DB: The ice house, you say.
AC: The ice house. I think that was about it. A little later they finished up this room. Then this hay shed was built when they found that they needed more room for hay.
DB: Is that where the garage is now, the turquoise building?
AC: Yes. This was the first pump house, they built right over the well but it wasn't very satisfactory. Didn't have enough water. So, they built this present pump house. But I have another one out back behind this one.
DB: When was that pump house built?
AC: Oh, about 50 years ago, I guess.
DB: And, what did they do for water when that one didn't work?
AC: Well, they got enough water that they could get along with, but they didn't have enough to water the garden or anything, just enough to do the house. That's all.
DB: Was it all from wells?
AC: Well, this other one though, that they had back here, watered the dairy. My son had a dairy...well, we had a dairy, too. We had a dairy in 1943 when we bought the place, until 1956, I think it was that we sold our dairy. But we delivered milk in Coeur d'Alene, to stores and house to house delivery too. But, it...the well supplied...then my son, built the big yellow barn, had a dairy here at one time...That supplied all the water for the dairy, both houses, water the garden here, there was never any shortage of water.
DB: When you were a girl where was the well?
AC: The well was about half a mile on this hill up here.
DB: Do you remember the name of the hill?
AC: It wasn't far from...it was probably just a quarter of a mile from here. It's just a hill in back. It is a little farther than where my grandfather's house was.
DB: Did it have a well house there?
AC: No. Oh, yes there was another well in this field down here, with those...Didn't turn out having too much water.
DB: Did you walk up to get the water with pails, or did you bring it down by wagon, or...?
AC: Well, that shows, bring it down in the wintertime with a sled. Barrel on a sled. My father had a yoke, you know one of those yokes that you put across your shoulders, and he'd carry two barrels...two big pails at a time. Remember once, he was, carried all this water way down here and walked straight by the house and straight to the barn, before the realized. He, he, he.
DB: Where was your root cellar at?
AC: Right where the cellar in now.
DB: Did you have a house garden too, a truck patch?
AC: Oh yea.

DB: What was planted in that?
AC: Oh, just everything that would grow in a garden.
DB: Could you get corn?
AC: Yea.
DB: How about tomatoes?
AC: Corn, tomatoes. Just everything. And some beets.
DB: Was your yard in grass much?
AC: No. It wasn't planted.
DB: What did you do with trash that you wanted to get rid of?
AC: I think they hauled it off and put in ditches, and in the fall they burned it.
DB: Would they haul it close by the house, or...? Did they have a central dumping place?
AC: Well, each farmer'd take care of his own trash.
DB: You said earlier that there was family co-operation, between different families.
AC: Hm-hm.
DB: Did people get together for anything other than the barn raisings or the house raisings?
AC: Oh yes. They had the, had the school house where the Grange hall is now. The school was started over there in 1901. And, there was lots of community get-togethers at the school house. There were dances, parties, and Christmas parties.
DB: Were there quilting bees?
AC: Yes. There were quilting bees. Those would be at, mostly at different houses. Like if they had a big enough living room that they could leave it.
DB: Were there any special people in the area that had special skills, like granny women or midwifes or anything like that--doctor women?
AC: Well, when I was born, Mrs. Fitsimmons that lived over here, came over and helped to get me into the world. They had called the doctor, but the doctor didn't get here in time anyway. Of course, it was a long ways out and it was about...it was about..it was further now, then than it was now because the road is shorter. About nine miles. Call the doctor and he comes nine miles; it takes quite a while.
DB: Did you have a telephone back then?
AC: Yes, we did have a telephone back then? In the early days. It was a party line with about 20 people on the line. We would always get one of our neighbors.
DB: Where was the switchboard for that phone?
AC: I don't know.
DB: Aha. It is interesting that the phone service would be here so early.
AC: It was early.
DB: How about electricity?
AC: It was the kind of phone that you cranked, you know. No electricity.

DB: When did that come in?
AC: I think it was in the '20s anyway.
DB: What were the churches that people went to around here?
AC: Had to go to Coeur d'Alene to go to church. Except there was a ...they called it a sunday school, that met over at the school house.
DB: Is that interdenominational?
AC: Interdenominational. The churches, you had to go to Coeur d'Alene. Lots of people didn't go. And then there were folks that never went to church because they'd use half a day to go to church.
DB: How long did it take to get by buckboard to Coeur d'Alene?
AC: At least two hours.
DB: Two hours?
AC: Hm-hm.
DB: Were there any other special functions that happened in the school, other than the church?
AC: Yea, they had dances there.
DB: Dances. Did they ever have ministers come by and preach in the school?
AC: No, I don't think so.
DB: Do you remember what religious backgrounds that people were here in this community, in Mica?
AC: Oh, there's Presbyterian, and Methodist and some Catholics, just about all of the different ones.
DB: Why do you think that they built the school down at the cross roads there?
AC: Because my uncle gave them land for it.
DB: That's a good reason. When you were a youngster you went to school there, I take it. How many children were in the school at that time?
AC: I suppose about 20. I wish I had the records so I could tell you now. I hardly went to school there when I was a youngster, but I taught there later. About 1930, I taught a couple of years.
DB: When did it stop being a school?
AC: In 19...in the 1940s.
DB: Did kids go to school back then the same time of year as they do now?
AC: Yes. But I think that they had only eight months, a year for school.
DB: How many rooms are in that building?
AC: Now?
DB: Aha.
AC: Two. There is the old, what used to be the old school building. Then they built, on this side, that is where the dining room is. Over there. Then the big hall is back.
DB: Was there only one room in the original school?
AC: In the original school, yes. There is a little kitchen in the back. Because, not at first, but later, about through the eighth grade before they started having hot lunches,

but they did have that little kitchen so that the little neighbor girl who had finished school, who has finished the eighth grade, that is, came up and prepared a little hot lunch for the kids.

DB: How was it heated?

AC: Wood, one of those big stoves. Big round pot bellied stoves.

DB: How was the school taken care for, was there a caretaker, or did everyone in the community...?

AC: Everyone helped. Teacher and kids did the tap water, and they had to do the cleaning, and the kids helped.

DB: How were the teachers gotten, when you were a child? did they hire a teacher from Coeur d'Alene or...?

AC: Yes. There was the County Superintendent, and he hired.

DB: When you were a child, how often did your family go to the store? And, which store would you go to?

AC: Probably about once a week. And there a store in Coeur d'Alene, called Fitsimmons, and we went there.

DB: Was it a general store?

AC: Hm-hm. They would take their butter and trade it for groceries usually.

DB: Did they ever get coupons for their stuff or was it mostly just barter?

AC: I don't know that. Sometimes they had to pay some cash for it. I still have some of the butter wrappers. See they would milk the cows and separate the milk from the cream. They would make butter, churn it. I remember the old barrel churn, we used to sit by the hour and churn butter. And then take it out of the press and take it and put it in the butter wrapper, and take it to the store. I think they got about thirty cents a pound for it then. But of course, I don't think it cost too much to make.

DB: How were the prices then in the store, were they reasonable?

AC: Well, they'd seem very reasonable to us now.

DB: But compared to other?

AC: Can't remember.

DB: Aha. If you were to mail order something, where would they have mail ordered from?

AC: I don't know whether they had a Sears Roebuck. I think Sears was in the '20s. In fact, I have an old copy of an old Sears Roebuck Catalog, 1922.

DB: What kinds of foods did you eat then, that were different from the kind of foods that we eat now, if any?

AC: I don't know. The food that we ate was mostly home grown. Of course there would be flour and things like that that we bought from the store. But mostly it was home grown foods.

DB: Well, who butchered the meat, back then?

AC: They butchered it themselves.

DB: OK. So, your father would have butchered then?

AC: Hm-hm.

DB: Did he do both pigs and cows?

AC: Hm-hm. And chickens.
DB: And, what kind of sweeteners did you have back then?
AC: I think sugar was the only...and honey, of course.
DB: Did your mother ever fix special treats for the children?
AC: Oh, yes. And special for the holidays, and birthday cakes and cookies and things like that.
DB: When you were a child what kind of clothes did people wear, especially the farmers?
AC: Bib overalls.
DB: Is that mostly in the Summer?
AC: Hm-hm.
DB: What did they wear in the Wintertime?
AC: Heavy wool pants.
DB: Did they wear special clothes to go logging?
AC: No, I don't think so.
DB: Were most of the clothes that people wore homemade, or were they bought?
AC: They were mostly boughten.
DB: Mostly bought. When you were a child what would your father's typical day be like, when would he wake up and...?
AC: Depending on the season, of course, in the Winter, no point in getting up too far before daylight. But I know, in the Summer he would be up at four in the morning and be working until late at night, probably. And, in the Winter it was not as long.
DB: How about your mother when she was working at the post office; what hours would the post office keep?
AC: The mail always came around eleven o'clock. And she would be in here, be in there from about a little before eleven until, oh, I suppose, one. Then if anybody wanted to get their mail, she would be at the house, you could...she didn't have to stay in there but she'd be at the house.
DB: What kind of chores were you personally in charge of here, at that time, around the farm?
AC: Oh, feeding chickens, and working around the garden.
DB: What kinds of foods did...what was the typical breakfast like?
AC: Pancakes, my father always had to have oatmeal and pancakes, syrup, sausages usually. A good hearty breakfast. He was a hearty eater, when you work like that; you got to eat a lot.
DB: How about at the noon meal?
AC: Noon meal was always the dinner. It wasn't lunch, then, it was dinner. It was a big meal. And it would be, some kind of meat, vegetables.
DB: And then the evening meal would be similar?
AC: Would be, not quite as heavy.
DB: So, in terms of the kind of work that he did, he worked mostly in the mining aspect up on the hill during the Wintertime? When would he do the logging?

AC: Well, that would probably be going on almost the whole year around. 'Cause he had to get the logging done to get, to get some farm land going.
DB: About how many acres could he clear a year, do you remember?
AC: I don't know. It isn't all cleared yet. There is some...well, my son owns some in timber again up here. He had a logger come in and log it last Summer. And he got about $2,000 for the logs that he sold off it.
DB: What would they do with the stumps, when you were a child, how would they get rid of those?
AC: Dynamite. Blow them up.
DB: Is that black powder, or dynamite sticks, do you remember?
AC: Sticks.
DB: Sticks. I see. And then what would they do with them once they blew them out?
AC: Burn them.
(BREAK IN TAPE)
DB: So, when you father started the farming cycle in the Spring, what would he do in the Springtime? What kind of things would he do to get the fields ready?
AC: I suppose, they would have to be plowed and disced and harrowed.
DB: About when would they start doing that around here, when does the growing season start?
AC: Usually, in April or May, depends on the season, of course.
DB: When does the last snow go off the ground?
AC: That's a good question. Usually March.
DB: Sometimes it would last though.
AC: Sometimes...one year it snowed on the Fourth of July.
DB: When was that? About how old were you?
AC: I know that we were going to a picnic in Coeur d'Alene. We were going down to catch the boat, at Mica Bay, and in on a boat to Coeur d'Alene; I suppose I was 10 or 12.
DB: And, what kind of crops did your father plant up here?
AC: Oh, of course, there would be hay and grain, besides the orchard.
DB: And, where was the orchard located at?
AC: North of the house, clear out to where the timber was then. Of course, the timber was closer than, it is now. Because it got cleared, lots of trees.
DB: Did he plant it all himself?
AC: Yes, he and his brother.
DB: About how many did they have? Or, how many acres did they have?
AC: I suppose there would be 25 or 30.
DB: How long did it take them to produce after they planted them?
AC: Seven or eight years, I suppose.
DB: And, then he did logging on the side, I take it?
AC: Yes. Hm-hm.

DB: How many acres do you guess he could have cleared in a year, for future farming?

AC: Let's see. Trying to think of...when I was a girl, eight or 10 years old, there was this woods between here and the road down this way. I think he must have cleared north and east first, because I can't ever remember when it was timber. Maybe it was not, maybe it was not naturally timbered. Sometimes, you know there aren't, there isn't. Maybe it didn't grow out that way.

DB: Do you think that he could do, maybe, five acres a year?

AC: I suppose, that would be reasonable.

DB: How did he get the logs from where he felled them to Mica Bay, or...

AC: Loaded them on, on wagon and hauled them with horses.

DB: And, then would be boom them up himself down in the bay?

AC: I don't think so. I think there was, I suppose whoever took them in.

DB: Did he have a stamp that he would stamp the logs with his mark?

AC: Yes, yes. Yea. He did have.

DB: Do you remember what was his insignia was, or sign?

AC: No, can't remember that.

DB: How did he get paid for the logs then?

AC: There were so many board feet in 'em.

DB: I mean, did they send him a check or credit or...?

AC: No. It must have been a check or cash. I think it was check.

DB: Do you remember him talking about how much they could make on a stand of timber?

AC: I know it wasn't like it is now though.

DB: Did he ever have problems with beetles or tree diseases, or anything, ribes or blister rust, I think?

AC: I don't remember of it, I don't know. I just can't remember.

DB: About how tall were the trees that were here, when you were a girl, how big were they?

AC: They were. Some of them were just very big. Now those trees that are over in the Grange yard...there are some around here, I can remember, when I was a girl we could climb to the top of them then. So they've grown a lot since then, but I know there were some that were as big then, probably bigger.

DB: Did they ever carry the logs by wagon to town? Or did they always take them to the ...?

AC: I don't remember that they ever took them clear to town by wagon. Of course there was the Blackwell Lumber Company down...this...as you come across the bridge it was...north...ah, south of where the bridge is. There was the Blackwell Mill. It could have been possible that they would take some directly to the Mill, but I don't remember that they did. I don't know.

DB: Did many of the farmers do that, carry their logs down to the bay?
AC: Yea.
DB: Was there a special spot where he let 'em into the water.
AC: Yes. Right there, at Mica Bay. There was a logging railroad that came down. There was a dock that went out. They would take it out on the dock.
DB: Did he use much of the timber around here for building barns, and things like that?
AC: Oh, yes. Yes, he used.
DB: What kind of tools did he use to work the timber, do you remember? Kinds of broadaxe, or...?
AC: Broadaxe and maul. Heavy maul or something. Cross cut saw. How did he load them? He must have had some method of loading them.
DB: Probably a ramp.
AC: I imagine.
DB: Tied a horse perpendicular to the load. You said to went to town once a week or so, to buy groceries, and stuff. Were those perishable items?
AC: I can't think what he'd buy, unless it would be perishable. Most of it would be, as I said sugar and flour, and those kind of things. Of course, most of what would be perishable, would be things that they could grow.
DB: How often did you leave Mica, to go on trips, or...?
AC: Oh, I can't remember ever going on a trip when I was a kid.
DB: When did your family get its first car?
AC: 19...I remember I first rode in a car in 1914. I think it was about 1914 or 1915. It was a Model T Ford. Let's see. No, it was a little later than that. It was about 1915 or 1920 when they got the first car.
DB: And, they kept using buckboards too, didn't they?
AC: Hm-hm.
DB: How long did they use one of those?
AC: Oh, not long after they got the cars.
DB: What was the longest trip you remember taking when you were, let's say, when you were pre-20 years old?
AC: Oh, I suppose to Spokane.
DB: Spokane? How often would your family go there?
AC: Every time there was a circus. Ha, ha, ha. In those days, of course, this was a post office. The circus people, they...gave the family tickets if they let them put their posters on the, on the sheds down there. So, everybody, every year when the circus came to Coeur...to Spokane they, they went over, to the circus. It was a long trip to the circus, but...
DB: How long did it take to get there?
AC: Oh, usually though, we'd just drive into Coeur d'Alene, and then go on on the train to Spokane.
DB: Do you remember what line that was, what train line?

AC: What was the earliest train line that came into? I don't know. Maybe the Milwaukee, but I'm not sure.
DB: Was there any special time of year that the circus came?
AC: Usually in the Spring or Summer, I think.
DB: Did you ever take the train for any other kind of transportation? Other than to go to Spokane?
AC: No, not when I was very little. First train ride I remember was when I took the train to Salem, Oregon. Went down there to enroll in the University for a year, that was in '22 or '23.
DB: Did people send mail by the train or did they ever send rail?
AC: Yes. I am sure the mail came by train.
DB: I mean did they even take it in to have it shipped by railroad, do you remember?
AC: I don't know.
DB: Was there daily mail service here, through the Post Office?
AC: Except Sunday.
DB: Except Sunday?
AC: Same as it is now.
DB: Do you remember when the first radios came in?
AC: I think it was in the early 1920s, wasn't it? I think so.
DB: Did people work in anything except logging and farming in this area?
AC: No. Of course, there was the mining.
DB: Were there many of those?
AC: No, I don't think so.
DB: So, most people were involved in some kind of farming? Where was the grain shipped, the hay shipped when it was ready for harvest?
AC: I don't know that either. Of course, a lot of it they used themselves. They had their own cattle, horses.
DB: Was there a mill around here to grind meal?
AC: I don't think so. See, there was a...see, they used to take the grain too. An old flour mill. It was in the Worley area someplace. There's an elevator over there. I was a little older, probably in the '20s. I can't remember where that was.
DB: Do you remember people talking about what were the best jobs to have in this area? Or the best paid jobs?
AC: I don't know.
DB: If something broke down here on the farm, when you were girl, where would you take it to get it fixed?
AC: Coeur d'Alene.
DB: Is that the nearest blacksmith shop or...?
AC: Of course, they did have a blacksmith shop here. And a lot of it they could do themselves.
DB: Is that, your father had a forge?
AC: He had a forge. The old forge is still out there, blacksmith shop.
DB: Did he make tools and things like that?

AC: Yea, he could.
DB: Do you ever remember hearing any stories when you were growing up around here, about haunted places or buried treasure or anything like that?
AC: No.
DB: How about unusual place names; were there any strange place names here? Like hills or gulches or anything like that?
AC: Well, there is Cougar Gulch.
DB: Do you remember the story...have you ever heard the story behind that?
AC: I taught in the Cougar Gulch School the first year I ever taught. Little one room school. In 1924, I taught there.
DB: Did the...were there ever any Forest Service people around here? Were there any CCC camps in this locale?
AC: Hm-hm.
DB: Were was that located at?
AC: It wasn't out here, it was at the other side of Kellogg.
DB: To the east side of town.
AC: East.
DB: Do you ever remember hearing any stories about the camps?
AC: No, I don't.
DB: What kind of different ethnic groups were in this area?
AC: Well, just mostly...just mostly whites, I can't remember any...
DB: Do you remember any blacks?
AC: No, not here.
DB: How about Chinese?
AC: No.
DB: Were there any Japanese?
AC: I don't think so.
DB: How about any Italians?
AC: No...

(END OF TAPE 18; Side 2)