ROY FLING, SR. Born 1906.
Summary of OH0485. Recorded at Hwy 72, north of Ward on March 27, 1990. The interviewer is Catherine Petito.

[A].

006 RF born in Denver, Colo.; mother born in Ft. Collins in a tent, lived to age 99; father lived to 96; RF siblings, brief overview of life "raised" over 300 children; 2 sons of own.

032 Quit school at age 13, put one sister through college; experience in machine shop, garage business.

051 Grade school in Denver at Hyde Park, 7-10 mile walks, chores on way to earn money; newspaper/burlap bag "overshoes"; Grove Jr. High.

067 Snowstorm in 1913, 13 feet of snow, father had to leave house through transom window over door.

073 Father drove first gasoline-operated vehicle in Colo. (was given instructions on how to start truck, but not how to stop, collided with a trolley), was a "mule skinner," firehouse horses, ice boxes.

101 Origins of Fling family in Colorado; Dutch, Scotch/Irish, American Indian (Cherokee); came in wagons; father's family were wagon builders, hauled passengers/some freight to Steamboat Springs, use of trees as "brakes" (tied behind wagon) on downhill trips to prevent wagon from running over mules.

140 Family moved from Leavenworth, Kansas to Colorado; wanted to get to the mountains; ore hauling.

152 Father's older brother Peter Highland Fling was Jack Dempsey's trainer; RF was a professional boxer for approx. 6 years.

165 Work at Remington Arms machine shop during WWII (provided draft exemption); switched to Pullman Company and rode troop (prisoners, hospital) trains all over the U.S.

183 RF meeting with wife (Goldie Pundt Fling), childhood friend; made decision to marry her while sneaking into Denver stock show; wife from Swansea, five years younger (wife passed away approx. 1-2 years ago); wife was also with Sheriffs department; hunting and fishing on dates, RF learned how to dance ("regular dancing") in exchange for GF learning how to fish; GF was equally good hunter; GF was swimming and dancing instructor in Swansea; married when RF was 19, GF was 15; first child (RF, Jr.) born 2 days after GF's 16th birthday; married for more than 60 years.

236 Moved to house north of Ward (on Don McKenna's ranch) in 1950; had been houseparents of
Denver Orphan's Home prior to move; started to have foster children in home during Korean war when oldest son in service; child with cerebral palsy/chorea.

272 Description of McKennas (related to Carnegies); Claremont McKenna College/Claremont Colleges in California; Kennametal, special types of metals used in space exploration; McKennas in 80s; raise cattle on ranch for beef, taken to slaughter in winter; some horses; 1500 acres; just RF, Sr. and RF, Jr. running the ranch; McKenna son is paleontologist at Columbia in New York; McKenna grandchildren; musical talents of Mrs. McKenna.

326 RF, Jr. Accordion playing; started at age 4; professional playing at age 6.

337 RF, Sr. Working for McKennas for past 40 years; stopped having foster children in 1950; McKenna involvement in tungsten mines in Nederland; McKenna cousin in Boulder on Mapleton; McKenna ranch in Canada.

365 Part of unincorporated Boulder County; mail from Ward; go to town (Boulder, Denver, Nederland) approx. 1-2 times/week; March 1990 snowstorm (108" in one week); Peak-to-Peak stays fairly clear, but sometimes is hard to get from house to road.

393 Sheriff's department experiences; Deputy Sheriff, got A-One ambulances in mountains; use of personal vehicles to get emergencies to town; RF, Sr. still involved in department; arrests.

457 Hippie camps; camp of 800 people at Glacier Lake, cleaned them out with the help of 25 prisoners from jail; another time cleaned out a camp with the help of a black bear captured near Beaver Lake (worked with Fish and Game service, John Monarch); threatened folks in Ward with it first; took another bear to Apex, near Moffat Tunnel.

537 Return of black bears; consumption of plastic in garbage gave bears trouble, numbers dropped; now that plastic garbage is being hauled to Boulder, bear numbers are increasing.

551 German shepherd dogs to assist in sheriff duties, named Rip and Tear.

[B].

000 Camp Pawnee (?) near Stapps Lake on road to Beaver Lake, youth camp for boys and girls from Denver (ages 13-18); some of the children stop by now with their children; brought children to the camp in their own station wagon; had boating, fishing, boxing (way of dealing with bullies); had counselors; could spend from 2 weeks to the entire summer at the camp; ran camp from 1950-1965; camp now belongs to Alexander Dawson Foundation (Jerry Henderson, Avon Products) - related to Junior Republic Camp in Lafayette.

Maintenance work at Berthoud Pass; GF did cooking "slope dopes" setting off avalanches (with Ray Appleton); (reference to snow "up to here" was waist high); avalanches on road to and from pass.
077 First aid experiences working on slopes.

Plaques on wall - first aid certification, commendations from sheriff's departments, firemanship (was fire Marshall for several years, fire fighting with only a 55 gallon drum of water and a jeep, Ward fire of last summer, sightseers (children from Denver schools) nearly ran over resting Indian fire crews), plaque of annual award from Sheriff's department in honor of RF and GF given to various individuals to commend exceptional service to department (instituted in 1982).

Antlers on house; elk, deer from hunting trips; biggest set was from one of his wife's hunting trips. Neighbors. Socializing.

162 Changes in sheriff's department; increases in rules, education needed, uniforms; made sergeant, wasn't interested in any higher rank; younger help these days; current sheriff (for past 4 years) Brad Leach (?); Art Everson was sheriff when RF started, was sheriff for 30+ years, preferred to talk to people, try to straighten them out rather than arrest them; increasing homogeneity in sheriffs departments in country.