

Interview with Mrs. Nora Hahn at her home in Pincher Creek.
3 August, 1995. Interviewer: Leslie Robertson.

Time:

Tape One - Side A: 45 mins.

- Side B: 45 mins.

Tape Two - Side A: 25 mins.

Topic of Interview

Family history - early homesteading life 1917 -; Waterton personalities; Park: issues, businesses, changes, origin story of Lost Horse Creek and Coppermine Creek. Wildlife changes; historical buildings; cultures in surrounding areas; folk remedies.

Tape

Footage

Subject

- | | |
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| 001 | Introduction |
| 004 | <p>Family History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nora born in Fort Macleod 1905. - father Harvey Bruce worked a farm Sth. of Macleod - gave up - homesteaded Spread Eagle district. - Nora school- Spread Eagle, grade 10 - Macleod, then Spread Eagle, then Macleod for her Departmentals. - aged 18 (1923) worked for Pop Harwood in Waterton - Mrs. Harwood extreme rheumatism. |
| 027 | <p>Harwood hauled mail from Twin Butte to Waterton all year - sleigh and saddlehorse.</p> <p>Nora's parents - Harvey and Jenny Bruce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harvey from Ontario, Jenny from England. - 1914- drought - bad years - no irrigation - left the farm couldn't make payments. - Moved to Spread Eagle - a mistake - wanted the mountains. - When parents first married - moved to Porcupine Hills- 2 sons - needed schooling - moved to Macleod - father ran livery stables - quit. |
| 054 | <p>School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - first school Rathwell ? (6 miles Sth. Fort Macleod) now disappeared. - rode to school. Anecdote: age 7 - ride her pony to school then set it loose to go home on its own. Mother met her half way in afternoon. - Brothers Percy and Walter. - Anecdote: Percy aged 16 accidently shot in the head duck hunting - seizures - Calgary - finally recovered. |
| 081 | <p>Spread Eagle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no water, Winter - hauled 3/4 mile in a barrel - usually frozen from Dam or spring on Bigelow quarter. |

- 097 - used a stone boat for hauling. Pine Creek ran until mid July then dry.
 Women
 - stresses - neighbours one mile away.
 - chores: bread, floor scrubbed bare, 2 room shack.
 - children rode to school 2-3 miles some walked.
- 114 School Parties
 - whole community attended - neighbours: Bob Bairds, Alec Cleaver, Elmer Hudson, Hescots, Hislop, Allreds (grandson still has land).
- 127 Illnesses / Medicines
 - mustard plaster - (congestion); frozen toes and ears - coal oil didn't blister.
 - Wild Sage tea - for stomach.
 - Watkins' Red Lineament - bad stomach - few drops on sugar - sore throat, colds.
 - sore throat - flannel around throat.
 - cold tea - on the eyes - patch.
 - Winter - charcoal on the cheeks for glare - no sunglasses.
 - Wind and cold - school books down the front of the coat - gunnysack across the horse's chest.
- 171 Wildlife
 - never saw a deer for a long time.
 - saw one bear (black) on Spread Eagle place.
 - Park 5 miles West and South of them.
- 185 Employment
 - Spring - most men went to work on opening the roads or worked for farmers.
 - Fall - worked for farmers threshing.
 - worked off taxes - didn't receive money.
 - sometimes father went to Macleod for work to earn money for the Winter.
 - 1920 - 23 people started to get work in the Park - mostly returned vets. - Wardens.
- 206 Wardens
 - Art Allison - 1st Warden in townsite - wife a War Bride (WW1).
 - Pete Gairns, Wallace Gladstone, Bo Holroyd, Andy Bowers (killed by a horse), Bert Barnes, McAllister, "Papa" Giddie, Jerry Bailley (Fish Hatchery).
- 233 Duties
 - lived on their own, telephone Waterton to Yarrow Creek.
 - had a horse and a dog and ere allowed to pack a gun.
 - "really good company" - Yarrow Wardens used to visit for tea.
- 248 Wallace Gladstone
 - Warden Yarrow Cabin - lost a daughter to pneumonia or appendicitis - couldn't

get her to hospital - no roads, no cars, 1919.

- 269 Butcher
- only car near Butcher Creek - Butcher's car - British Remittance man - helped people out - took in old bachelors - stayed with Mary Smith in Pincher Creek boarding house.
- Mary Smith book "\$50 Bride" - story goes - Mr. Smith bought her from Crees for \$50.
- 308 Métis Peoples
- Crees and Blackfoot - Gladstones, Touronds.
- Métis in Waterton and area same time as Kootenai Brown - Billie and Fred McEwan - teamsters in Waterton Park.
- 361 Nichemoose
- met after death of Kootenai Brown - staying with Mrs. Gladstone - very cute - rocked back and forth in her chair.
- 372 Scot and Bill Morris - Métis trappers from North.
- Scot drove trucks in Waterton, Bill worked maintenance.
- Father "Peg-leg" Morris.
- anecdote: Andy Ford (RCMP) made candy apples on Halloween for children in the Park - they called him "Uncle Andy".
- Ford's wife - Nessie - was a nurse who tended people in Waterton - tall Scottish lady.
- 416 Anecdote: looking after Mrs. Harwood (rheumatism and asthma) she began choking - Nora went to see Mrs. Wessie Morris (Scot's wife) who fried up some onions and wrapped them in a cloth like do with mustard - one front of neck one behind - cleared right up.
- Wessie - Westino - from Twin Butte - nee Jenkins.
- 441 Transportation - Park
- George Baker - only truck in town. Before that Park truck went to Town once in a while for groceries - Cardston, Pincher Creek - Muddy roads.
- 451 First time in Waterton Park
- 1st of July Picnic ? Foot races, locals, ice cream.
- Townsite open then except for Hazzard's Hotel and Nixon's Cafe?
- 466 "Mother Nixon"
- great cook , from Ontario homesteaded in Parkview.
- nursed people in Town.
- two sons and two daughters - both dead now.

- Cafe started around the same time as Hazzard's Hotel.

- 493 Archie McLean's Dance Hall
- adjoining convenience store sold fish hooks, candy bars, canned goods, tea room.
- Pop Harwood cooked there - cakes and sandwiches.
- 503 Jack Hazzard
- Nora's father worked on his homestead at Drywood?
- father had cattle there for two years.
- Description Hazzard - red whiskers, Handle-bar moustache, very busy person.
- 522 Joe Cosley
- walked and trapped
- Very stately - walk into the restaurant and you would never know it - "slide along"
- very handsome - Native, quiet, long hair, clean.
- everyone respected him but law always after him.
- Walked everywhere in moccasins.
- 560 Question: What did people think of National Parks in the early days?
- didn't take it too seriously - just enjoyed it.
- all locally run.
- Superintendents: Kootenai Brown, Cooper, Bevan, Crommarty , Knight.
- 591 Parks - early
- Ernie Haug worked in administration office.
- Nora's first husband Gus Binney - accountant for Bevan and Crommarty - Jim Jones an accountant too.
- Camping fees - registration - no charge at first then it was 50 cents.
- could camp anywhere - lots of trees.
- Mistake to take out the baseball diamond at the Town Flats.
- Camping areas: Behind the Police Barracks - all treed, also Pincher Creek Avenue to the Narrows (Emerald Bay).
- Aldridge - lived at Lake Linnet - Oil City discovery.
- 675 Place Names
- Pass Creek - Blackiston Creek; Townsite Flats - Swimming Pool site; Old Sawtooth - Citadell Peaks; Sleeping Indian Mountain - Mount Richards.
- 696 Bertha Marshall - stories very exaggerated about her - she was a very clever person.

709 END OF SIDE ONE

Side Two

- 711 Bertha built her house - with father's help - hardwood floors, piano.
- she as a seamstress, singer and stunt rider (fancy riding) at horse shows.
- 730 Nora's Father - Harvey Bruce
- Born on Farm in Ontario - joined NWMP march West in 1874 with his father.
- Fort Macleod - put up hay in Halifax Flats for NWMP - later a Police scout - then worked on stage coaches and livery barns - met Mother and married - moved to the Porcupine Hills.
- Halifax Flats - 4 miles East Pincher Creek Hay for Police - 1800's.
- 745 Question: Hear about the Blood outlaw Charcoal?
- Father told Nora Charcoal was fighting for his people - hunger was a factor in his actions - pressured and went crazy.
- "You never know the full truth of the old timers."
- 758 Outlaws
- good ranchers would bring in a cow with two calves off the range - cow only supposed to have one calf.
- 766 Jean Rankin
- Outfitters in Waterton Park - Rankin Brothers (sister)
- Jean was up North for the Klondike goldrush - some thought she was Klondike Kate - made lots of money - came South - handfuls of uncut jewels from the North.
- Hardy, tough woman.
- Francis Riviere lives on her place now.
- died a poor woman.
- Rankins sold Saddlehorse Company in Waterton 1935.
- 800 Park Activities
- Horse riding, swimming in Linnet.
- Working for Pop Harwood - Christensen brought milk in from East of Belly River (not Chris Christensen)
- Belly River - fishing - heard of bull trout - didn't know them.
- 825 Fire 1935
- Living on Waterton River - 13 Waterton residents - women and children - stayed the night.
- started Head of Lakes - lightning - burned itself out - evacuated residents - men stayed to fight the fire.

- 842 Fire 1924 -25? Cameron
- Crommarty wanted Gus Binney to fight the fire - he wasn't well enough.
- wanted everyone up there - had only Warden equipment.
- 852 Prairie Fires
- beat burning ground with sacks.
- skin a cowl and drag the hide between two horses in front of the burning area.
- fear of fires in Fort Macleod - blankets - whole community stop what they were doing and go to fight the fire.
- No water - no equipment.
- 875 Firewood
- from anywhere you could get it.
- Fort Macleod used coal.
- willow wood the best for baking biscuits - quick burning, hot wood.
- 891 Locals and Newcomers
- enjoyed life, didn't have money, helped each other THEN
GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL
- huge influx of people - big change.
- Jim Hill - financier Great Northern Railway.
- Influx "immigrants" (outsiders) workers different to the locals - didn't live the same way.
- Billy Morris, Doug Oland, Jim Scott - both Foremen.
- changed the way of living in Waterton - changed like a place with an oil boom changes - invasion by people with money - different habits.
- People came just for money and jobs - most rented houses in Park - good for businesses.
- Food and supplies
- Delaney, Strate, Caldell - butchers - beef and lamb - didn't keep for long - otherwise lived from Canned goods.
- Eggs 35 cents for 1/2 dozen cracked eggs (for cooking) from Hillspring and Parkview.
- 952 - Strawberries from Glenwood.
- 954 Tourists
- Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Calgary - many short love affairs.
- today - tourists don't seem to relax like the "old boys"
- Anecdote: tourist with a woman in Waterton then his wife showed up and he bought her a set of China. Always stories about tourists.
- 971 Fishing
- early days - Narrows a good site - later went up to Bertha Lake.
- Never fish in Linnet.

- was told there was fresh water flowing into Linnet and an outlet somewhere as well.
 - saw frogs - never saw salamanders.
- 986 Squirrels and gophers
- Cameron Lake - squirrels, chipmunks and blue jays - then bears started coming - attracted to coolers - 1926 - 27.
- 1009 First bear "got" near Cameron Falls - then started to come around at night getting into the grub boxes.
- Question: "got ?"
 - "I wouldn't say whether it was shot or whether it just disappeared unbeknownst to the Park."
- 1024 Deer
- at doors - friendly - never saw Elk until later years - 82 head Elk jumped across Waterton River 1930's.
- 1037 Living on the Edge of the Park - 1933 - 1960 Waterton River.
- Adjacent to Jenkin's Ranch on Bo Holroyd's old piece of land.
 - Access Road across Park land a problem - Superintendent Atkinson very strict.
 - Tried to get a road in on the "No man's land" between the Park and private land - went to the MD of Pincher Creek - refused access along the fence line and could not cross Park land.
 - used Jenkins road before the Homestead Campground went in.
 - adjacent ranchers used Park lands for grazing - complaints about Elk getting into their haystacks. Grazing in Park stopped 1933.
- 1106 Wolves
- never saw a wolf in the wild until two weeks ago - Fernie Grey Wolf.
 - Howl - "awful" but nothing compared to a cougar - "shivers up your back"
- 1154 Changes ?
- no "freedom" - too much like a Town.
 - too many artificial buildings.
 - Cameron Lake used to love - took out the underbrush and placed interpretive exhibit over a swamp - no more Moose up there.
- 1179 Huckleberries - and fish at Cameron Lake until the "bear scare"
- shed / shack at Cameron Lake - Wardens or Bakers ?
- 1207 Changes in Townsite
- worst thing was taking out the baseball diamond. - Represented "real community"
 - diamond they put at Knight's Lake not used after.
 - Townsite Flats - games every Sunday.

- closure of Lake Linnet a disappointment.

1233 Question: What are Parks for?
- Pleasure, fun, relaxation.

Sofa Mountain = Vimy Mountain

1256 Horse riding up Pass Creek and Bertha Mountain.
Ernie road from Pincher Creek - muddy with ruts - all day trip.

1302 Lost Horse Creek
- origin story: man borrowed two horses from Hitching Racks - came back with only one the next day - mystery - never found the horse or saddle. Man from Blairmore 1922.

1372 Working at Park Administration office
- Head Quarters - no power, switchboard, only telephone in Town.

1380 Gus Binney sick - 40 miles to Town - bad weather.
- Mrs. Bo Holroyd - Registered Nurse - came to stay.
- Mrs. Harwood - crippled with arthritis - had to get by

1422 END OF TAPE ONE

Tape Two

001 Ski Prosser - wore sacks around his feet - "a stray"

009 Hutterites and Mennonites
- Hutterites came after WW1 - conscientious objectors in U.S.A.
- raised pigs and grew grain mostly.

Mennonites - old ones came from Europe - new Mennonites recently came from Kansas with money - "a different class altogether"
- eggs for the Mennonite peoples.

032 Question: Cultures in the area?
- "Dutch Flats" - 10 miles Sth. Pincher Creek, East and North of Twin Butte - mostly a German settlement - some from Ontario some from the U.S.A.
Hahn - Ontario; Hochsteins - U.S.A.
- Spread Eagle District - people from the "Flats" = the prairie Towns - Claresholm, Fort Macleod, Lethbridge.

043 "Coffin Ridge" = West of Pine Creek
Glasgow Hill - Twin Butte - Sth.

- 065 Oil Basin - never had a rig there just surveyed it - called Oil Basin when arrived in 1917.
- 070 Question: Archaeology, buildings?
- most of the shacks in Waterton Park taken down.
- log house across from Lake Linnet - called the "Kootenai Brown Place" - later the Gladstones lived there - Nichemoose would come to stay with them.
- before that it was the NWMP barracks.
- Harwood house next to it was the original registration office - Nora worked there.
- 085 Cook house fro Park employees gone -
- description of workhorses - "fat and sassy"
- 088 Jack Gladstone - barn boss - Cree.
- 092 Riviere's - had the "gift of the gab"
- 100 Carl Carlson
- big Swede , blue house Sth. of WNHA museum.
- worked in the woods - logging.
- Levi Ashman - trapper - not much left of his shacks.
- 131 Pass Creek Cabin; Red Rock Cabin; Twin Lakes Cabin - all gone.
Blue Lake a popular destination.
- 139 Shouldn't have torn so much down - maintained instead.
- Lake Linnet change rooms had to come down - getting old.
- 149 Deer as tame as they are now - but not as many.
Sheep - Pass Creek and Red Rock - not very many though.
- 160 Coppermine Creek
origin story: "Old Man Ekelund" - Nels - swore there was Copper there.
- anecdote: riding with Nona Bonnertz - told of her grandfather's (Nels') stories of copper up the creek.
- 175 Many dreamt of finding riches in the Mountains.
Nora's father thought there was Silver in one of the passes - 1914 - looked for it.
- 196 Question: How do you imagine Waterton in another Hundred Years?
- "I can't see it..."
Ernie - so commercialized that you won't be able to get in there.
Nora - No Parks in future - eating up Castle Wilderness - "where is the freedom going to be?"
Ernie - only access to those with money.
Nora - Parks going for money - not the freedom that they used to have there.
- old waggon trail.

- 222 Development
- now cabins all around Waterton River place - can't cross the River because its privately owned.
- 230 Bison Paddock
- great improvement to the Park.

Elk - never saw them until the 1930's - "and how much longer are they going to have the freedom?"
- 236 Wolves
- killed all the wolves and now bringing them back.
- local joke: They're "seeing which ones eat mice and which ones eat cattle."
- people receiving money to tag and collar wolves.
- Environmentalists.
- "Problem is there's so much civilization now. Years ago they were afraid of us
but now they're not. It doesn't bother them."
- wolves used to have the space to live - squeezed out - Elk too - environment getting disturbed.
- Ernie** 1936 first time saw Elk.
- Hunting early 1930's - never saw a deer track except in Mountains - Cloudy Ridge.
- never saw a grizzly bear.
Nora saw 2 grizzlies when she was working at the Head of the Lakes - one was chained up and they fed it.
- saw another at Yarrow Creek while fishing.
- Bears - don't move away from people now - doesn't bother them.
- 319 Waterton Park
- many black bears in the old days.
Ernie sightings at Ruby Lake; Bear climbing up cliffs on Lineham as they were coming down the other side.
Nora many bears at the huckleberry patch on Bear Mountain on Sth. Side of Pass Creek - called "Huckleberry Ridge"

419 END OF INTERVIEW