HELEN KELLBERG ANDERSON
Second Interview

Interviewed by:
Laura Schrager

Oral History Project
Latah County Museum Society
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I. Index
Eric Oiler's barns. One old man hewed the barn beams and made them smooth.

Butcher bees for hogs. Sugar cured or smoke cured pork and brine cured beef.

Little stamp money during the Depression. Got 6 or 7¢ a dozen for eggs and a bit more for butterfat. Ernie bought clothes the day after Christmas during the Depression. Sewed clothes over for Lois from Marie. Cut up a Sunday outfit for John one Saturday night.

Johnson Mercantile store sold beautiful fur coats, wedding dresses and yardage in the old days. Also sold furniture, men's clothing, hardware and groceries. Another grocery and dry goods store and two theaters in Troy. Went to "Shepherd of the Hills" when worried about the end of the world.

Father helped to get rocked roads and rural free delivery. About 1908 father put in a telephone to Eric Oiler's on barbed wire and when Eric Oiler's horse fell in the well they saved him easily. Carl Westberg's horse fell in well. Paul Rodin called Anna Westberg to ask for a kiss to see if the phone was working.

Mrs. Joe Carlson dried fruit on the roof of the house.

MRS. Carlsson would make a big fruit soup thickened with tapioca when she went midwifing. When Moodys sick with diptheria she brought them food and made clothes to bury them in.

Two girlfriends complained because they didn't have many sisters and didn't know why the doctor always brought them brothers in his valise. Learned the facts of life on your own.

Carleton French lived in Troy and walked to Burnt Ridge school reading a book. Told stories that fascinated the whole school. Learned poems by heart which keened up your memory. One year the three highest grades on the eighth grade exam were from the Burnt Ridge school.
Frank Steelsmith rough on the kids. Made to stand on tiptoe to keep nose in circle and wear dunce caps for punishment. One boy threw a brick through the window and no one would tell.

Kitsh mad at one boy and whipped him and mother complained. Teacher spanks the boy's sister for having her dress unhooked. June Cole and Esther Kristiansand good teachers.

Parents celebrated 25th anniversary with a surprise gathering which even she didn't know about.

Party games and square dances. "Old Man Tucker", "Skip to my Lou", "Carl Gustav" and one Swedish song. Went to literarics, parties and few shows while courting. Church celebrated midsummer picnic day on June 24th and many came.

with Laura Schrager
June 14, 1974
II. Transcript
HELEN ANDERSON: Done by the same man. And then Eric Oiler, he up here, he had his maybe about the same time as Carlson's. But he had a beautiful barn. It looked real pretty when he got through. The other barns were nice looking too. But it was just a little bit different than the rest of the barns that were built.

LAURA SCHRAGER: Did he hire men to come in and build them?

HA: Yes. Well I think people wanted work. So people wanted work and this way they got a chance to work, on building. Course, he needed quite a few men. We only had about three men working for us. That worked on our barn.

LS: Did you help out at all?

HA: No, but we had one old man, Julia Nelson now, she used to be Julia Moody. Her father would hew these great big timbers and make beams to hold the barn together. And they were heavy beams. That was his job. I don't know how in the world he could do it, it was perfect logs. Several big, maybe two feet. Square. Every bit that and some were bigger than that. And he'd always make 'em smooth, and that was mostly all done by hand with an axe and then he had this to smooth out beams and so forth. Sort of a blade, couple of handles.

LS: Did a lot of people come to help build the barn?

HA: No, we didn't have a barn raising. You know, lots of places they do have barn raisings, and that, I was going tell when they, butcher bees, they have lots in the wintertime. In the winter time they had, people butcher for the season or for the winter and some would have five or six hogs that they'd butcher for their families and they had the whole neighborhood come over help cut up this meat. First butcher and scald, well kill and scald.

They had scalding vats that they'd roll the, put 'em in scalding water and have blades or something like that and they'd scrape all the hair off. And then after the scraped all the hair off and even took off the knuckles on the pig's toes. They save everything. And then they'd open 'em up and take the insides out and then they would cut 'em up into hams and shoulders and
ribs and so forth, and spareribs, stuff like that. And some used sugar cure. Some of them used the smokehouses. Some people smoked their meat. Other would put 'em in sugar cure. But the only way that meat would keep is let the body heat of the animal off of them hanging. You should let 'em hang maybe a couple of weeks wouldn't hurt 'em a bit. Unless it was soft weather, you would take it sooner then. But if you were in no hurry, why you'd let 'em hang in the cold weather. If you just butcher those pigs out and cure 'em before you get the body heat off of 'em, they won't keep. It happened that people, too big of a hurry to get their meat taken care of, it spoiled. Be sure of what you're doing. Everybody had, always butchered in the wintertime. We butchered pigs and we butchered beef.

LS: Would you have parties for butchering?

HA: No. But the people on American Ridge did. They always had a party, butcher bee. Like the quilting bee or anything else. They would all come and have a big time at the same time. But here on our Ridge, each family took care of their own. That was quite a process, 'cause you'd work from maybe ten days to two weeks to get all the meat taken care of. It wasn't only the butchering, it wasn't hard to lay that down in brine salt and stuff like that and cure it for 6-8 weeks. And then you could take it out and dry it off and you would put it in, about the best thing you could do, we used to have oatmeal sacks, they were quite large, you could put a ham in or so forth, but that isn't enough. After you get that out all real good and tight, then you should have a another sack, not necessarily gunny sack, we used to get these peas sacks, something like that, white heavy ones and you put that around your meat and you tie that loose, you don't want it tight on the meat 'cause then it would possibly mildew. And then you would hang it, maybe up in the rafters or maybe upstairs, if you weren't using the room upstairs, if it was dry. But it had to be a dry place, not too damp. And we had best beef we had ever eaten, I believe was out on Driscoll Ridge, we lived in a log cabin. And Jim Pinns owned it.
and his father I think owned it before. He, and that was built in 18 some-
thing. But anyway, we lived in it for five years. We rented their farm.
And so we hung ours upstairs under the rafters in the window to the east.
The window to the west would be open most the time. And that way we had
a breezeway so even at night, when it was a hot day, the upstairs was cool.
It was quite cool. That wasn't days of real sport I guess. We lived out
there and everybody, we went through depression. And you couldn't afford
to hardly send a letter. There was no money. We could hardly get 6-7 cents
a dozen for our eggs. And butterfat was a little bit more than that. We
got cash out of the cream that we sold. But it never amounted to more than
about five dollars a month, we didn't have that much cream. But with that
five dollars, we bought sugar, our coffee, our, maybe a pair of shoes or
something that the kids needed. It always seemed like somebody would have
to have a pair of shoes. Maybe once a month. First one would wear theirs
out and then the other one, and lot's of em were made out of paper...

LS: They were made out of paper?

HA: Yeah. But you wouldn't know it. But we paid five dollars for a pair of shoes
that we bought from Troy. And they didn't last for more than about a week
or ten days. Toes were out of 'em. So you examined them and they were
practically all paper. So no wonder that they would wear out so soon. So
of course we went on through that. But children's shoes were more expensive
almost than the grownups shoes. Always were. And lots. of times children's
clothes were more expensive than some of the other things for grownups,
at that time. Of course you had a little child you always say, well, wouldn't
that look cute on so and so. And you'll buy it just because you think that,
but we didn't have that much clothes though. Because the kids used to wear
overalls and coveralls and shirts. Or else we'd sew 'em shirts out of clothes
or pieces that we had.

LS: Did you sew a lot?

HA: I sewed an awful lot, many years ago when the kids were small. I sewed
everything that the kids wore. And I sewed a lot til Marie was in high school. After that, clothing got so much cheaper that, it didn't coat very much. For goodness sakes, you could buy a dress for a dollar or two or three or four or five. Wasn't too much, but five was priced high, because we didn't have a lot of money. But they even had dresses for thirty nine cents. Had panties, I remember that. And they made, but I don't think, well, they seemed to be fast color so I did have a few of those for every day dresses. They looked pretty nice for a while. But you go away in, but like I say, the dresses weren't high. And we lived on the Halstead place then, right next to where Horton's live now. And bought toys for the kids for Christmas and a little bit of something for each one, but the day after Christmas then the price of the clothing went down and so I went to Moscow, I don't think I did. But he saw all of these bargains and he'd bought Lois a dress, a two piece, rust colored, pleated skirt, nice top on it for five dollars. And he bought clothes for the kids and what not. Marie was in high school and everybody thought she had so many nice clothes, but she made her clothes and I sewed for her too. But she always looked nice in whatever she put on. She knew how to wear her clothes and made it look like she had lots of clothes. Well here it comes to being Easter. I bought her a dress and it was real cute. It was a jersey, but it was pleated skirt. You know how jersey hangs. It was a full skirt, it was real nice. I think she got a pair of shoes, no she didn't get a pair of shoes, but I saw a coat for five dollars. And it was navy blue with this white stripe in it. And it looked real nice on her. But when she got home, she cried. She said she wanted a pair of shoes but I bought her the coat instead. Well I said I thought the coat would be better for the reason that she needed that too. But she cried when we got home. Of course she bought that coat, I talked her into it. But anyway, I suppose then we went into town later and got her a pair of shoes, but it was so hard to get clothes in those days. And she took such good care of her clothes. Never wear 'em out anyway. Pass 'em down to somebody else I guess.
sowed some of Marie's dresses over for Lois 'cause Marie was the oldest in the family and Lois was the youngest. It was kind of fun to make new dresses out of old dresses. I didn't feel I was losing anything if I made a mistake in sewing because it was old stuff. If I got a brand new piece it would worry me to death. 'Cause if I cut that up wrong it would be too bad. But these other dresses, I could tell what kind of a dress I could make out of it, that kind of material and so forth...

LS: Didn't you cut up a pattern and...?

HA: Yes. I didn't have anything for John to wear, he was just a little kid, about four years old. I don't know if he was that old. And I didn't know what he was going to wear to church. We always went to church on Sunday morning. So anyway, I had an old pair of pants that the kids had worn the knees out. And so I used the back part of the pants and some of that you could use the knees and it for the bib, but anyway, I got a pair of pants. And Mrs. Berg, the minister's wife kind of smiled at me and here John comes a new pair of pants and I'd pressed 'em all up and looked like new and she said, "Did you make 'em?" And I smiled, I said I did. But Auntie had given me a black fur coat, I would say. It was pretty nice stuff in it. And I took her coat and I made myself a coat and bought a pattern for this one. It turned out so nice. And I had a hat that I wore when I was sixteen. And anyway, I was looking through the rag bag. I found, it was made out of velvet. And it was just nice. Just velvet. Sort of faded. I found enough to put a bow on my hat. I think I turned the hat around. (laughs) Anyway, I did something, I turned up the brim. And I put this bow on the thing. And I come to literary, we had literary in school and so, "I wonder where Helen got that?" "Ah, her outfit." And I made it so it looked real nice. So then the minister's wife, she wondered where in the world I got it, she knew that I'd made it over from something. She thought it was nice so she went and bought a pattern just like mine and made her old fur coat over. She had it for ten years or more. So she made her coat over after my pattern. But it did make me look real nice. (Laugh) Could afford
to have a nice looking coat in depression time. It was black fur. Pretty.

LS: Did you shop a lot in Troy in Ole Johnson's?

HA: Olson Johnson Mercatile store I think it was called. It had everything there. Everything when we first, well many years ago you could buy lovely clothes that come out from New York. Beautiful stuff. All those pretty good price. Lots of 'em were eighty dollars and stuff like that. They were really just, fur coats and of course now they'd be lots more than that. But you around eighty dollars. And wedding dresses. And they had lots of dresses. You buy and graduation dresses, lots of 'em would buy a graduation dress. And they'd cost around fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, eighteen dollars. But they were real pretty, made out of real silk and they had nice styles to 'em. But they had yardage that you could buy knit and silk and satins. But you could get at the store. Also they had mill...

LS: Millinery?

HA: Millinery and Anna Halson, her name was Ann Westberg at that time. And she worked upstairs and made hats. Beautiful hats, all kinds of pretty hats. And we also... there was a balcony on this upstairs that you'd go around the whole building and part of it was furniture and oh, I think they had men's clothing down one side too. But you could go clear around and they had something up there, mostly furniture though up there.

LS: Did they sell shoes?

HA: Yes. They had the shoe department downstairs. And then they had the hardware department, they had everything. And then they had the grocery department too and they had a secretary there, it was a full time secretary taking care of all their business there. And then, you could buy anything. You could buy all kinds of things. Christmas time you could buy all kinds of toys and stuff like that. And of course, they had the men's department where you could buy all kinds of stuff like. But as far as going into the grocery department, there you bought bananas and oranges and you bought...
Anderson.

things by the barrel, like and anchovies or smoked herring or, and cranberries and lutefisk. So there was all stuff and nuts and candy and so forth. But that was a real interesting store. And it was heated. It had hotwater heaters and so forth. It felt so good to come in there and sit around those heaters and warm up. Then you go up to the grocery store. The grocery store too that was a little bit of a dry goods store too. And Mr. Brohman ran the grocery department, and Mrs. Brohman, she had dry goods and notions and I think they too probably had hats and clothing maybe some too. Then further up the street we had a couple of theatres there, sometimes two and not always in the same place either because we had one across the street where the bank is now. Above that...

LS: Would you go to shows much?

HA: No, just real special. We went to what was called "Shepherd of the Hill". About the eighteenth of December and this was the time they prophesied this was going to be the end of the world. So we were all determined we were going to go down and see the "Shepherd of the Hill"and it was a good show. It was just really interesting for us kids. But we were worried about the end of the world coming. We were supposed to freeze to death I guess, for one thing. It was awful cold. And we go down there by buggy or hack or cutter or something like that. Or sled.

LS: Who told you it was going to be the end of the world?

HA: People that prophesied it did that. But I've got off from that. We had always about two theatres going and for a while we had a theatre about where the grange hall is now. That went on for quite a few years too. But that was interesting. And they had good shows. They had shows all over countries too besides... you know, real good shows. Anybody could go in and enjoy a good evening and we never had anything to worry about, and I think the people were honest and a lot more strict. Because we never had any trouble to speak of. Parents looked out for their kids and so forth. I think they were just easier to manage. And then mostly children were home. They weren't
like now in car days where they take the car and go and they could be good kids but something could always happen without expecting it, you know. These things happen you know. Something break down on the car or maybe you didn't have enough gas in the first place or something and drive out of oil or something. And we didn't have the roads 'cause the roads weren't very good for cars. And they started to get 'em rocked, how long have we had rocked roads? Not too awful long. I don't remember exactly now, but maybe along in '20 I guess, 1920 or something in there. I don't remember though. But my father worked on that to see that we get rock roads. We got the Rural Free Delivery before that. It came out at first, once a week. Maybe it come twice. Once a week, then it come twice a week and then finally we got it every day. That was really something to see. And of course we were thrilled to death to go and get the mail. Course, they finally got home for us but we always ran up there to get the mail. It was interesting. There were enough people in our family that we probably each one would get a turn at it. "Can we go get the mail today?" And we'd visit it a little bit with our cousins, but we weren't supposed to. We were supposed to come right back! (laughs)

LS: How far did you have to go?

HA: Just up to the corner here. But and then before that in I think it had to be in about 1908 I think was when we got our telephones and my dad started that too. And he worked hard on all these projects.

LS: Did you ever hear about him putting in the telephone?

HA: Yeah. And my dad. He started out by having a telephone on the barb wire fence from our place to our uncle's Eric Oller. And so we could talk back and forth. So then he tried to get these other people interested in wanting a phone. And they couldn't see no use why we need a telephone. Well I think Eric Oller was the first one to have a horses fall in a well. So anyway he called up dad and he managed to get the horse out of the well. But it wasn't too awful many years later Carl Westberg had a horse in a
well. And it broke through last time to water. Horses from the washtub or something like that by the well. But this horse could have been running loose or gotten loose or something. Anyway, fell in the well. And it was such an excitement because they had to get pulleys and pull 'em up. They got him just to the top and then he fell down in again, you know. And then of course...

LS: Did you run up to see what was going on?

HA: We didn't. I heard about it. And so then they finally got him out the next time that they raised him, be careful so he wouldn't go back in the well. 'Cause lots of times horses have been in the well maybe for several hours and the water's so cold that they're kind of stiff when you get 'em out and maybe cramps too. And they get 'em out but if you pull far enough from the well you walk backways 'cause you don't want to get 'em down in there again. So it's quite a task to take a horse out of the well. Anyway, the neighbors began to get their telephones in and old man, I forgot his name. I know it so well. Paul Rodin's father, he told Paul, "You call up Westbergs and see if they can hear." So he rings and Anna answers and he says, "Is that you Anna? Give me a kiss!" And dad got him he said, "you old guy, you're always so crazy." And he said, "You wanted to know if you could hear over there." And of course, Paul always pulled these pranks anyway and always a clown too. He was always that way as long as he lived. He either kid you or tell you something else.

LS: Is this Paul Rodin?

HA: Yeah, did you meet him?

LS: No.

HA: And my name was Helen Marie and he's say Helen Maria. And I didn't like being called Helen Maria. Then I called our daughter Marie, our oldest daughter Marie. And of course, he called her Maria too. And it made her always hate her name because somebody say, it didn't sound very good.

But anyway telephone line, daddy and different ones I think they had to
have 'em, if anybody was sick they could always call on, and then I was
going to say, Joe Carlson lived on the canyon edge down there and they
had all kinds of apple trees and fruit trees. Prunes and pears and she'd
dry fruits, she'd dry this fruit on the roof of her house under cheese
cloth or mosquito net or something. And set it would be on top of the roof and
dry 'em. As hot as it is today, you could see where they dry and she'd
watch 'em and so forth. Anyway, she was midwife and she went and help
deliver babies and she'd deliver babies around this whole ridge maybe...

(end of side A)

HA: ...fruit soup and I mean big. I suppose about a couple gallons or a gallon
and a half anyway and here she had prunes and raisins and apples and apricots
and pears or something and this and that would make a big stew out of this here. And
she'd thicken it with tapioca. And it was good. And she'd make it thin
because it seemed like, well it was thickened from the tapioca, but she
made it thin so by the time it was all gone, it was all eaten up and not
thick on the bottom or anything like that. But it was so good. That was
a treat to all the kids 'cause if mom was in bed with a brand new baby,
give it for something for the kids to have for soup or something like that.
Mother was sick and won't have to worry about something 'bout what for the
kids. They'd get bread and milk or something. But this kind of tide
them over til mother got on her feet again. She was a very wonderful
woman though. She was a wonderful person. And she was so handy crocheting
and making clothes for other people. And then, so there were people by the
name of Moody that lived on the canyon on American Ridge side of the hill
across the canyon Burnt Ridge. And when they were sick she'd always carry
all kinds of good stuff down to these people, course, they knew she had so
much. They had diptheria. I don't know how in the world they had diptheria.
It could have been from drinking certain water or something. And two or
three of 'em died. And here Mrs. Carlson went over there and she made dresses,
took some of the dresses that Edith had or somethat her daughter had,
but she made little clothes to bury them in. And then she'd take, of her hats and put in their hands in their coffins and the father had made the coffins in those days 'cause they were so poor they couldn't afford to buy coffins. Coffins are so expensive today its terrible. And they must have, I don't know where these are buried but some of them are buried on Burnt Ridge I think. Or it could have been on American Ridge too. They have a cemetery, which is quite interesting, to go through the cemetery. I know one is buried on Burnt Ridge.

LS: She sounds like quite a woman.

HA: She was. She was always doing something for somebody all the time. And then knitting stockings or she always had something to bring to somebody that was sick or something like that. And she was quite creative and knew how to make all different things. She'd make like a Santa Clause she'd bring to some people. Little red Santa Claus with little cotton around the red cap. And the mustache and the suit. About 18 inches, it was quite large. And then she'd make like they did in Norway. They'd make chickens or rooster or she'd make... it was all by hand. She'd use cotton, red cotton flannel and stuff 'em and make dolls or Santa Clauses, white beards and so forth.

LS: Was she Norwegian?

HA: She was Norwegian. Back in Sweden they have so many customs. They maybe have a rooster, maybe that's made out of straw. Some braided straw and just stuff out there and just mostly the color of straw. And of course, they probably have red like on the comb and different things. And then they have what they call, its a goat. And it always brings good luck at Christmas time. And people do have goats in their barns and at Christmastime they bring 'em a special treat to their goats. For good luck and joyful Christmas or something. Then they have what they call elf.

LS: Did you take stuff to your goats?

HA: We never did that. Its just a custom in Norway. But anyway, she'd make some of these things for herself here. And like the Santa Clauses she
gave away and lots of these things she gave away. And they had, its just
eelves, where the elves would come at night and do these things. Maybe
leave a pair of shoes or something. And there's always a good place that
the fairy godmother, these elves that come. But the Santa elves and the
reindeers. Now the elves make all these toys for 'em so Santa Claus can
come with the toys. They do this in Norway, the elves bring these things.
Like in Holland they set their shoes on the outside of the door; and
receive gifts.

LS: Did she know ways to help people when they were sick?
HA: She must have. I don't know why she knew so much. She must have had some
training in that. And she would make a wonderful nurse. She always had a
way. There was no no for answer, she couldn't do it. It was just in her.
Just loved to do things for them.

LS: Can you tell me the story of the two friends who were complaining why they
didn't have the right brothers and sisters and they were going to talk to
Mrs. Carlson to find out the facts of life?
HA: There were two sisters, they were just good friends. And these girls are
getting pretty big. And these girls were getting pretty old and of course,
they didn't know the facts of life. They still thought that the doctor
come and brought the babies in the suitcases, valises. So they got to
discussing and walking home together and they were talking about this
and they didn't think it was fair. It was Edith Carlson and Sally Ruberg
and they were, Edith had an older sister and she was the youngest. Sally
only had all brothers. I think about five brothers. And Edith had four or
five brothers too. And Edith didn't think it was fair that the doctor
always gave boys, here all older's, was always getting girls. And they laugh
about it today that they figure the doctor brought the babies in the valises,
the suitcases. So that's what they always used to say. Course then they
got more modern than that, and now you know. This was been about almost,
I guess fifty years. They'd say, "A stork brought a baby last night." (Laughs)
And we were to a church convention and somebody come to this church meeting, she said, "So and so said the stork visited their home last night." And mother wrinkled her eyes, brows up, you know. Thought this didn't sound very nice, the stork had brought that baby. (laughs) So that was supposed to be quite modern. First they come in suitcases, then the stork would bring them. It's so funny that they were saying it anyway. That was a secret absolutely. It was such a secret.

LS: Would you just learn by rumors?

HA: Yeah, you had to learn on your own. That was all there was to it. There's one thing, I wouldn't want to mention it. We'd have a rough time, going for a long time. My older sister put me wise and I was worried to death, go to town, go to a doctor, you know. I kept everything to myself. Of course, that happened.

LS: Do you remember any teachers from school?

HA: Burton L. French, he's related to, no, his name is Carleton. Which senator?

LS: Burton.

HA: Carleton French. And we had such a big school. We had a big school, way around forty some people. I think we've had around sixty kids too, for that. We should have around here, maybe in one of the cupboards upstairs the names of everybody that went to school. He lived in Troy and he married a French girl, but his name was French, his last name. And, but he'd walk from Troy out and so he had to walk five miles out. I think the road was longer than it was now. So he walked five miles to school. Sometimes he'd take a shortcut and go past Nora Johnson place through the timber and hit the railroad track, that way when the road was good. He always read a book. He'd read a book coming out, hold a book like this you know. And he'd keep one one the road and the other eye on the book. And so he did a lot of reading. He told so many stories, of all things from way, way back, which was good in a way. But sometimes he'd be telling them to the lower classes, they were all grades in one room. So he'd tell maybe
third and fourth grade, be few sitting up there, and tell all these things, bear stories and everything and he'd have the whole school so quiet you could hear a pin drop. Everybody listened to him. He said, "I'm reading this to the children. The rest of you better get back to studying." But that happened day after day. He made it interesting. I think the kids liked to come to school 'cause it was interesting. There's one thing that I thought was bad for us; I don't know. We probably had that same reader for one or two years. And after we had the thing and we finally could read it by heart. We knew everything by heart. And it was kind of discouraging. And then finally I remember going through the third grade, but that was a bigger step because I don't remember any second grade book. I don't remember having a second grade book. The third one wasn't bad. The fourth grade was hard. We had the book. And that had about all these stories and they all had such hard names to pronounce. Great big, and there were always make believe stories. But they were interesting. It was a harder book. It was Hercules in one of 'em. But these other girls, they were like fairy godmothers or maybe princesses from far off land or something. So I wish I had the book today. And poems and everything. We learned poems all the way through up to the eighth grade. Every book that you went through, you learned all the poems like the "Village Blacksmith" and "Evangeline" and Longfellow's book and stories, most all we had to learn, which was good because it really cleaned up your memory. You could remember so much better. We learned everything by heart. And we had, we took geography we learned all the states, to draw the maps and stuff like that. When we took physiology, it was all the names of all the bones. And cells and everything like that. Which was good too, I'm glad we did that. I guess we had time for it 'cause we only had reading, arithmetic, grammar, physiology, geography, history, spelling and penmanship. I think that's about the course of our school. And it was interesting, it was good for us. I liked it. It was easy for me. But he was good. We had him I think for about five years. Maybe more than five
years. And he was good. And everybody got good grades. Not just that he
gave good grades, but when they took the county exams, or were they
state exams in school? I think they were state. And the three highest in
the county were Elmer Johnson and he had 94 or 96 and 98, they were the
highest in the county.

LS: On Burnt Ridge?

HA: On Burnt Ridge. And then Smith, he was a funny old guy, he was
Always hot headed. It's just the way he felt or sewed his oats. But he had
it in for everybody. He knew better, more than anybody else, although I
don't think he did. Their sons are living on American Ridge. They're fine
people. He'd punish us kids. And he'd probably have them standing up at
the blackboard, maybe make a ring up there where you'd have to step on
your tiptoes and put your nose inside a ring, for punishment. I remember
he thought he, a kid couldn't learn anything well then he'd put a dunce
cap on him and set 'em in the corner of the room. And sometimes kids would
want to know how to work a problem or something, he'd probably hit his
hands down like that and so they didn't get much help that way. 'Cause,
I want to tell about this but not mention names. And even the eighth
graders, the big ones, some of the boys were pretty big before they got
through the eighth grade. One of the boys threw a brick through the window.
And so then he called school session and he wanted to know who threw that
brick. And we, the littlest, heard it. And there were quite a lot of Swede people going there, but everybody knew, but nobody squealed. Not
one soul squealed, not even little kids. So he got away from there,
Swanson. He's caretaker of Burnt Ridge Cemetery. It was Swanson's
older brother. I guess he had. But he chased them, I think it was Gustav
Carlson, maybe Lars Larson and Terry Johnson. I don't know what happened,
but he chased them down the side of Burnt Ridge and they were going to go
through the fence. The boys cleared the fence and they ran clear to this
house up here. He dropped everything and was after those three boys. But
he got tangled up in the fence and tore the bottom of his pants out. And of course, he couldn't go no place (laughs). The teacher:

KS: He was chasing them?

HA: He was such a funny guy. I think he was teaching the eighth grade certificate. Course, you could do that in those days, but he had it in for the kids.

It was terrible so they were all scared. My brother come to school one morning, we had one of these styles where you could take, come here and drive, wet weather or too much snow, we had styles, box up like this and steps here and steps here and steps going to school this way. When they come with a sled or a wagon, they could drive on the side of the road there, children right down on top of this style and then you go into the schoolhouse. But otherwise if you walk in from the north end of the ridge you walk in this side, and if you walk in south we'd walk up this side and come into school. That was kind of interesting. My brother come to school and he said, "Good morning" and he got mad and spanked him and, broke a stick off see, he was out of sorts and here he just tried to say good morning and kind of spoiled it for him. So he didn't use good sense. And then the next teacher we had, her name was Kitsh.

We had some rough kids and they would fight and wrestle. They didn't get along. This Boisan boy wouldn't pick a fight, but they were just determined he was going to pick a fight. Fight and wrestle. Anyway, whatever this one boy did, I don't know what he did, she got awful mad. And she tried to hold him in after school for three days. And so then the third day she got some of the older kids to hold both doors, she went down and got some willow sticks and whipped that kid. He cried bloody murder. She beat him on the legs and all over the whole body. I don't know what she did, whether he took off any clothes or not, but she spanked, just bloody murder and cried. So next morning his mother come and she was pretty mad about it. I don't blame her. I suppose she told her, "You better...." I don't know what he told her, but that was awful. Then his sister, poor girl, I
guess she didn't have much clothes and they didn't have much. Lived in an old house. It was up in the cemetery kind of on the hill there, around there. I think it's closer to the fence. Anyway, it's gone. And she was raised, only girl, youngest and she had four or five big brothers. And she was the only girl. And of course, she boys, raised her around boys and always got a kick out of things. Why she picked on this girl I don't know. This girl, she sat there and her blouse, it wasn't hooked together and I don't suppose, she didn't have very good pants. Anyway, she showed the skin on her back and she was sitting in the front seat. I think people were kind of laughing at her because her dress was open, could see part of her bottom. We kids I guess were too young, were too scared. We were always helpless. And she took that kid and pulled down her pants and beat her in front of the whole school. That's cruel. Then from there, I remember teachers. And then when I was in seventh grade, I had Esther Kristiansand. She was a good teacher, but, no, we had Margaret Smith's sister. June Cole. And she was a good teacher and she was kind of a jolly person and she was the one when we got to have reading afternoon hours just to settle the kids down and she was a teacher for all eight grades. And she'd read Uncle Tom's Cabin or, these two boys that run away from home. And then the Pepper Family and Anne of Green Gable. And Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. Mostly, Mr. Mustang that's a book too. And of course, that was more for boys, but we all got a kick out of these stories that she would read because she were good and everybody obeyed her because she good teachers, children naturally obey. And she was interesting. We had her for quite a few years. Then from that, then we had Esther Kristiansand. I was in seventh grade when I had Esther Kristiansand. And she was good. We took our tests, I think two subjects. We could take physiology and I think it was geography. You could take those two and the next year you took the rest of your subjects. And so Esther Kristiansand I guess I had for my eighth grade too. Then I was out of school. That year. And I think it was that year that mom and dad celebrated their 25th anniversary.
LS: Was that a big...?

HA: Lots of the church people came. It was down here in the living room. They, and my sister knew about it, but nobody told me and even the school teacher or anybody told me. I couldn't understand why they wouldn't have told me because I was, I could have been about around fifteen years old or something. Anyway, I don't know why they didn't tell me. And that night I talked to, we were really friends with our teacher. Oh, we had Miss Smith too, she was always one you could just really pal with. But with Esther Kristiansand we'd talk and she had time to talk. And she always did, too, she'd sweep the big schoolhouse. And so that night she was busy and nobody said anything to me and I thought it was so funny my older sister wouldn't say something to me about it, but they were afraid maybe I'd talk. Because I was around my mom anyway. Anyway, I didn't find out about it. I come home and Oscar and Helmer had boughten mother a nice silver set for their anniversary. And I remember, and they got lots of silverware from the church people. And they had Alvin here, they were just little kids, about four years old, twins, to carry in the gifts. They couldn't bring the silver or anything. So they had 'em out here and had to carry them through into the living room. So it was a nice evening, had nice cake and whatever they had. I'm sure there was more than cake though. They clear out, generally would have cookies and sandwiches and cookies and cake. All of it. Lots of times they would have desserts, but not at too big a gathering like that, couldn't hardly do it.

LS: Can you tell me about the party games?

HA: ...played games, party games and stuff. Lot of square dances and folk songs but we never thought more than they were just games more or less but they really were folk dances and square dances.

LS: Do you remember any of the songs?

HA: Yeah. (sings. SEE TAPE FOR SONG) Anyway, we'd change so some was going this way and some was going that way. And we held a hanger around it and go
around this way we were inside, singing about this old house. (Sings)
Let's see if we can't get more of that (sings)

LS: They had movements that went with them?

HA: Yeah. I've got another one. I don't remember them all but there's lots of 'em, some of 'em are lighter than others.

LS: You'd go to...?

HA: Yeah, we went over there and played all those songs and we'd do so many of them that we practically took over. Well, we were young people. Course they got in the ring too, but they sat and watched us. They were more what you call American people that probably didn't do what's been brought over from the old country. Now they have folk dances in Sweden on Midsummer day. That's like our Independence day. Our Fourth of July. And we attended them. Had all these folk dances and they were in circles and, or in square dances and they wore Swedish costumes. And the Norwegians wore their Norwegian costumes for all celebrations and for weddings and so they don't have to buy another dress for another wedding or something like that. That's what Mrs. Torvod Vine if you want to hear lots about Norway Mrs. Vine lives out and she could tell. So would Mr. Vine, Torvod is his name, her name is Herlov.

LS: What kind of things would you do?

HA: Well, I'll tell you, mostly we went to sometimes parties at peoples' homes they'd have parties. But I didn't go to many shows, very few shows. Few more after we got married. But he was always gone working. He was home a little bit in the summertime. I mean in the wintertime. But he was always farming for somebody else out around Moscow. We didn't see too much although we'd see like a Midsummer picnic day we used to take the 24th of June was a big picnic from our church. But everybody came from Moscow and Deary and all this way because there was something, gathering. And then of course there was Fourth of July celebration, people go right to Lewiston to watch the fireworks and something like that, or Moscow. That is uncommon now. People aren't interested that much. But have you been to the rodeo
in Lewiston? You ought to go on...

(End of tape.)