

## **SUMMARY OF TAPE M103 INTERVIEW WITH SARAH MANZANARES**

**April 3, 1980**

**Interviewer: Sandy Crain**

The story of four generations is related through Sarah Manzanares remarkable memory. Her maternal grandparents arrived by covered wagon and settled in the San Luis Valley. Sarah remembers the fun shared by all the grandchildren when they visited her grandmother in a one-room adobe house and slept on benches around a central fireplace or hearth.

A Presbyterian minister adopted Sarah's mother; therefore Sarah and her four brothers and four sisters were not raised Catholic, a point that is raised several times in the interview. Her mother, Barbara Dererra, was a strong, independent woman who was married three times.

Sarah's father, Nick Jantett, was a rancher and horseman. He worked as a horseman for the Bureau of Indian Affairs on a Ute Reservation. He was a successful rancher, raising crops as well as livestock. Business dealings were done in Durango and required a trip from Ignacio to Durango on the narrow gauge train. Sarah remembers feeling that they were "rich." Sarah's father spoke French, Spanish and English; and Sarah spoke French and Spanish at home, learning English when she attended school.

Sarah was born in Ignacio in 1889. Her father later bought a ranch in Spring Creek where Sarah attended school through fourth grade. Her mother took her out of school to learn how to run a house and raise children. Sarah mentions, however, that she had some Indian blood and attended Fort Lewis (then called the Indian School) for one winter.

In 1914 Sarah married Ventura Manzanares, a childhood schoolmate. He was a carpenter and very artistic. They had four children, two boys and two girls. Their sons, Joe and Abel, also became carpenters. Sarah tells of hardships during the Depression when she and "Ven" cleaned houses for wealthy people in Denver.

In 1934 they moved to Evergreen to pursue better opportunities for Ventura's carpentry skills. Sarah relates memories of early Evergreen including the Baptist and Episcopal churches, Mickey's Groceries, Evergreen High School, and Olde's filling station.

Ventura died in 1948. Sarah then worked as a domestic for various families in Golden. She retired in 1972.