

## **SUMMARY OF TAPE R106 INTERVIEW WITH GEORGIA RICE**

**May 21, 1987**

**Interviewers: Connie Fahnestock and Arleta Alderfer**

Georgia Rice's grandparents homesteaded on Bear Mountain in the 1860's. Georgia's father took over the ranch when his father died, and Georgia was born there in 1902. Her father, John Halls, became the foreman at Camp Neosho. Georgia and her three siblings attended and graduated from the Evergreen School.

When she was 16 years old, Georgia started working as a cook for Mrs. Douglas. Memories of her youth and young married life in Evergreen are clear and form a picture of Camp Neosho and the Douglas family during the first decades of the twentieth century. Her family first lived in a small cabin behind the big house, followed by a cabin by St. Raphael's, and eventually in a ranch house built for them at Mrs. Douglas's direction.

The housekeeper and manager of the Douglas house at the time was Miss Kidd. "Big Jim" was the chauffeur, and Mamie Tucker was the maid. Georgia remembers Mrs. Douglas as "not well". Georgia's meals were commonly made for only Mrs. Douglas, Miss Kidd, and, occasionally, Julia Douglas and/or Eric Douglas. For a time Georgia and Mamie lived in what was called the Baby House. Eventually another house was built that would become Eric's house. The Douglas family spent the winters in New York; and it was Georgia's and her sister, Orlean's job to check the big house out every day, and to clean it before they returned. Georgia takes a memory walk through the rooms of the big house, describing the rooms and furniture of the time. She also describes Mrs. Douglas's daily routine.

Frank Rice moved to Evergreen in the 1920's and helped put in water pipes, roads, and electricity for the growing community. He and Georgia were married and raised three children. Georgia gives us an idea of what young couples did for dates. Her memories including dancing, going to the theater, and out for dinner. She takes the listener on a tour of Evergreen at that time which includes the grocery stores, well-known early families' houses and restaurants. She even recounts Jerry and Valorie Oldes playing violin and piano for dances in the 1920's.

The final moments of the tape are spent remembering Father Douglas. Her impressions are of what a wonderful person he was and his kindness to others. During Georgia's working time at Camp Neosho, however, Father Douglas spent much of his time in Peekskill, New York.