

THIS is Larry Sprunk and the following is an interview that I had with Mrs. Margaret Johnson of rural Cartwright, North Dakota. The interview is held at Mrs. Johnson's home ~~outside~~<sup>near</sup> of Cartwright, Monday August 4, 1975, and it began at approximately ~~seven-thirty~~<sup>7:30</sup> in the evening. The interview is complete on this cassette.

LARRY: When did your family come to North Dakota originally?

~~MARGARET: My family?~~

~~LARRY: Yes.~~

MARGARET: My family came to North Dakota in 1896 and we came from just a little bit southeast of Portal.

LARRY: That's where you came to.

MARGARET: No, that's where we came from and that's where I was born.

~~LARRY: Oh, I see!~~

~~MARGARET: Up there you see.~~

LARRY: What was your maiden name?

MARGARET: Wood. My folks were George Wood.

LARRY: And where did they come from?

MARGARET: England in the first place. Come out to Canada and ~~there's~~<sup>that's</sup> where they met. They didn't come from too far apart in England either 'cause they didn't know each other. My dad and his folks came out first and then a little later my ~~mother's~~ mother's brother got the idea that he'd like to come out here, too! So, my grandmother coaxed my mother to come along with him. She thought it was an awful long ways for him to go all by himself! so she coaxed mother to ~~go~~<sup>come</sup> along! They settled not too far apart, you see, <sup>up there</sup> just across the Canadian line. Well, then a little later on, course, my dad and mother moved to North Dakota up there ~~at~~ about three or four miles, I think, from Portal.

LARRY: What was your mother's maiden name?

MARGARET: Jones.

LARRY: ~~What's your first name. I don't like to call people Mrs. you know.~~

MARGARET: ~~Margaret is my first name.~~

LARRY: ~~Can I call you Margaret?~~

MARGARET: ~~Yes, sure you can!~~

LARRY: And you were born at Portal in...

MARGARET: I was born southeast of Portal on the homestead. You know, in those days you ~~didn't~~ <sup>didn't</sup> go to a hospital. There wasn't any hospitals around so you were just born in the home where you lived.

LARRY: Do you know, Margaret, who was the midwife?

MARGARET: No, I really don't know that.

LARRY: How many were there in your family?

MARGARET: Four. There was three boys and me. There was one brother ~~older~~. He was killed in a car accident just out of Williston about three or four miles about two, three years ago. Then there's two brothers younger and they both live out in California. The youngest one is a doctor. He's been a doctor for many years now.

LARRY: What year were you born, Margaret?

MARGARET: It would be 1892!

LARRY: So, you're ~~eighty-three~~ <sup>83</sup> years old?

MARGARET: I'll be ~~eighty-three~~ <sup>83</sup> years old Saturday!

LARRY: ~~Is that right, well, happy birthday!~~

MARGARET: ~~Well thank you! Yes!~~

LARRY: Can you tell me where your dad's homestead was from Portal?

How many miles and what direction approxiamately?

MARGARET: Well, it would be about three miles southeast of Portal, ~~but~~ but I couldn't give you the exact description.

LARRY: ~~Oh, that's all right, right fine!~~ That's fine!

MARGARET: You see, I was only four years old when we came here and we came to Williston. My ~~dad~~ dad had been around this country for ~~quite~~ quite a while. He used to haul freight for people. He used to go all over even down <sup>into</sup> ~~to~~ South Dakota all around and make a little extra

money. I asked my older brother how they come to move down here from up there. Well, he said that it had been a ~~the~~ real dry year and there was no feed! Then in the fall it rained, green grass come up, they ~~ex~~ cut it and made hay out of it, and that had ~~some~~ <sup>little</sup> food value in it. ~~was~~ →

~~-----~~  
MARGARET: (So, he lost quite a lot of his cattle so that gave him the idea to move down here. When he moved down here, there was two other Englishmen come down here, too, and they had what was the Woodheid and Slater Ranch down there. They took some sheep from Andrew Nolley <sup>hide</sup> and then they had some cattle and a few horses. My brother, ~~the~~ Art Wood, <sup>on shares</sup> had that land until they had to sell the homestead for the <sup>Reservoir</sup> Garrison ~~Dam~~ when that was put in.

LARRY: ~~When your dad came down with these two other Englishmen to this area and they bought that ranch, where was this ranch, Margaret, from the nearest town?~~ <sup>that</sup>

MARGARET: ~~It would be a little bit, well,~~ It's prett'i'near straight south of <sup>Trenton</sup> ~~Freighton~~ only it's on the McKenzie <sup>Country</sup> side of the river. Yes, I can tell you about where it was! Well, you know, where they take that main road across there, where there's so much water on both sides, that main highway →

~~LARRY: Up by Williston you mean?~~

MARGARET: This side of Williston?!

~~LARRY: Ya.~~

MARGARET: This road ~~the~~ ~~right~~ there that turns at the foot of the ~~the~~ hill and come west. ~~the~~ My father's place was about ~~it,~~ ~~I~~ ~~suppose,~~ maybe four miles straight west.

LARRY: Was it close to the ~~the~~ Big Missouri River? ~~where?~~

MARGARET: Yes, it's fairly close to the ~~the~~ Big Missouri River. ~~the~~

LARRY: Who were these two other English families? Can you remember them?

MARGARET: Mr. Arthur Slater and George Heid.

~~LARRY:~~ ~~Oh~~ And the two of them and your dad went together and

bought this ranch?

MARGARET: Well, they homesteaded it, you see. They didn't have to buy it; they homesteaded it. They went together as partners and had their stock and everything <sup>all</sup> together! Our first little house was dug in the side of the hill, <sup>and</sup> there was logs for the front ~~ends~~ and the ends of it, and then they put a roof over it. That was our first little house, but that isn't there anymore. They built a better loghouse a little later and the old remains of that is down there yet.

LARRY: ~~Oh, is that right?~~ And that's where you grew up then?

MARGARET: That's where I grew up, ~~ya~~

LARRY: They would have moved down from ~~Portal~~ <sup>Portal</sup> about '96, then?

MARGARET: ~~Yes, Yes~~ Yes yes! The reason I remember that so well <sup>is</sup> ~~because~~ because my youngest brother was just three weeks old when they moved down there. He's four years younger than I am, you see, ~~that's the reason I can remember it so well.~~

LARRY: ~~How did they come down, Margaret, do you know?~~ Did they come down by wagon?

MARGARET: By wagon, ya. We crossed the river <sup>in a</sup> ~~in~~ rowboat, swam the team behind the boat, and took the wagon apart and hauled it over in the boat. ~~My~~ I suppose it must have made several trips. But I can remember it because I was kinda afraid, you know, the horses ~~behind~~ swimmin' behind how they kind of, you know, ~~pause~~ swimmin'. Well, a little kid and all that water! I didn't like it very much so I can kinda remember it, ya!

LARRY: Who were some of your neighbors down there? ~~Can you remember that?~~

MARGARET: Oh yes, yes! George Cartwright was one of 'um, but he sold out his relinquishment for that place and they moved up ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup> to ~~where is~~ the town of Cartwright. Then Mr. Heide and Mr. Slater took claims there, too, ~~you see~~ Then there was Alfred Robison. He was a ~~little~~ little bit farther east, but there wasn't too many here at the time we moved here. There wasn't too many <sup>livin'</sup> ~~down~~ down in there.

You ~~know~~ know where ~~Calistoga~~ <sup>Crowhightly</sup> is?

LARRY: Ya.

MARGARET: Well, it's just east of ~~Calistoga~~ <sup>Crowhightly</sup> where my folks ~~lived~~ <sup>homesteaded.</sup>

LARRY: They could run their cattle anywhere they wanted to?

MARGARET: Yes, and their sheep! Yes, and they had a summer camp for their sheep up on the Charbonneau and Lonesome. ~~"criks"~~ All those "criks" up there that wasn't settled at all, by any sake. It was all free ~~land~~ <sup>all</sup> land. You see, there was no ferries and not much way for people to get across here. They didn't want to come on this island, as they called it.

LARRY: Were things better for your dad ~~after~~ <sup>there</sup> after you got down ~~there~~ <sup>south of</sup> Williston?

MARGARET: Yes, I think they were, alright. But I think the years made a lot of difference. You know, when you strike those dry ~~years~~ <sup>e</sup> years, it was pretty hard going for those homesteaders. Pretty rough! You see, there was no towns close to them. There wasn't much at Portal at that time. I couldn't say just how much <sup>there was</sup> but I don't think there was very many houses there!

LARRY: ~~Margaret~~, How long did you live at this second place by Williston there?

MARGARET: Until I was married! ~~That~~ That was my home; that's where Roy come and got me. ~~He~~ (laughs)

LARRY: Oh! Can you tell me what you remember of the town of Williston in the early days? What kind of ~~town~~ <sup>was it?</sup> town ~~was it?~~?

MARGARET: A pretty little town in ~~those~~ those days! There wasn't too many houses. There was two or three ~~little~~ stores. There was Hendrichs and Brogers, I believe, those two stores. They're may have been some little ones, ~~like~~ <sup>like</sup> a grocery store and things. But those were the two main stores!

~~LARRY: Can I pull the shade down a little bit?~~

~~MARGARET: Ya, that's better!~~

LARRY: Did your dad have any trouble with coyotes and raising sheep?

*Wolves and*

MARGARET: Oh yes! They had to have a sheepherder with 'em all the time.

LARRY: Of the three Englishmen, who was the sheep man?

MARGARET: Well, they all took their turns! They all took their turns! One week one fellow went out and herded sheep, next week the next fellow did, and then the next week the third one, and then they started over again, ya.

LARRY: How many sheep did they run?

MARGARET: Well, they didn't have too many to start with. I think, they got a ~~thousand~~ <sup>1000</sup> head from Andrew Nolley.

LARRY: Oh! He had been there before them?

MARGARET: Oh, yes, he was here before! Yes, he was here ~~oh, I think,~~ about 1887 or ~~1888~~ <sup>1888</sup> around in there.

~~LARRY: Do you remember him Margaret?~~

~~MARGARET: Andrew Nolley?~~

~~LARRY: Ya.~~

~~MARGARET: Yes!~~

LARRY: ~~Was he an oldtimer already?~~ Was he an oldtimer already?

MARGARET: Oh yes, yes! George ~~Nolley~~ Nolley was his brother and he lived out from Alexander. I knew him real well, ya!

LARRY: Oh! Were they English too?

~~MARGARET: No! No, they were German. I believe so~~

MARGARET: No, they were German, I believe. They came from New York, I think.

LARRY: Was it Andrew Nolley that....

MARGARET: Yes, I think it was Andrew Nolley. I'm not sure! It could be that the two of them had the sheep together! I'm not sure about that, but I think it was Andrew Nolley that owned the sheep.

LARRY: When he sold out to your dad and your dad's two partners, where did he go? ~~there?~~ <sup>down</sup> Did he go out there then ~~with his brother?~~ <sup>to Alexander</sup>

MARGARET: No, he wasn't in with my folks. They'd just take these ~~sheep~~ sheep on shares, feed them, take care of ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup>, and get a certain per-

centage of the wool and the lambs for their work. That's the way they worked it!

LARRY: I was gonna ask you, Margaret, how they got the sheep across the Missouri River when they came down from Portal, but the sheep were already across the Missouri River!

MARGARET: Yes, the sheep were on this side you see! I don't know but they must have swam 'em. They must have swam 'em! They must have found a ~~place~~ <sup>plaque.</sup>. They probably had to take them quite ~~the~~ a ways, but they must have swam them across the river!

LARRY: Was there a ferry there in later years?

MARGARET: Yes, yes, there were several ferries ~~there~~ in later years!

LARRY: But not when you came across?

MARGARET: Not when I came across, no, no! The first one, I think, was down there around Banks. I believe that was the first one. Then there was one down there by Williston later on. Then old Cap Bailey had a ~~scow~~ <sup>scow</sup> that he went back and forth up and down the river with.

I know later on ~~Mr.~~ Roy's brother-in-law bought a big tractor and threshing machine and they crossed it. They had to cross that on this old ~~scow~~ <sup>scow</sup> because ~~the ferryboat~~ it was so heavy it would sink ~~in~~ <sup>the ferryboat.</sup>

LARRY: Were they able to get it across on this ~~scow~~ <sup>scow</sup>?

MARGARET: Yes, they got it across on this ~~scow~~ <sup>scow</sup>! ~~I think there's quite a lot of that in this book here.~~

LARRY: ~~Oh~~ That must of been a pretty big boat to haul ~~acrossed~~ a threshing machine!

MARGARET: Oh yes! They put it on the ferryboat in the first place. ~~They started to and~~ The thing begin to sink down, so ~~they~~ they backed it off! ~~It tells all about it in here what a time they had.~~ He had to do it in such a hurry! ~~and he had to be sure~~ He didn't have any time to be sure he had his <sup>?</sup> plapps right and he missed ~~ed~~ 'em!

LARRY: ~~Do~~ you ever remember seeing or hearing any steamboats ~~going~~ on the Missouri? ~~Were there any steamboats traveling on the Missouri then yet?~~

MARGARET: Yes, I think there was, but ~~that's~~ I don't remember seeing any. But I'm sure there was, yes!

LARRY: How did your dad and his partners get started in cattle? ~~them?~~  
Did they bring cattle with them from Portal?

MARGARET: They brought cattle with them from Portal and, of course, they swam those across the river. You know, in the fall lots of times <sup>the river,</sup> if you pick your places, ~~it~~ isn't so deep, especially if it's been a dry year!

LARRY: ~~And those days had~~ and those years had been dry years?

MARGARET: Those years had been dry years, you see.

LARRY: ~~Did~~ Did you know this George Cartwright at all?

MARGARET: Oh yes!

LARRY: What kind of a fellow was he?

MARGARET: Oh, he liked to be away from everybody where there was lots of hunting and trapping. He didn't care about being around civilization much. <sup>No</sup> Then after he <sup>+</sup> begin to get settled up here he moved <sup>on</sup> up to Peace River up in Canada. It <sup>got too</sup> ~~was~~ populated here for him!

~~LARRY: Oh, is that right?~~

~~MARGARET: Yes!~~

LARRY: He was a real loner, huh?

MARGARET: Yes, he was a real loner!

LARRY: Was he married?

MARGARET: Yes, and had a family. His family all went up there but one girl. She married Milton Millhouse.

LARRY: But Mr. Cartwright only wanted his family and that was enough for him, huh?

MARGARET: That was enough for him and he didn't care about anybody else around. He was one that didn't spend too much <sup>money</sup> because he didn't have many wants, <sup>and by</sup> He hunted wild game for 'em to eat, you see.

LARRY: Was he a rancher, too, or just a hunter and trapper?

MARGARET: I would say he was more of a hunter and trapper. He wasn't a rancher, no!

9  
LARRY: What kind of a house did he have up there by Williston before <sup>this town of Cartwright or</sup> he came down here to <sup>what</sup> became the town of Cartwright?

MARGARET: I think it must have been a little loghouse.

LARRY: He ~~must have been quite a fellow!~~ *sounds like an interesting fellow!*

MARGARET: Yes, I think it was a little loghouse. It wasn't too much of a house. Then they had one down here in Cartwright and that was made out of cottonwood lumber.

LARRY: Oh. How <sup>did</sup> ~~would~~ your dad and his partners control the coyotes and wolfs? Would they trap, too, or did they shoot them?

MARGARET: They shot them. They always had their guns with 'em and shot <sup>em</sup> ~~them~~ whenever they could. ~~They always had~~ they always had a good dog with the sheepherder. ~~Whoever herded the sheep had a good dog with 'em.~~ Oh, I know one night they always thought it was a wolf, but they weren't sure. They had several bands of lambs. This one had, oh, I suppose, couple hundred lambs or more in it and he killed over ~~a hundred~~ <sup>100</sup> of 'em!

LARRY: Is that right!

MARGARET: ~~Ya~~ Ya, he didn't eat them! Oh, one or two he chewed on and then the others he just bit them and killed 'em! They always thought that was a wolf; but, I don't know, nobody saw it, ~~you know.~~ There was lots of coyotes then, so it's hard to say.

LARRY: Did your dad or Mr. Heide or who was the other fellow?

MARGARET: Mr. Slater!

LARRY: Did they ever see any wolves?

MARGARET: No, they never saw any wolves; but they saw lots of coyotes.

LARRY: Ya, I'll bet! How did you like growing up in a loghouse with coyotes hauling around? Was it a nice childhood?

MARGARET: Oh, no, ~~that~~ I can't say that you could say that it was a real nice childhood. Although, my folks weren't afraid and, you know, ~~that~~ that makes a lot of difference to children.

LARRY: Ya.



MARGARET: ↓ I never was really awfully scared!

LARRY: Was it kinda lonesome around where you lived?

MARGARET: Yes, it was kinda ~~lomes~~lonesome! We didn't have ~~no~~many playmates. ~~you know!~~

LARRY: ~~It~~ Did the Heides or the Slaters have any children?

MARGARET: No, they were both <sup>bachelors.</sup> ~~bachelors!~~

LARRY: ~~Oh, they were bachelors!~~

MARGARET: ~~And Mr. Robinson was a bachlor, too, so when Cartwrights moved there were ~~no~~ children ~~there~~ a close ~~to~~ a 'tall.~~

LARRY: How many children did Mr. Cartwright have?

MARGARET: Six, I think, it was.

LARRY: Do you think your mother was lonesome, too? ~~Margaret, without having another ~~woman~~ to talk to?~~

MARGARET: Oh, she must of been! She must of been! I'd never advise anybody to get out and farm here like that, no. Course, there must of been times when she was very lonesome.

LARRY: As you were growing up, Margaret, did you ride horseback a lot?

MARGARET: Yes, I rode horseback.

LARRY: If you got around a little bit then, could you tell me if <sup>you</sup> ~~get~~ <sup>any other</sup> ~~get~~ around the southern part ~~of the~~ <sup>there were</sup> or the southern side of the Missouri River up there. Can you remember any other ranchers?

MARGARET: Oh, yes, there was Frank Banks and Frank <sup>Poe</sup> ~~Poe~~! Those would be the closest ones! And, you see, there wasn't ~~very~~ much homesteading at that time. They "squatted" first. They ~~couldn't~~ ~~f-~~ ~~couldn't~~ file on it; but they could build a house on it, live there <sup>and</sup> and then they had "first rights" ~~you see~~.

LARRY: Were they family men?

MARGARET: Banks and Poe, <sup>yes?</sup> Yes, they were both married men and had families.

LARRY: But they were so far away, I suppose, that you wouldn't get to see them very often?

MARGARET: Not very often because you had no way much of going and ~~there~~ <sup>they</sup> was no roads much. You see, ~~there~~ they was no roads much at 'tall in those days. ~~just~~ Just little trails where you went horse-back or with the wagon, ya.

LARRY: I was going to ask you, Margaret, did your dad have a sheep dog? You mentioned he had a dog. Was it <sup>one of those</sup> an English sheepdog's?

MARGARET: I don't know what kind it was, but ~~he~~ <sup>Dad</sup> sure thought the world and all of that dog. When they wanted to load their sheep ~~to~~ ship ~~em~~ in the fall, he'd have this dog with him. And he had some pet sheep that we'd raised as "bottle lambs" they call 'em now, and he would take and lead them. And, you know, a sheep if you can get one to go the rest will follow. He did this and then the dog would go around ~~and herd them~~ behind them and herd them all to follow, see. That's the way he got them to go where he wanted ~~them~~ to!

Larry: Where did they ship the sheep from?

MARGARET: They must have shipped <sup>em</sup> ~~it~~ from Williston. Yes, they must of shipped from Williston because there was a railroad there. My father freighted ~~em~~ them when they built the Great Northern through Williston!

LARRY: Is that right? That would have been ~~it~~ before your time?

MARGARET: Yes, before my ~~time~~ <sup>time</sup>! Yes, it was!

LARRY: So, your dad knew the country around there pretty well then?

MARGARET: ~~was~~ He did! And I asked ~~Arthur~~ <sup>Arthur</sup> ~~why~~ why he decided ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> come down. "Well," he said, "he'd travel around so much and if you ever were down in that ~~country~~ <sup>country</sup> you'd know it's kind of a protected country. Along the river, ~~there~~ there's trees and brush you know. There's shelter for the stock and there was a spring there. It was water and shelter! Course, they didn't have <sup>any</sup> barns in those days to amount to anything; but if you had feed and shelter, they <sup>do</sup> ~~are~~ pretty good! Course, ~~as time went on~~ they built sheds, you know, as time went on. Then in the summertime, in the spring after

lambing, they took their sheep out to these other sheeplands, ~~you~~,  
 pastured them during the summer, and then brought 'em down in the fall.  
 They would work all summer long puttin' up hay and then, ~~of course~~,  
 they'd have ~~their own~~ that to feed their sheep. Then they'd take 'em  
 out in the daytime if the snow wasn't too deep and let 'em graze and *then*  
 feed 'em at night. ~~you see.~~

MARGARET-LARRY: Did your family burn wood ~~for fuel~~ then for fuel?

MARGARET: Yes, yes! *B* But there was lots of wood. ~~you know!~~

LARRY: You didn't have to worry about digging coal?

MARGARET: No, my folks didn't! After we settled ~~up~~ here, the dif-  
 ferent ones, ~~if you know~~, then they begin to dig coal, but my folks  
 didn't because there's lots of wood around there.

Larry; ~~I'm interested in just about anything, Margaret, you~~ Can tell  
 me, Margaret, about how your family lived. For instance, what kind  
 of meals would your mother cook? She didn't have a grocery store  
 right next to the house, so what kinds of things would she cook?

MARGARET: Meat, pototoes, bread and butter, oatmeal, boiled beans,  
 and bacon. My mother was a good cook! My dad tells me that mother  
 was known as the best cook around that community!

LARRY: ~~Is that right?~~ And she had to cook for the bachlors, too, I  
 suppose?

MARGARET: Oh yes, and wash for 'em! All on a board, tub and board!  
 Quite a <sup>different</sup> life, I'll tell you! My mother came from a quite well-to-do  
 family in England so it must <sup>now</sup> of been an awful change for her! It  
 must of been!

LARRY: ~~Do~~ Do you think ~~that~~ she ever cursed the day that she saw the  
 Missouri River?

MARGARET: I don't know, but I've wondered! Yes, because she really  
 did go through a lot of hardships alright and done an awful lot of  
 work. She didn't even have a sewing machine and she made all our  
 clothes! She knit mittens, stockings, sweaters, caps, and everything  
 of that kind! She sewed all the other by hand and her stitches were

the nicest, neatest, little, stitches you ever saw! I wonder how she got time to do all that work!

~~LARRY: That's for sure!~~

~~MARGARET: Ya~~ And you couldn't buy bread in those days. ~~you know!~~ You baked all your bread! And we picked wild fruit! We used to get out and pick currants, gooseberries, ~~grapes, and we picked~~ plums, and grapes! We picked wild hops and made yeast ~~from~~ out of 'em!

~~LARRY: Is that right!~~

~~MARGARET: Oh yes, yes,~~ I can remember us kids with our little pails following mother as she went lookin' for these berries and goin' and pickin' the hops and things that grew wild.

LARRY: How would she make yeast from them?

MARGARET: Well, I wondered! I don't know that, but she did! She made yeast from it! I don't know whether they could buy a ~~little~~ "start" or something to help it to start, but I've often wondered!

LARRY: ~~So, you'd get currants and gooseberries!~~ Would you get grapes?

MARGARET: Grapes and plums!

LARRY: ~~Were~~ Were there any juneberries?

MARGARET: Yes, <sup>o</sup> juneberries!

LARRY: Chokecherries?

MARGARET: ~~Ya~~ Ya, that's about ~~what~~ what there was!

LARRY: Would she can <sup>?</sup> ~~that~~ then?

MARGARET: Yes, <sup>yes</sup> she did! Made jam out of some of it, you know. My mother was a very progressive person and my dad was, too! I often think ~~that~~ when they came out here they didn't have any money, you know, My dad didn't have anything! I know he didn't! He worked his way and he done anything he could to make a few dollars. That's why he done so much calling people around because he could maybe get ten dollars! Well, that was worth something in those days!

~~LARRY: Sure.~~

MARGARET: My dad used to haul grain with a cradle!

~~LARRY: Is that right?~~  
LARRY: When you were a girl or before that?

MARGARET: Well, I ~~supposes~~'spose maybe about the time I was a baby. He didn't after he came down here, but up there by the Canadian line he did. He had oxen, ya.

~~Will~~LARRY: But after he got south of the Missouri, ~~up there~~ by Williston, he didn't farm anymore, ~~then~~ or did he?

MARGARET: Well, he didn't ~~work~~ for a while. He had mostly the cattle and the sheep <sup>and</sup> raised a few oats for feed, but they didn't raise ~~any~~ wheat. As times got ~~bottoms~~ <sup>a</sup> little better and there <sup>was</sup> a better way to take it to market, then, ~~of course~~ they started to plant a little wheat, too, ~~you see~~. But he used to haul wool from their sheep camp up here on the Walonson and take it down to Sioux Crossing

~~there~~ where they had the ferry there. There was an old road ~~that was~~ just a track along the side of the hill. I heard him tell how he

~~would~~ <sup>would</sup> sit on the upper side of the road in ~~the way~~ <sup>case</sup> that if it would slide <sup>so</sup> he could ~~save himself~~ jump off and save himself <sup>'cause</sup> ~~course~~, there was no good road at all! It was just little ruts and something would happen that the wagon would jump, <sup>and</sup> you know, he thought it might pull the horses over the ~~back~~ <sup>bank. So</sup> he'd always sit on the uphill side so he could slide off. I've heard him tell about being out in storms!

~~Now, what you know~~, Nowadays people that are out in ~~storms~~ freeze to death so easy. He ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> out so many many times! He'd either turn

the wagon box or the sled box upside down and crawl in under it, ~~and if~~ he couldn't get to where they wanted <sup>he'd dig</sup> maybe just a hole in the snow-bank, take his covers and ~~put~~ <sup>there</sup> in there, crawl in, <sup>there</sup> and sleep there!

And, you know, ~~they~~ they didn't have the good clothes in those days! ~~They~~ When he freighted on the Great Northern, ~~they~~ they just had gunny-sacks wrapped around their shoes ~~to~~ to keep the cold and snow out.

LARRY: Did your mother worry a lot about your dad when he was away?

MARGARET: Why she must have! ~~My mother was very good-natured and even tempered. She never said anything, but I know now that she must have worried! She couldn't help it because dad was often gone, you~~



some of these stools and things to set on! And <sup>for a</sup> ~~the~~ bed we quite often just put a straw tick on the floor ~~you know~~ and then put ~~our~~ quilts on, ~~the~~

LARRY: Did this cabin have a wood floor or a dirt floor?

MARGARET: The first one had a dirt floor!

LARRY: At Portal?

MARGARET: Ya, ya, and I'm not too sure but <sup>what</sup> our first one down here ~~the~~ had a dirt floor, too!

LARRY: The ~~dig out?~~ <sup>dugout?</sup>

MARGARET: ~~Yes~~ Yes, ya, I think it did, but then the other one had cottonwood boards.

~~LARRY: The logcabin?~~

~~MARGARET: Yes, the logcabin ya.~~

LARRY: Did your dad's ~~two~~ two partners ~~had cabins of their own~~ ~~the~~ have cabins of their own or they did stay in the same house that your dad had ~~the~~ built?

MARGARET: They stayed with us for a while and then they built a cabin for themselves on one of the other places, ~~you see~~. It was just across the "crik" <sup>rem</sup> but they ate with my folks! ~~Mama-cook~~ "Mama" cooked for ~~them~~ for a long time!

~~MARGARET~~/LARRY: Oh, I see! When did your mother die, Margaret?

MARGARET: I believe it was about the '40s. I can look it up and see!

LARRY: Did you talk to her at all about those early days after you had gotten older?

MARGARET: ~~No, no~~ Not too much but I sure wish now ~~now~~ I'd talk to her about it more! Yes, I do!

LARRY: Do you think your mother liked that country there? Did she grow to accept the kind of life that she had?

MARGARET: Oh, yes, I do! I think mother did, yes!

LARRY: She must have been a patient, good-natured lady!

MARGARET: She was! That's what all the neighbors where she lived up

in Canada and down here would say about her! She was very patient. And dad used to hunt quite a little game, ~~you know~~, wild ducks and cranes and things like that. He said that there was nobody could ever fix wild meat like mother could! <sup>just</sup> She could make it ~~just~~ so choicest!

LARRY: Oh! What other kinds would you have to eat that your dad hunted? Would you have rabbits?

MARGARET: Yes, and deer!

LARRY: ~~Prairie~~ <sup>Prairie</sup> chicken?

MARGARET: Yes, prairie chicken. ~~Yes~~ Yes, there was quite a little of that, ~~was~~

LARRY: Oh? So, you had fresh meat ~~then~~ pretty often?

MARGARET: Well, you had quite a little of fresh meat, especially in the fall and in the wintertime. Then in the summertime, ~~of course, of~~ you wouldn't have so much because the game isn't good until it gets on toward fall. We used to have pork that we'd buy, fry down, and then cover it with lard. That's the way you used to keep it and then mother canned some of it, too!

LARRY: When she fried down the pork and covered it with lard, would she put that in stone crocks? ~~then?~~

MARGARET: Yes, yes, ~~she did, ya!~~

LARRY: ~~Where~~ would you get your flour from, ~~is~~ Williston?

MARGARET: Yes, and we used to buy, ~~at~~ six, seven, <sup>or</sup> eight <sup>100-</sup> hundred pound sacks at a time and a <sup>100</sup> hundred pounds a sugar. We never went ~~to~~ to town in the wintertime! We went in the fall and bought our supplies, ~~you see.~~

LARRY: The only kids that you had to play with were your brothers, ~~isn't?~~

MARGARET: Yes, yes, ~~that was it mostly!~~

90 LARRY: Being the only girl in the family, Margaret, ~~when you were growing up,~~ were you your mother's helper? ~~quite a bit?~~

MARGARET: ~~Oh~~ Oh yes! Us kids all had a job to do and that's what I think is wrong with the world nowadays! They think kids shouldn't do

anything. We knew what our job was and we did it! They never got after us; we knew what we had to do! ~~I suppose if we hadn't done it they would.~~ But that's the way we were taught! I hear of people nowadays ~~they~~ <sup>who</sup> think washing dishes is the worst kind of work you can do! I've washed dishes ever <sup>since</sup> I was four or five years old and I never minded! I thank mother that she made me do that! That was part of my work and help make beds and sweep the floor and carry water and wood! The boys had chores to do <sup>to</sup> ~~and~~ help around the barn! We always had our work!

LARRY: Did your mother teach you how to sew and ~~hand-stitch~~ <sup>hand stitch</sup> too?

MARGARET: Yes, ~~she~~ but I never could do it as nice as she could! Yes, she did! And, you know, there was no school in those days over here. We had our school every morning! We had our reading, 'riting, arithmetic, spelling, and geography! When we started to school, we started in the third grade.

LARRY: Oh! The first two grades your mother had been your teacher?

MARGARET: Yes, yes!

LARRY; Was she a good teacher?

MARGARET: You bet she was a good teacher! ~~Yes, she was!~~ She was quite talented as a mother. She was a ~~good~~ good organist, but of course we didn't have a organ for many many years! You know, when we got that organ she could sit down and play just so easy! That's one thing that I've always felt that I never had a chance to take music because I love music and singin'. And, ~~you know~~ when you have no instrument ~~you~~ you haven't much ~~chance!~~ <sup>chance!</sup> Of course, <sup>then</sup> as we got older she probably could have taught us a little, but we weren't too interested then. ~~you know~~ We could get out of sight and do it and ~~they~~ they wouldn't see us, yes!

LARRY: When did the homesteaders start coming in then, Margaret?

MARGARET: About 1905.

LARRY: And you would have been about <sup>13?</sup> ~~thirteen then?~~

MARGARET: Yes.

do here

LARRY: Were you glad to see 'em come?

MARGARET: Yes, I was yes! I think probably they was a few straglers ~~that~~ came in in '04, but not the real homesteaders. Now Millhouses came here in 1902, but they had stock. They had horses and cattle. And Abners and ~~Brent~~ <sup>Brent</sup> Kellog came about that time, ~~too~~, but they settled along the edge of the hills and had stock, ~~you see~~. Then, of course, they started to farm. They got their boats across ~~of~~ to take their grain.

LARRY: Did they have children or families?

MARGARET: Yes, Millhouses had family and Adlers. No, Adlers didn't have any family. ~~And he passed away~~ And he passed away ~~and~~, about the time we were married. She married again and she had a son. ~~Her son lives down here on the Alfred Callitson place.~~

LARRY: Oh! When did you start going to school then? You said you started in the third grade.

MARGARET: ~~Yes~~ Yes. I started ~~let's see~~ about 1906, I think it was. There was a few kids with families, ~~you see~~ by that time.

~~LARRY: Ya.~~

MARGARET: And so our first school was a little logcabin kinda around the edge of the hill. We walked to school; we could walk that far! Then they built a ~~school~~ school, ~~oh~~ about a year or two later down in the bottoms, what would be in the middle of that water, ~~you see~~, ~~out there on the west side of the road~~ out there on the west side of the road. Then we rode horseback to school!

LARRY: How far were you from that school?

MARGARET: Well, the time they lived and we went to the little log school we moved to another little shack for the winter. ~~Then we could walk to school~~, but we were about six miles from school. We rode horseback or went in the wagon.

LARRY: Was your older brother going to school, ~~too~~ too?

MARGARET: Yes, we all four went to school ~~at~~ the same time! We all

started at the same time, ~~and~~!

LARRY: And he would drive the wagon. ~~I suppose?~~

~~MARGARET: Yes. And when just two of us went ~~lots~~ of times, we went horseback because we rode horseback a lot. Then when we were only in the wagon, there was two little French boys on the way to school that we used to take up and give a ride to school.~~

~~LARRY: Was that their name, French?~~

~~MARGARET: No, no~~ Their name was Panggor! Pangor!

~~LARRY: Oh!~~

~~MARGARET: Les Panggor here in Williston is one of those boys!~~

~~LARRY: Is that right?~~

~~MARGARET: Yes, he is! He's one of those little boys!~~

Larry: Who was your first teacher, Margaret, ~~can you remember that?~~

~~Makin' it tough for you now!~~

MARGARET: Oh, if I think a little while I'll think of who it was! I believe our first teacher was a man teacher and his name was George- I don't ~~just~~ just think of it now. I'll have to think a while.

LARRY: ~~O.k.~~ O.k. Do you think ~~that your dad~~ that your dad was glad to see the homesteaders come in? ~~or did he know that that was going to be the end of the free range?~~

MARGARET: Oh, he knew that it was the end of the free range, but my dad accepted it! My dad was very progressive! My dad had very little education! He worked in a mill in England and he worked in the dye department. He had ~~never~~ gone to school <sup>just</sup> only a couple of winters but he educated himself. He did a lot of night work and he went to night school. Of course, that only meant <sup>just</sup> getting a fair education so that you could get along! But you couldn't beat my dad in reading and knowing what went on in the world! He kept good track of everything! He was quite progressive and he liked to see things get better all the time and be easier; but ~~was~~ they had so little to do for so long that it took quite a while to get a start!

LARRY: ~~Can you remember anything, Margaret, that your family looked really looked forward to getting? Was there anything that your mother really looked forward to getting besides the Morgan? I'm sure she wanted that for a long time!~~

MARGARET: ~~Oh yes!~~ No, I don't know! I think she was pleased whenever she could get to any improvements, but she wasn't one that ever scolded or was ~~crabby~~ because she couldn't have this or that. She was very good-natured!

go [ LARRY: What kind of Christmases ~~would~~ would you have? ~~Can you tell me about those?~~

MARGARET: Well, we used to hang up our stockings' for Christmas and that's the only time of the year we ~~did get~~ <sup>ever got</sup> candy! We did get a little candy in our stockin' for Christmas ~~but~~ but, we didn't get ~~toys~~ toys much! I'll tell you they didn't have money for toys <sup>lem</sup> and they didn't have much way to get ~~them~~ if they did ~~but~~ but we used to always hang up our stockin'! We'd have candy and nuts and maybe they'd be some little thing in that stockin'; but, of course, if the ~~the~~ weather got bad and they didn't get to town, maybe there was just the candy and nuts!

LARRY: Were there pine trees along the Missouri? ~~What~~ ~~the~~ What kind of a tree would you have?

MARGARET: Oh, we didn't have a Christmas tree! We didn't have any Christmas ornaments to put ~~on~~ on it or anything. We did have the native ~~cedar~~ <sup>cedar</sup> though and a little later on then we ~~we~~ would string ~~popcorn~~ popcorn and cranberries and things like that and trim the tree. But when ~~we~~ we were ~~little~~ little tots we just hung up our stockings' by the stove. We didn't even have any chimney for him to come down because it was just a stovepipe, ~~you know, ya!~~

have [ LARRY: ~~How~~ How long did it take before you felt ~~as though you were making it, you know, that you had a few things that your parents had been able to buy and things were getting a little bit better?~~ <sup>that</sup>

MARGARET: Well, a year before I was ~~my~~ married my dad began to get ~~my~~

quite crippled with ~~arthritis~~ <sup>arthritis</sup>

~~NO QUESTION~~

MARGARET: He and the ~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> younger boys went. Arthur, the older boy stayed here with mother and I and he done the farming this next year. They went out there and ~~the~~ <sup>they planted</sup> ~~plotted~~ ~~I think, it was~~ mostly alfalfa. ~~There~~ there was a few fruit trees down there, I think, but prett'i'near all alfalfa land and they cut the alfalfa and sold it. ~~you see~~. They used to cut three, four crops a year, ~~you see~~. Well, then he come back in the fall.

LARRY: What year ~~was this approximately?~~ <sup>would this have been?</sup>

MARGARET: This was in 1909. This is 1909 'cause 1908 he went out there and he and the two boys stayed there. Then he came back in the fall of 1909 and sold the grain ~~what~~ we had, and what little machi- inery and stuff. We didn't have ~~much~~ much! He sold out his share in the partnership business to Mr. Heide and Mr. Slater, ~~you see~~, and then he and mother went out there and then they lived out there! ~~Well~~ Well, I got married! I didn't wanna go way out there!

~~LARRY: You didn't?~~

~~MARGARET: NO!~~

LARRY: Did you like this country then, Margaret?

MARGARET: Oh, yes, ~~that~~ I liked it! That's all ~~that~~ I'd ever known ~~you know~~, and I liked it! I liked ~~to~~ to ride horseback and I liked ~~to~~ to be outside. I'm quite an outside girl and I loved to pick berries and things yet!

LARRY: Tell me ~~now~~ ~~a little bit~~ ~~about~~ about how you met Roy!

MARGARET: Well, I met him at a dance at Frank ~~Macintoshes~~ Macintoshes. ~~That~~ That was about ~~where~~ <sup>sister</sup> I suppose, about three miles west yet of where we lived. He and his ~~brother~~ <sup>sister</sup> and husband and I believe a neighbor couple from up here drove down ~~here~~ <sup>there</sup> to the dance. You see, in those days there wasn't too much going on. If you could get there, <sup>why</sup> it was fine and everybody was welcome! In fact, they used to take what little ~~stuff~~ stuff they had in the house out and then use the ~~whole~~ whole house

to dance in because ~~usually~~ <sup>it is</sup> just one big room, you know.

LARRY: ~~Ya.~~

MARGARET: So, they came down ~~here~~ <sup>to</sup> to this dance and that's the first time I saw him. Then after ~~that~~ <sup>Irv,</sup> that's his brother-in-law, bought this big engine and threshing machine, he fired this engine for Erb!

LARRY: ~~How did?~~

MARGARET: ~~Yes,~~ <sup>across</sup> and they threshed a little bit on the other side ~~a~~ <sup>Ferry</sup> ~~across~~ the river. Then they went across of what was Ralm's ~~scow~~ and that was where they prett'i'near ~~swamped~~ "swamped" the boat! They'd been trying to get this fellow with the ~~skaul~~ <sup>scow</sup> to bring ~~them~~ <sup>lem</sup> across, but the river had gone down and this ~~scow~~ <sup>scow</sup> was stuck on the ~~sand~~ sandbar. So, he worked and he worked and he couldn't get it off of this sandbar so then they decided ~~if~~ they'd try it with the ferryboat. ~~That~~ Then when ~~it~~ <sup>the</sup> began to sink they had to think of something else! Well, they tried to back the outfit off the ferryboat and missed the planks and it settled down in the sand, but they dug a deadman in and fastened it to it for the night and the next morning they had to try and work it back out again. Well, they worked on that for quite a ~~while~~ little while. ~~And~~ In the meantime, the river raised a little bit and this old captain managed to get his skaul off of the sandbar!

LARRY: What's a deadman? I mean you said they dug a deadman.

MARGARET: ~~Don't~~ <sup>Didn't</sup> you know what that ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup>?

LARRY: No, I don't!

MARGARET: That's some ~~big~~ great, ~~heavy~~ <sup>heavy</sup> object that you bury in the sand and put a rope around it and fasten that to your engine or whatever you have ~~to~~ to anchor it so that it couldn't get away. ~~you~~ Well, that's the way they fixed it. I think they probably used a big rock or something ~~like~~ 'cause that's ~~what~~ what they used lots of times!

LARRY: But that next day ~~then~~ they got it back ~~out~~ out!

MARGARET: Yes, and loaded on this ~~scow~~ <sup>scow</sup> and he brought it across

Of course, they had taken the separator across first because that wasn't so heavy. ~~you see!~~

LARRY: They took that on the ferry?

MARGARET: Yes! They took that on the ferry, but this ~~tractor was~~ tractor <sup>had</sup> ~~was~~ ~~so~~ ~~much~~ ~~iron.~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~area.~~ It was awfully heavy <sup>that</sup> so then they had to load ~~it~~ <sup>SCOW!</sup> on the ~~skow~~ and take it across.

LARRY: What year was that? ~~about 1909 or '08?~~

MARGARET: No, that would be 1906 and then he threshed. They ~~threshed~~ threshed on their way up. They threshed for my folks and they threshed for all the others all along that area. ~~By~~ By that time, quite a few <sup>had</sup> ~~w~~come in/. The fall of 1905 and then 1906 saw a lot of homesteaders lookin' for homesteads. So, then they finally came across here because it was pretty fair lookin' land. ~~you see.~~

LARRY: When had Roy homesteaded?

MARGARET: He wasn't old enough to homestead yet! He came with his folks and their homestead is in East Village, ~~you see, kitty corner across over here.~~ That's where his folks lived and he lived with them. Well, then he "squatted" on this little quarter down here at the corner and ~~he~~ ~~h~~auled logs and built a little log/cabin ~~there~~ there. I think it was open for filing in 1905, but he wasn't old enough then. Some of this was closed and it was what they called, "military division" ~~so~~ so it was withdrawn from filing. But he "squatted" there and as soon as it opened up, ~~he~~ ~~came~~ he filed on it!

LARRY: He was old enough then?

MARGARET: He was old enough! That was 1907, I think! He used to go over and help his folks. ~~you see.~~ He didn't have any outfit then! You see, his folks loaded a car and come out. They had some machinery and a few horses. He had one horse when he come out here and then he bought a team ~~from~~ from Millhouses. So, he had three horses and that's what he broke his first little patch of grain with. It was these three horses and a ~~plow!~~ ~~plow!~~

LARRY: ~~So~~ When Roy came ~~my way~~ to the dance ~~that~~ that night he came all the way from here?

MARGARET: Ya!

LARRY: That's quite a jaunt, isn't it?

MARGARET: Why, I should say so! Why, people would ~~think~~ think you were plumb crazy if you did things like that now!

LARRY: How far was it?

MARGARET: Oh, I suppose it was ~~eighteen~~<sup>16</sup> miles!

LARRY: Did he ride a horse or come with a buggy?

MARGARET: No, I think they ~~came~~<sup>came</sup> with a light wagon. ~~Yes~~ There was Roy and his sister and husband and another couple so they came in a light wagon.

LARRY: How old were you then, Margaret?

MARGARET: Well, I'd be about ~~eighteen~~<sup>15</sup>.

LARRY: Were you pretty impressed with this young Roy Johnson?

MARGARET: I always was from the time I first saw him! ↗

~~LARRY: You were, huh?~~

~~MARGARET: Yes.~~ I found a ~~diary~~<sup>diary</sup> not too long ago and ~~when~~<sup>when</sup> I ~~saw~~<sup>saw</sup> what his ~~impression~~<sup>impression</sup> was <sup>of me</sup> when he first <sup>met</sup> saw me. He thought I was an awful quiet, ~~queer~~<sup>queer</sup> little kid! ~~I know that!~~

LARRY: So, you were ~~fifteen~~<sup>15</sup> when you first met him! Were you ~~seventeen~~<sup>17</sup> when you married?

MARGARET: Ya.

LARRY: And that's when your folks ~~went~~ went to California?

MARGARET: That's when they went there to stay! My dad and two boys had gone the year before ~~to~~

LARRY: Did that seem to you to be quite an undertaking, Margaret, to get married? ~~Were you ready for it or how did you feel?~~

MARGARET: Oh, yes, I didn't want to go clear out to California. I knew who I wanted! ~~We~~ We had our ~~sixty fifth~~<sup>65<sup>th</sup></sup> wedding anniversary, you ~~last~~ last fall!

~~LARRY: That's right!~~

Here

MARGARET: Ya, and there's never <sup>been</sup> one day that <sup>I</sup> ever ~~wished~~ I hadn't married him!

LARRY: ~~That's good!~~

MARGARET: ~~It is!~~ I don't think too many people can say that!

LARRY: No!

MARGARET: No, I always was so satisfied with my life. It's a shame when ~~you're~~ you're so satisfied! You know, I think ~~some~~ some people wouldn't look at it that way!

to here

LARRY: Margaret, ~~I~~ I wanted to ask you ~~about~~ something.

You mentioned that Roy had built a log cabin where he was ~~squatting~~ "squatting" before he filed or was able to file.

MARGARET: Yes!

LARRY: Where would he haul the logs from? From the Yellowstone or from the Big Missouri?

MARGARET: Between the Yellowstone and the Big Missouri. You see, the Yellowstone joins the Missouri ~~down here~~ and that's where he hauled them from. ~~down there~~

LARRY: There were a lot of ~~logs~~ ~~traces~~ along there?

MARGARET: Yes, ya.

go

LARRY: ~~Was~~ when you came up here with Roy in '09 ~~is~~ when you ~~came up here?~~ <sup>got married?</sup> Was he farming then or running cattle?

MARGARET: He was farming then,

LARRY: Then you've lived here ever since?

MARGARET: Yes, our homestead was down here at the corner. Then there was another neighbor, John Shay, that homesteaded this place. In 1912 ~~was~~ was a good crop; 1910 and '11 had been pretty dry! So, he decided he was going to sell and go back to Wisconsin. So, we didn't have a very good well down at the other place and there's a real good well here. So, we decided we'd buy this ~~place~~ place. He laughed at me afterwards! We bought one quarter over here so we had ~~half~~ half a section. ~~We~~ We didn't have it quite all paid for so I thought maybe we should wait. "No," he said, "John wants to sell now and now is the

time to buy ~~it~~ So, we did! ~~The~~ <sup>their</sup> house was the shape of this building out here and another one this same size together. They sold half of it and built on to that. Oh, they didn't have it finished at 'tall on the ~~outside~~ <sup>inside</sup>. You could look outside in the cracks and how they kept it warm in there I don't know! That's one thing about the log house and the sodhouse ~~they were~~ They were good, warm houses and they were cool in the summertime! There was a sodhouse up here just a little ways.

~~LARRY: I think I might have the picture. Was it this one?~~

~~MARGARET: Yes, that's it.~~ Now that was a good house until about <sup>10,</sup> ~~ten,~~ <sup>12</sup> twelve years ago. They didn't keep the roof up on it, you see.

LARRY: ~~So,~~ So, the year after Roy bought this place, you had a good crop? ~~then?~~

MARGARET: The year we bought this place we had a good crop. So, ~~then,~~ then, ~~you see~~ Shay wanted to sell because he says, "Maybe next year we won't get <sup>any</sup> a crop again ~~it~~" So, we bought it and then we moved up the next year; ~~but,~~ but, of course, we did a little fixing ~~before~~ before we moved up. I don't see how they kept it warm in here because all they had was a heating stove and a cookstove! Of course, we built on to this afterwards, but there was this part of the stove and this set out kinda L-shaped. I know that it froze in that bedroom ~~a pail of water!~~

~~LARRY: Is that right!~~

MARGARET: ~~So, I don't know!~~ It was that cold in there! ~~So, I don't know!~~ I 'spose they put ~~covers~~ covers enough on to keep warm because it was just <sup>2 x 4's</sup> ~~two by fours~~ and siding on it and then some kind of tarpaper stuff on ~~the~~ the inside and wherever that got torn you could see on the outside, ~~yes!~~

LARRY: How were the years after you bought this place? ~~then?~~ Were the crops pretty good? Were you able to pay for the place?

MARGARET: We paid for it! You betcha' we paid for it! Roy said that as long ~~as~~ as we don't mortgage our homestead, ~~we're~~ we're alright!

We give a mortgage on this other quarter to <sup>get money to</sup> pay for this place. ~~you see,~~  
 We only owed ~~five hundred dollars~~ <sup>\$500.00</sup> on ~~this~~ <sup>that</sup> place; we had it all ~~paid~~ <sup>paid</sup>  
 with that. '13 and '14 ~~were~~ <sup>were't</sup> too good <sup>of</sup> years, but we always had little  
 crop and we always ~~had~~ milked cows and had chickens. I made butter  
 and we took butter and ~~eggs~~ to town and traded that for groceries.  
 We never spent more than what we had. We never went into debt. We  
 never ~~bought~~ anything. Our first dresser ~~we bought~~ <sup>was</sup> the lower part  
 of the dresser we bought at a sale over at Buford for a dollar. ↗

~~LARRY:~~ Oh, is that right?

~~MARGARET:~~ And when John Shays moved ~~out~~ <sup>out</sup> here, their dresser ~~broke~~ <sup>broke</sup> <sup>90x</sup> <sup>so</sup>  
~~we~~ <sup>they had the mirror, and</sup> got that for a dollar. So, we put that together <sup>with</sup> this old dres-  
 ser from ~~over there~~ <sup>Buford</sup> and this glass and that was our dresser for many  
 years! For two dollars! And my folks gave me a table and chairs.  
<sup>Dad's</sup> ~~These~~ two partners gave me ~~fifty dollars~~ <sup>\$50.00</sup> as a wedding present and I  
 bought my first <sup>9000</sup> cookstove. Roy had a little tiny one, you know, and I  
 bought my first cookstove and that lasted us many many years too.

~~LARRY:~~ <sup>sket</sup> ~~Fifty dollars~~ that was quite a wedding present!

~~MARGARET:~~ Sure ~~twenty five~~ <sup>\$25.00</sup> for each of 'em, you see. Oh, yes, they  
 were fine men. ~~those were,~~ yes!

LARRY: Maybe that was in appreciation of all those years of your  
 mother's good cooking! ↗

~~MARGARET:~~ ~~Maybe it was, yes, maybe it was! It probably was!~~

~~LARRY:~~ When did you and Roy start your family? ~~then?~~

MARGARET: In 1910. Mel was born in 1910 and that's Mrs. Gilmann  
 Wang. Then Forrest two years afterwards; then four years afterwards  
<sup>here</sup> ~~Bernard~~ <sup>Borner</sup> and then ~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> years <sup>after</sup> that, Mrs. ~~Link~~ <sup>Grace [Art]</sup> Link and she is my  
 youngest ~~daughter, you see.~~

~~LARRY:~~ ~~Grace is your daughter?~~

~~MARGARET:~~ ~~Yes, yes, she is!~~

~~LARRY:~~ ~~Is that right!~~

~~MARGARET:~~ ~~I 'spose you know her?~~

~~LARRY:~~ ~~Well, I don't know her real well, but I've met her!~~

~~MARGARET: You've been down there in Bismarek and you couldn't be there without knowing them!~~

~~LARRY: No, I've met her, ya. She's a very nice lady and now I ~~know~~ understand why!~~

~~MARGARET: Yes, she is! She's a fine girl alright!~~

LARRY: So, you had four?

MARGARET: Four children, a girl and two boys and a girl, ya.

LARRY: Did you have a doctor when your children were born, Margaret?

MARGARET: No!

LARRY: Who helped you?

MARGARET: Mrs. Kathompson, she was ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> midwife. ↗

~~LARRY: Oh!~~

~~MARGARET: ~~Yes~~, I had her ~~for~~ for all four of 'em!~~

~~LARRY: Is that right!~~

~~MARGARET: Ya!~~

LARRY: And your first baby was born when you were ~~eighteen?~~<sup>18?</sup>

MARGARET: Yes! ~~Yes~~

LARRY: Did you worry about not having a doctor?

MARGARET; No, no, everybody else around ~~there~~<sup>had one</sup> ~~that~~ so I didn't worry about it! ~~Yes~~

~~LARRY: How was this lady trained? Was it something that was passed on from her mother? Was her mother a midwife too? How would a midwife get training?~~

MARGARET: Well, she must have had a lot of nurse's training. See, she came from ~~around~~ the ~~eastern~~ eastern part of the state, from around Hillsboro. ~~They~~ They came out here and homesteaded. She fit right in with the community! Her homestead ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> only about a couple a miles over here, so it wasn't too far to go and get her ~~you~~<sup>ya</sup> know, ya!

LARRY: ~~Were~~ Were there any other ~~midwives~~ midwives in the community?

MARGARET: Not at that time!

LARRY: She must have been a busy lady!

MARGARET: Well, there ~~wasn't~~ <sup>weren't</sup> too many ~~people here~~ married couples ~~here~~.  
~~There~~ <sup>by there</sup> were quite a few single ones, but there ~~wasn't~~ <sup>weren't</sup> too many married ones, ~~was~~!

LARRY: Were most of the people that homesteaded around here young people ~~like~~ like you and Roy?

MARGARET: A lot of 'em were, yes! A ~~lot~~ lot of 'em were teachers. ~~was~~  
~~was~~ In those days you could homestead and you didn't have to live there the whole ~~twelve~~ <sup>12</sup> months. You could have your shack and you ~~could~~ <sup>had to</sup> be there! You couldn't be gone more than six months, but you could go and stay two, three days and then you could go back to your work. Then in the summer they'd come out here and live you see. ~~was~~  
 After ~~fourteen~~ <sup>14</sup> months you could ~~prove~~ "prove" it up by paying a ~~small~~ small amount. ~~you see~~. If they wanted to live the five years, then you could do that and you got it free! Of course, that's what we did! Roy broke five acres to start with and then the next year he broke ~~twenty~~ <sup>20</sup>.  
~~The~~ The next year he broke ~~ten~~ <sup>10</sup> more so we had ~~thirty~~ <sup>30</sup>. We had a pretty fair crop the year that we were married, too. So, he built a granery and he had this log cabin and ~~had~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~this~~ straw barn. ~~This is the granery right here on this picture! He moved it up here after he bought this place.~~

LARRY: ~~was~~ Margaret, you mentioned that ~~help with the income and to buy groceries~~ you would sell eggs and butter.

MARGARET: Yes! You couldn't get cash for ~~them~~ <sup>it</sup>, but you could take it to the store and ~~they'd~~ they'd pay you so ~~much~~ <sup>it</sup> much a pound for it ~~and~~ and so much a dozen for the eggs. Then you could get that much in groceries for it, ~~was~~. Many times we bought our groceries that way.

~~was~~!  
 LARRY: ~~What~~ <sup>Where</sup> town would you go? ~~was~~ Williston? ~~Was Cartwright here then?~~

MARGARET: No, Cartwright was here then! There was a little store, ~~there then~~ <sup>but</sup> There wasn't a railroad yet! The railroad came in '13,

but there was a little store there so you could buy groceries. They bought butter and eggs from the farmers.

LARRY: Had your mother raised you to be ~~pretty~~ self-sufficient?   
Could you do your own canning?

MARGARET: Ya.

LARRY: So, you didn't have to buy any canned goods or anything, did you?

MARGARET: No, no.

~~Flour and sugar and coffee, I 'spose.~~  
LARRY: Flour and sugar and coffee, I 'spose.

MARGARET: Ya, and a little kerosene. That was about the amount in groceries.

LARRY: Did your mother make her own soap <sup>too?</sup>  do you remember?

Margaret; Yes, yes!

LARRY: Render lard and....

MARGARET: Tallow and any kinds of fats and make soap out of it, ~~yes~~

LARRY: With lye?

MARGARET: Ya, ya, she did!

LARRY: When you got married, Margaret, did you have one of those washing machines that had <sup>the</sup> handle that you worked back and forth or did you still do it on a washboard?

MARGARET:  I did it on a washboard for quite a few years, ya.

LARRY: Was that quite a purchase when you finally got a washing machine? ~~Was that something?~~

MARGARET: That was quite a  contraption!   It wasn't an  electric one then, either, you know,

LARRY: Was it the kind that was round? ~~with the handle on?~~

MARGARET: Yes, ~~yes, ya!~~

LARRY: Did that wash good?

MARGARET: Well, not like their machines do now?

LARRY: Was it as good as a washboard?

MARGARET: No, you had to wash them a little bit on the washboard, but

you put them through that first. Then you could ~~finish~~ finish them up on the washboard.

LARRY: On the board? Oh, I see!

MARGARET: If you didn't get them too dirty, then they washed in the washing machine alright, but ~~you~~ the clothes <sup>s that the men</sup> wore in ~~the~~ the field ~~had to~~ had to <sup>be rubbed</sup> ~~be~~ a little <sup>bit</sup>.

LARRY: ~~There was something I wanted to ask you.~~ ~~Oh,~~ Did you boil your clothes too?

MARGARET: Yes, yes!

LARRY: Would you do that ~~outside~~ outside or would you do that in the house?

MARGARET: In the house! Ya, put the boiler on the stove.

~~LARRY: Would you do that outside or~~

~~LARRY: Would you boil them and then wash them in the machine and then wash them on the board or~~ Did you boil them last?

MARGARET: Boiled them last! You washed them on the machine first or on the rubbin' board and then boiled 'em. ↗

~~LARRY: I see.~~

MARGARET: ✓ And then rinsed 'em and hung 'em out, ~~ya~~

LARRY: Were there as many berries around here as there had been up by Williston? Would you go ~~out~~ out and pick them?

MARGARET: Oh, yes, ~~ya~~. There used to be an awful lot of ~~jun~~ juneberries all along the ~~river~~ river here, but ~~you~~ since that's farmed and the brush cleared off there isn't many juneberry trees and there's very seldom any berries on 'em.

~~LARRY: Oh!~~

~~MARGARET: I don't know why!~~

LARRY: But there used to be a lot, ~~had~~.

MARGARET: There used to be a lot. I know one lady down there canned <sup>400</sup> four hundred quarts one year!

LARRY: ~~Is~~ Is that right!

MARGARET: Pail after pail she picked day after day!

LARRY: Did she have a big family?

MARGARET: Yes!

~~LARRY: She must of!~~

~~MARGARET: . I, they were growing kids, you know, with good appetites, yes! But they had juneberries, I'll betcha', for two, three years out of the quarts!~~

~~LARRY: I'll bet they did!~~

~~MARGARET: Yes, they did!~~

~~LARRY: Four hundred quarts! That's a lot!~~

~~MARGARET: That's a lot a berries, ya!~~

LARRY: Margaret, what nationalities of people settled around this area?

MARGARET: Quite a lot of Norwegians and a few Bohemians.

LARRY: Was Roy <sup>a</sup> Norwegian?

MARGARET: His father was Swede. His father <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ an old Civil War veteran!

LARRY: Is that right! So, he was Americanized a couple generations here!

MARGARET: Yes, that's it, ~~you see~~. His grandfather died on the way over here from Sweden and was buried out to sea. ~~What?!~~ I believe there was one other child that died ~~on~~, on the boat. When they got here they were all put in the hospital. Then a little later on, the children were bound out 'cause she got very sick with this ~~sc~~ <sup>syndetic.</sup> ~~sc~~ By the time, she got out <sup>of</sup> there she had no money left and her children were sent out to around Morris, Illinois. She worked, made money enough, found out where they had gone to, come back, <sup>out</sup> and located 'em! Different families had taken one, you know. The children were called "bound out" because they ~~were~~ <sup>way of having any money</sup> to work for their board and room because they had no money to pay for anything, ~~you see~~. She got them all back together again!

LARRY: And then came out to Dakota?

MARGARET: No, she didn't come out to ~~the~~ Dakota! She was in Illinois!



down there by the river. Oh, about a mile out of town. So, they ~~did~~ said sure, They'd do that! So, they did and they started out. They got this fellow to bring ~~them~~ across the river. Well, when they got across the river he wasn't there to meet 'em. "Oh, well," they said, "he'll come. We'll just start out"! There was no road; just a ~~little~~ little trail through there and they had to walk through the woods there for ~~two or three~~ two, <sup>or</sup> three miles anyway before they met him! Well, by that time it was getting on in the afternoon, ~~because he went with the team you see.~~ He loaded 'em up and their suitcases. They'd begin to wonder, you know, if he'd ever come. ~~Because, you know, that must a been kinda~~ I don't know what kinda experience ~~because~~ because they didn't know anybody or any of the surroundings or anything and I 'spose they wondered ~~if~~ if he really was going to come ~~in~~ in the evening! But he did! He come, ~~at~~ ~~seven~~ half past six, <sup>or</sup> ~~seven o'clock~~ <sup>7:00</sup> and loaded 'em up. He said, "I'll tell ya it's too dark! I can't show you the land now, ~~he said,~~ "but I'll take you down to my house and keep you all night and then in the morning I'll bring you up there." So, he did. Next morning he loaded 'em up and come up from what used to be Nameless Post Office.

LARRY: Nameless?

MARGARET: Yes, that's where Bob Straud lived. That's why he called his post office Nameless! And he had a little store there, too, where he kept ~~the groceries~~ a few groceries. So, he brought 'em up! They got up on the hills ~~where these buildings are over here~~ and Ernie, Roy's older brother, said, "Well, ~~the land~~ this looks like pretty good land here." "Yes," Bob says, "lots <sup>of</sup> good land out <sup>if it open</sup> here." ~~he said~~ here," ~~he said~~ "Well," Ernie said, "for filing." "Sure," he said, "there isn't any of this that isn't! It's all open for filing except the school section." That, of course, you couldn't file on! ~~Irving~~ "Well," Ernie and ~~Bob~~ <sup>Irving</sup> says, "that looks good enough for us." So, they filed! Then grandpa, being a Civil War veteran, they could file for him. He'd had ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> ~~fourty~~ <sup>40</sup> in Minnesota

someplace that he'd filed on, but he could take three more ~~families~~ <sup>40's here.</sup>  
~~three~~ So, they filed on ~~three fourties~~ <sup>3 three '40's</sup> for him and ~~a hundred and~~ <sup>160</sup>  
~~sixty~~ for each of them and went back. ~~you see.~~ Oh, they felt pretty  
 pleased with themselves! Course, they thought they had some real good  
 land and they did! It was good land. ~~the~~ <sup>Fru,</sup> The next spring ~~the~~  
 brother-in-law, and wife, Jenny, the daughter, and grandpa ~~they~~ loaded  
 cars and come out because they had what they called an "immigrant"  
 car" and they could bring a few cows and horses and a little machi-  
 nery. When they got here, they ~~came~~ <sup>came</sup> before the ice went out of  
 the river, but by that time it wasn't safe to cross. So, some of  
 'em stayed. Jane and her little girl stayed in Williston and the men  
~~they~~ <sup>came</sup> out here. Then they put up two log houses ~~over there~~ that  
 first summer. They bought ~~many~~ logs down ~~in the~~  
 woods here by the river, hauled 'em, and they built those ~~two~~  
 houses. They dug a well and they got that all done that first sum-  
 mer; ~~and~~ Roy says, "I'll never understand how they ever got all that  
 work done!" Because grandpa was ~~sixty five~~ <sup>65</sup> years old then and not a  
 young man, you know! Course, Erb was in the prime of life! But they  
 built those two ~~houses~~ houses and built a sod barn and I think  
 they plowed a little five acre patch of ground and they seeded oats  
 on that to have feed for their horses and cows. ~~the~~

LARRY: Did you get to know Roy's grandfather?

MARGARET: ~~Yes!~~ Yes!

LARRY: Was he pretty happy to be out here?

MARGARET: Yes, I should say! First place he'd ever owned! ~~Happy!~~  
 Happy! And ~~grandmother~~ <sup>grandma</sup> was the most wonderful ~~mother-in-law~~ <sup>mother-in-law</sup> you ever  
 could imagine! She was! ~~You know I can't~~ <sup>could</sup> never understand why every-  
 body was so spiteful to a mother-in-law! Why, I had the best one in  
 the world and, you know, I think that gave me a good start in life  
 too!

LARRY: ~~Margaret, I wanted to ask you about something you had said.~~

You said that the first year Roy ~~had~~ broke ~~had~~ five acres and then ~~the~~ <sup>10</sup>

acres and then <sup>20</sup> ~~twenty~~ acres. ~~so that they~~

MARGARET: No, five acres and then <sup>20</sup> ~~twenty~~ acres! ↗

~~LARRY: Oh, that's right! Five and then ~~twenty~~!~~

MARGARET: Ya, <sup>Twenty</sup> ~~twenty~~ and then <sup>10</sup> ~~ten~~ more and made <sup>30</sup> ~~thirty~~ for the next year. When they broke the <sup>20</sup> ~~twenty~~, grandpa had a gangplow and Erb had a gangplow and Ernie had a gangplow and they hooked those onto this big tractor and broke this <sup>20</sup> ~~twenty~~ acres! So, you see, <sup>that way</sup> they got more done then if ~~what what~~ they'd had to do it with horses. You know <sup>10</sup> ~~ten~~ acres is a lot ~~to~~ break with a team and a <sup>bulky</sup> plow ~~is~~!

~~LARRY: Ya, that's what I was going to ask you ~~if~~ if they used the tractor to plow with?~~

~~MARGARET: They did! They used this big tractor and got ~~twenty~~ acres broke for each of 'em you see!~~

LARRY: Did people around here plant flax the first year, or did Roy plant wheat or oats? ~~the first year?~~

MARGARET: He planted oats first and then I think he planted flax the first <sup>year</sup> because they almost ~~always~~ prett'i'near always put flax on the breaking, but the first year he need <sup>ed</sup> ~~ed~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~a~~ little feed so he planted oats. ~~you see.~~

LARRY: Would ~~you~~ you put in a garden? ~~then, too, Margaret?~~

MARGARET: Oh, yes! ~~Oh, yes,~~ that's where we got our ~~vegetables~~ vegetables like pototoes, carrots, beets, cabbage, and corn, ~~!~~

LARRY: Did Roy ~~dig~~ dig a root cellar or did you have a cellar under your house here? How did you ~~keep~~ keep your vegetables or did you can them all?

MARGARET: No, we had a dug cellar ~~under our~~ <sup>the</sup> house under our little loghouse down there! Just a little hole in the ground, but a place to put your vegetables. ~~you see, ya.~~

LARRY: Could you keep them all winter long?

MARGARET: Yes, yes, we could! Might have to put some quilts over them in the middle of winter if it got real cold, but we always kept ~~them!~~ them!



LARRY: Was that coal mine around here?

MARGARET: Yes, ~~down~~ down in the hills back here!

LARRY: How far from Cartwright?

MARGARET: Oh, maybe three miles! Not more than that!

LARRY: Was it a ~~cave-in~~ <sup>cave-in?</sup>

MARGARET: Yes, it was a ~~cave-in~~ <sup>cave-in!</sup> I 'spose he didn't put props ~~in~~ <sup>in.</sup> enough ~~yes, ya~~. Oh, I'll ~~tell~~ tell ya they hauled coal out of some bad places down in there. ~~Oh, I 'spose a mile maybe a mile and a half the other side these buildings over here is where the coal mine was down in there, ya.~~

LARRY: ~~Oh~~ That would be about three and a half miles north of Cartwright?

MARGARET: Yes, it would, ya!

LARRY: And he helped a lot of homesteaders get started then? Bob Straud did?

MARGARET: Yes, he would be willing to help anyone! I think Erb ~~bought~~ bought his first horses ~~they bought~~ from Bob Straud and Roy got his first horses from Millhouses. They lived, ~~you know, well, it's~~ west and south of Trenton. It's in that bend in the Missouri River there. It's probably, oh, a couple miles west of ~~Colehill, ya.~~ <sup>Crowhighly.</sup>

LARRY: How were the crops ~~then, Margaret~~ <sup>and Roy</sup> after those first couple a years? Were you able to get your feet on the ground?

MARGARET: Not very fast. But we always kept enough for seed for the next year! ~~He never sold all of it because he~~ He never sold all of it because he said, "We've got to have seed" <sup>✓</sup>

LARRY: You had all four of your children before 1918, ~~didn't you?~~

MARGARET: ~~Ya.~~

LARRY: Was the flu ~~epidemic~~ epidemic a bad around here in ~~1918~~ 18?

MARGARET: ~~Ya~~ <sup>Ya</sup>, Grace was a baby then, ~~ya.~~

LARRY: Did you or Roy or any of the family get the flu?

MARGARET: Roy did! He was out threshin' and he come home sick with it, ~~but~~ but he was pretty husky at that time. I put him to bed. I was

scared of it 'cause ~~there'd~~ <sup>there'd</sup> been quite a few deaths. So, I put him to bed and I kept him there. Then we got medicine for him right away, ~~the doctor~~ doped him up good, and he come out of it good! There was ~~though,~~ ~~of it~~ four or five ~~right~~ right around this community ~~around~~ that died from it!

~~LARRY: Is that right!~~

~~MARGARET:~~ Especially pregnant women! It was prett'i'near sure to take 'em! Scobins, they lived right along close to the highway about five miles out from Cartwright and their house, one of 'em, is kinda set up on the hill, you'll notice it, and he lost his wife but he brought up his family. He had five children! He managed the girls! He helped them to learn to cook and wash and things! Quite little, some of 'em too!

~~LARRY: Oh!~~

~~MARGARET:~~ But he managed to see them all grow up!

LARRY: So, you were probably lucky that Grace was born when she was?

MARGARET: Ya, ~~that's~~ I've often thought that, ~~yes, yes.~~

LARRY: Who was your nearest doctor then?

MARGARET: ~~From~~ Fairview [Montana].

LARRY: Oh. Had that come with the railroad ~~then~~ in about '14?

MARGARET: Oh, there was some there before the railroad came in! But they had an irrigation project over there, ~~in 1904 and '05,~~ I believe, ~~it was~~ <sup>in</sup> 1905 and '06.

~~LARRY: That early?~~

~~MARGARET: Yes!~~

~~LARRY: Is that right?~~

~~MARGARET:~~ (Ya, you see the river was right around 'em and so much water there that they put that project in pretty early! I know some of the homesteaders went over there and worked helpin' make those ditches 'cause they could make a few dollars. That was awful hard work on the horses, but there was a lot of 'em went over there, ~~then~~ <sup>Then there</sup> was a doctor in Alexander, too, by that time!

LARRY: But that was quite a ways!

MARGARET: Yes, ~~that's~~ that's farther you see!

LARRY: ~~Another thing I wanted to ask you, Margaret,~~ When the railroad came in, was that a real blessing ~~for Roy~~ for shipping cattle and grain?

MARGARET: Oh, ~~yes~~ yes! That was a blessing for all of us, I tell ya, when they built that railroad! I am sorry yet that they haven't kept it up better than what they have because I think we need the rail~~roads~~ roads!

~~LARRY: I do too, ya!~~

~~MARGARET: I just can't see that they can just leave them ~~all~~ go now! They need the railroads!~~

LARRY: Do you remember when they were putting the railroad bridge in and they were putting the grade in for the railroad?

MARGARET: Yes!

LARRY: Were people pretty excited about that?

MARGARET: Oh, they were! We got our coal <sup>there</sup> that winter, ~~there!~~ You know they went through a coal vein and ~~when~~ when they dumped the dirt out along the tressel all the men that wanted coal would be there ~~and~~ <sup>to</sup> pick up the lumps. ~~of coal you see!~~ We got our winter's coal that way!

LARRY: That was an easy way of getting coal that winter then?

MARGARET: A lot easier than goin' down and diggin' in the side of the hill. ~~There's some pictures here I've got of where they dug coal down in the hills here. I'm sure I have them.~~

~~LARRY: Oh, <sup>so</sup> Margaret, there's another thing I wanted to ask you! There's a picture in here of somebody fishing along a "crik"?~~

~~MARGARET: That's Grandma and Grandpa Johnson!~~

LARRY: ~~Is that right!~~ Did fishing help with meat?

MARGARET: Oh, yes, yes!

LARRY: Had you and your brothers done any fishing on the Missouri when you were young?

MARGARET: No, no, more hunting!

~~LARRY: Did you do any fishing ~~up here~~ after you and Roy were~~

married?

MARGARET: Well, not too much, but we did some, ya.

~~LARRY: But Grandpa and Grandma Johnson did, huh?~~

MARGARET: Oh, ~~yes!~~ And ~~old~~ Roy was more of a hunter than a fisherman, but he was a great hunter! ~~Now here's a picture of where I used to live.~~

~~LARRY: Oh!~~

~~MARGARET: Now these buildings over here are where Mr. Slater built and my home was right in here on this side. I think <sup>this is</sup> these are the little buildings you can see there; but, of course, they're all toppled ~~down~~ down now you know! It's nothing but...~~

~~LARRY: Water now! Ya. ~~Now were the thirties, Margaret?~~~~

~~MARGARET: Ya.~~

LARRY: How ~~was~~ were the <sup>30's</sup> thirties, Margaret?

MARGARET: Pretty dry! There was one year we never cut any grain at all.

LARRY: Do you remember ~~what~~ <sup>when</sup> that ~~year~~ was?

MARGARET: That was '36, ~~or~~.

LARRY: Nothing that year?

MARGARET: No, we cut one field for a little feed, but we had seed enough left! We'd had a little crop before that so we had a little seed left. But I'll tell you, our neighbor over here, Martin Sandy, harvested ~~Russian~~ Russian Thistle ~~in order~~ <sup>kinda</sup> to feed his cows, and some of 'em he didn't get put up in time and they got ~~kinda~~ sharp so he took and ~~had~~ cooked them! He had a great, big, iron ~~thing~~ that he cooked them ~~and~~ and fed 'em to the cows! He brought his cows through too. Course, he didn't have too many, but he saved 'em, ~~ya~~. There just wasn't anything but Russian Thistle that year! ~~ya~~.

LARRY: Did a lot of people move out in the '30s?

MARGARET: Yes, yes, I should say <sup>and</sup> young folks didn't stay here. ~~I tell~~

~~LARRY: Oh?~~

~~MARGARET: Did you and Roy ever talk about it?~~

LARRY: Did you and Roy ever talk about it?

MARGARET: No, no, you wouldn't of hired him to move for anything! ↗

~~LARRY: Oh!~~

~~MARGARET:~~ He was so satisfied here! Why would he want to move? <sup>It is</sup> ~~It was~~

~~the best place he ever lived! Now here's Grandma Johnson, you see, and a bunch of us down at Divie Lake!~~

~~LARRY: Frying fish!~~

~~MARGARET: Yes, ya! Here's Roy on his binder.~~

LARRY: Were ~~f~~ there any people ~~around here, Margaret,~~ farming with oxen when you were a little girl?

MARGARET: There was one fellow here ~~that~~ had a ox, mule, and a horse for his ~~team~~.

LARRY: Who was that? Do you remember?

MARGARET: Roy Dickson, ~~ya~~. They were huntin' up pictures a little ~~while~~ while ago and a ~~neighbor~~, Billy Myers, had one of these pictures. The boy had sent it out to ~~us~~, ~~They~~ showed it to me, and they wondered who it could ~~be~~ be! I said, "It's got to be Roy Dickson!" There was nobody else around here with a team like that! I knew it was Roy Dickson! ~~Here's our little cabin see. That's our set buildings!~~

~~LARRY: That's a pretty nice lookin' homestead!~~

~~MARGARET: It was! That's a good homestead. There's only, oh, I 'spose a couple maybe a couple of acres of rough land on it!~~

~~LARRY: Oh! Did Roy and Herb, was it, build those log buildings?~~

~~MARGARET: Sure!~~

~~LARRY: They did a good job the way ~~they~~ it looks!~~

~~MARGARET: Oh, they did! Yes! Erb and grandpa built the first ones over there! There's where both log houses are and <sup>they</sup> built 'em! You know, it must e' been quite a chore to get those logs up after you get up a little ways!~~

~~LARRY: I would think so, ya.~~

~~MARGARET: And, ~~ya~~, And they had an upstairs in each one of 'em!~~

~~LARRY: Ya, that's a real neat looking yard and nice buildings!~~

MARGARET: ~~Here's Roy and I on horseback and here's Roy with his first four horse team!~~

LARRY: Now you and Roy had a ~~nice~~ <sup>(~~moment~~)</sup> house? ~~here too?~~

MARGARET: Well, we just had a little shed, put sawdust in it, put the ice in there, and packed in the sawdust. ~~Yes, you bet!~~

LARRY: Did you have an icebox in the house? ~~here then, Margaret?~~

MARGARET: After a while, ya.

LARRY: When would you have gotten that? ~~about?~~

MARGARET: Oh, I 'spose about maybe around ~~1819~~ <sup>1918.</sup> something like that.

LARRY: Did that help ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~it~~ keeping food?

MARGARET: Oh, yes! Before that we used to have a barrel out there by the tank and pump the water from the well through this barrel into the tank. Then we ~~used to~~ set our milk cans in this cold water, ~~and~~ and that's the way we used to keep our milk!

LARRY: Did that work pretty good?

MARGARET: You bet! It's a lot o' work, ~~you~~ monkey work, but ~~it~~ ~~you~~ it worked good! Then your cream would raise so good ~~and you'd~~ ~~bring it in, skim it, have your cream to churn, and good milk to~~ <sup>and you'd</sup> <sup>all the good milk</sup> ~~drink. All they wanted you know, yes!~~ <sup>the</sup> <sup>add</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>your</sup> <sup>pan?</sup>

LARRY: How often would you have to ~~add~~ ice to your icebox?

MARGARET: Oh, every day. ~~It~~ You know, it wasn't an awful big one, but ~~it~~ you'd have to get a chunk every day or prett'i'near every day anyway. ~~ye~~.

LARRY: Did you ever ~~forget~~ to empty ~~your~~ <sup>the</sup> pan?

MARGARET: Yes, yes!