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ORAL HISTORY
HISTORY OF WYOMING
MAY 4, 1982

CARLA KIRLIN -

PHYLLIS KIRLIN

Phyllis Kirlin was born on May 12, 1928 in Clay County, Iowa. She was born at home with a doctor that had to travel 12 miles to ~~get~~ to her house. She lived in the country.

Her parents were Jesse Andrew Ramsey and Marie Christiansen - Ramsey. Her father was a native of the United States, but her mother came to the U.S. in 1914 from Germany. She was 19 years old when she left Germany.

Phyllis had one brother, Alvin, and two sisters, Jessie and Betty. Al is now deceased. He passed away three years ago. His wife was Dorothy Birdsall - Ramsey. Jessie is married to Gale Birdall, and Betty is married to Raymond Ihry.

Phyllis' father was a farmer in Iowa. They grew corn, oats, and beans. Cows, chickens, and pigs made up the livestock that they raised.

Eventually her father started selling grains. After her father died in 1946, Phyllis' mother took over the business of selling seed. Marie Ramsey passed away in 1977.

Mrs. Kirlin said her family was a close one. She felt especially close to her father. They were easy to talk to and not overly strict. Phyllis talked with her older sisters about teenage problems, but as the years passed, she found it just as easy to talk with her mother.

When it came time for punishment, Mrs. Ramsey would spank the children, but ~~their father just had to speak to them~~ and they would straighten up. The parents were boss and the children did not

question their authority.

Mrs. Kirlin said that she got to pick her own friends as well as dates. She started dating when she was a freshman in high school. She dated a lot but very seldom was it just her and her date. There was always a certain crowd that went together. They went to dances at the North Libert Hall or to a movie. It was during the big band era and not uncommon for the parents to be at the same dance. Even as a child, Phyllis' parents would take her to the dances. When the parents did not go to the dances they often played cards with friends.

When the children were not busy with their chores, some of the games they played were Anty Anty over the House, softball, Kick the Can, or, in the winter, they would go sledding.

The Ramsey family celebrated birthdays by having a dinner and cake and icecream. They might have friends over to join them. Phyllis was 12 by the time she remembered having a party with just her friends.

Christmas was always a time that the family spent together. Mr. Ramsey would have some of his family join them also. They opened presents on Christmas Eve and had Christmas dinner on Christmas Day. That tradition has been carried over into her married life.

All the children had assigned chores. Phyllis did a lot of the outdoor chores because she was quite a tomboy. On the weekends they cleaned the whole house. Jessie, Betty, and Phyllis always did the dishes together. If they ~~were~~ were not mad at one another they would sing while doing them. They had no running water so it was carried in from outside and heated on the stove which burned coal, wood, or

corn cobs. The stove was the only source of heat.

Phyllis started school in the first grade. The district was consolidated and the first and second grades were combined in an old farm school. Once out of the first grade the students went to a larger building. She graduated from Moneta Consolidated High School in 1946. There were 7 other students in her graduating grade. They studied basics in school. Phyllis said she enjoyed school and it was a big social structure. After graduating, Phyllis went to a business school in Des Moines, Iowa for a year. She studied office work.

Mrs. Kirilin did not work during high school but in the summers she drove a tractor for neighboring farmers.

Phyllis' parents were religious although her father did not attend church regularly. Her father was baptised a Methodist and her mother was baptised a Lutheran in Germany. Phyllis is a baptised Methodist as is the rest of her family now. She feels that religion is important. She used to be very active in church activities. There was a span of a few years when she did not attend church often, after moving to Rock Springs, Wyoming. Now, Phyllis and her husband are both attending regularly.

Phyllis was married on May 21, 1950 in Hartley, Iowa. Hartley is where her husband was living at the time and only 12 miles from where Phyllis was born and raised. She married Carl Leao Kirilin, son of Leao and Sybil Kirilin. Bud and Fudge (their nick-names), knew each other for a long time before they ever started dating. They dated for a year, were engaged for a year, and then were married. Their 32nd anniversary

is this year. For their honeymoon they traveled through Kansas, Wyoming, and South Dakota. They went to Yellowstone National Park and the Black Hills. They were gone for about two weeks.

Carl and Phyllis have three children; two boys and a girl. The boys are Russell Lee, 27, and Stanley Warner, 24. Both boys are now married. Russ is married to Jana Alfont of Indiana and Stan is married to Kathryn Moe of North Dakota. Russ and Jana have two children; Stephanie, 4, and Matthew, 1 and a half. Carl and Phyllis' only daughter is Carla Marie. She is not married. Russ was born in Sheldon, Iowa; Stan was born in Hawthorn, California, and Carla was born in Evanston, Wyoming. Mr. and Mrs. Kirlin lived in Iowa, Washington, D.C., and San Diego before moving to Evanston, Wyoming. They moved to Wyoming in 1962 because of the job opportunities. Mr. Kirlin was the Data Processing Administrator at the Memorial hospital, and Phyllis was a secretary at the high school.

Phyllis said she remembered the Korean war and World War II. She was still in high school when WWII was in swing, but she and Carl had been married when the Korean war started. Carl was in the Navy for WWII and was recalled in August of 1950 for the Korean war. He was discharged in December of 1951. Phyllis said it was difficult for her with her husband overseas. She worked while the war was going on and then until her first son was born. Women were only allowed to work until their seventh month of pregnancy. She went back for a few years until her second son was born and then until a week before her daughter was born. They changed the law about only working until the 7th month. She has been working ever since as a secretary.

Phyllis' father was involved in local and national politics. He was a Republican, as was Mrs. Ramsey. She followed her husband's views. Phyllis is also a Republican but because that is the party she believes in, not because it is the same party her husband belongs to. She and her husband do hold very similar views though. When the wars came about she did not feel the U.S. had any business being involved but felt also that it was wrong to question any decision made in Washington. Phyllis felt it was the duty of the citizens to back their country. Her views changed when the Viet Nam war broke out. She did not feel that the U.S. had any business over there either. She still believes it is right to back the country but hates the thought of war.

Phyllis was first exposed to T.V. when her husband was in the service. They got their first T.V. in 1957. On the farm her family had a crank telephone that was a party line, a radio that they listened to shows on, like The Shadow Knows, and they also had a crank victrola.

Phyllis and her family are now living in Rock Springs, Wyoming. They first came to Rock Springs in July of 1972. She is working at the high school as a guidance secretary.

Phyllis feels that the morals of today's young people are a lot different than when she was younger. She feels that overall the young people are generally good. They have more freedom than she did. Mrs. Kirlin thinks the family unit is coming apart because of the mobile society in which we live. She has mixed emotions about people living together and about premarital sex. She does not like it but accepts it as a part of the changing society of today. Phyllis feels that marriage and commitments are very important.

The things Phyllis likes best about Wyoming are the mountains,

open spaces, and the small populus. She does not kile the lack of cultural events like the arts, and the distance one has to travel to a large city, such as Salt Lake City, Utah or Denver, Colorado.

Mrs. Kirlin feels Wyoming will continue to grow because of the energy industry. She feels that eventually jobs will become scarce and the boom Wyoming is now feeling will level off. She has mixed feelings about supplying the rest of the nation with Wyoming's natural resources. Phyllis feels we should take care of Wyoming before the rest of the country, but thinks that is a bit selfish. She does not feel that seching for oil and other resources will destroy the scenic beauty because people can now restore the land the way it was before work was begun on the land. She does not feel there is an oil shortage worldwide but believes there is one nationwide. She feels that conservation is very important and tries to be a conservative person.

Mrs. Kirlin is frightened by the thought of a nuclear war and what it would do but do^s not feel that a nuclear war will ever take place on purpose. She feels it will probably take a stupid mistake or a move out of anger.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirlin are hoping to move to Arizona when they retire because they enjoy the climate. Mr. Kirlin loves to golf and Phyllis has started. She also bowls in a leque every year.

Phyllis said the saddest time of her life was when her father died of a heart attack and that happiness cannot be singled into one event but is a continual cycle. Basically she has had a happy life and looks forward to the up-coming years.

NAME: Phyllis Kirlin

PRESENT ADDRESS: 1601 James Dr. Rock Springs, Wyo.

1. Present profession or occupation:
Secretary at High School
2. Occupations followed in the past (give dates):
Clerical / Secretarial, bank teller,
3. Date of birth: *May 12, 1928* Place of birth: *Clay County, Iowa*
4. Date of moving to Wyoming:
1962 (February)
5. Full name of parents (give mother's maiden name)
Marie Christensen Ramsey, Jesse Andrew Ramsey
6. Names of brothers and sisters (and to whom married):
*Jessie Ramsey-Birdsall - Hale Birdsall
Alvan Ramsey - Dorothy Birdsall Ramsey
Betty Ramsey - ~~Shay~~ - Raymond Shry*
7. Schools attended (give dates):
Moneta High School & American Institute of Business.
8. Places of residence in Wyoming (give dates):
*Evanston, Wyo. 1962 - 1972 (Feb - July)
Rock Springs, Wyo. 1972 - 1982 (July - May)*
9. Military service (dates, awards, area served, rank, etc.):
None
10. Political offices held (give dates):
None
11. Political affiliation:
Republican
12. Religious affiliation:
Methodist
13. Marriage (spouse's name, date and place of marriage):
Carl Leas Kirlin; May 21, 1950, Hartley, Iowa
14. Children (names, dates of birth, grandchildren, etc.):
*Russell Lee Kirlin - July 29, 1953
Stanley Warner Kirlin - Sept. 16, 1957
Gaula Marie Kirlin - February 1, 1963*
- Grand children - *(Stephanie Lee Kirlin - Nov. 12, 1977, Matthew Russell Kirlin - Sept 27, 1980)*
15. List of clubs and societies of which you are a member: *Sept 27, 1980)*
*Order of the Eastern Star
Secretaries Association
Bowls for Constantino Brothers Construction.*