

**SUMMARY OF TAPE P105 INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE PERLEY,
CHARLOTTE PERLEY MATTHEWS, AND JOSEPHINE PERLEY PEREMAN**

June 27, 1979

Interviewer: Sandy Crain

This tape gives the listener a wonderful idea of one family's life on a ranch in the first three decades of the twentieth century. There was another brother, born later; and not really a part of the memories told by these three siblings.

They tell the story of their grandfather walking from Vermont to Denver with an ox team. Their grandfather bought the Bradford Ranch in 1895. Major Bradford used native stonework, with the work done by slaves he had brought with him from the East. There were 360 acres to the property in the 1860's. At the time of this interview, Johns Mansville had acquired the property and there was some discussion about what the company would do with the Bradford House.

The two sisters and George were born in the Bradford House, and spent much of their childhood living there with their grandparents and parents. There was no electricity, telephone, or running water. The family's water supply was from two wells. The family raised beef cattle, dairy cattle, hogs and chickens. Milk, butter and eggs were sold for spending money. The family bought ice from vendors who cut the ice from Soda lakes, and stored it in the ice house. The children went to the Mountview one-room school, walking five miles each way. They all went to Golden High School, and George attended Ft. Collins (then the Ag School) for one year. Several times comments were made about how hard life was, even though there were hired hands to help with cutting alfalfa and hay. There was little leisure or play time from young childhood on.

Despite the hardships, the listener is entertained by the memories related from their childhoods. Because the house was large, with twelve-foot ceilings, neighbors gathered at the ranch house for much of their social life. Their father played the mouth harp, their grandfather the fiddle, and there was a piano bought by their mother. The little band would play and neighbors would dance.

Other reminiscences include George's memory of watching Indians traverse the valley on their ponies. All three thought of the house as "spooky". There is a funny story Charlotte tells about frightening Josephine one night while they were alone in the house. Their father was evidently a prankster, and there is another funny story about him and one of the hired hands frightening young neighbor boys by portraying a ghost on the property.