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Project Title: Sweetwater County, Wy. Migration Stories

Narrator: Dick Nelson  
Address: Eden, Wy.

Interviewer: Kathie Roghair  
Address: Eden, Wy.

Date of Interview: Feb. 18, 1992 and March 2, 1992

Location: Dick Nelson's house

Other persons present: Dorthy (wife) and Carl (son)

Description of interview setting and content:

I interviewed Dick Nelson in his house, at his kitchen table. He talked about how his parents came out to Eden, Wy. in the early 1920's. He also talked about life here in the past and about some of the changes that have occurred.

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Tape 1 side 1	
010- 022	Dick's dad heard about Eden from Land Development Company in Omaha, Neb.
023- 035	Dick's parents were from Nebraska and Colorado; his dad came out in 1921, his mom a year later
037- 060	Their first impressions were that it was a new country that they had to develop out of sagebrush
061- 072	The irrigation project was already started when they arrived.
073- 083	Dick's mom first taught school at the log house by Van Meter's place.
086- 123	Dick describes the school bus and the bus route
128- 144	Dick's dad plowed up sage brush with horses
149	Irrigation system was here when they came
155	Tape shut off because of coughing
158- 170	Dick's dad built log house in 1928; description of house

Meter	Index
172- 185	Changes in the valley were the new reservoir, school consolidated, and more people moving into the valley
188- 205	Dick decided to stay in Eden because of debt, hard times during the Depression
207- 213	He likes living in Eden " all right," he's too old to change now  [ technical difficulties ]
216	His mother called to teach school during World War II
220- 233	She enjoyed teaching
235	R.E.A. came in during the 1950's
240- 246	It cost \$1500 to build present house
248	Mother and dad met while she was teaching
250	Dick's dad was proud of canvas topped touring car
255- 269	Dick rode the milk truck from local dairy into town
270	They milked 15 cows by hand during the years the dairy was still going
275	End of tape: Side 1

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Tape 1 side 2	
025- 040	Eden was not what Dick's dad expected, he had been shown pictures of corn.
042- 050	He was able to raise alfafa and small grain.
057- 070	He plowed up 20 - 30 acres a year.
072- 096	They paid \$1.00 an acre for irrigation water just before they turned it into the new system.
097- 152	Valley's social life revolved around school.
153- 178	Log church was built first in the 1930's.
179- 207	They had a lot of dances for entertainment. Dick's mom and dad played in the band.
210- 239	Eden Valley Dairy was started by members in the valley during the 1930's.
240- 266	At one time Dick's dad owned over 300 sheep plus dairy cows.
267- 285	Dick rode Dairy truck into town to pick up supplies.
287- 300	The new highway was built in the 1960's in order to shorten it up.
303- 325	Dick's dad built original house by going up to the mountains with horses to get logs.
326- 336	They heated the house with coal.
337- 346	R.E.A. came in during the 1950's.
347- 374	The first bad winter Dick can remember was in 1936.
375- 396	Dick talks about different cars that they owned in the past.

Meter

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394-  
400

They hauled coal in the bottom of the dairy truck.

401-  
422

Stores in the valley were the Farson Merc., Dill's, and  
Harrisons.

423-  
431

At first Dick's mom tryed to grow a garden but it got  
discouraging since it freezes out so often. They grew a  
lot of turnips during the depression.

End of tape, side 2