

**INTERVIEW OF ROSE KOOT CZAJKOWSKI AND
SOPHIA KOOT FLUDER YARZUNBECK**

By Mildred Allen Beik

March 3, 1984
Windber, PA

MB = Millie Beik

RKC = Rose Koot Czajkowski (1916-2006)

SKFY = Sophia Koot Fluder Yarzunbeck (1908-1996)

BF = Buddy Fluder

Beginning of Tape 1

MB: If something happens to interrupt, there's a pause button. I can make it pause, like if the phone rings, and we stop, I can pause it. It doesn't cut in to the tape that way. If you stop it does. It makes a real loud sound. But, if you pause, it's okay.

SKFY: What do you do this for? What's the purpose of it?

MB: It's in conjunction with my dissertation. I'm doing a PhD in history at Northern Illinois University. I have been a student for years. But, it's for a doctoral degree. I'm studying Windber area immigrants and talking to people about how they came and trying to trace some migration patterns. That's what historians do now, they figure out where...because people don't come, usually single by themselves, they come with families, bring other people, or they come from the same regions, same villages in Europe or something. So, you trace migration patterns and immigrants who came in a big wave in 1880 to 1920 from southern and eastern Europe and like that's one area of immigration studies by itself like that. There were just many, many people from...

RKC: Is it a history natured?

MB: Yeah. That's what it is and Windber's ideal because so many of your people came from that area in that time period, and came from Europe, and so, it's a great place to study in all those ways.

SKFY: I guess all those small mining towns would be. You know, like Central City and Anica [inaudible, Track 1, 1:34] all those small mining towns. Any of those.

MB: I don't know them the way I know Windber so it would be easier for me to do Windber than it would be for...

RKC: [inaudible, all three talking, Track 1, 1:43] ...she said, where would Jerome be because that's where her mother was from. She said, she never knew where it was. They never had a car to go there. I know she used to go with us quite a bit, and she went there just today and she just had to go out and look around. She finally went down to Jerome.

SKFY: Well, she just wanted to see the place, huh? I would like to go to Poland. I wouldn't want to travel, you understand. I wish I could see just by going in the car a little distance just to see what it looked like where my mother lived, to see what surrounded her.

MB: I guess you've heard about it and want to know more about it?

RKC/SKFY: Yeah.

RKC: I would love to go to Poland.

MB: That would be nice. Some people have done things like that and come back.

[Inaudible, all three talking, Tape 1, Track 1, 2:24]

RKC: She's a traveling woman she loves it. I'd love to go, yes.

MB: That would be nice.

RKC: Excuse me. Did you get to see that certain man that the preacher told me from down at either Eighth or Tenth Street and he was in Poland and came back and then whatever?

MB: Not yet. I've just been so occupied with talking to people, I haven't gotten around to a lot of people yet.

RCK: I've forgotten who he was though. Do you have a name?

MB: No I don't. She gave me a name, but I have them all written down, but I don't have...

RCK: I was wondering. I didn't know who the person was. She was telling me about him. He came from Poland, went back to Poland, and then, he was there and came back, and went and came back, and stayed now. Somehow like that.

SKFY: Now like in Central City, there's a lady friend of mine that, she was in Poland, I think twice now. She's not from Poland. She was born here. But, there was a man that lived in Poland, he left his wife there. He couldn't bring her back, he couldn't bring her here, and he worked here. And then he died here. And then he had the black lung and stuff and she tried to get it for this woman in Poland because she had a family there. And somehow she did it, and she got it, and she traveled there. That's Mrs...They used to sell radios?

MB: That's interesting.

RKC: Mrs. Fera.

SKFY: Oh yeah, Mrs. Fera. And she was there and she saw the actual things herself and she would know exactly what to tell you about the thing. And she said, she went once and that she

was going to go again. I haven't seen here since she went the second time, but she was going to go. And that's been several years ago, but apparently she went there.

MB: Well, then. Maybe we talk about you two now. Why don't you tell me what your full names are first while we're doing this, so...?

RKC: Our maiden names? You know what mine is don't you? Rose Koot Czajkowski.

SKFY: Mine is...I have so many names. I have Sophia Koot Fluder Yarzunbeck.

MB: Okay. And you're sisters though?

SKFY: My sisters?

MB: You're sisters.

SKFY: Just the sisters.

MB: No, I just said you're sisters. The two of you are sisters.

SKFY: Oh, yeah. I'm the oldest.

MB: Okay. Can you tell me your birthdate? Or is that okay?

SKFY: Oh sure. I was born 1908. December 27. And I was born in Arrow. One mile from here. There's one house there now. There were many, many homes there at one time when we lived there. In that little village.

RKC: I was born May 25, 1916. I was also born in Arrow.

SKFY: She was the last one to be born in Arrow.

RKC: And then mother moved here. I was like, ten months old when my mother moved here and mother moved to this house here, she told me. I was in that house all that time until I got married and then moved in [19]40 and then I moved a couple of other places.

SKFY: Well, mother moved in 1917 from Arrow to [inaudible place name, Track 1, 5:39]. No, I tell you, once before she had moved also, she also moved in 1913, she moved to Norwich, PA. And that's where my brother, Joe was born. And then, they came back to Arrow and then after that, Rose was born there. And then she moved out here, to the house below here and that's where they spent the rest of their lives right here in Hagevo.

MB: And how many more children did they have?

SKFY: Well, after us tow, they had eight. There were ten of us all together.

MB: Oh, boy. How many girls and how many boys?

SKFY: Six girls and four boys.

MB: So, you are the two oldest girls then?

RKC: Yes, we're the oldest girls. And the oldest brother passed away.

MB: Could you tell me about where your mother came from?

SKFY: What part of Poland she came from?

MB: Sure. Whatever you know about it. If you know the name of the place, or what it was like in the old country. If it was an agricultural area.

SKFY: It was agricultural. That's all they had there. They had no factories or anything like that. All they did was what they raised, what grain they raised. That's what they lived from and that's how they made a living. Just what they, each other had big farms. A lot of land and if you had a lot of children, they would go and help the neighbors and they'd work for them and they'd get paid a little and that's the way they lived where my mother came from.

MB: Do you know the name of it at all? The region?

SKFY: Where mother came from it's from Brezna.

MB: Oh, okay. I think I've heard of that.

SKFY: I'm going to get the book. They're in Polish and could get them [SKFY leaves the room].

MB: Do you know much, Rose, about where your mother came from? Did she talk much about...?

RKC: No, no. She didn't talk. Sophia would know more. She'd tell about how they'd have the midwives come and deliver the babies and they had...

MB: In Poland now, you're talking about?

RKC: In Poland, yes. And they didn't have anything on their floor, not even wood. They had ground floors and they just keep them [inaudible, Track 1, 7:54]. And they would have like a room here, and their house here, and open the door right there, and the cows would be there. Right together in the same building. She told us that. I know about whatever. She probably forgot about a lot of things, you know. But, you know how they would walk. They would do an awful lot of walking. Wherever, they would walk. They did a lot of walking. And they wouldn't eat meat hardly ever. They would have like, rice and just the cheapest type of...maybe the stuff that they grew out in their fields. That was about it. About I know that she'd say.

SKFY: I'm back. I wanted to look up my parent's name here.

MB: Do you have an old family record?

SKFY: Not completely, no. Let's see my mother, she was born in..., her name was Mary Gorkyck. G-O-R-C-Y-Z-K. And she was born in B-R-Z-I-Z-N-I-E. It's called Brziznie.

MB: Brziznie ...

SKFY: Brziznie, in Austria, Europe, and Poland.

MB: Oh, okay. In Austria. So they were...she was really under Franz Joseph then, and not under the Czar of Russia like some areas.

SKFY: Well, they're under Russia now.

MB: But, they weren't under Franz Ferdinand and that part of Austria and Hungary.

SKFY: See now, since Russia took over so much, that part of their country is also under Russia. And she was born March 28, 1886. Now wait a minute. It's March twenty-sixth.

RKC: I was going to correct you on that. I thought it was March the twenty-sixth.

SKFY: Yes, here, it looked like an eight. Okay, now. Do you want a complete history on my mother first? Is that it or do you want my dad's name?

MB: It doesn't matter.

SKFY: Okay. I'll give you my dad's name.

MB: Give me his name too.

SKFY: His name was Frank Koot. And he was born in M-I-E-D-I-Z-N-I-A. In Austria, Europe, Poland. October 4, 1881.

MB: Oh, so he was five, almost five years older than your mother?

SKFY: And his little village place where he lived was called, Lancuczka. It's spelled L-A-N-C-U-C-Z-K-A.

MB: It's nice you have the names. Some people don't know their names when people ask for them.

RKC: I don't have it. Mother never said where...well she did say. I never wrote it down.

MB: This will be nice.

SKFY: How many things mother had talked about...we should've written all that stuff down. Not taken it for granted. And now I'd like to know about a lot of these things. I thought I'd remember.

RKC: Yeah, that's true.

SKFY: I don't remember everything. Now, what else would you like to know?

MB: What was the area like that he came from then?

SKFY: Well, my father was a lumberman. He was working in a lumber...

MB: In Poland?

SKFY: Yes. He cut, he was cutting lumber. He was a lumberjack--they call them back here. But there, they call them lumbermen. And there were two in his family, a sister and a brother. Yeah, and my father, and he had a sister. There were just the two of them. And, where dad lived, now he went to school, my dad went to school, I think to fourth grade. And their school was in a home. They just did not have a building, a school where everybody went to. The most intelligent person in that town would become a teacher and would teach them. And that's all the further schooling he had. But, he was a very intelligent man though. He could snow us all under.

RKC: He could read and write, all of that.

MB: He could read and write?

SKFY: Oh, all of that, yes. He spoke English good, of course my mother could too. Of course, they had the accent, you know what I mean, but they could...my mother, to be Polish, she really spoke English well, didn't she?

RKC: Yeah, she did. She could read too. Mother could read.

SKFY: She had beautiful hand-writing. And dad did too for as little schooling as they had. Now, my mother went only to second grade. And she also went to a home where they had the school right in the home where the few children from the village that gathered. They would have it at that one. In many different homes [It must be Patty upstairs]. Like in many of these different homes, there would be so many miles or whatever you want to call it. Maybe it wasn't miles, but distances.

[Break in recording, another person interrupts, Track 2, 3: 53].

SKFY: Well, let's see. Where were we?

RKC: Dad. You were talking about dad.

SKFY: Oh, yeah. About dad.

MB: You were talking about them going to school and things.

SKFY: Yes, going to school. And then...

RKC: Did we say when he came here? Do you want to say right now?

SKFY: No, not yet.

MB: Do you know more about either of their childhoods. Did they talk about did they go to churches...

SKFY: Oh, yeah. Now, when they went to church, they walked. The church was very far from where they lived. And when they would walk to church, mother said they would... They were poor. They came from a poor part of Poland. Now, my father was little better off than my mother. My mother's family was poorer than my father's. And my father, he had shoes and things and he could wear them to church when he put them on. Because he had one pair of shoes for church and one pair to work in. But, my mother, they walked barefooted most of the time. And in the wintertime they would have shoes. But, if they would go to church in the summertime, they took off... they walked barefooted to church and then when they got near the church, they'd put their shoes on so they could enter the church with shoes on. And along the way as they walked to church, they had... well, I don't know if you would understand this or not, like we do because we grew up with this, they had like Stations of the Cross. You what they are?

MB: Yes.

SKFY: In the woods. Every so often, there was a Station of the Cross, and if they were walking and there was a group of people, only one person, they didn't ride. There weren't horses or cars, everybody walked. And at each station, they would stop and they would pray before they got to church. And on their way back, they would take their shoes off and walked barefooted again. She said that their feet would get cuts with stones, but they still made it just in bare feet. And my dad now, they also had to walk, but he walked in his shoes. He didn't have to take his shoes off. And of course, they studied catechism, and they went to... you know, they made their communion, and everything just like we do out here. In fact, more so. The people in Europe are very religious. In fact, especially the Polish and the Slovaks. They are very religious people. And, the mother and the father, of course, in both families, taught them their prayers and their religion. They were taught at home. Whatever religion they gave us is what they learned from their parents and then my dad did a lot of reading. And, he was intelligent, I mean, he got most of his things out of the Book. Now, my mother was more or a woman where she would rather do a lot of work rather than sit and read. My father would rather read, not that he didn't want to work. He was a good man for working as far as that goes, but when somebody came, or at least, when he had a little leisure time, he would spend it reading. That's how he had learned more than what he brought from Europe.

MB: Do you know how old he was when he started to work?

SKFY: Well, [inaudible, Track 2, 7:03] they started to work there as soon as...like when they were six and seven years old. That's to work around with their neighbors and for themselves. And soon as they'd get to be like fourteen or twelve and thirteen, they were ready to go out...like my dad. He would go out to where he would get paid for working.

MB: What about your mother? Did she come from a large family?

SKFY: Yes. My father came from a small family which was only two. And, now see, my grandmother on my dad's side, she was married twice. And she had children to her other husband also, but to my dad's name—Koot—was only just the two. Yes. Now my mother's family, there were five that was her brothers and sisters, but she had several brothers and sisters that were half...I guess you'd call them half-sisters. They didn't have the same father, but they had the same mother. But, see, mother left Europe and really and truly, she didn't write that much to the...she used to write letters to them, but not as often as she did to her own, you know, that was her own brother and sister. Now, her one brother came here too, also to the United States. And, he died during the flu, which was what? 1917, I think. He died then. And her one sister that came here, she died about, oh, I'd say...to be really and truthful with you, I couldn't say exactly when, but I'll kinda' guess on it. Because I remember, I was at that time about six years old. So now, I don't know how I could tell you that. I was born in 1908, and so that'd be like [19]14, like about 1914? I would say then is when her sister died.

MB: Did your mother talk about working in Europe then? Your father worked?

SKFY: She never worked out. Just around home and helping the neighbors in the field. Like to pull potatoes and pulling weeds and things like that, but she did not do any other type of work.

MB: But, the women did go out and help with the harvest?

SKFY: Yes.

MB: What did they grow in the area? Potatoes?

SKFY: Potatoes, wheat, anything like, in a grain, a grain part, because they used to make brooms. Now my mother would do that. You know, like at their own home. And, my mother also did weaving. They made all their own cloth. However they did that, but don't ask me. But, she once told me that they would make their own cloth and that they had a loom where they made like all their linens and things. And they had to make that from their own fields. Whatever you have to get from the field to make it. Don't' even ask me because I don't know.

MB: Did they make it just for their households or did they make it to sell it...sometimes they made it and sold it to merchants who came and bought things for people who may be at home?

SKFY: No, mother...they tried to make just enough for their own family. Like, if they wanted to have some nice clothes to wear if Easter was coming or Christmas was coming, or something like that, why, they would make this, but not for...But, they would not have too many of these

things, may say like, one dress a piece because she said it took an awful lot of work till they bleached it, however they bleached it, don't ask me. Whether it was in the sun or how, I don't know.

MB: A lot of work anyway. So, did your parent's know each other in Poland?

SKFY: No. My mother and father had never met each other in Europe. See, my dad came as far as I know, I can't understand this one thing. I remember him saying that he remembered the flood when he was in Cambria City. [Flood in Johnstown reference, Does not seem to be 1889 Flood, but not sure, Track 4, 00:21-2:10] That's where he came to. He came to Cambria City. And, he lived in Johnstown and there was a flood. He says, he remembers the flood. And he said he remembers that they were upstairs in Cambria City on the second floor and the water was up that high, and they would see the beer floating...there was a place where they made beer in Cambria City, and the flood washed all these kegs out, and he said, they would grab a keg and bring it into their rooms and drink it. While the flood was on. So, don't ask me what flood that could have been, I don't know.

MB: Could that possibly been the 1889? Did he come as a child?

SKFY: No, he didn't come as a child. I would say he was about seventeen years old. Sixteen or seventeen years old.

MB: So, it couldn't have been the 1889 flood, then. Must have been a later one.

RKC: I could've been a small flood.

SKFY: He said the water was so high...this is what I can't figure out, upstairs, Rose. He said, they were upstairs and they would catch these out of the upstairs window.

RKC: Catch the beer barrels?

SKFY: Yeah. The beer barrels. The kegs.

MB: I think there were four others than that one. But, that's the one people talk about all the time.

SKFY: I tried to figure that one out many times. I never asked, but he said it, so we listened. And that was it. Not thinking for one second which one...but, that would be important to know sometime. But, after he died, I even asked mother if she wouldn't know. And, I said, I wonder what flood that was? I couldn't ask him any longer, then, I thought to myself, how awful. He's gone and you can't ask him now. I'd like to know this. Why I wanted to know, I don't know, because he wasn't there and he couldn't answer me.

MB: Yeah, that's hard. Do you know what brought him to the United States and how he came?

SKFY: Oh, he came by boat.

MB: Did he have relatives here before?

SKFY: No, he had no relatives.

MB: Friends or anyone? How did he come?

SKFY: No. A couple of guys got together and they were coming to the United States because some of these men had friends and relatives in the United States and they thought the United States had all the sidewalks paved in gold. Everything sounded so good. So, dad says, well, he was going to go with them too because he was working then in Germany, he was working in Germany where he was cutting timber.

MB: He was a young man?

SKFY: Very young. Uh-huh. And he said, he was going to go with them too. And that's how he got here and they had relatives and friends in Johnstown and Cambria City and that's where he landed. Then from Cambria City, the thing...his job--the work that he was doing in one of the mills, I don't know what he was really doing in a mill, but that's where he worked, in a mill. He wasn't making as much as he heard as the people, the men who were working in the mines were making far more. So, he met some fellows from Arrow, from over here, and he come out here to look at the mines, and he decided that's where he would like to come to work because he could make more money. So, that's how he got to become a miner, yes.

RKC: How did he meet mom?

SKFY: How did he meet mom?

MB: Oh, good question.

SKFY: Mother came to the United States in December of 1907. In December, before Christmas. And, she came with a group of young girls, and they came to Arrow. And, they came long ago and these people were all coming in from Europe, they had nowhere to stay, so whoever was here before, they had like a boarding house and had all these people come to them and then they would find places for them, you know. Later on, either they brought them together, they got married whatever, and then they would move out. My mother met my father there. That was December, before Christmas of 1907. And, my mother and my father were married, 1908, January the thirteenth. Couple week's romance.

RKC: [Laughter] That's what my dad said. My dad said it like this, he said, you kids call this love, you know what love is? When a woman is built strong, big legs, and big bosom, then that is what you call love and it's nice, good strong woman! Not this here business of, you know, of looking around, if they're pretty or this or that. And we'd say, well, mom's pretty. Well, I looked for pretty too, but I looked at her legs and I saw that she'd be a good strong woman and that she'd make a good wife for my children. So, that's what it was.

SKFY: I had to laugh at him because I'd say to him, we always talked that there was so much love, love. And dad said in Polish, ah [Speaks in Polish, Track 3, 5:19] love, love. I said, how could you ever marry a woman who you only knew two months, ah, two weeks and I says, how could you know she was going to make a good wife? He said, you don't have to go through all that. Loving somebody. He says, the love grows on you. So, that's the way his happened to be.

MB: How did your mother come with these people that came here?

SKFY: By boat.

MB: But, did she know somebody here? Sometimes they wanted women to come just because they could get married then and were encouraged to come. Do you know anything about her talking about coming?

SKFY: No, I'll tell you how she came. There was, in Europe, where she was with all the young girls, where they lived close, they were neighbors. And, these young girls had aunts or relatives of some sort that were in the United States and they would get letters from them. And, my mother was friend of theirs and so was my aunt that came with her also. She came at that same time. And, my mother's...which is our uncle. He also came, the three of them together. They knew no one, but they came with these girls because they knew someone. And they all came to this one house. And they came on a boat, they came into New York, and then from New York, the people that lived here in Arrow, there was somebody there to meet them to bring them into Windber. They came into Windber on a streetcar because we had streetcars in Windber then. And then they had a buggy waiting there she said, to take their luggage and stuff to bring them out here. She said, when she got here, she looked at everything and she said, all of a sudden, she felt very lonely. She said, oh my, she said, I left my native country and here I am. She said, I don't know if I'm going to like it or not. But, then after she got married...the reason she got married, she said, she was afraid. She said, what she was going to do here by herself? She needed security. So that's why she married dad.

RKC: And they were married a long time.

SKFY: And they never divorced. [Laughter] Dad died at the age of eighty-four, and they were never separated or divorced—there was no such a thing. You made the best of it. You worked on your...on the love, like he said.

MB: So was Arrow a pretty big town in those days?

SKFY/RKC: No. It was just a village.

RKC: It wasn't as big as Forward City [Inaudible town name, Track 3, 7:52] was it?

SKFY: No, unh-uh,

MB: Was that a Berwind mine? Or some other kind of mine?

SKFY: No. I'll tell you what...

MB: There were so many around...

SKFY: I'll tell you what we had there. There was a mine there, one or two mines. There was a match factory, and my mother worked in a match factory.

MB: She did?

SKFY: Yes. It was in Arrow. My father started to work there, not in a mine right away. He started there as a lumberman because they made a lot of timber in Arrow. I even have some books on where they were making timber. Yes. And then, after mother got pregnant, she was pregnant several months when she quit working there, when they made the matches, they did not put the heads on the matches, you understand. They made them just the matches without the...just the sticks. And then, they were all sent away in bundles and these bundles...mother don't know where they sent them to, and then they had the heads put on.

MB: So, she worked when she was first married then? And so on?

SKFY: Up until, well, I was born in 1908 also. She was married in 1908. And I was born in December and she was married in January so she couldn't have worked too long. But then, when she quit working, well, after they got married, dad got a house there in Arrow. Then they got a couple of these girls to come to live there. There was more girls that were coming in from Europe and then they had them as boarders. And that's how they made some of their money. Mother made the money at home and dad made the money, you know, elsewhere. Then, later on, my dad went into the mine.

MB: Do you know about when that was?

SKFY: That was whenever they were in Arrow. I would say, now this is only a guess because I was born in 1908, and we moved here in, you was born in 1914, right?

RKC: 1916.

SKFY: 1916, okay. So, we moved here, like, 1917.

RKC: 1917.

SKFY: Okay. So, I was seven, about seven and a half years old, a little better I guess than seven because that's how much older I am from you. And, dad worked in a mine there a good while before we moved from there. So let's say that he worked there two years or three as a...in a match factory, not in a match factory, as a lumberman and the rest of the time he worked in a mine. But, he worked in that mine after we moved here. He worked, but he walked over this big hill to go to work.

MB: Yeah. You'll have to show me where Arrow is.

[Inaudible, all three talking, Track 4, 10:31-10:41]

RKC: You can't even drive way in there. It's a private road.

SKFY: There was quite a few homes there because there were an awful lot of Italian people there. When we lived there, we were the only Polish family that lived. There were three rows of houses there, starting from the road, you could show where the road is, from there on, way up to where Biggins, you know where that is. And then, there was mostly Italians on this side where we lived, and up further were the American people, what we called the American people, were the American-born people. And, of course, I was American-born too, but I'm speaking of my mother and father. And, then...

MB: So, you were the only Polish family?

SKFY: In that small area. Then up further, it was in the same place, but like say, we lived here, maybe up on the hill is where the other people though...Not too many. There weren't too many Polish people there. Just the ones like that I was telling you about that they came...but, they were living at the other end, we were living on this end with all the Italians. And up at the other end is where the other Polish people have lived. There were Slovaks too. Mostly Polish, Slovaks, and Italians. That lived there. But see, a lot of the Polish people that had lived where we were living, they had moved out because they were the people that my dad knew, but they moved out and went elsewhere and then the Italians start coming in.

MB: Yeah. Big changes in migration, I guess. Town to town.

SKFY: Well, the ones that were here for a longer length of time, they found out where there was a better way of making living. Other places then, working in a mine and maybe they...I don't know, dad didn't say this but, maybe they were working with lumber or something and when that finished up and then maybe that's when they moved out, I don't know. I remember those people.

End of Tape 1 Side A

Beginning of Tape 1 Side B (March 3, 1984)

MB: What do you call that? This is Hagevo?

SKFY: H-A-G-E-V-O. It's Hagevo.

RKC: Now, there was a little town down in Hagevo also. And a store, just like before there would be. Sophia used to work down there in that store. And it was the company store. And we used to run down and get bread from the store, sliced bread. We'd walk down the tracks and run down and get the bread for the guy's lunches. My mother always baked bread. We were sick of homemade bread. So when we were coming home we would get that whiff of store bread and we would steal a slice or two out of there and we would close it up so they wouldn't know because we were tired of homemade bread. We liked the bakery bread better. You remember when you worked in that store there?

SKFY: We always thought it tasted better. You didn't even know what the taste was like until you got some of it.

RKC: How old were you when you worked in that store?

SKFY: Fourteen.

RKC: Fourteen years old. There was a post office there and everything.

SKFY: I would imagine I was the postmaster at the age of fourteen.

MB: Really?

SKFY: The man that was getting paid for this, he was working on a tippie and his name was on the post office, but I did all the work—packed the mail. When the people got the packages, and I got everything ready for the bags, locked the bags up, and sent everything out with the mail. We had boxes, and you put your mail right in the box, like you see on television and send out your registered letters...oh, Hagevo was a nice little town.

MB: It was pretty big compared to Arrow?

RKC: It was about the same?

SKFY: Well, in Hagevo, gosh, how do I say this? There was more coal that went out from Hagevo than there did from Arrow. Arrow did more of the lumber which Hagevo didn't do any of that at all. Here we had four entrances, what would call these, drift mouths for the mine. Just four openings for the mine in Hagevo. Which was number one, number two, number three, and number four. Now, in Arrow, they didn't have that. It was up on the hill and they only had, I think, two drift mouths...it's called drift mouths.

RKC: I forgot what they were called. It's been so long since we talked about it.

SKFY: And then, in Arrow we also had the post office there, and we had a nice big store, the general store. The ice cream man came there every, almost every day. With a wagon and a white horse and a man in the back where he would fill our dishes up or we'd bring our plates out or the cones or whatever. I mean, it was really...I enjoyed it there.

MB: You had most of the things you needed just within walking distance.

SKFY: Oh yeah. We were not spoiled to have that much in need, like seeing a movie and stuff like that. As long as we had enough to eat, clothes to wear, and somebody to play with, that's all we cared. 'Course Rose was little yet, she doesn't know of this and that.

RKC: When I grew up, we always went down there to Arrow.

SKFY: You didn't spend time with the people, though. See, it didn't take long after we moved from there, Arrow then, didn't last too long. Hagevo came in...

RKC: Show her the picture then.

MB: Hm. [Seems to look at picture] So, Sophia, you didn't get to go to school too long then, did you?

SKFY: I went to eight grade and I graduated from eight grade.

MB: From Hagevo?

SKFY: From Hagevo here. We called it the morning land tech [inaudible, two talking, Track 4, 3:32].

RKC: And Hagevo tech.

SKFY: Morning land tech.

RKC: The schools not there anymore. The schools all torn down or whatever happened to it.

SKFY: Hey, my school's still there. The school I started in. You'll have to show her. In Arrow.

RKC: I'm not going to go way back in there.

SKFY: No, dear. It's right below Pennrod.

RKC: Oh, that one. Oh, yeah.

SKFY: That was the only school we ever had there. See when we.

RKC: What we used to do, we had morning land and then our teacher's would take us for a walk to visit Arrow school and that was a [inaudible, Track 4, 4:06] you know those kids got to that field there whatever? Well, that was our field day to go there and in your eighth grade, you only had about five or six pupils. There was the fourth, fifth, no, there was a fifth, sixth, and seventh grade in one room. And down here. So, Mr. Weaver was my teacher and his sister was the teacher in the little room. And so, it was brother and sister in those rooms. So anyway, I can never find a rich man from down there because you know, oh I better not say anything too much because of this thing here [Laughter]. I better shut up.

SKFY: Now we had in Arrow, we had a downstairs floor and an upstairs floor.

MB: Was it a company house?

SKFY: No, it was a regular built school.

MB: Oh, you're talking about the school.

SKFY: Talking about the school, yeah. Downstairs we had first, second, third, and fourth grade. And upstairs was fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth. Well, I just went to that school until I was seven years old, I was about seven. I started first and second grade there and then I came here to, then I finished school here. I didn't go to school really that much because I had to stay home Mondays and Tuesdays. On Mondays I had to wash clothes and on Tuesday, I had to iron. So then, I'd go to school Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. And it isn't like today where you had to go to school, but I wanted to go to school so badly, I was so hungry just to be in school, but mother had...she had kids, she had boarders, so I had to stay home.

MB: She kept boarders? Did she have a lot of boarders then? Here?

SKFY: Well, no, for the most that she had when I was home was four. At one time, you know. And if she did have four, not the same ones because they would come and go. But, she did have boarders.

MB: So, she valued you helping her?

SKFY: Oh, yes. You can say that again. She depended on me, well...She went out to work in the field, now Rose can tell you, my mother was a woman not for the house. My mother was for the outside and she would do beautiful work. Everything by hand. All the hoeing. We had a couple acres of ground, and she did everything by hand and then later on, we got a pony. And, my brother Stan would take the pony and lead it and mother would, you know, our mother would lead it and cultivate with that. But, up until then and even whenever we had a pony, there were smaller areas where you couldn't get in with a pony, my mother did everything by hand. All the hilling. Of course, all the kids had to go and weed.

RKC: Excuse me. Not only that, but one time mom was pushing and daddy was the pony, remember? Pulling that, what do you call that thing?

MB: Plow?

SKFY/RKC: Cultivator.

SKFY: And we got it plowed by our neighbors who had horses. But, now in the garden, they did the spading themselves, but in a big field, they had to get somebody to plow it. But then, as the kids got older, they weren't born fourteen years old. You had to wait a while till they got old enough to lead the pony.

MB: So, they tried to supplement the income from the mines by doing some farming? Providing food for the family and such?

RKC: Raising chickens and cows. We had a cow and a...

SKFY: Pig.

RKC: Strawberries and all that since they would go out and sell them. Remember? Sell all that stuff? Matter of fact, Sophia used to sell all that stuff too.

[Inaudible, both talking, Track 5, 00:23]

SKFY: I did the same thing. I worked here like that too.

RKC: Cheese and butter and everything.

SKFY: I'm pretty much from the old school.

RKC: Every Friday.

SKFY: Not from the modern school. No, every Thursday.

RKC: Every Thursday?

SKFY: Yeah.

MB: So, did you have your milk from your own cow then?

SKFY: Yeah, I had three cows.

RKC: She had a barn up there and everything.

SKFY: Oh, the barn was falling over, but we had a barn.

MB: So, what about you going to school, Rose?

RKC: I went to eighth grade. Up to eighth grade too. Not to high school. There's only two that went to high school from our family. There's our brother John and Teresa. That's the only two. Bill started, but then, he didn't like it. He went in the mine to work.

SKFY: I'll tell you why he didn't like it. He had to walk every step to go to high school. From here to Windber and...

MB: That's a long way!

SKFY: Yeah, and he got disgusted it would be winter, it would be snow, and it would be raining, and there was no other way to go or he probably would've gone. And then he just quit and he went into the mine.

MB: When you were growing up, now clarify this for me, when your father came to this country, did he just speak Polish?

SKFY: That's right and I think, and German.

MB: Did he come just once or sometimes people came before that?

SKFY: No. He only came once.

MB: So, he spoke Polish and German?

SKFY: And German, yes.

MB: So, he had to learn English when he got here basically the hard way?

SKFY/RKC: Yeah.

MB: Your mother? The same thing?

SKFY: She could not speak German. Just Polish.

MB: What did you speak in the home then when you were growing up?

RKC: Polish. Up until the last couple children, then they were talking more in English already.

SKFY: I'll tell you which ones it was the hardest for. Like, whenever she was born, I was to be here, there was me...there was three of us...there was four of us when she came. And already we were talking English. But, me and Stan, us oldest ones, I went to school, I could only speak Polish. But, it didn't take long until we learned English. I mean, not long. But see, when the other ones came, like Rose came seven years later, already we were saying things in English. And of course when you're little, the parents talked to you in Polish and we talked Polish. And then, but we had neighbors all around here, nobody Polish, but, English and that's how we...how you could learn quick. I didn't have to learn anymore because then I already knew because I was going to school for two years and I was two years in school and that was a big deal. But, I tell you, you learn very fast.

MB: It must've been hard at first though.

SKFY: Oh my God, when I went to school and I didn't know one word and I cried and my mother took me to school by my hands and I came home. She took me back and the teacher, you know who was the teacher?

MB: The teacher?

SKFY: You know who was the teacher? You'll know the teacher. She belongs to senior citizens? What's her name? Ferlinger. Sarah Ferlinger.

MB: Oh, Sarah?

SKFY: She's still living.

RKC: You're teacher is still living?

SKFY: My teacher is still living. My first teacher.

RKC: Because she mentioned about Stan, when we were on this bus trip. Stanley Koot. She was his teacher and yours too.

SKFY: Yes, she was.

MB: That's really amazing.

SKFY: It certainly is.

RKC: All of the brothers and sisters can speak in Polish. They can understand too, and speak, but reading, no. Sophia can read pretty good in Polish.

SKFY: Ah, that's another thing, I could at one time, but I can't read that well anymore because, to tell you the truth, once in while we don't want somebody to know something and Rose and I will talk Polish very soft. And we talk, when we speak Polish, we don't speak it fluently because we say something's in English, few words in English, and then a few in Polish. But then, we understand each other and we know about what we're talking about.

RKC: But, when we're talking in Polish and whoever's around they know that we're saying something that we don't want them to know. So they say, why are you talking a funny language?

SKFY: My kids would always say, I know you're saying something you don't want us to know. You're talking about us or something.

MB: So, in this area, there weren't other Polish people here either then?

SKFY: Not in this area.

RKC: In Hagevo there were.

SKFY: When we say this area, our area was almost from where your eye can see, up and down the hill here, there and there. It was just... all Dutch. All the people were Dutch. Yes. So, naturally they spoke our American language and that's what was to my mother's advantage. And my father's advantage. They picked things up very fast. I know people that's been here all their lives from the time they're about fifteen and couldn't speak as well as mom and dad could and they couldn't understand as well. They did, didn't they? They spoke very good.

RKC: But now, in Hagevo, they had a lot of Polish.

SKFY: Well, yes. Now down in. Now like, if you go from here, down over the hill and down in through there, that's where Hagevo was. Now that was a little village there, now there were a lot of Polish people there.

MB: So when you were growing up, a lot of people didn't know there was an age difference, did you go to any festivals or ethnic kinds of events? Or they didn't have them or? What kinds of things did you...?

SKFY: They probably had them. In school we had the box socials in school. Remember the box socials? And we would have like, Washington's Birthday was coming, we would have some kind of, sort of a program where our parents would come. [Was that a car?]

RKC: [No, it was a door slamming.]

SKFY: Like, for instance, at Christmas time we would have Christmas...some kind of Christmas play at school, we had. But, other places...well, they did have here in Hagevo, there was above the feed store... [Oh, that's my son, I think, in the hall] Can you shut it off?

[Break in recording]

RKC: You were saying?

BF: [SKFY'S son, nicknamed Buddy, real name John S. Fluders? Name in Somerset County White Pages, 02/25/2015]: Everybody, different nationality, each one had their own place and usually in the summertime, be under a tree somewhere, and each group would get together and they'd start drinking beer and after a little while then, people would start getting a little...call somebody a name or something like that, first thing you know, why they'd have different nationality groups would be fighting with each other. And, it was wild.

SKFY: And then my mother, I think we have that on here, about the Italians. I think we have that on here.

MB: Do you remember many fights like that?

SKFY: Oh, yes I do. I saw a man shoot himself. Committed suicide. He shot at his baby. They lived right below us. These Italians did. I wasn't going to tell this though. They lived right below us.

MB: You can't hurt anyone. I don't want to hurt anyone. There's no name.

BF: There's no name. These people are long gone.

SKFY: I wasn't going to mention any names. But some of these were living in Windber, they were young at the time. Well, anyhow, I heard this terrible yelling and they all go, da-da-da- da, you know Italians how they holler and scream. So, I went out on the porch and I was listening, our porch was real high up.

BF: How old were you then?

SKFY: Oh, let's see. I would say I was about... Id' say maybe four? Four years old. Four or five. About all the older I was then because Stan was little. He was walking. And Bill was in a cradle. So, I had to be about four years old. But, I can remember things so well from way back, but I can't remember what happened yesterday. Well, anyhow. So, I went out on the porch and I see this woman running with a little baby in her arms and she had a shawl over her neck and she was running. She was living below us. And she run off the porch and went behind the house and there was a man after her with a revolver. And pretty soon, she went into the lilac bushes, not lilac but...

BF: Rose bushes?

SKFY: No, no. They're not a flower...we make wine out of them. Elderberry bushes! Elderberry bushes and they were in bloom. And she hid back in there and then she ran around the house and him after her and she ran across the street, and the house was next to us, we lived here and the other house was there, and he shot at her. And when he shot at her, the bullet went through her and through the baby. It killed the baby, but it didn't kill her. And she ran into the house where her mother lived and they locked the door there. And he tried to get in the house and she wouldn't let him in. And my brother Stan, we had board sidewalks in them days, and my brother Stan was just a little tyke, like two years old, running around he went over and he went and said, oh, hello Mr..., oh, hello Mr....Mom said in Polish, she said[Speaks in Polish, Track 5, 9:00-9:15].Oh my God! But, she wouldn't dare call him because she was afraid he'd shoot her. That he might shoot at her, but he had never bothered us, but she was afraid that he might because he was mad. And, Stan was hanging around him and talking to this man, and said something to him, what he said, I don't know, and he left my brother alone and he walked down to the house, in his house, which I could directly from my house. He put the gun to his head and he shot and he fell down. And everybody from all the houses, all these Italians, started running. You know how loud they talk. Screaming and hollering. And pretty soon, there comes a buggy, it's one of these, they look like a coach with those little lights hanging on the sides. It had a basket, a wicker basket on top of the thing. A pretty big one. Like we have for clothes baskets only it was big. They put him in there and wrapped him in a cloth, and they stuck him in there, and they tied it up over on the thing and they took off. So then, we ran down...

BF: It was horse-drawn?

SKFY: Oh, yeah. Horse. I don't know if it was one horse or two. I can't remember, but I just remember that...because I never saw one before with those little things on it. Well, those little lights, I thought, gee, that's really something. And then, we went down the porch to see and his stuff, well, I guess it was the brains, they were all over the wall and the people coming there and scrubbing it with buckets and things and all the blood laying on the porch. So, there were exciting things, believe me. Because then, there were a couple of nights before this shooting, a house, like, a little bit opposite of our house, they had girl there about fourteen years old and there used to be a lot of, I don't know what you'd call these people, but they had...

BF: Sicilians?

SKFY: Sicilians, I'd suppose. They were the Italians.

BF: Black Hand.

SKFY: The Black Hand. What do they call them now? Mafia? Black Hands were what they called them then. It was an organization. And, this girl, they had it in for these people for some reason, you know, I don't know what the reason was, but anyhow, that night, they bombarded...she was asleep like upstairs in this room here...

BF: Didn't they want somebody to marry that girl or didn't they her to marry somebody and that and she didn't want to marry them or something?

SKFY: That wasn't the one. Not that one. Not that fourteen year old girl. There was something there, I can't remember now what that was. But, it might come back to me once I figure out what it really was about that girl. I'm trying to remember. I've already forgot. I can't keep this in my mind. But anyhow, she wasn't there, because her neighbor, living alongside of us, her husband went to work night shift and she had her come sleep with her because she was afraid to be alone. So, when they bombarded that place, they thought they killed that girl, and that girl's name was Anna. So when that place was bombarded, we all ran out of the house in the middle of the night, and everyone was hollering, and the Italians were saying, Annecella, Annecella...That means Anna in their name, you know, screaming. And the room was all, laying down, dynamited.

BF: They put dynamite on it. They blowed the side of the house up, they didn't know in which room she was gonna' be.

SKFY: They dynamited it or a bomb or whatever, I don't know.

BF: This all took place not too far from here.

SKFY: You'll have to show here where this happened.

BF: Where Mike Biggins house is now.

MB: Well, did the Poles always get along with each other.

SKFY: No. Never with guns, but with fists, yeah. See, we didn't live...where we lived that I remember...we had to live among Polack's first because after I was born, I don't remember those things, but those guys just happened to move out, like I told you, went to different places. From our area the Italians were taking all the empty houses that were there and it happened to be that dad didn't go anywhere. My dad stayed there. And so, he came to be surround by all the Italians. Then up further were the Polish and the Slovaks, out further towards Biggins place. And then, they found out that this girls was at the other place and that she wasn't killed. Well, then, this isn't a couple days or maybe a week or two or three, then the one on this side was bombarded again with dynamite. And, our Bill was little, he was laying in a cradle, I can see,

like today, the curtains are hanging there, and Bill was in a little cradle, like you rock with little prod, and he had all the glass laying on him because the window in our house fell out. He was right there.

BF: The blast, you know.

SKFY: And they bombarded that one, but why they bombarded it, I don't know. But, then they were like, Buddy was saying about a girl, I can't remember, I forgot already how that went.

BF: I think somewhere along the line you told me that they wanted her to marry somebody she didn't want to marry him and they were more or less, wanted them to and she didn't want to and they got mad at her for something. Or she was supposed to be with someone else and they didn't like it and she went with another person.

SKFY: Write these things down when you think of them and then you'll remember them. Of course, you forget a lot.

RKC: I remember something like when they were striking and then daddy went to work and they called him a scab and they were putting dynamite, you know where that old drift mouth, they were putting dynamite or something in between there. I remember something about that.

BF: The fan house there.

SKFY: Yes, the fan house there.

RKC: And then they're putting dynamite there and mom said, everybody get in the house because they're going to blow us up over here. They never did light it up. There was nothing that went off, but I guess because the guys was working when there was a strike...

SKFY: Scabs. They were trying to bombard the mine because they couldn't get in.

RKC: Yes, they couldn't get in.

MB: That must've been in the strike of 1922 then? That was a big strike in Somerset County.

RKC: On, I don't know.

MB: How old were you then, Rose?

[Inaudible, all three women talking, Tape 1, Track 6, 5:01-5:06]

RKC: Oh, about six years old. We all ran in the house, we were scared to death. That's all I remember. But, nothing shot off though. And then, mom said to daddy, you better not go to work, but he was determined. He had to make that couple of dollars. But then, he didn't go. His bucket was sitting there. That's all I remember about that.

SKFY: Well, see, there was a lot of things that were happening at that fan hole. You remember whenever, what's his name, Kent? Wasn't his name Kent? He was watching that. He was a policeman like, at that fan hole.

RKC: A watchman.

SKFY: Yeah. It wasn't a fan hole then. There was a building there, and it had a fan in there to draw air into the mines.

BF: Get air into the mines.

SKFY: But later on, they called it a fan hole because it caved. And when it caved, well, you know, there was nothing there but just a great big hole and we called it ...well, later on, that's what it was called. But, at the time, there was a shed there.

MB: So, what was this area like to grow up in then? How would you describe it when you were kids? Maybe Sophia first and then Rose?

[Inaudible, both sisters talking, Tape 1, Track 6, 6:07-6:12]

SKFY: I'll tell you... I'll speak for myself. Rose can speak for herself.

BF: There was a good bit of different periods in time.

SKFY: There's seven and a half years. I was fourteen years ahead of her because till she got to be seven, I was already like fourteen and I was already getting out of school.

[Inaudible, both sisters talking, Tape 1, Track 6, 6:28-6:32]

RKC: Should've been Hagevo first when she got married.

SKFY: Yeah. Living here, to me, I was very happy living here. I wasn't one...I knew of nothing else. I didn't know of a different type of a life. The life that we had here, I was very happy with it because I loved housework. I was very interested in whatever mother was doing. I wanted to be like her. When she knew how to milk cows. I wanted to do that, but I wasn't able to. I wanted to make bread because I thought I should because I loved it. And for me, it was fine. I didn't go anywhere. I didn't go to movies until I was about, I would say, about twelve years old when I first saw a movie and I thought I went into a heaven or something when I saw these lights and things. For me, I didn't associate with any of the children. With any of the girls from Hagevo. Never. I wasn't allowed and I can't say for Rose. She'll speak for herself later, but I wasn't allowed to associate with any of them. My parents always felt that those girls, they weren't that interested in work. They would always get dressed up in the evenings and go out and walk the tracks because with the mine down here. And they had fellows with them and stuff and my father absolutely, said nothing. We weren't allowed to go any farther than the fence. There was a fence around there. Even if I had a boyfriend...I'd have...if there was some fellow that liked me, I would talk to them across the fence, you know, and here I had black knees from scrubbing the

floor and my hair all messy, but they blew the horn and dad said, somebody wants to see you there and dad would sit on the porch.

MB: You were chaperoned?

SKFY: But, I didn't mind it I really didn't mind it. I was very happy. I was very happy and my home life was very happy.

RKC: You were chaperoned to a movie. Tell her about Stan being in the backseat.

SKFY: Oh, whenever I got older and I was dating the husband, my husband. You know I married him later. And he went with us to the movies. Well, so I didn't care. I was glad he could see the movie too. And Stan was glad because...

MB: He got to see the movie too.

BF: Did you get into the flu era?

MB: No, not yet. We will. [Laughter] Well Rose. What was it like for you growing up?

RKC: Quite different than Sophia's.

MB: Oh yeah?

RKC: Oh yes, it was different. Because we'd go with the girls for a walk from Hagevo and the Knavel girls from down past the road there.

MB: You were allowed to do that, but she wasn't?

SKFY: We weren't allowed, but mother and father already modernized.

RKC: Yeah, they were getting a little more modern, but we were allowed just to go every other Sunday, it was, and then sometimes, we would be allowed to go up to [inaudible, Tape 1, Track 6, 9:06] farmhouse. And we would spend a lot of time up there. There was two girls up there and a boy. And we'd spend a lot of time like that and with the Shaffer girls. But then, we were allowed to go to their church. It was a Protestant. But anyway, mother would leave us go when they had like singing, a choir and singing so it was... The way we done this, because of the Shaffer's, they had a hired hand working there all the time. And we liked him and he liked us. [Laughter] When we had a chance, we would go down there and he would come along and meet us and we would have a chance to talk. It was like a sneak type thing, you know. But otherwise, no, I couldn't go anywhere. When I was dating my husband, he would come as a sneak in the beginning, he'd come down this road, I'd come to Sophia's. I was like she said, the hair all over the place, barefooted, no shoes on, and I'd get one of her dresses to put on and wash up here so I'd look half decent when he comes. But her dresses were yay-too big for me...

SKFY: Because you were thin as a stick.

RKC: I was so skinny. But anyway, that was it. And then he'd have to leave home, from here, whatever, it wasn't very long, and maybe nine o' clock he'd put his lights out to go so my dad wouldn't know what time he was leaving or whatever. They were so different than with Sophia. Then my father would punish me like one time my husband came to pick me up. And he has two sisters, and a cousin. And he said, we're going to go for huckleberries. Well, we didn't have a bathtub in our house. We only had the round tub which everybody bathed in that same water. All the children. Not the parents. The children. So the children bathed and maybe the older ones bathed earlier. John bathed in that tub and it was in the summerhouse. And my dad, this was Sunday, was under a tree reading the paper. I stayed home to make the dinner. We always took turns. One stayed one Sunday, one stayed the other. And they came looking for huckleberries. Well, my husband's sister had the white ducks on or the white slacks. And my father said that I was definitely not allowed to go with them. I started crying you know, carrying on, he said, you're not going, that's it, forget it. That was all. Okay. So, later he explained to me two reasons why I wasn't allowed to go, I didn't spill the water out that John took a bath in the summer house and left it there, and I mouthed off and said, well, why can't he spill it out? He's just as strong as I am. And another thing was, was because Frank's sisters were bad girls because they were woring, my father used that word, wearing the long slacks and I wasn't to be associating with them. However, we stayed home and carried on down into Hagevo. We went down into the field and took a rope with me and I put it around the tree and I was going to hang myself.

SKFY: You know, I never knew that!

RKC: Yes! It was Nellie and Emma-Emma Siembak, and Julia and I. And Julia was crying, she said, oh, don't do that. Don't do that, she said, daddy will kill you for that.

SKFY: How's he going to kill you when you were going to hang yourself?

RKC: I said, I'll kill myself before he does, I said, you know. So, we took nail polish with us, so he said, we're not allowed out of our boundary. Do you know, my father came down and checked where we were? And as he was coming down, that rope was hanging there and I took it down in a big hurry. And he seen that and he wondered, what's going on? Yeah, dad, that's what happened. It was crazy. But anyway, that Sunday, my brother Stan, all of them came back home. They had these kind of cars, Model T's. And they came back and they had my husband. First, my brother Stan parked his car. Then my brother Bill and my brother Stan and Siembak, you know Frank Siembak. And my husband. There was four cars. And then, my brother Stan said, hey, he says, let's get something ready to eat here. He says, we'll all go for a ride all of us. I said, I'm not going. Yes, you are, he said. You're going. I said, I'm not allowed. He said, you'll be allowed. So anyway, they all came and ate in my home. My mother had [inaudible, Tape 1, Track 7, 3:11], whatever it was. So, I got into my husband's car, and he backed up like lightning, like a bat out of hell, you might say. And he hurried up and backed up before my father would stop. My father wasn't even stopping me, but he punished me. For one month, I gotta' stay in because I didn't throw the danged water out. [Laughter]

SKFY: Because you didn't do you chores.

RKC: Because I didn't do my chores, he said. So, we went for this ride and we were just having a ball you know. The guys were teaching the girls how to drive and everything. And my brother Bill of course, married my husband's cousin, Ann, and her name was Czajkowski also. And she was along with us and she was trying to drive and all that and we had a lot of fun. But, on the way coming home, we almost had a wreck there a-racing. So we came by Walker's ...

SKFY: You were racing side-by-side.

RKC: Uh-huh. And we went to Windber and they were singing, their roofs were down, and they were carrying on. Good things the cops didn't take us in. But however, when we were coming up by Walker's, on a high road like that, we almost upset and he wanted to put his emergency on and he hit me right in the knee. I got a carbuncle from that. [Laughter]. Do you know what happened? I had to go to the hospital and have it cut out. It was all fun that Sunday. It was sad to begin with, but it ended up real nice. It was real nice.

MB: So, your parents were pretty strict though.

SKFY/RKC: Towards the end.

MB: You broke them in?

SKFY: You know like my sisters, Julie and Annie, and Martha and Teresa, they went...Julie and Annie were home when they went to New York.

RKC: Oh my, and about fifteen or sixteen.

SKFY: And they got out of school and they went to New York. How did they know what they were doing in New York. My father and mother didn't see them. They went to get a job and they were working there, so they had it okay.

MB: Did they have friends who lived in New York?

SKFY: Yes. Relatives. They had, my sister-in-law to my first husband was living there whenever they went there. That was the first...

End of Tape 1

Beginning of Tape 2 (March 3, 1984)

MB: I think I wanted to ask you this because you mentioned this in regards to the story of the Italians. About forcing, the idea came up, about forcing women to marry somebody. Did that happen?

SKFY: Well, you know, they planned marriages. Yes. It happened among all the nationalities. They would set up the thing. Well, it was set up for me also, but my mother and father weren't strict about that thing with me as far as that goes. But they had friends that lived in Arrow, we

were living here already, and our friends over there had a young man, which he was about, well, I was about, I guess, fifteen, he must've been about nineteen. And they thought he was kinda' nice. And this woman that lived there, she wanted me to marry her son and she asked me if I would marry her son. Oh, Lord God, I thought to myself, I'm an American-born girl. I'm not going to do anything you're going to tell me. And dad says, well, he seems to be kind of nice fellow and it's up to you. You're the one who has to live with him, he said. You like him, he says? I said, no, I'm young, I'm not ready for any kind of marriages, unh-uh. I said, no. I had a date with him once. He was very nice. He was such a good person, but I had no desire to go with any kind of man or anything. I wasn't ready at that time. Maybe if it would've been somebody that I was attracted to right away, that would be different. Or if he would be attracted to me, but this was different. So, I said, no. And I know a lot of them, they planned their marriages in them days. Yes. Well, for instance. My sister-in-law. My oldest sister-in-law from my first husband. She was only fourteen and they had a boarder living there and he was, I would say, fourteen years older maybe than her. They planned this marriage for her, you know, the mother agreed and they lived in the same house. You know, [Selly Fluder]? And, she got married very young because they got to know each other in that same house and she got married. And they went to Europe and they had a very good life. They had a large family and everything. But, a lot of these marriages were really planned. And like sometimes, like Buddy was saying, sometimes if they didn't, like say some girl, depends who, what nationality, our people, our nationality, is not the type that the very first thing is to...you can't even see it on TV or anytime. You don't see any Polish people where they're fighting with guns, but you see Italians, always. If you see a story who's encoded in it on TV, it's Italians, always. Because they're more with guns, like, I guess, westerns. I can't say why. But, our people, not saying that they wouldn't use guns, they would guns if they had to you understand, but that wasn't their first aim. Like if somebody planned a marriage or something, that they wouldn't go and use a gun. Not that I know of. Now there could have been. I didn't live with millions of people, I wouldn't know. But, just from what little I know, I can tell you. I can't say anything about...

MB: Did a girl have much choice if her parents wanted her to marry someone?

SKFY: Some cases they didn't. In some families, a girl maybe didn't want to...maybe didn't like the man. But, they were poor and this man could give her, he could provide for her, well, she would take a chance at it and sometimes, I tell you, they made the best marriages. Better than today with people that go with one another and love one another.

RKC: Did you know, I was dating my first fellow, it was a date, he was from Poland, well, I guess he was born in Poland. Frank Labic. Wasn't he? He talked very broken-like. But, he was the nicest person. My father just adored him because he would bring him a case of beer on Saturday and sometimes a wine or whatever. And my father, on Saturday, Saturday was the day for him to have a couple drinks. So, he would take out books to read to him, about Polish, different things...whatnot, and very interesting. And father said, Rose, that's the guy for you kept on and on. So, I went with him for about a year, and then I sort of, he was the nicest person, but I just did not think that he was going to be my husband. You know what I mean? So, anyways, finally, I met my husband and his [inaudible, Tape 2, Track 1, 4:27] was Frank at first, you know. So here then, dad and mom weren't to set on him because they thought he was too kiddish, he's not going to make a good living, and all these things. And they were still

determined that I should try to go back with this other fellow, and because he is from good Polish stock and he would be the ideal person. So his mother, this first boyfriend, and his aunt, they came to talk to mother and dad and say, why did we break up and this and that and he would like to come back and thing and another. So, I was very determined and I said, no, I wasn't going back with him. I would talk to him. I was not mad at him or anything else. He was a very nice person. A gentleman. Talked every time he'd see you and he'd say, you think we could get back together again, whatever. And, I said, well, we'll just wait. And in the meantime, I'd met my husband. But, little by little, then they warmed up to him, but at the beginning, they didn't. And my father would even say, now remember, even kissing, you can get pregnant, he told me. And I said, well, I'm not thinking about getting pregnant, I told him one day. But see, I used to talk back a little bit. And my brother John and I was washing dishes one day--sister washing dishes, John came there, and we were saying something, and John said something about love and my dad said, what do you know about love? Love, love, what do you know? He was yelling there. And my brother was teasing me, and I took a plate and I hit him in the head. And I broke this plate right in half, and my father said, okay, gotta' pay for it. And see, I had to do my brothers shirts. They had white shirts. They never wore the shirts during the day, they were dark, the Polish shirts. They were always white if you remember. Nothing else. And there were three boys, Stan, and Bill, and Joe, and they were working in the mine and they'd be going out Saturday and I'd do the shirts. If I polished their shoes, then I'd get a nickel or a dime because we really never had any spending money. I didn't know deodorant was. One lady came to Sophia's, her sister-in-law, one day said to me, boy, but, you stink pretty. In Polish, she said it. Then, I kept telling my mom and mom, then, little by little, I got this deodorant stuff. But, we didn't have deodorant. And the silk hose, no. No silk hose. When I got married, I had three dresses, a velvet beret, one pair of shoes that was the better, and one pair of junky ones. Oh, I just had a very small suitcase to take when I got married. Very small. I had no clothes. No, we didn't have clothes. We couldn't afford it. And so, we would wear like from one another, but when it was a birthday or something, my dad would take you down to the hat shop. Get you the best hat and something very nice for your birthday. But, they'd have to stop right there. You weren't buying all the time. Dad wasn't working then. He was off for a long time.

MB: Was he a miner the rest of his life then?

RKC: He was, but he was hurt in the mine. I don't know when that was when he quit work.

SKFY: I believe in 1946, I believe it was.

RKC: 1946?

MB: So, when did he work in the mines from like 19...whatever?

SKFY: From the time that I can remember, I would say it was like 1914. I don't think it was before 1914 because you were born in 1916? It had to be before that. Yes. I would say that he worked with lumber, what did I tell you, two or three years? Well, that was 1908 at the time. He was there 1907. He was in Arrow before mother was. What year he came to Arrow, I don't know that. But, when he met...mother came in 1907. And, he started to work then in the mine, maybe a year after he met her, or two, I don't really know.

RKC: He probably worked in the mine most of his life.

SKFY: Most of his life, he worked in the mine.

RKC: He worked down at Berwind. He drove. Dad drove the car down to Berwind

MB: To Windber, you mean?

RKC: Yes, to Windber.

SKFY: Not from the beginning. From the beginning, he worked up here. I told you, he walked over this hill. It's about three miles to go to work. He used to come home from work, I'll never forget this, I remember how he came, but I didn't have the pity, that type of pity that I understand it now. He wore a sheepskin coat to go to work. And he had his head all wrapped up to go to work with a lady's babushka and his other hat up on top. Because he walked. Winter days was so cold. When he'd come home from work and it would be raining and freezing. He'd have icicles hanging all over himself. His bucket and everything. All those miles that he made and all those steps he made to make us a dollar for our bread, I really and truly, after I got older, I said, that was a very hard-earned dollar. A very hard piece of bread that we had to eat. How hard he had to work for that. The bread was good, but how hard he had to work for it. I mean, I respected him for that because one thing, we were never hungry in our house. Never. I mean, mother always made sure...we never sat down to like one pot of soup, or say, just to potatoes or something like that. We always had three or four things on the table all the time.

RKC: We got a three course meal all the time.

SKFY: All the time. All the time.

RKC: We never snacked though. We never had like kids have today. That was only on Friday and Saturdays.

SKFY: We snacked on jelly bread.

RKC: Oh, yeah. Jelly bread.

SKFY: Not potato chips or popcorn.

RKC: The only time we had cake we ever had it was when mom made it and we had pieces to go...packed our lunches to go to school. But, she had the basket hanging like that in the cellarway, and there was all the stuff in there, like all the fruits and stuff for the men to go to work. And on Saturdays was our treat. My father would either bring a...bananas, maybe ten, twelve pound of bananas. A coconut and break the coconut. And we'd all sit around and have that. And also, on a Saturday, sometimes, well, mother always baked mostly on a Saturday's--bread. And somebody would stay home to watch the rest of it baking, but she always made the bread.

SKFY: Mother baked like twice a week.

RKC: Yeah, twice a week. But, Saturdays she baked always and Saturday also. [Not a typo] And then, whenever I was home anyway .And then also, she made like a...from a Friday to Saturday, see we never ate meat on a Friday, so then on a Saturday, she'd get what we made...pigs feet jelly. John used to make that, remember? So, we always sucked the bones all off of that. And that was usually on a Saturday that she'd bake. Sometimes on a Thursday, but never on a Friday because we weren't allowed to suck the bones off of that. But, I remember a lot of those little things. And whenever I got my attack of appendix, we were eating bananas and I was in the river with them. And I'm crying, I'm sick. So, my dad's the one who got out. He got up and he went down and got the ice put it on my side and told mom about the appendix. And he's the one who took me to the hospital and I stayed there for one month in the hospital.

MB: How old were you then?

RKC: I was so skinny.

SKFY: Oh, about sixteen.

RKC: I was sixteen. And they were afraid to operate on me, so they froze the appendix. And then later, my dad talked to Dr. Williams, and Dr. Williams said, well, it could happen again, very shortly, or whatever-whatnot. So my dad says, Rose wouldn't you like to have it out because you're getting older, you're going to get married sometime, maybe soon. Not soon, I hope. You're only sixteen. But, he was going from one thing to another, so finally, I stayed and got it out. The appendix out then. Yes. Uh-huh.

SKFY: Whenever I was home, we had a coal stove. We didn't have electric. We didn't have any lights in our home. Electric lights. We had oil lamps. Lantern. Oil Lamps. And, you're baking and things. You did everything in the stove. In our coal stove. And whenever I was home, I was married when I was seventeen, so see, Rose was only seven years old then. At that time.

MB: So that was about 1925 when you got married?

SKFY: [19]26.

MB: [19]26?

SKFY: Uh-huh. In June. And I did all...mother knew how to make very good bread. That's all mother knew how to bake. They didn't bake cakes in Europe. There was no such as things as cakes, pies in Europe. So, when mother first started to bake pies, she was baking them with bread dough. She heard of people talking about pies and I'd come home and I'd tell here and I was just a kid then. But, it didn't take long till I learned how to bake pies and cakes and all that stuff. And little by little, mother had learned from me. Instead of me from mother. But, I learned how to bake bread from her, but not any cakes or pies. And, I'll never forget this one time, I was always wanting to learn how to make something in baking. That's my speed. I can sit here all day

Sunday looking at cookbooks and a catalog. Don't give me anything else. I'm happy. Well, mom says, you can't bake those cookies now, she says, I'm baking bread. And I said, well, mom it's not going to take then very long. And dad was home from work and he said, well, let her go ahead and bake them. Mrs. [Susoon], our neighbor, gave me the recipe, so I hurried up, stirred everything up, put the sour cream and everything...no flour. She didn't have flour on the sink. And, I put these in these cupcakes and a pan that they have at the museum...I'll never forget that pan as long as I live. And, I put the things in the oven and the oven was hot and my God, when that started...it ran over because it had no flour in it. The whole oven was caught on fire. The thing was dripping down. You remember that still? It was behind there. My mother's bread is ready to put in the oven, you can't wait with bread because it'll get too yeasty. God Almighty. There everything was just smoking. Burning. And we can't get into the stove to clean because it's hot. And mom, she was so mad at me and was yelling. And dad says, look, she wants to learn, let her learn. She made a mistake. I did everything the woman told me. I went over there and told her and she said, well, you're supposed to put flour in. Like as if I knew. I didn't know. I know now. But, like, my dad made a stove outside. I don't know if you remember this or not. It was made out of bricks and all they did in there was sort of like rounded off and made out of brick and clay. And inside, you had to have like a shovel. And the shovel was made out of some kind of a steel. I don't know if it was a stainless steel or what it was. And, when you put bread in there, you couldn't walk in putting it outside. It's one of those old time things, I don't know if you've ever saw them or not.

RKC: It's a hearth.

SKFY: It's a bakers...If you've ever seen an anthill, okay, that's little, but this is huge. And it's made out of bricks and the bricks are put together with clay and inside, they have stainless steel. And then you put your bread in there, you can't go in there and put it with a pan, you put it on this shovel like, and that stainless steel is always clean and you just shoved it off of the pan and it would go in there and then it would bake. That was the best bread that we could bake. Now that was always made in the summertime outside. I don't know if you remember that or not?

RKC: I don't remember that, no.

SKFY: That was probably long before you were old enough.

RKC: Yeah.

MB: Did you have any customs that derived from Poland that you celebrated on the holidays? For example, how was Christmas celebrated?

SKFY: Christmas Eve? You mean Lenten time? The whole Lent or how?

RKC: Christmas Eve supper?

MB: Start with Christmas Eve and Christmas.

SKFY: Oh, Christmas. Well, whenever Advent came, because Advent comes during the Christmas season. When Advent came, we did not eat meat on Wednesday's and we did not eat meat on Fridays. And during the whole Advent, there was certain times during Advent, where we used to light candles, you know, for like certain weeks. I forget already. Like, one week you'd light one color candle, another week, another color candle. You see, we didn't do this after you kids...you kids didn't do it I don't believe. Maybe you did. Then, coming towards Christmas, day before Christmas, when we'd get up in the morning, mother would pennies and nickels and stuff in a basin to wash. Do you remember that? She doesn't remember that either. She would put pennies and nickels and things into a basin. We didn't have running water. You know, we had water in a bucket. And the, we would have a pan that we would wash our hands in. And we would have the soap there. And when we washed our hands and things, mother said, now I wish...hope that you children will always have enough of everything. You kids did it, you washed, but you probably forgot because all the kids would have to come and wash.

RKC: I don't think she done that until we were much older.

SKFY: Maybe not.

MB: The pennies were in the bottom of the...?

SKFY: In this pan and you wash in this water and she made all the kids...wherever the kids were at that time, we all washed our hands in there. That meant that we would never be broke. We would always have something and that's true. None of us remember that we had nothing to eat.

RKC: No, we're all doing fine.

SKFY: And the, that was the day before Christmas. Then, Christmas Eve, we all had...this was a traditional supper. We fasted all that day. Not saying that what we did then is not what we're doing now.

MB: Right. No, I want to hear what you did then.

SKFY: When I was home at the time. When I was home because I'm not doing that now, but I did it then. We had, dad brought straw and put it under the table. And then, we had, he laid little Jesus under the table before supper. And, we'd always wait till it got dark, till the star came out and we could see it from our house. There was a star that was shining. A real bright star. And mother used to say that that was the star of Bethlehem. And those things registered so because I never heard of those things, so those things registered. Stuff doesn't register anymore. Anyhow, we had our big supper, we had always, we had holy wafer, which we still use it now. And we would have like...we were supposed to have like thirteen foods that were grown on your own land. It doesn't have to be your own land. It was grown in the ground or the trees which you would have. Maybe we didn't all grow it. Maybe another neighbor grew it, but it was grown in the ground. Okay. So we would have, like peas that was grown on stocks. Dry peas. Then we had dry prunes with it which was grown on a tree. Then we had potatoes which was grown in the ground. First of all, we had the holy wafer. That was the first thing—the body of Christ. That was the first thing we had. Then we wished each one Merry Christmas. One would break a piece

off, wish each one a Merry Christmas. Then, we would have the bread. That was one thing we would always have on the table too. Then, we would have sauerkraut which meant that the cabbage was grown in the ground.

RKC: Rice.

SKFY: Rice with raisins. You're right. Because mother carried that on, the rice and raisins, she carried that on for an awful long time. Let's see, what else did we have?

RKC: We had the herring.

SKFY: Oh yes. We had the herring

RKC: My dad would clean it all the time.

SKFY: We had that.

RKC: The salted herring.

SKFY: The salted herring that came in kegs. Not the herring that you buy in jars that you buy today.

RKC: It's fileted and cleaned and everything.

SKFY: Yeah. And what else did we have Rose?

RKC: I was trying to think what else was on the table.

SKFY: There had to be thirteen things on there.

RKC: It meant the apostles.

SKFY: The apostles. Yes. Would that be about thirteen? No, I don't think. Wait a minute.

RKC: Onions. We had onions in the potatoes.

SKFY: Yes, we had the onions in the potatoes.

RKC: Mom didn't make pierogis did she?

SKFY: No, no. Not then. Now we do it different, but at that time. Oh, we had the nuts, the apples, the oranges, the grapes, we all had in one big...fruit. All kinds of fruit. Then that made thirteen. And then, after supper, we all sat around and we would sing Polish...

RKC: Christmas carols.

SKFY: Christmas carols.

RKC: Go to church. We had midnight mass.

SKFY: After supper, we'd take the tablecloth off and we wanted to be sure that nothing of the holy wafer would fall on the floor or anything. We'd have to put it in, we'd have to dip it into like, a newspaper, wrap it up and burn it just so nobody would step on it because it was something that was...it meant a lot. You couldn't step on it. Oh, we had wine too. We had wine. Then after that, we would go outside and what was left from the table, you know, some of the food that was left from the table, put into the cows. The cows always had like chop...this chopped stuff. We would put a little bit of that into for the cow and take it down to the barn and feed it to her. That's part of it because Christ was born in a stable. And that had something to do with that. And mother used to explain what that meant, but we forgot. Let see what else did we do? We'd go out then to see if that star was still shining on us. God, that star's still there. If I look at it...I can't see it from my house from here, I have to go outside to see it. That was the Bethlehem star. Then after, we'd wash up the dishes and things, in my days this was. And, we would go to church with a horse and buggy, not horse and buggy...horse and sleigh. One horse and a sleigh. And mom put me and Stan in the back seat. We was all bundled up. And Bill and her in the front seat because it was a two seated thing. And we would take the sleigh and go to church and then we would leave the horse, the horse-not horses. There was only one horse. They had a livery stable right where...ah...what's his name? Where they have that, is that a Plymouth garage back behind the five and ten? You know that garage there?

MB: Where did you go to church?

SKFY: St. John's in Windber.

MB: You had to go from here to St. John's in Windber?

SKFY: Yes. And the snow would be so high. Oh, we had such big winters then. The snow was so deep and it was so cold and there was such beautiful stars, it was like diamonds over the snow, it was shining. And I was all dressed up in a white fur hat. Muff. A white coat and boots leggings with the buttons down... [Phone rings]. I better answer that phone.

MB: Was it like that Rose when you were growing up?

RKC: Yes. It was.

MB They did it similarly then?

RKC: See, when we got married, it was the same way at home when we were with mom and dad. But after we got married, we always had our Christmas Eve separate with Frank's mother because Frank was the only boy. So we always had it there. And then we would come to visit mom and dad on Christmas Eve and if the weather got too bad and the kids were grown up or whatever. And so, what we would do, is they would come the next day on Christmas Day. And the kids were all enjoying themselves and all. But, in the wintertime, we would come up here a

lot, as Sophia would say when her husband was living, we used to have all kinds of parties and we would have in the winter, we would have sled riding parties. So, mother would watch the children down her house. Like, I had JoAnn and Dick at the time. And we would go on a sled by the stand and every Sunday it was like that. In the winter and summer. And we'd go way up here to the top of the hill and we would come down with the sled and we'd go all the way down. All the way down by [inaudible name, Tape 2, Track 3, 1:43] builders. And Stan would come down with the car and bring us all back up again. And we do a lot of that. So she'll often say, gee, what happened now? We don't do that stuff no more. Well, we got older. 'Course when she got married a second time, well then, things were a little bit different. She might have felt... [Another person interrupts. Hi Patty]. But anyway, [she went in there] it was about the same thing. And now, the suppers are different. See now, they even allow you to have meat. And a lot still don't have it, but a lot do. But, Frank's mother would make cabbage and peas together when she made hers. And she would make the mashed potatoes without the butter and no milk. Make them like blah...like bland. And she'd have like salmon and maybe perch or that type of fish that we'd have. And we'd have all our fruits and stuff and maybe also now, they'd natural poppy seed rolls, something like this. But in the old days, when I home, we never had that until we came back from church. And we were a very close type of family all of us because we were not allowed to go running around anywhere. We just didn't do that. Even when I was dating my husband, I never went to no movie, no nothing because we never. I was so happy to get married. I really was. To get out of home and live a life like the girls out there were living, you know. And Sophia says, well, you're going to the country? I says, no, never. I don't want to live in the country. I'm happy where I'm at. I like my home. I like it there because I'm close everywhere. I can jump in the car and go right to church real close and everything. I never felt like I was stranded, otherwise I feel that I'm stranded. [Speaks to another person: How you doing?]

MB: So, how did you meet your husband Rose?

RKC: Well, the way I met him. A bunch of fellows come up from Mine 40 to see some girls up here in Hagevo. And Sophia was having guys to come and help Steve with the wood and stuff like that. So, we got to meet him and he come over and I seen him at church often. I thought he was kind of nice. He was blond and tall and good looking and everything else. [Laughter] So anyway. Mother had company the day that I met him. He was there talking with me and the other folks, the other girls, and in the meantime they hollered or whatever. And then, what I had to do, I had to go down and get the cow from the woods and bring it up, so they had to go home. He went home so, that was the end of that story. So, we started writing to one another. And we started writing to one another and then we started seeing one another that way. Yes. Uh huh. And, I wasn't dating him for too terribly long. My brother Stan and his girlfriend and Frank and I, that was the first time I was ever away from home and was allowed to go anywhere with him because Stan was with us. And we did go to Ohio. We went, I think in July and we got married in November. And we went down there, I think Stanley had ten or twelve dollars and so did my husband. And we had a wonderful time. But, that was... [Interrupted by another person].

MB: So, Rose, when did you get married then?

RKC: I got married November 3, 1934.

MB: And did you get married in Windber then?

RKC: Got married in St John's church. I had two priests when I got married. I think I had two, maybe it was three, I don't know. Two for sure, I know I had. [Laughter]

MB: Well, was Frank have Polish background too or...?

RKC: Yes. Polish. His father had some German in him. But otherwise, it's all Polish.

MB: His family had come from there too?

RKC: Some place from there. Strasburg or something like that. His father came from there. I don't know about the mother. I asked his sister but, she didn't know. Mary didn't know. She didn't know either. She said, maybe Stella would know more than her because you know Stella was more at home with her mother. Mary got married and went and that was it and Stella lived with her mother. She probably got to know more things about that.

MB: Was Frank a miner when you met him or was he doing something else?

RKC: No, no. He was a miner. He already was a miner.

SKFY: He went in the mine very young.

RKC: Before that he worked in New York when he was about maybe sixteen and he worked in a delicatessen during the summer and he came back. And he walked all the way to Tire Hill, to Kelso, down through the crick and all to work down there. And he worked down there, just off and on for a while. And he worked for Berwind all that time. Thirty-one years, he worked in the mine.

MB: Thirty-one? Wow. Did he get to go to school very much?

RKC: No, just to eight grade.

MB: Was his family living in Windber when he went to New York then?

RKC: They lived in Mine 40.

MB: Oh, they're all [Mine] 40 people then?

RKC: Yes. He was born in Kelso. In Tire Hill. They call it Tire Hill. Kelso's where he was born.

SKFY: He went to Catholic school.

RKC: He went to Catholic school.

MB: I guess St. John's?

RKC: Yes. St. John's. And his sister did too. All his sisters went there. Yes. Now, Stella might have gone maybe to public school later. But, she did go to high school, too. Stella did. Whether she even graduated, I don't know, but high school, I don't know if she went the whole four years, I don't know. But, all of them went to the...well, some of them went to fourth and fifth grade. They went to work at the hospital. In the laundry. That's where they worked. For twenty-one dollars a month.

MB: Can you tell me when you started working then? All the time I've known you, you've worked somewhere.

RKC: I have worked all my life actually out. I really have. Even when I was pregnant. I was doing housework.

SKFY: After she got married.

RKC: Hey, before I got married [inaudible, all three talking. Tape 2. Track 3, 7:28]. I used to try to go to work and make three dollars a week at least, but my mom won't let me go. [Laughter] Hey, stay home and work.

MB: You were working though.

RKC: All my life, I really worked. Even as a children. But, I done housework mostly and maybe cleaned offices. Yes. That was most of the work I've done. And then later I worked for the Citizens Bank for twenty-two years.

MB: You worked in the company store, too, in [Mine] 40 didn't you?

RKC: No, I never did. My sister-in-law did.

MB: Didn't you? Is that who that was?

RKC: Yeah. My sister-in-law did. That's who worked there. Stella worked there.

MB: I must be confused then.

RKC: Yeah, you are. I never worked in the store.

MB: You never worked in there store? Oh.

SKFY: What were we talking about? Can we go back to Christmas Eve? That was Christmas Eve? Going to church, okay?

MB: Okay. Tell me some more.

SKFY: So we're going with the horse okay? And the sleigh. And we took this back road here because it was a dirt road at the time and we got to a bridge. Now, Rose will have to show you where this bridge is. And the drifts were very, very high there, you know. And when you're in a sleigh, and a horse is pulling it, well, you know the road isn't shoveled and so therefore, your sleigh is going right on top of the snow because the sleigh isn't that heavy. And, the darned sleigh upset. And it was right near the crick. And it threw us out of the sleigh, me and Stan from the back seat, and my mother from the front seat with Bill, and my dad. And, the horse with his legs up in the air, I'll never forget that. He can't get up and you know, a horse gets really panicky, and here we see the water! I said, oh my God! [I think that's why I'm always afraid of water]. And, there was real nice snow on top of the stones, and then the water going over it. And finally, my dad got the horse back up on his feet and then we went to church and then we put him in the livery stable. We were at the livery stable. You take your horse there. He took us up to church. To St. John's, dropped us off. This was Midnight Mass. And all you could see was those stars and the moon, it's beautiful. And the sky was clear. It was just as blue as it could be. It was such a quiet night and all you could see is what dad was telling us about. You know how Christ was born and everything. [Break in recording]

End of Tape 2 Side A

Beginning of Tape 2 Side B (March 3, 1984)

SKFY: ... picked us up and brought us home. We didn't have any experiences coming home. So, all I remember is we got home and that was it. 'Course Christmas morning, mother always did a lot of baking and like bread. All sorts of bread. Like braided bread, poppy seed bread, those things for Christmas Day. And then, we would have people coming to the house during Christmas. We'd have Christmas carol people who would come and sing Christmas carols outside. They'd bring the accordion along or a violin or something and they'd walk you to the house then and they'd bring nuts and candy and money and they'd have it in a bag and they'd throw it at us and wish us a happy holiday. And everybody...the kids would be all running, which one's going to get the diamond, and we were looking for money. There were nuts and candy, but we were looking mostly for money. 'Course when we did get home from church, we would put our shoes by the chimney, but there was no such thing as a Christmas stocking at that time. It was shoes you put by the chimney then. Then Saint Nick would put something in them and we got like an orange, some nuts, and a dime. And that was our Christmas gift. No gifts. We didn't get gifts of any kind.

MB: Did you have a tree?

SKFY: Oh, yes. We had a tree. Every year we had a live tree.

RKC: With candles.

SKFY: Yeah. With...

RKC: Wax candles.

SKFY: Wax candles and we had clip-ons. You put these candles and they were only about that high. And dad would light the candles and he'd sit there. We could have them lit for a certain length of time and he'd put them all out because God, they could catch on fire. Yeah. Then of course Christmas Day, we always had a big meal. For Christmas Day. And when we come home from church, mother had...and before we went to church, she would prepare a chicken and it was stewed. That stewed chicken had the meat sauce in it about that high you know. And, we'd dip our bread in there and that's what we'd eat before we'd got to bed. And of course, she'd have [inaudible] buns, and of course, I'm like, already at the next thing. I'm jumping back and forth here. And then, we'd have the hard candy. And we'd have little wreaths in the windows. And then, Christmas dinner we'd all have a big dinner and have all kinds of meats. Kielbasa, we'd have a chicken, and mother whenever they would butcher a calf and stuff, she would bake the veal in the stove. Sometimes we'd have a veal pocket for Christmas Day. You know, that was stuffed. And then, Christmas Day, we didn't go to church because we were there for Midnight Mass, so we didn't have to go Christmas Day. Then, the next day, we had a holiday which was St. John's Day. And the day after that, we still had a holiday and that was St. Steven's Day. So, we had more than one day just for Christmas. So, it meant that people would be coming back and forth to visit you and like today. Today, who comes? Hardly anybody comes to see you. Then, somebody from somewhere and they'd always come singing the carols and come into the house and have a drink and sing some carols and then go home and we did the same thing. Oh, yeah. We went to...this one Christmas Day, we went to Arrow, from here to visit our friends. And Stan was small. We just had Stan and Bill. Wait, Stan, Bill. Stan and Bill. No, Stan only went with me. Bill stayed home. And Joe and Rose stayed home. That was up at Ritz'. They were little kids, but they didn't go with us on the ice because they were making this lumber and in Arrow, they had a great big dam there because the lumber when it comes down from the woods, when they'd cut it, it had to cool off in the water, and this water freezes over in the winter. So, we went down there to skate. And dad says, yes, Stan can go. You can take him, but you be very careful that he doesn't fall in the water. Well, there was just ice there. And wouldn't you know it, it broke and Stan went under the water.

MB: You got him out?

SKFY: Oh, no. I couldn't. My God. It took men to chop the ice to get him out of there. And he wore button shoes then, so you know how long ago that was, black button shoes on. Now that's one of the things that happened Christmas, when we went to this home there, they had all kinds of foods, all kinds of drinks. Good time. My goodness. Such good time that you'd want to have that good time now. I mean that warmth. The people for what they'd do for you. 'Course you don't do that. It's so different yet. So that's about our traditions. Can you remember anything Rose? More about tradition?

RKC: No, not about Christmas. I'm thinking of Easter.

SKFY: Easter.

MB: Tell me about Easter and the whole Lenten.

SKFY: Okay. During Lent, when Lent would start. We always had pre-Lenten, like a little festival at home. Like, we'd invite some of their, what we'd call [inaudible Polish word], I don't know what they'd call it.

RKC: Like the Godparents.

SKFY: The godparents for the children. We'd invite them over and we would have, there was a certain kind of a doughnut we used to make. Mother used to make. First, mother didn't used to make these until Grandma Fluder used to make them. Mother made a different kind of a doughnut. It was a doughnut with a hole in it. But, that was mother's tradition in Poland. They would have that before the holidays. And, they would have these, what do they call it Rose? Cruellers? They're cut real thin and you put like a tie inside them?

RKC: I know what they're called, but I can't think of t.

SKFY: Cruellers. They're called cruellers.

RKC: They're a little different because I seen the recipe for it and that's alright. Cruellers is okay.

SKFY: In Slovak, they call them cherneki [šišky]. In Polish, they call them kucheki [paczki]. In Polish. Well, anyhow, they made all those things that day and they had a real good time. That was before Lent started. Well, Lent starts Wednesday, this would be on a Sunday. Okay. Then we stop eating meat on Wednesday's and on Friday's we have no meat. We did not...we were never allowed to put any records on. We had a Victrola. We were not allowed to whistle, sing, dance. Us kids, you know we like to dance, nothing. All we had to do was pray for all those weeks during Lent. Then on Good Friday, of course, we'd all go to church. Not on Thursday's just on Good Friday. And, now-a-days, they have it on a Saturday. We didn't have anything going on Saturday, it was Sunday morning. Then on Sunday we would have a...on Saturday, we would have a basket blessed with food. Like kielbasa, ham, eggs, bread, butter, salt and pepper, and fruit.

RKC: Horseradish.

SKFY: Horseradish, you're right. And with, there'd be red beets. We'd cover that with a cloth and people would bring this stuff to your home. Certain homes. You know, they'd be spaced like. Certain people bring it to your house.

RKC: Maybe ten, fifteen people.

SKFY: Yeah. Some places where there were bigger families there was more. Where there was less families, there was less. A priest would come and bless this food. Now this food was not allowed to be touched until Sunday and on Sunday morning, we had this blessed food. And we had some of it also, for Sunday dinner. And of course, later on the tradition went on. So that was not quite...I don't remember them having anything before Lent.

RKC: No, what they used to do then, the tradition changed and they started eating that blessed food Saturday afternoon.

SKFY: Twelve o'clock. You were allowed to eat it at twelve o'clock. Times changed.

RKC: We weren't eating any meat then from Good Friday or half a day Saturday and then Saturday afternoon you could have that. And everybody looked for that. And, we used to make the borscht. We called it the borscht. And, it used to be thickened like, and the food was blessed. The ham, the kielbasa, the eggs, and that. We chopped that all up and we put it into this and it was soupy like, and then you could put the horseradish in it if you wanted or the red beets and horseradish or whatever you know. And so, we used to eat that. And we still love it. I still make it.

SKFY: The way mother made it, mother used away from the [cheef]. She made her own [cheef] and she used away from it. She would cook that first. She would put it on to boil, and then she would take a little bit of vinegar into it, and she would thicken it with flour. That's where the soupy thing came from. Of course, now we used cream of mushroom soup.

RKC: That's another thing we had for Wigilia—the day before Christmas. Was mushroom soup.

SKFY: Yeah. We forgot. Yeah. Mother used to get the mushrooms from Europe. The dried mushrooms from Europe. That was for Christmas Eve. Then we had the soup first. I forgot about the soup. But, I make it, but I forgot. I don't make it from the mushrooms from Europe, I buy the mushrooms from here.

RKC: And sometimes, mom would pick the mushrooms and then she'd dry them. She would dry them and then she'd put them behind the stove and put them on a string, all the way down, like they'd probably would do.

SKFY: Later on, they didn't get any from Europe so mother had to use her own.

MB: So, they kept some contact with some of the people back home?

SKFY: In the beginning, yes. I mean, they could write letters to them and they could tell them anything that was going on in Europe. The letters weren't censored. You could send them money if you had it. You could send them anything. Mother didn't have the stuff to send them, but other people would send things to Europe—to their people. But, it's different now because everything's censored and they can't always get what you would send them or they can't always say what they'd like to say.

RKC: See, this lady that writes now, as Sophia could tell you, well, she was here in the United States. Was she born here Sophia?

SKFY: Yeah. She was here for ten years.

RKC: For ten years, she was here. Her and her brother and sister and another one, four of them.

SKFY: Four of them.

RKC: Four of them went back to Poland and that's where they stayed. They never came back here again. The one that writes now. She's seventy-three? And he's eighty-one. How many children did she have?

SKFY: Ten.

RKC: Ten children?

SKFY: Yeah. Ten children. Uh-huh.

RKC: Was that mother's side or dad's? Mother's?

SKFY: No, that's from dad's side. That's Ann's children. Our Aunt Annie. Those are her children. On dad's side. And she lived where dad used to live.

MB: So, did you have any other customs? Did you have any of the ducking at Easter?

SKFY/RKC: Oh yes!

SKFY: Let's tell you about that. Some of it, I'll tell you that I know and Rose probably knows more because she was a little more devilish than I was, [Laughter] when she was growing up. She still is. Aren't you Rose? [Laughter] Dad should've sent her to college and she should've been a comedian of some sort because she was always the laugh of the party. She would make a fool of herself, but she'd do it though. Well anyhow, in my days, we were a little more sophisticated. The guys that knew me, were the older fellows like, you know. But, they were like in their...I was maybe like thirteen-fourteen, they were like twenty-twenty-one. They would come with perfume and they would duck me with perfume. A sophisticated kind of a thing. I didn't like the guys, period. But, they came to the house to see dad and of course, they'd ask dad, is it alright? He says, I suppose. You have to ask the father if it's okay to duck them. They had to ask my dad if they were allowed to duck the girls. And then, to my mother, they would already take the...they would ask if it would be alright if we took a little water and put on the neck of gospodyni, the housekeeper? Wouldn't be the housekeeper. She's not the housekeeper.

RKC: She's the um...the boss of the house. The gospodyni. She'd be like the head of the house.

SKFY: And dad says, yeah, yeah, go ahead. No hard feelings. So they would take a little water and duck in on mother and she'd splash 'em back, you know. They'd have a ball.

RKC: Oh, in [19]40, when we used to duck the people, we used to duck them with hoses and run all over the place. And buckets of water and when they got a hold of you, they stuck your head under the spigot and you were really wet.

SKFY: That's what they did to you over here at the sink. The sink at the pump. You know, when the guys came. When they got a hold of you, one was pumping the water. You were single.

RKC: Oh, yes, definitely. Yes.

SKFY: Oh, you were about 13 years old maybe?

RKC: Yes. Oh yeah. Real young.

SKFY: We were living up here. Steve went down there and he was chasing you. That was my husband. And, [inaudible name, Tape 2, Track 5, 2:23] and Shander, and they were all chasing after Julia and her.

RKC: Those guys are passed away.

SKFY: They'd get hold of them and put them under the sink. Sink. Under the pump. Pump the water on their heads. They'd scream and holler. And, they'd get buckets of water if they couldn't get a hold of them and just pour it on them. That was on Monday. Tuesday. That was Dyngus Day, we called it. Then on Tuesday, the girls did it to the boys.

RKC: We had a hard time. We couldn't do it to them. They ran away too much. We couldn't get them that much.

SKFY: See, I forgot. I'm glad you mentioned that.

MB: So, did you ever celebrate May Day? Like they did...?

SKFY: No.

MB: What other holidays like with the church or...?

SKFY: I tell you, my mother in Europe did. We didn't do it here. But, my mother in Europe, when May Day came, I forget what they called that... [yahnmak], I think is what they called it. When they celebrated that, they started off with a...like they do...how shall I say? It's like a party or something. It's before May comes. Before they start celebrating the May. I don't know if this happened in April, end of April or what. But, they would have like a big...lots of food to eat and have a great time. And then during the May time, when they walked to church, they'd spray flowers. They had flowers and they would throw them in the path where they would walk until they got to the church. Whatever that meant. I don't know what it was for. And of course, it was the whole month of May, they went to church every day. The whole month of May. That was May Day for them. And another thing that they used to have before Easter, this was like a Mardi Gras. That's on Ash Tuesday. Ash Tuesday is whenever they would have this and they would go to their little...from their village, they would go into their town, the little town they had. And there they had all sorts of baked foods. Anything that you could think of. All the goodies and everything. Dancing out in the street and with their little...like the Polish people wore. The red, blue, and the white. All dressed up with the short skirts. Little vests. Polish dance

with the little hats on. And mom said, I'll look forward to that because they always had a great time. And that was on Ash Tuesday.

MB: Did you celebrate Ash Tuesday here?

SKFY: No. Not that kind. No.

MB: You didn't do May Day at all?

SKFY: No.

MB: Did you do any other holidays like, with the church or...? Did you celebrate Halloween at all?

RKC: The boys would.

SKFY: In my day, no. We didn't do anything.

RFC: But, the boys would celebrate it a little bit.

SKFY: After I got married. Not in my day, but later on. I mean whenever I was home.

RFC: No, I mean when we were home we didn't, but my brothers did. They were devilish. They went and upset the outhouses you know what I mean? And would take the cow manure and they'd throw it on a person's door. Stuff like that. But nothing else.

SKFY: Well see, after Steve got married, you remember? They took the wagon. That was later. I was only seventeen when I got married and my brother Stan wasn't quite sixteen. Well, he wouldn't have been because I got married in June and he would've been sixteen in July. Because there's a year and a half difference between him and I. I was very young. So, our boys wasn't quite into that because my dad was a little afraid to let those kids go because they used to get pretty devilish at times. Then after I got married, my husband was a very outgoing man. He was a man that...he was a jolly man. He could play any instrument he would pick up. He was in a band. And our boys got with him, then they had these...where they got the horses together and went to the parades. And see, that would be... you were only seven years old whenever I first got married.

RKC: I couldn't be seven all the time, honey.

SKFY: No, when I first got married. And I mean as time went on. See, when it was two years, you were only nine. So, my mother and dad wouldn't let you go anywhere at nine years old, I don't think.

RKC: They took us to parades.

SKFY: Oh yes. We used to stand out there and freeze.

MB: Do you remember what kind of parades there were in Windber? What kinds of parades did you go to?

RKC: The Halloween parade, we used to always go to. The parent's took us. And it was snow. It was real cold weather. It's not that cold now like it was then. It was really cold. Maybe, I was about fourteen. I don't know. But, I remember we used to go. But they would all kind of...people just dressed up like you do for Halloween.

SKFY: Well, at that time, at fourteen years old, my husband was already in the parade when she was fourteen years old.

RKC: Fourteen. Yeah, yeah.

SKFY: Because he was always in the parade. I mean, he never missed a parade.

RKC: And of course they belonged to some kind of a band. You know like [inaudible name, Tape 2, Track 5, 7:32] and all them. They were all in the parade. They would all dress however they wanted and...

SKFY: Steve was dressed like a Jew don't you remember? With that snorkel?

RKC: You should see the things he'd be dressed up in.

SKFY: One costume he always wore Rose...

RKC: Oh, when he was in the band?

SKFY: No, when he was in the band, he always wore the band uniform but then, he got out of the band, he was the joker. He was dressed like with the left shoe on the right foot. He didn't look like himself. He had the big nose. You must've forgotten.

RKC: I don't remember that.

SKFY: Johnny would tell you all that.

MB: So, your husband was in a band? A Polish band?

SKFY: Yes.

MB: Were there many ethnic bands in the area then?

RKC: There were more than today, right? The real Polish old guys?

SKFY: Well, yes. Something that would entertain your own people. Sure. He was in a band with... Let's see, how many people were in that band? There was the [Hoodnicks], there was [Vashevsky], there was Clay....

RKC: Skinny from Forty. Whatever his name was. Laughlin?

SKFY: Laughlin. There was five guys. That was their orchestra. Then he belonged to the Windber band.

RKC: The community band.

SKFY: Yes. I mean, there was a lot in there and every Saturday night, they had this band go in that little place...

RKC: The gazebo they had there, you know. And play there.

SKFY: It used to be a streetcar station where the people would go to get the streetcar and had this every Saturday night, they played there. And every Saturday night, my husband played somewhere for a dance. A Polish dance. If it wasn't in Jerome. It was in Central City. All over the places. Every night they played.

MB: But, you never got to go to dances?

RKC: Oh yeah. We'd go.

MB: You did?

RKC: After we were married.

MB: After you were married? Before, your parents wouldn't let you?

RKC: After we were married? Oh God, we went everywhere. I did anyway. I went every place.

MB: So there were lots of Polish dances.

SKFY/RKC: On Saturdays.

SKFY: Not just the young people would go. The mothers, the fathers...

RKC: The children went with babysitters...

SKFY: If you were a babysitter, you took the kids with you.

RKC: They would sleep on table and my mother would help them make the hot dogs and Frank's mother would make cabbage or whatever. They were making stuff for eating. All that and having a good time. Square dancing in the Sixth Street Hall at St. John's. And almost every Saturday was a dance. And I used to go places where Steve played.

SKFY: Yeah, I used to take my two younger kids with me to Windber and then my mother-in-law would babysit for them and I'd go with my husband up to Sixth Street where they had the dance, you know. Wherever they played. Then, I'd have a good time with his friends and dance. And there were all the older people...everybody was...it was like a community picnic.

RKC: It was so different. Today, they're younger, of course, this is what's going to happen. I don't mean to take over, but right now, your father and mother, and your uncle...they're all dancing and having a good time.

MB: All ages?

RKC: All ages, uh-huh.

SKFY: A man would dance with a younger woman. An old man would dance with...like Uncle Ben would dance with somebody that we...we had a good time.

MB: Was this mostly Polish music?

SKFY: Yes. Mostly Polish. Waltzes. Three o'clock in the morning, I'll never forget that.

RKC: [Inaudible, Tape 2, Track 6, 1:00]

MB: I guess there were these fraternal insurance societies for all the different ethnic groups. Did you transform to one of those groups?

SKFY: That's right. Maybe one Saturday, the St. John's Canvas Lodge had this dance. Next time, St. Casimir's had the dance. Next time it would be some other.

RKC: The Seventh Street Club, what was that one?

SKFY: That would be the Polish Educational Club. They would have it. And then, sometimes the church would hold, you know. Because we had church bazaars then. Not bazaars like they have today, just...

RKC: Like three or four days they had them. A whole week.

MB: Did other people from other ethnic groups sometimes come to these affairs?

SKFY/RKC: Oh yes.

MB: People could come even if they weren't Polish? Like Hungarians could come. An Italian could come?

RKC: Oh yes. Mingle. Even now they do that.

SKFY: They do that now more so than they used to.

RKC: They'll get together. If the Italians had something going then they'd take the whole shebang goes there. Or they come to your doing or whatever. Even now they do that.

SKFY: Let me tell you something, at one time, long ago, not too many Italian people associated with the Polish people. Not too many girls went with Italian fellows. They weren't allowed to go with them. Or vice versa. The Italians were against them marrying the Polish. But later on, many Italians married the Polish and vice versa.

MB: What about the Irish? What about the Irish in Windber?

SKFY: They were very quiet people. They were not people to dislike or you know, like the Polish, Slovak, Italians, or Russians. They're different. I think they're easier people to get along with, don't you think?

RKC: I think so too, yes.

MB: But, did they intermarry with these people?

SKFY: Oh yes. They weren't that choosy like our parents from Europe. Holy man. Don't stand alone with this guy or that. My God. You had to stay in the house because if there was an Italian fellow who wanted to see you, my Lord, you'd think, by just looking at him, you could get pregnant.

MB: So, Sophia, did you marry a miner then?

SKFY: Oh no. My husband wasn't actually a miner. My husband could do most anything. When I first married him, he was a painter. He was painting. When I married him...

MB: And that was in when? Tell me again.

SKFY: I married 1926. When I first met him, he wasn't here too long. He went to Milwaukee. He was a painter there. When I say painter, I mean house painter. Inside and out. Decorative painting. Not the kind of painting like they just do now. Rose probably remembers the stencils. And he did the woodwork...he would make the woodwork, he painted it to make it look like wood. Stained it and then stippled it. It looked like all grained work. That's the work he was doing. He could marbleize. He marbleized...you remember our kitchen or maybe you don't. Okay.

RKC: Yeah. It was in the newspaper?

SKFY: No, no, no. That was Tiffany.

RKC: Oh, is that what it was?

SKFY: That was Tiffany. And then he also marbled. . . I only had a kitchen. I didn't have any place to put marbling other than the kitchen, but for other people he did this type of work. Then, he played also like, in the band. Then, whenever he came back from Milwaukee, there wasn't enough of work to do just painting. So then he went with his father into the mine, I mean the mine above Windber there, what was that one? Thirty-one? It's above Seventh Street there. If you're up on Horn Road, that's where part of that mine was.

RKC: I know where you mean, but I don't know if it's thirty-one or not.

SKFY: I think that's Thirty-one Mine. He went in there with his father. And then, on the side, they didn't work every day there, then he would paint. He would do the painting. 'Course, he was a man that could do most anything. He wasn't a man that could only do one thing, I mean, Rose can tell you.

RKC: Oh, he was a good husband. He was a good worker.

SKFY: He was a good worker. He could do most anything. And then, that mine where his father was working, they laid these guys off. So then he came to work at Hagevo in a mine. My father got him a job here. He was going with me, so my father got him a job here. It was a big deal. My dad would sit and talk with him half the night. I'd go upstairs to bed or read the Bible to him. We never sat together while we were going in the house. Like say when mother and dad were there. We could sit together and talk like this. No. My dad and him would be there and my mother would be over here sitting together. I'd go to bed and him and my father would sit up and talk and that was our date. [Laughter]

RKC: That was a date. A date with the father or the girl?

SKFY: That's right. And then, dad got him this job and then we got married. And after we got married, we lived in Windber and he used to come to work here. And that was too much of a going back and forth for him to come here. Mom says, why don't you come and stay with us. My God, she only had that one room. I was glad to come home, I was homesick. Imagine. I was homesick. I was so glad to come home. You have no idea. We came home every evening to see my mother. So, we moved here and we had one bedroom. And Sophia got back into the same routine. The cooking, the baking, and my mother worked in the field. And my mother was in her glory, my sister--she was my pet. And she was glad I came back. She was hanging on my legs. On the back of me, holding me all the time because she was young. She never had to do anything while I was home. [Laughter] I had three brothers. I never had any sisters until I got her. My God, I thought I had, God knows what. So, I was home then for . . . , let's see, I had my baby there. At mother's place. I had it at home. And then we bought a little place in Hagevo and we lived over there and then Steve was working in the mine. He was working in a mine with my father. And then we moved up here to this house and we bought this place here. It wasn't a house like it is today, but it was here. And, I didn't want to come here knowing because the house that was here, it looked like a . . .

RKC: A barn.

SKFY: Like a barn is right. Shed I was going to say. Like a barn. Never had any paint on it. It was just four little rooms. And I said, oh my God, Steve, I don't want to go there. I want to get out of Hagevo. I don't want to live there. I don't want to live there no how. Soph, he says, please, I want to live in the country. I've lived in town all my life. I'd like to have a cow and like to have a chicken. And I just got away from that. I worked like a horse. And washed clothes and everything by hand. Of course, I didn't have to wash clothes by hand here because he immediately got me lights. We didn't have any lights until I got married. After I got married, and moved there, then he put the lights in for my mother. Because we only used oil lights. And then, when we moved here, we had... well, he said, if you come Sophia, he begged me, he said, please, he said. I would just like to try. I want it so bad, but my mother and father would never want to go to the country. He said, I'll make you the queen of Hagevo. He says, I'll treat you like a queen. He did. He was very...Rose can tell you that I'm not bragging.

And he said, I'll fix that house and you'll have a little palace. Well, it wasn't too long, my husband, he got sick. We were only married thirteen years. He fell off of a ladder doing our house and when he fell off of the ladder, he was carrying a bundle of shingles up. You know, to shingle the house. And he went to work that morning to the mine. And he come home from work and he brought his brother-in-law was with him and he was going to help him do the shingles. And he started up here above the highest place on the house. The highest peak. And he was carrying a bundle of shingles up and the prong broke at the top when he was carrying the shingles. And this ladder came down--he was holding onto it and where the ladder attaches there were those iron things on it. Well, he fell on that and he cut himself from here to here. All this was hanging out. We had to get a towel real quick and push the stuff back in there because you could see all the stuff was coming out of his head. And we...thank God his brother-in-law was here, he rushed him to the hospital. Well after that, he wasn't good. His mind wasn't right. He didn't do anything bad or anything like that, but he couldn't think straight and all and he did was pray all the time. You remember how it used to be.

RKC: Oh yeah. He used to start reading the book from the back like when he would read.

SKFY: He was always praying and his head wasn't right. The doctor said that he had a blood clot on his brain, but it's in such a place he said, that you can't operate because you're taking a chance. The only chance you could do was to let it go. They used to give him treatments at the hospital and put him where there was a lot of lights thinking that this was going to help him, but that didn't help him. So that lasted for four years. So see, we weren't married too long. So he was sick for four years. So, after seventeen years, he was gone. Not seventeen quite. Yeah, seventeen because Buddy was sixteen years old. Buddy's birthday was on the twenty-eighth and he died on the twentieth of March.

MB: What year was that?

SKFY: He died in 1943. He fell off the ladder in 1939, June the first.

RKC: And he was here in this house. Laid out here.

SKFY: In my bedroom. In our bedroom.

MB: Rose, when you got married then, where did you go to live?

RKC: When I first got married, I went to live down on Seventh Street with some lady in her house.

End of Tape 2 (March 3, 1984)

End of Interview

Transcribed by: Valetta M. Keener-Shuppe, **March 25, 2015**