Interviewee: MarjorieWooley Runner
Interview Date: September 6, 1977
Interviewer: Rachel Homer

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00 RH: This is an interview with Marjorie Runner at her house in Raymond, made September 6, 1977, with Rachel Homer of the Boulder Public Library.

RH: Could you tell us about coming to Raymond when you first came? It was in 1917, wasn’t it?

1917. My father got the Raymond homestead in 1917, and we came here. There were— well, my youngest brother wasn’t born yet. There was my self, my brother Richard and my sister Maxine. My brother Donald, was born later.

We never did live here in the winter, but we were always here in the summer, and we did various things. My father had been a farmer, so he started out having a big truck garden. We had a barn, down on the road, which had—we had horses and he used to—he had horses that we took on pack trips. He had some cows at first and we had a dairy; the children used to peddle milk in quart and gallon pails around the community. At that time, we had a springhouse, where we kept the milk cool and that sort of thing. It’s long since gone. It was right by the homestead. And we also had a smokehouse at one time.

R.H.: I read in your article that the gardening didn’t really do too well, did it?

The seasons are very short here; it’s really difficult a lot of times to grow anything. And also, we had some irrigation that summer; however, unless you have some irrigation of some _______ water, it isn’t that successful.

RH: Where did your family come from?

My father was born in Erie, which is out in Longmont, and when he died two years ago— he was 88 years old, so he lived here a long time. His father came and started one of the mines out in Erie—The White House Mine, at Erie. There were eleven children in the family, and all except the first two, maybe three, were born out there. And so we’re kind of _______ Colorado. We’re kind of Colorado pioneers. Our family history is in this book that Longmont put out, They Came to Stay. During the war, my father’s younger brother Harry had been in the war, and my father stayed to run the farm while he was gone to war. And after he came back, my father bought this place. He loved the mountains and he wanted to come up here to stay. So we came here and my uncle took over the farm.
When we first came here there were just four buildings here: the old homestead, which had been by that time made into a hotel and had a large hotel kitchen on it. And this, the original homestead building, was used as a dining room. And then there were six bedrooms—a long building which we call a terrace, that had single rooms opening out onto the porch. And the six rooms, which were used for bedrooms for the hotel. We never did have a hotel, but we did everything else practically. We had a summer resort and we had cabins to rent. My father was a carpenter, so he built practically everything up here, until he retired, all up and down both sides of the river, and he sold the lots and built these houses.

90 RH: So he actually developed Raymond more than the preceding people—

Yes, the folks—Charlie Raymond, who homesteaded it—evidently didn’t do much. We don’t know anything much about the Raymond family. I wish we could do some research on that. This brochure, which we found in the homestead wall, which isn’t dated, says that two men named Raymond White and Raymond Nelson ran the hotel and there were just these two buildings here when they did that.

RH: The entire copy from the brochure is included in Marjorie Runner’s piece on Raymond that accompanies this tape.

This brochure is interesting because it has a Gresham post office address. Gresham was a post office on top of the ridge on the _______ that went from Jamestown up to Raymond and this is also the stagecoach road—meets the stagecoach road—which went from Ward to Estes Park and went through Raymond. The old Gresham post office building was still there when we were children and we used to play around the old building where there were wanted posters and envelopes and old catalogs and newspapers and things. As I understand it now, there’s nothing there. I think the land is even fenced in as private property.

130 Perhaps Raymond is somewhat famous for the stagecoach road that went from Ward to Estes Park past Miller Rock comes through Raymond, and I don’t know anything about the history of this road either, and it’s something that needs to be researched. Of course the legend of Miller Rock—some people say that this man named Miller stole some horses and that the Indians chased him up on the rock and kept him there until he starved to death. The other account is that a sheriff’s posse took him up there and kept him up there until he was starving and then he came down and was shot by the posse. Which story is right I don’t know. I don’t know if its possible to research that, but it might be. I think every state in the union has a starvation rock of some kind—

Another reason that Raymond is, perhaps, more well known, is that it was always the junction of the roads, and still is, except that there is now a bypass passed Raymond, so it’s still a junction, but it’s not the main junction. The road went west of here to the other main Peaceful Valley one (?) over to Ward. The road went north from here over Stanley Hill to Estes Park. Stanley Hill was sort of interesting because it is named after Stanley of Stanley Steamer fame, who also built the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park and he was
very instrumental in those days in getting roads built up into the mountains in order to
have his Stanley Steamers demonstrated that they could make the grades, which a lot of
times couldn't. They also say that he was instrumental in hotels and resorts along these
routes that he was interested in developing as he was in his own hotel in Estes Park in
order to bring people up here, tourists and so forth. There is even a rumor—and I don't
know how that could be established—that he might have had some interest in or helped to
get the hotel in Raymond started originally. As far as we know all the Raymonds are dead
and long gone and how this could ever be checked out I don't know, but there might be some
records someplace—

Raymond, like I say, almost everything has been added or I think we've had almost
everything around here that resorts usually have, except perhaps a swimming pool; we never
did have that, but everything else—we had stores and we had lodges, we had dance halls,
we had restaurants, we had a fish hatchery at one time, we had a dairy, we had just about
anything a person could have at a summer resort, ______-- that sort of thing. And that
isn't, what do I want to say?-- that profitable. Summer resorts have never been known for
being profitable. And Raymond, like all the rest of them—well, most of the time we said
that we supported a summer resort rather than ran one. Many, many times my dad had to
borrow money in order to keep it and he had mortgages and everything, but we always
managed to survive. The summer seasons are so short. They still are but not like they used
to be because you have winter sports and other things and the roads are better and so
forth and you have people coming all year round. And you have so many people living here
all year round too. But it used to be that the season was from Memorial Day to Labor Day
and aside from that there was nothing going on. And if you weren't able to make it with
cabins or a store or a restaurant or lodge or whatever in those three months, you were
sunk. And it depends on the weather, and if the weather was too cool or too bad, why you
just wouldn't have any tourists.

Then there were things like gas rationing. Roads—building roads. I think that there were
roads being built here—it seemed like all through my childhood there were some kind of
roads ___________. And of course that was done in the summer. Because there have been four
different roads in Raymond: the Old Stanley Hill Road, the New Stanley Hill Road, and
before that was even the Stagecoach Road—and down the canyon too. Whenever there were
roads being built, it kept people from coming. So it wasn't that easy.

275    RH: The account of Gresham really is interesting. When was the last time you were
up there?

It's an awful long time since I've been up there. I suppose it was in the '20s sometime
when I was up there.

RH: Did you go up with a group of people, with your family?
Well, once we were just kids that went up there for the summer, and we hiked these hills
all over, everywhere.
RH: Did you also ride horseback?

Well yes, like I said, my dad had horses that he rented out; he had a stable, he even took people on the pack trips.

295 Interview ends suddenly.