

ALDINE KOZECEK.

Summary of OH0236. Recorded in 1984.

The interviewer is Colleen Van Buren.

[A].

000 Father came to East Lake (?) Colorado in 1909 and mother came from Germany in 1907. Married in 1912. AK was third child, born in 1920. Went to school in East Lake. Moved to house she is living in now in 1960. Husband retired from Public Services where he worked for 28 years in 1979.

056 AK's father helped build the reservoir in about 1910. East Lake was built to store water for the farmers. Used to ice skate on it in the winter time. The farmers used to own shares of water. Water came from the mountains through ditches.

083 AK has an older sister and had a brother who died at 17 because of a ruptured appendix. Family was poor. The crash of 1929 didn't affect their family that much. Raised chickens and traded eggs for groceries. Had milk and would butcher hogs. Raised pickles.

116 Strong family unit. Family got together for holidays. Christmas morning. AK used to play in the train depot a lot. Also used to play in the bank after the crash. Enjoyed playing with all the equipment.

162 House was cold in winter. Had pump in house to get water, Used to take a hot flat-iron to bed to keep warm. Coal stove for cooking. Washed by hand. People would buy milk from AK's father. (not pasteurized then). Aldine's chores included taking care of the chickens. Used to swim in a lake on shell property where the cows would drink.

212 AK's sister was six years older than she was. She did most of the housework because mother was so ill. AK doesn't remember her brother. Sister was married at the old farm house, but it has since been burned. Brother ruptured his appendix while playing basketball and died two weeks later. Family borrowed on life insurance policy to pay for funeral.

266 Mother and father were very depressed at death of son. AK sold her business in order to take care of her family.

289 Felt fortunate as a child. Remembers collecting goodies at Christmas time. Church was a large part of her life. When AK was small she was closer to her father. He was a gentle man. But as she got older and married, she was closer to her mother.

353 AK wore lots of hand-me-downs. Never remembers wearing jeans as a young child. AK didn't like school and didn't like her teachers. She was a tom-boy.

396 After brother died, AK was like a hired hand. Liked working in the hay. Worked with the cows.

[B].

000 Migrant workers lived in the bunk house during picking season. Raised sugar beets, alfalfa. Lots of bartering. Went into Denver once a year. One time went to a show and sometimes ate out on this trip to Denver. Went with her uncle. AK went to the movies when she was in high school.

033 AK was always biggest kid in the class. Only four in her high school graduating class. Started going with her husband when she was 17, married at 19. When they were younger, used to go to house parties. She was on high school basketball team. They used to have junior and senior sneak days. Went to Golden once.

050 Math was AK's favorite subject in school. Kids respected teachers. Ku Klux Klan burnt cross on school grounds because they didn't like the principal. Some Japanese students in school, not too many Spanish speaking students, no blacks. Spanish speaking usually migrants.

078 AK's uncle ran the ice cream parlor in town. At noon they would go to town for an ice cream. AK's husband bought it and changed it into a barber shop and pool hall. AK realized she was very naive as a teenager. No one talked about divorce, for example, when she was growing up on the farm. Her eyes were opened when she started working for Gates Rubber Company.

088 AK couldn't have children. Adopted a boy after ten years of marriage.

096 Started working at Gates when she was 19. Worked there for 4 years. Loved the Job, but it was hard work. AK worked with belt inspection. Worked from 3:00 to 11:00 for several years and then her husband's shift began.

109 Met her husband on a sneak day in high school. She liked him because he had a Model A. He came from a family of 12 children and the parents had known each other for years. His first name was Rudolph. They dated about four years before they got married. Married in 1939. Simple wedding, AK wore her high school graduation dress. Stayed the night at her aunt's house for a honeymoon and then went to work on Monday. They had 25 dollars between them when they got married.

133 In 1942 they bought their first house on South Clarkson. They paid \$3,750 for it. Lived there 10 years and sold it for \$13,500 because as soon as they adopted their son they put in for a girl and it was required to have three bedrooms. However, the adoption agency didn't call back until their son was six, and AK felt they were all getting too old to start again at that point. She was sorry, though, especially because her son needed a companion in high school more than any other time. He is now married and has only one son also.

156 Worked at Gates for 4 years then stayed at home. After a year, AK got bored and went to Box Baby Store on South Broadway and worked there 5 years until their son came to their house.

Then she raised him. Later she bought Miss Rutger's Stand and ran that for 4 years, until her folks got sick at which point they sold their home.

170 Ran the stand by herself until 5:00 when her husband came to help. Later she hired help. Their son would sleep in the back of the car until they went home at 12:30 at night.

181 AK raised her son as a Protestant, who enjoyed going to church until he went to college. They went to the Congregational Church.

200 Didn't go to church in Denver, started again when she moved back here. Took her son to Sunday School. Goes all the time now, now that she is older, AK likes to be where she knows someone. Her church is completely furnished with memorials, She has bought piano, table, etc.

239 Used to go to people's house for dinner and play cards for social entertainment. Also used to go to Denver and fish. Son helped parents and then studied accounting.

265 Husband worked for City Service for two years when they were going to adopt a son. He was then told about Public Service - worked as a special equipment operator for 28 years before he died. Was never sick. Public Service had very good insurance,.

297 Worked at the A and W in North Glenn in the summertime for four years then went back to work at Borg's Children Shop for a year and a half until her mother became very ill.

313 Has been on the Water Board for 18 years. Elected every four years. Time consuming job. State requires a lot. AK explains how the water district began. They have bought two new tanks, put in a new building and put in two new wells. AK earns \$400 a year for keeping the books, paying the bills and collecting payments. Had three breaks in the lines last month so have to raise the water bills.

367 Enjoyed working. Her mother helped her with household chores sometimes, Worked hard for all she got. In those days you helped your parents rather than the other way around.

[C].

000 AK enjoyed working but does not work at time of interview. Is busy with other things such as bowling. Crocheted as a hobby for many years. Used to have turkey dinners at the church but doesn't do that so much anymore, AK reminisces about resting before dinner was served. Used to have to haul all the water to wash the dishes. Have served as many as 500-600 people. It was a reunion dinner for most people. Hope to have another dinner this year. It is not as hard to do the cooking as to get the younger folks to serve it. Clear around 2000 to 2500 dollars.

052 Most of the winter was spent working but they did go fishing in the summer time. Spent Sundays with parents. Belonged to the Women of the World and took over the youth group there

when AK lived in Lakewood. Used to take them bowling every Saturday morning. Took their son wherever they went. Only had a baby sitter once.

066 Always had a savings account but doesn't believe in charge accounts. When they needed something they would pay for it. Had a '29 model A Ford, which she gave to her son. Paid \$175 for it from the original owner; is still running.

084 Husband was a member of the Elks for about 10 years. Used to go down on Friday nights to eat.

094 AK talks about her friends. Got into bowling about 8 years ago.

123 AK likes East Lake and enjoys doing things for the community. Close community as many as 45 have come to a block party. AK knows everyone in town,.

152 AK has always done her own painting on the house. Has had some troubles with the house since her husband died.

164 AK talks about traveling.

183 Ak's mother collected china over the years. AK likes to cut the grass.

198 AK was taught to be careful with her money. Sometimes she goes to Las Vegas but doesn't always gamble. One time went for her sister's 50th anniversary. Another time got caught in a snow storm. Didn't have many vacations when they were younger.

259 AK has six-year-old grandson. Her son calls every day but they don't get together too much.

290 AK lives on social security, and savings. Enjoys going places.

322 Used to have a buzzer in the house so that when one of her parents needed her during the night they could ring it. AK took care of both her parents. Young people are going to have to take care of their parents if hospital and doctor's fees rise. Public Service still pays her Blue Cross/Blue Shield. AK never had any major illnesses.

400 AK believes you should help anyone you can and you will be repaid. She feels she has had a good life.

[D].

000 May contact Dr. Roy Carlson for documents on the history of East Lake with the Historical Society. Mr. Patterson gave 20 acres to East Lake with the 20 shares of water and it has never changed. Church records have some of the history. AK talks about the first fire hall in the county started by Bob Estrabrook. Before the fire department, the farmers would help if

there was a fire. Around 1927 or '28 there was a big fire in the pool hall. Had to use a bucket brigade because there wasn't even a water pipe in East Lake. The fire department gets water from Thornton or North GLen and then they have a 15000 gallon storage tank, which is last Lake water. The fire department used to be all volunteer but now there is a fireman there 24 hours a day, If it's a bad fire the farmers are called through a speaker in their homes. In the old days anyone would help when there was a fire; now if the fire is not in the district of the fire department, that department cannot help fight the fire. After 20 years of volunteering the farmers can retire and get a pension from the county.

084 Bill Wall has bought all the land around to build homes and AK hopes it never happens because she much prefers seeing the horses across the street.