

TAPE C-120
SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH MEL CROSSON

Date: February 22, 1985

Interviewer: Bill Kent

Mel Crosson, born in Idaho Springs, CO on January 9, 1918 moved to Evergreen in the fall of 1930 with his older sister and widowed mother five years after his father's death. His mother was the sole custodian, helped by her two children, at the --- Grange and the family lived in the basement during the school year. Mel attended the seventh through twelfth grades there and graduated in 1936. The school had three teachers when Mel arrived, one for the first three grades, another for the next three, and one for the junior high. High school classes were just being phased in at the time. He implies that his bad behavior made things hard for the teachers. The population consisted mostly of summer residents therefore school enrollment was low. There were not sufficient students to make a football team, for instance, but the school had some track and also boys' and girls' basketball.

Social life for Evergreen locals revolved around church activities, box socials, potlucks, Saturday night dances and occasional movies. In the late 1930s a rodeo started in the present Safeway location.

Mel had a series of house carpentering jobs, first with his uncle (mostly during the first phase of construction in Brook Forest), then with his cousin, and finally for the Esco Construction Company for which he worked 30 years and where he was semi-retired at the time of the interview.

For diversion, people listened to the radio, took short trips to the Colorado mountains, to California or Texas, attended picnics and family and community events, and fished. Teenagers' recreation occurred mostly at school, and they also ice-skated, rabbit-hunted and played softball. Most had bicycles, but walking a mile to visit a friend was not unusual. Shopping trips to Denver by car on gravel roads took about one and a half hours at speeds approaching 25-30 miles.