constituents. seeds. →

Bob: Oh.

Winifred: I don't <sup>suppose</sup> you ever heard of that before.

Bob: No, I didn't.

Winifred: Yes, that was one way <sup>they</sup> to advertise I suppose. And so, this was Martin A. Morrison from Indiana. He was a representative, yes. He wrote me a letter and he said I'm cleaning out all the seed. It's piled up here in my office and I'm cleaning the office and I'm sending that seed out. I don't know if he freighted out or how he sent it, but it was a great big box of seed. I didn't even open that; I sent it right out on to Bolstead. ~~And oh yes, and he said that~~ And oh, yes, he said that he was cleaning out the office next to him too. And so, it was a great big box. ~~Here~~ Here was that seed. I think that Mr. Croup had given me oats to be seeded out there. Yes, I know he did. Oats and potatoes and that I had sent out. And this box then of seed that I sent out that was my garden seed. Well, ~~when~~ when Mr. O'Riley and I got to the corner and looked, you know.....this was in June and there was something up about this high all <sup>the way across</sup> around, you know, as far as <sup>we</sup> I could see. It went across the whole <sup>e</sup> end of my quarter. He says, ~~oh, he~~ "all those trees," Mr. O'Riley said. Says ~~he's~~ <sup>he's</sup> planted trees!

Well, I said how would he plant trees! I sent out garden seed! So he got out and I guess I got out of the buggy, too and we went over and ~~examined~~ and here it looked like turnips or rutabagas. He had a row of turnips a half-~~mile~~ mile long those quarters were. Rows of rutabagas, turnips, ~~there~~ there was cabbage seed, tomato seed, ~~and carrots~~ and everything you could think of! Onion seed and radishes ~~!~~ And he had planted every bit of that seed and I don't know how many rows ~~of that~~ he had across that whole end!

~~Bob: Good grief!~~

~~Winifred:~~ Where he had broken up! And I had never seen anything like that before, you know, ~~!~~ One person on a claim and all that growing, ~~!~~ but it was just thriving beautifully. He'd done a good job. He just thought that there was a pretty good farmer coming out ~~!~~ there and maybe she could cook if she wanted that garden. I don't know what went through his head. Different things. I looked at my shack; it wasn't locked or anything. They didn't lock things in those days.

~~Bob: Just a minute! Now, just a minute. I want you to tell me what did you do with all these garden plants.~~

~~Winifred:~~ Well, I hoed in there and there wasn't a weed, you know, but I hoed everything, took care of it, gave ~~me~~ me exercise, and something to do. And Mr. Grindelan had a team of oxen. The biggest oxen you ever saw! I kept wondering what in the world would I do with all those turnips and rutabagas and things.

~~Here's a picture of the oxen. I have another one here someplace.~~

~~Bob:~~ <sup>He</sup> You fed the turnips to the oxen then or....

~~Winifred:~~ Did I tell you that when I went over to get my trunk they couldn't take my trunk ~~when I went up, you know, said they'd send it later, to Mr. Grindelan.~~ Well, I went over to Mr. Grindelans, ~~this candidate for Sheriff. Mr. O'Riley took me over to Grindelans 'cause I didn't have my trunk, you see. I couldn't even make my bed.~~ This candidate for Sheriff, Mr. O'Riley, took me over to Grindelans 'cause I didn't have my trunk. I couldn't even make up ~~bed~~ bed, you see, there was one of those shelf-like beds ~~you know~~ on the wall, just boards and maybe some hay on it <sup>or</sup> grass. So he took me over to Grindelans and they had just a one ~~room~~ room shack. And they had one of those shelves on the wall and I tried to persuade them not to do it but they gave up that for me to sleep on.

and they slept on the floor and they hung something between us. They slept on the floor by the bed. ~~No other place you know.~~ Oh, they were so nice <sup>to</sup> this Mr. and Mrs. Grindelan! You see, she was the only close neighbor I was going to have. And she didn't speak much English, ~~and neither~~ nor he didn't. Then I had to get my trunk. And so, ~~the~~ the next morning I asked Mr. Grindelan if he ~~could~~ thought he could go over to Stady. ~~If you got a team~~ I said if you got a team and he said yes. "Could you go over to Stady and get my trunk?" I ~~said~~ ~~at~~ <sup>was</sup> to come out today because they didn't have any room on the stage to bring out a trunk. And he said he was pretty busy but ~~he~~ he wanted to know if I could drive. And I said yes, I can drive. I just suppose it was horses, you know. And after awhile I heard a big commotion outside the shack door <sup>and</sup> something stopped. ~~He~~ <sup>He</sup> opened the door, and I went out and there were those oxen. The biggest things you ever saw! And a do-it-yourself wagon he'd made out of odds and ends. And a plank across to sit on. He used it to haul coal in, ~~you see, he had to have something to haul coal in.~~ He hauled my coal later <sup>for</sup> about a dollar a ton. ~~or something.~~ I didn't say I ~~didn't~~ ever seen a ox before. I climbed up ~~on the~~ <sup>down</sup> in front. I don't remember <sup>seeing</sup> any oxen at Deep River or at Drake. So, I got up there and he handed me the reins and he kinda snapped his whip and said something to these things in Norwegian and we started out. We just started out real lively. They understood Norwegian just at the crack of a whip. And they got slower and slower. And the mosquitoes! ~~I~~ wore a sun <sup>(low profile)</sup> bonnet and I tied a veil over that sunbonnet yet. I took paper and put inside my stockings, kinda crumpled it a little, <sup>and</sup> put it inside my stockings so they couldn't bite my ~~my~~ legs. My legs had to hang down <sup>you</sup> know. I had already run into mosquitoes before but they seemed to be extra big out there <sup>and</sup> extra hungry. Anyway, first thing they did was ~~go~~ into a slough and lie down. And I don't know how far I was yet from Stady. ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> was only four miles ~~from~~ <sup>to</sup> there ~~that was~~ the old post office. They moved it later to where it was only three miles. I could walk there pretty well and I did walk <sup>four</sup> for miles some days ~~to Stady~~ <sup>to</sup> the old Stady. There they were and I tried every way ~~I~~ <sup>to</sup> could think what that sounded like that Mr. ~~Grindelan~~ <sup>Grindelan</sup> had said in Norwegian, you know, I just couldn't think of it. They just laid ~~right~~ <sup>right</sup> down. They ~~didn't~~ didn't have much in ~~the~~ way of harness; they just had reins and some



way they were fastened to that wagon. I forget just how. And finally, after they switched their tails around and got rid of the mosquitoes and ate some of that or drank some of that good water. ~~I was going to say at least you say at least~~ I thought it was a little thick. ~~But, anyway,~~ they finally got up, but it seemed to me I was there a week! They finally got up! They were used to the trail. <sup>period</sup> Mr. Grindelan had been driving back and forth on that trail, ~~and we~~ <sup>a</sup> and we hit the trail again and we finally got to Stady. I could see it, you know, it was on kind of a high place, <sup>and I could see it</sup> for a long ways. And ~~of course~~ <sup>of course</sup> the oxen I think they were smart enough, too, to ~~know~~ see where they were supposed to go where those buildings were. ~~They had a two story building over there // // // It wasn't one story. But anyway, it was on kind of a hill like.~~ <sup>OR was it</sup> And when we got over there three or four bachlors come out and tied up my oxen. And I told them I had come <sup>for</sup> from my trunk and was it there? ~~And yes, it was~~ And, yes, it was there. So, they loaded my trunk on for me and I got a few groceries ~~there~~ and things there. Even at <sup>35</sup> thirty five or <sup>40</sup> forty dollars ~~month~~ I always lived within my income and put a little aside. I had no doctor bills and my sister didn't either. We went to the dentist once a year maybe but doctors we just ~~hadn't~~ didn't have any need for it seem<sup>s</sup>. When we started home I thought, oh, my, will I get home before <sup>it gets</sup> dark! It was in the summertime and the days were long. It was June, you know, and the days were long. Nothing but earth and sky. In the winter it was snow and sky. Well, they went fast going home; they were hungry. They never looked at the slough and we just went ~~right~~ right along and we got home. There <sup>was</sup> were no incidents at all. And the mosquitoes didn't bother much 'cause I had some long gloves on and long sleeves we wore <sup>x00</sup> then, you know. There was none of this bare arms and bare necks ~~good~~ good thing. Then Mr. Greenland got in and drove them over to the house and unloaded my trunk. Well, then I could stay there when I had my bedding and all my things. And I made one <sup>comforter</sup> thick ~~comfort~~ that I pie<sup>ced</sup> ~~ed~~ out of men's clothing and I didn't know how much cot<sup>ton</sup> to put in it. I had written to my mother and I hadn't heard from her yet about how much to put in. So, Mrs. Croup helped me ~~tie it, you know,~~ knot it, and I think I put in about five pounds of cotton. So, the thing was almost thick enough to be a mattress! I got along then

pretty well, <sup>b</sup> but my ~~crop~~ was hailed out. I had a nice crop of flax. But, of course, there were no fences or anything and anybody ~~had~~ that had livestock <sup>let it</sup> ~~run loose.~~ The gophers were some ~~thing~~ terrific! And the ~~ducks!~~ On that old alkali slough, the ducks were. Well, anyway, the ~~bastards came down~~ <sup>bachelors</sup> ~~bachelors~~ come down and wanted to know if they could hunt ducks—just ~~an~~ excuse, I suppose, to stop and be frie<sup>I</sup>ndly. I said yes, but I'd like to have the feathers. ~~I said~~ if you would stop at the shack. <sup>They said, " "</sup> ~~and they said~~ oh, yes, that serves them just right." So, they would come up ~~you know~~ and I'd pick ~~that~~ wild duck down off and put it in paper bags. It was kinda lousy, but I hung it outside. I don't kn<sup>I</sup>ow what happened to the lice. One time I was gone and come home and the shack wasn't locked. ~~I don't know where I was,~~ and here were some ducks or some ~~thing~~ that looked like <sup>I</sup> ducks ~~under my on my little table.~~ ~~I just tore that table up the~~ other day.

Bob: Oh.

Winifred: ~~I had made it.~~ Oh, I thought ~~now~~ that's nice! I've got feathers and the ducks. So, I thought, I ~~can't~~ eat those ducks myself. They weren't mallards, ~~you know~~ but they were some ~~thing~~ that swam on the water. So, I asked Mrs. Baierley and her boy about <sup>10.</sup> ~~if she'd come out on her claim.~~ You see, ~~people were coming out on their claims~~ you know, women. ~~And Mrs. Baierley had a claim.~~ I could see her shack from mine and I guess that little pony ~~what~~ or buggy ~~what~~ were hors ~~e~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~because~~ they drove over, ~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~that~~ boy, Don. ~~Don Baierley.~~ They drove over and I was roasting the ducks. And I had had to walk over there to invite her, ~~you know.~~ ~~I~~ I walked over ~~there~~ and invited her. ~~And~~ <sup>In</sup> the meantime, my sister had that ~~white~~ Whitehouse Cookbook, ~~I've got one right down there.~~ ~~You've seen 'em.~~ She had a Whitehouse Cookbook and I got that out and I read up just how to roast wild ducks. I was go<sup>I</sup>anna do that just right! I could bake bread! That's one thing <sup>I</sup> I could do! And I had a pipeoven, ~~you know what they~~ were. I had a laundry stove and <sup>the</sup> ~~in~~ the pipe was an oven.

Bob: Oh!

Winifred: ~~About this long and about this big in diameter~~ Round and then a grate ~~across it~~ and I used to bake bread in that. And you know, I could bake bread

fine. That North Dakota flour! We didn't have that in Indiana. ~~We had soft....~~  
Bob. ....wheat.

~~Winifred: Yes, and it ne/ver baked bread like North Dakota flour.~~ So, I had  
those roasting. ~~And it said in the Whitehouse Cookbook that the wild ones had~~  
a flavor that some people didn't exactly like ~~Eastern people that weren't~~  
~~accustomed to them maybe,~~ and to put roast carrots in with them. ~~So,~~ I had  
plenty ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> carrots <sup>and</sup> onions; I had everything by this time. ~~I went out and I~~  
~~brought up... Maybe, I was going to have carrots any way anyway, // I don't know,~~ but  
I had carrots and onions and all kinds of things besides the duck. There were  
three of those <sup>little</sup> creatures. But I had cleaned ~~them~~ <sup>up</sup> so nicely ~~you know,~~ <sup>and</sup> took the  
down and put it in a paper bag. One of ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup> was a little smaller and ~~the other~~  
~~'un well,~~ I just thought ~~they well,~~ they ~~probably~~ probably hadn't grown up yet and I  
roasted them. Well, I noticed when I opened the oven door they had kind ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> of a  
<sup>queer</sup> flavor. I thought well, maybe more carrots. ~~So,~~ <sup>So</sup> I got more carrots. <sup>(laughs)</sup> I just  
about smothered the thing in carrots. <sup>(laughs)</sup> ~~And still, I thought....~~ And still I  
thought ~~it~~ it was so funny. And about that time Mrs. Baierley and ~~her son~~ <sup>Don</sup>  
came along in the little buggy. ~~and the little old pony cow pony cow (?) pony.~~  
~~I think they had just had it picketed, I don't think they ever had it tied. I~~  
~~think it was glad to stand!~~ So, I dished everything up so nice. I had a  
screendoor ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> and screens on my windows. I had two windows and they both had  
screens on ~~them.~~ ~~and I had a~~ So, I opened my inside door and I don't know how that  
smelled outside. But, anyway, they came and I dished it all up and put it on  
the table. <sup>(laughs)</sup> ~~This Baierley boy, I think they came from Illinois someplace back~~  
~~East, but~~ Don was hungry and he just filled his ~~mouth~~ <sup>mouth</sup> with that duck ~~you know,~~  
before the rest of us even had a chance. I even made dressing with it. And he  
jumped up and <sup>(laughs)</sup> "cuse me" and out the door! <sup>(laughs)</sup> Anyway, the duck flew! You wouldn't  
think a roast duck could fly <sup>(laughs)</sup> but that duck just flew! <sup>(laughs)</sup> So, I hadn't tasted it  
yet; I don't know how I kept from tasting it. ~~A~~ careful cook ~~always~~ <sup>always</sup> samples  
things, ~~you know,~~ I just remembered all the time that it said that some people  
didn't like the flavor of those wild ducks. Well, I don't know what they were but  
I took them down and threw ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup> in the slough. <sup>(laughs)</sup> ~~I'd gotten a barrel from Indiana,~~

~~you know. They also wanted to help me on my homestead. So, my brother packed a barrel for me and in the middle of that barrel they had a featherbed in it.~~

Bob: ~~Oh. [Subject]~~  
[My family in Indiana had sent me]

Winifred: ~~I was~~ a big barrel with a featherbed in. And in the middle of that featherbed, ~~they had put everything you could think of in there.~~ They had put a nice ~~sugar-cured hamsugar-cured~~ ham and, oh, I just can't remember all the things they put in; but that barrel was just packed tight. And ~~the~~ apple butter! We made it like the Pennsylvania ~~the~~ Apple Butter. It was so strong and ~~black~~. We boiled a <sup>100</sup> ~~hundred pounds~~ gallons of cider down to <sup>25</sup> ~~twenty five~~ gallons and then we put our apples in it and cooked it ~~some~~ more. Well, it was the strongest whiskey. I'd never tasted whis~~key~~, but that's an expression people used. And so, then, I had plenty of bread and so ~~then~~ we had bread and apple butter and seems to me that I cut off some of ~~that~~ precious ham and fried a little. But we just had the most fun over that; we'd laugh and laugh, ~~you know~~. The way Don went out that door it was a lucky thing that he didn't even ~~had to~~ have to turn a doorknob; he just scooted out the screendoor.

Bob: ~~It must have been a mudhen or something, huh?~~

Winifred: And let the ducks fly! Well, anyway, that was one experience I had. And we used to go to dances <sup>there</sup> there. The Robertson family had come up to Stady from Alexandria, Minnesota, and they had made a big, long, sod house, and they decided to have a dance in that. And the beds were on springs ~~you know~~ and you could put them up on the wall. So, they had a dance. And one of the Rude boys come over. And in the meantime, Robertsons didn't have room for everything. They stored it in a empty house there. They hadn't come out ~~yet~~. ~~He'd~~ <sup>He'd</sup> come out and built a house and ~~he~~ went back for his family and he wasn't there yet. But they stored things at an empty <sup>B</sup> house. And they had an old organ, one of those <sup>B</sup> that you pump with your feet, and they wanted to know if they could store it over at my place and I said yes. I could <sup>chord</sup> ~~chord~~ on that organ, you know, not very good but after a fashion. It was good ~~enough~~ enough for what we had. Ole Rude played the violin and Enoch Nelson. Most of those fellows could play the violin, you know. So, Ole come over and he wanted to know if I would <sup>chord</sup> ~~chord~~ for him at ~~the~~ the dance.

And I had a revolver that I wore in my belt here so ~~William~~<sup>it</sup> showed you know.

Bob: You did!

~~Winifred~~: Oh, ~~yes~~! I had an experience with that when I first got it too.

Well, I guess I was pretty dumb wasn't I?

Bob: Well, I don't know. ~~What~~ what happened at the dance then?

Winifred: The men kept coming and all along they had put boards up. They had got lumber for something and they had put boards up all along the sides. They put the beds up against the wall and put boards. And all along two sides of that building were the bachelors. And not ~~one of them~~ a woman! And it got to be ~~twelve~~<sup>12:00</sup> o'clock, you know, and Ole and I were going along with our music. And there was ~~oh, yes, the~~ ~~three~~ three married women, the two Mrs. Robertsons and Mrs. Hanson and the two Robertson girls. Now, that made five altogether. Well, the ~~bachelors~~<sup>bachelors</sup> took turns dancing with them some, but, of course, they were preparing a wonderful lunch out in the kitchen. They had a leanto in the kitchen there and they were preparing a lunch for that great big bunch. I'm getting poetical. Well, anyway, finally about ~~twelve~~<sup>12:00</sup> o'clock here came three ~~bachelors~~<sup>bachelors</sup> from ~~Zahl~~ Zahl and they had some girls.

I think they were homesteading ~~down~~<sup>down</sup> someplace that way. Maybe ~~between~~<sup>between</sup> there and Williston they'd gotten those and brought them up. And then later on two more girls came. ~~The Rude boys could all cord the organ too you know and play the violin.~~ Some of those boys, the Rude boys, could ~~all cord~~<sup>chord</sup> on the organ ~~as well as play the violin.~~ as well as play the violin. One of 'em would come up and say, 'Now, if you wanta dance, I'll ~~cord~~<sup>chord</sup> for you. So, all right one of 'em would ~~cord~~<sup>Chord</sup> and I'd sit down. I don't know if anybody ~~asked~~<sup>asked</sup> me to dance ~~for awhile~~<sup>for awhile</sup> or not for awhile. I don't know how that was ~~that~~<sup>that</sup> I did ~~some~~<sup>some</sup> later on. But this Blake was at the dance and he got to laughing and he got tickled about that trip we'd made up from ~~Will~~ Williston and ~~his loss~~<sup>his loss</sup> about his losing that coat. And ~~the whole~~<sup>the whole</sup> situation struck me as amusing and I got to laughing too. Everytime we'd look at each other we'd have ~~to~~<sup>to</sup> laugh; it was so funny. It seemed funnier than ~~it~~<sup>it</sup> did at the ~~time~~<sup>time</sup>. At the time I wasn't laughing about it. I didn't think much about it, but afterwards it seemed to me it was funny. He was there. He lived there at Stady; that is, ~~he~~ he roomed there when he was working there. And I think he had a

homestead there ~~Anna~~ <sup>2:00</sup> someplace. I'm not sure 'cause he married a girl there later.

And then ~~about two o'clock~~ we ate ~~the most wonderful lunch~~ the most wonderful lunch those <sup>I</sup> ladies prepared. They were Minnesota ladies and they brought everything <sup>from Minnesota</sup> they ~~thought~~ thought they'd need up here. They had shifted up and driven through. They didn't have oxen; they had horses. Both the Robertsons had horses. Then in the morning the dance was over. I don't know whether it was ~~five~~ <sup>5:00</sup> or ~~six o'clock~~ <sup>6:00</sup> but I could go all that time. And here I have to go on canes.

Bob: You danced ~~all~~ all night long once in awhile in those days.

Winifred: Oh, all the time! We did that out at Deep River, too so I was used ~~to~~ to that.

Bob: Why did you carry a revolver?

Winifred: Well, I thought I would shoot gophers. No, I wasn't ~~mark~~ <sup>mark</sup> hunting!

Bob: You weren't a bounty hunter, huh?

Winifred: No-o-o! I'd thought I'd mean to shoot gophers because the Buchholz <sup>girls they</sup> gophers could all shoot gophers. Anyway, I sent ~~it~~ to Montgomery Ward for it. It was a Smith and ~~what was it now~~.

Bob: ~~Wesson?~~

Winifred: ~~That's right.~~ Wesson. And my sister got one. When I first wanted to try that revolver, I didn't know anything about <sup>one.</sup> it, ~~and~~ <sup>It</sup> came in the ~~mail~~ <sup>mail</sup>. ~~you know~~ I had a boyfriend and he came down to take me some <sup>place</sup>. I said, 'You know, I've got a revolver to shoot gophers ~~on~~ on my homestead. I had gone out ~~to try it out~~ in the first place way down in the pasture. I didn't want anyone to see me try it out. Instead of holding it out, ~~you know~~ I put it up by my face. And you <sup>know</sup> I got powder <sup>marks</sup> all over my skin and even the whites of my eyes were puff marked!

Bob: ~~Oh, no!~~

Winifred: ~~Wasn't that awful!~~ Well, I thought I did something wrong. I wonder what I did. ~~Anna some way or the other didn't say anything if she noticed those powder marks. She never said a word about 'em nobody did. But I tell you they looked awful! All around here, you know, and even the whites of my eyes. I was ~~trying~~ trying to shoot had my eyes wide open, you know. I was trying to shoot~~

~~something. A fence post I guess.~~ So, I watched him shoot. He set something up on a fencepost, a stone or a clump of dirt or something, and shot it like nothing; but he ~~held~~ held his revolver out. Well, I saw right away what I had done. I wasn't supposed to put that above my face. But I don't think I ever shot a gopher. I just carried it. When anybody came there they didn't come ~~after~~ <sup>after</sup> dark. They came in the daytime. Even the boys ~~I~~ I guess they were afraid <sup>that</sup> I would try to use that. To take me someplace, ~~they~~ they would come the day before or in the afternoon and tell me that they were going to stop for me at a certain time. So, I thought afterwards that maybe they were just a little uneasy about my ~~having~~ having that revolver. But I didn't use it. And my sister had one. I got married and I gave ~~that~~ that to one of the homesteaders out there. They were teachers. ~~Miss Burns was one. The first person I saw when we got out there was one of my old.~~ ~~Well,~~ we went out to

~~"Writing Rock". You know what that is don't you?~~  
 Bob: Ya, yes.

Winifred: We went out there for a picnic and there was lovely ~~spring water~~ springwater at the foot of that hill. We stopped there to get water to take up. We were going to eat our picnic lunch ~~on top of the hill, you know,~~ where the "Writing Rocks" were. So, here come Bert ~~and~~ Corey! "Oh, here's my old girlfriend" he said. And here he had married a schoolteacher from the state of Maine! Just think of it! She didn't know any better than to marry that fellow. And she couldn't sound her 'R's. She called him, "~~But's~~" instead of Bert. And she'd say so, ~~you're~~ one of Bert's. "But's old gir-rlfriends!" That was a ~~god~~ god, and

Bob: Well, that is ~~sure~~ quite something.  
 Winifred: ~~And they had all those hounds out there, too!~~  
 Bob: He still had those, huh?

Winifred: Ya. I didn't want ~~to~~ to be called his "old girlfriend". I use ~~the~~ They got their mail over at the ~~Sady~~ <sup>Stady</sup> Post Office; I used to see him once in awhile over there. She was a very, nice, educated, woman, but Bert Cory!

Bob: What did Stady amount to? Was there anything there ~~beside~~ besides the Post Office and the store? I mean was there ever a bank or a hotel?

Winifred: ~~Well, this is a picture of it.~~ Yes, there was a man named Ellsworth

that come out and started a newspaper called, ~~the~~ The Stady Leader, and another one started a blacksmith shop. And then they had a First National Bank, a post office, and store. Those were all built separate.

Bob: Oh! Well, that was quite a town then.

Winifred: Well, there wasn't anything at first, just one building. And the post office and the store and everything in one building. If any women had to stay ~~over~~ overnight, they slept with Mrs. Stady. Two and three in a bed. Didn't make much difference, you know. ~~But IBut I've got a picture here.~~

~~Bob: Hanson and Eric or Eravey?~~

~~Winifred: and wha....and what?~~

~~Bob: The name of the store there. Hanson and.... on the sign~~

~~Winifred: Oh!~~

~~Bob: I think there's a flagpole in front of a letter there or something.~~

~~Winifred: Oh! Arivee! A-r-i-v-double e. Hanson and Arivee. That was after I had proved up and gone.~~

~~Bob: I see.~~

~~Winifred: That was about 19...-19.....is there a date on the other side of it?~~

~~Bob: Let me look. Yes, August 1909.~~

~~Winifred: I had left.~~

Bob: You stayed on your homestead then ~~a year or two years~~ for about ~~what?~~

A year or two years?

Winifred: Oh, no! Fourteen months and you could prove up, you know. You stayed the last four months. You stayed altogether. You had to go on it within a certain time. ~~I don't know~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~it~~ was for four months or six months that you had to be <sup>out there on that</sup> ~~on that~~ homestead. I said I filed in January or February. It must have been four months because I went out there in June, then. My school closed in June and I was ~~out there~~ all ready. I went ~~right~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~out~~ right out there. June 1907, or '08, and then I could prove up in June, July, August, September, October, November. It must have been 1907, because <sup>in</sup> ~~then~~ 1908 I must have proved up, ~~the next year~~. I must have stayed out there all winter. Yes, I did! I was out there all winter in my claimshack. And I bought ~~the~~ another shack out there. I paid ~~hundred~~ <sup>\$100.00</sup> hundred dollars for one. It wasn't sealed up inside and it had a ~~tar~~ <sup>paper</sup> roof. My



older sister, Louise, had gone down to Indiana and I wrote for her to come up. There was a homestead that cornered on mine. I said ~~she could~~ <sup>she could</sup> get that ~~homestead~~ <sup>me</sup> ~~stead~~ <sup>that cornered</sup> ~~that cornered~~ on mine because the man ~~didn't~~ <sup>didn't</sup> want it. He would ~~relinquish~~ ~~relinquish~~ it. ~~Be glad to because he hadn't been on it.~~ ~~He would be glad to because he hadn't been out on it.~~ You have to be on there every so often. Once every six months or so and he hadn't been on it out there for awhile. So, my sister came right up; she wanted a homestead and so she took that. But I saw in her diary ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> she paid him ~~a hundred dollars~~ <sup>\$100.00</sup> and she didn't ~~need~~ <sup>need</sup> to ~~pay him~~ <sup>pay him</sup> anything because it was open for contest. She said he was in the hospital and he was glad to get anything at all. ~~So, she paid him the hundred dollars.~~ <sup>\$100.00</sup> That was what I ~~paid~~ <sup>had</sup> for my relinquishment. ~~Did that have a shack on it? Yes, and~~ <sup>right</sup> She had the shack moved ~~right~~ <sup>right</sup> down on the corner next to mine. ~~It did have a shack on it.~~ And he had a good well ~~there!~~ We could get water there but you wouldn't want to drink ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> because everything could drop into it. Grasshoppers, gophers, and insects and birds even.

Bob: It was an open well.

Winifred: Yes! That's what they had at Greenlands. But Clara Lee over at Stady ~~at~~ <sup>had</sup> a pump in his well and so we carr~~ied~~ <sup>ied</sup> these gallon syrup pails. We take four of them ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> we'd carry them all the way, ~~the~~ <sup>miles</sup> three ~~miles~~ <sup>miles</sup>. We'd wrap the hand~~les~~ <sup>les</sup> ~~you know, 'cause they'd cut in with water in.~~ ~~We'd take four gallons of water at a time.~~ We wouldn't take the water from that well but it was good water ~~good~~ <sup>good</sup> tasting water. We had no way to clean it out. ~~I don't know if it even had boards over it.~~ They just did things like that, you know, in the early days.

Bob: Where did you get your coal? Did you have to go quite a distance for that?

Winifred: ~~To Zahl~~ <sup>To Zahl</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> Mr. Greenland in that wagon that he had. ~~It just had planks on the sides high on the sides and one he could put in at the end and his oxen.~~ ~~And he'd go to Zahl~~ <sup>Zahl and he'd</sup> ~~he drove to Zahl and get~~ <sup>he'd</sup> a charge us a dollar and something ~~to deliver it for a ton of coal.~~ ~~But delivered for a ton of coal.~~ But it ~~slacked off~~ <sup>slacked off</sup> easy. You see, the old shack that was there I had ~~it~~ <sup>to</sup> attached ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> the back of the one that I bought. I bought one that was real good on the outside.

It had weatherboarding ~~it was tar paper~~; No, I believe it was weather <sup>begin here</sup> boarding and then tarpaper. And then inside there was no ~~ceiling~~ <sup>ceiling</sup> and a tarpaper roof because we had a terrific hailstorm that took my flax crop. And the hail stones....there was holes out there in my plowed field that ~~looked like~~ <sup>looked</sup> like baseballs where those hailstones had hit with such force. Well, they soon knocked all the tarpaper off of my roof. My sister had come out just the day before with her trunk and as it happened she got her trunk brought right out with her. When the hail cut off all the tarpaper on the roof, ~~the boards with that hot sun,~~ they had been green boards, ~~they~~ had shrunk and there were spaces that even the hail could come in. And ~~they knocked~~ they knocked out the window on the east side of my shack. ~~Let's see, did I have a screen on it then? I guess I just had screen on one window. I must not have had any on because I had a screendoor I know that. That was necessary.~~ I had screen on ~~the~~ <sup>one</sup> window. I had tacked it on myself. But the other window on the east side the hail came right in and it would bounce on the floor and then fly in some other direction. ~~You never know where they would be gonna fly.~~ And my bed was getting wet and my ~~wetting~~ bedding. Then when the hail was over it rained for ~~about~~ <sup>about</sup> three days and that roof leaked! And she got on her trunk with an apple ~~box~~ <sup>box</sup> turned over her head. They used to give us appleboxes at the store. And I had an applebox over my head. We had one umbrella and one applebox <sup>'cause</sup> ~~Because I know my thumb was 'cause~~ I know my thumb was sticking out and the hail ~~storm struck my thumb~~ stones struck my thumb and I had a sore thumb for a long time. Oh, they were just awful and they came with such force! As I remember, they were as big as baseballs. Not all of them; <sup>they were different sizes.</sup> ~~but some of them.~~ And the place where they ~~hit~~ <sup>hit</sup> the ground and then thawed that was all ~~pock~~ <sup>pock</sup>marked. All that plowed ~~ground!~~ <sup>ground!</sup> You couldn't tell ~~there~~ there'd ever been a crop on it.

Bob: That must have destroyed some of your garden vegetables <sup>to have</sup> ~~than?~~ <sup>Is it possible?</sup>

Winifred: Not the roots. They were all right. ~~I~~ I didn't tell ~~me~~ what I did with the rutabagas. I happened to think that cows would eat rutabagas and turnips. I'd been raised on a farm back East and so I asked Mr. Greenland if he would like to have the rutabagas for his oxen. Course, the tops were <sup>pretty bad</sup> cut off ~~me~~

~~July 11~~ I ~~said~~ I said I'm sure they'll eat them and I said maybe you'll have to cut them <sup>b</sup> but I said they'll eat them and ~~they're~~ <sup>they're</sup> good for 'em. Well, he tried them and sure enough those oxen would eat anything. They ate those rutabagas. And he went to work and he loaded 'em up on that wagon and took them home. I don't know where he put them there. He may have had another little building there. ~~I'm not to sure what he had.~~ When I bought that second ~~shack~~ shack, I had ~~the~~ the men ~~dig~~ dig a hole under it for a cellar. He may have had one of those. He may have put some of them in there, ~~because its quite awhile before they would freeze, you know.~~ Some of them may have frozen, ~~I don't know~~ but he took them all out and took them home. They would eat the tops, I know, but I don't believe the tops were left on 'em unless new tops grew after that hailstorm. I don't think they did because I think that hailstorm was in August. ~~By the time the crop was ready to harvest why... that's about the way it was.~~ ~~Let's see, was there anything else?~~

Bob: Where did you go after you left the homestead?

Winifred: ~~I had married.~~ I was married before I left the homestead. I was married late that fall so I wasn't there alone in the winter, <sup>a</sup> and my husband went to work and sealed up that inside and shingled the roof. Real ~~shingles!~~ shingles! It was very comfortable. I don't remember if he sealed overhead or not but it was a nice little building. Mr. Bolstead was going to use it for himself. He was living in a ~~sod~~ sod shack. He said it was worth ~~two hundred dollars~~ <sup>\$200.00</sup> but he would sell it to me for ~~a hundred.~~ <sup>\$100.00.</sup> All right, I paid him ~~a hundred dollars.~~ <sup>\$100.00</sup> And he said he'd move it over <sup>S</sup> some of the other neighbors helped him. They hitched the ~~oxen~~ oxen on it and pulled it over ~~and~~ and they dug a hole yet.

Bob: You were married then in 1909 ~~then about~~ or would it be earlier?

Winifred: 1908 / or '07 <sup>'c</sup> ~~because~~ <sup>'c</sup> my oldest boy was born in 1909. He would be <sup>67</sup> ~~sixty seven~~ <sup>67</sup> ~~seventy seven~~.

Bob: Was your husband a homesteader in that area, too?

Winifred: No, he's the one ~~who~~ <sup>who</sup> had filed on it in the first place, ~~because~~ <sup>'cause</sup> I know Mr. Rice came out and he thought that it was a big joke that after I'd buy the homestead then I would marry the man that filed on it.

Bob: Oh! He had started a claim and you'd bought the relinquishment and then he

~~He~~ came back and you got married.

Winifred: Yes. Later on, I had bought the relinquishment. I had had it for nearly a year, you see. I don't know what time it was. In January, I think. His father gave him three quarters of land and he was supposed to get rid of that homestead, <sup>b</sup> but he went out there with a bunch of other boys from Willow City and they filed on homesteads there and this was the one he filed on. He wasn't attached to it at all.

Bob: This was Mr. Erdmann?

Winifred:: Yes.

Bob: ~~He~~ He was from the Willow City area originally. ~~He~~

~~Winifred: Yes, I had a picture there of their family. I haven't got it here I guess. No.~~

~~Bob: Oh, we don't even have too much left here.~~

~~Winifred:: The only pictures here that are really interesting~~

~~Winifred: I think you got enough anyway.~~

~~Bob: Ya, I did get quite abit.~~

Winifred: The only pictures that I have down here that are <sup>really</sup> really interesting are I have the names of all the children and these two. Now, I had Mr. Hanson copy those pictures because so many people wanted them. <sup>They</sup> So many ~~of~~ tried to tell me the Ladies Aid had bought that schoolhouse and they tried to tell me that that schoolhouse when I taught in it that it was all sealed up overhead and on the sides. And I said No, it wasn't. ~~I~~ We went and had these pictures made and then I gave this Newiner boy, who has a museum of some kind out there at Uphman, and I gave him these for his museum. I was at the Ladies Aide there once. I used to go out there to see Mr. Ruepert. Ruepert was the <sup>P</sup> pastor and ~~he~~ the preached in my schoolhouse except when it was too cold and then he went to the Buchholz house. He was to come out there for a wedding and the river ~~is~~ was so high there was no bridge he had to go around some other way to get there. He didn't get there until the next day, and the bride and groom sat there and waited and waited all dressed up and waiting and all the guests and everybody. He lived at Cramer, you see. <sup>He</sup> They had to cross the ~~the~~ river to get to Deep River.

Bob: Disappointed bride and groom <sup>then</sup> I suppose,

Winifred: Ya, that was some~~x~~thing. She became Anna Olson. She married Christ Olson. He was homesteading out there. There were two weddings that fall. Emma was the older sister. ~~She married~~ and Ida. She married Will Zimmerman.

Bob: Tell me how you wound up in Minot here? Just briefly, so I get an idea of how you got from your homestead to here.

Winifred: Well, we lived on a farm <sup>there</sup> seven miles west of Willow City by ~~that~~ German Lutheran Church.

Bob: Oh, when you got married you moved there?

Winifred: When I proved up on my homestead.

Bob: Ya, I see.

Winifred: ~~Well, well~~ And then lived there. Well, you know, those bad years come along and we had no pasture for the cattle.

Bob: In the '30s I suppose.

Winifred: Yes, and somebody told him about Rega. That there was hay out there and pasture and that you didn't have to fence ~~it~~ it. You could ~~turn~~ just turn you r cattle ~~out~~ <sup>lose</sup> ~~lose~~ and herd 'em and they could forage clear down to the river.

It didn't make any difference. He thought that sounded pretty good so he came out and looked at it. I hadn't seen it until after he bought it. He paid five hundred dollars for one quarter and the old buildings that were on it. There were a whole lot of little buildings. ~~You know, there used to be a~~ they had moved in there. You know, there used to be a little town at Rega and that <sup>building</sup> that <sup>has a place</sup> ~~looks like this,~~ <sup>looks like</sup> that has a tent ~~roof~~ on it, <sup>well,</sup> that was on it.

Bob: Oh, is that where you lived? Right where Rega used to be right off the highway there?

Winifred: Yes.

Bob: I know the place even.

Winifred: That old building was the old livery barn at Rega and they moved it down there. I don't know who moved it down there. Baileys or <sup>one is</sup> ~~McDonalds~~. I just don't know ~~a~~ too much about who moved it down there. He paid five hundred dollars for that. Well, ~~we~~ we fixed it all up. It was an awful ~~place~~ <sup>palace</sup> but we took our cattle out there. Then there were three quarters of land south of <sup>the highway</sup> ~~there~~ <sup>down</sup> in. Are you there.

familiar with that area?

Bob: Yes.

Winifred: Well, it was about part way between Regan and DZnbenby. There were three quarters of land there and I bought those. They were supposed to be sold for taxes and my husband went down to buy them and here come a banker in and bid. He had a temper sometimes, you know, and he was real provoked to think that a banker would come in and bid against a farmer. All the banker was buying it for was to turn it over, you know.

Bob: ~~For speculation~~ Speculation or something.

Winifred: He ~~come~~ came home and he was so mad. I wasn't with him, you know, and he was ~~so~~ mad about it. And I thought well, the cattle were really mine anyway. I had had money from Indiana and I had invested in cattle. So, I felt kinda bad about it. I had a thousand dollar bond there that my mother had sent me from Indiana, ~~they lived~~. They lived in the Wabash Valley there with good, heavy, black, soil and they didn't think anything of North Dakota land. They didn't see it but ~~that didn't make any difference~~. My father had died in the meantime and my mother sent each of <sup>us</sup> a thousand dollar bond. So, the banker at Granville had bought it; ~~I didn't tell my husband what I was gonna do~~ and I went in there. I didn't tell my husband what I was <sup>gonna</sup> going to do as long as the cattle were <sup>mine</sup> mine I thought I would try and buy ~~this~~ <sup>that</sup> from this banker <sup>and</sup> and I went in and I asked him how much he wanted. Now, he got those three quarters for less than three hundred dollars. ~~I don't know how much he paid for 'em~~ I don't know what it was he paid for 'em. I don't know what there was against it now, maybe it was two hundred and something. And, of course, land wasn't worth a thing then.