

Robert, a good solid biography. Some direct
quotes & lively stories would have made it
more exciting.

Peace
Chris

WYOMING
AN ORAL HISTORY
NARRATED BY MRS. VERNA McCALLISTER

BY: ROBERT DEAN KRASNICAN

AN ORAL HISTORY OF WYOMING

I recently had the opportunity to interview a Mrs. Verna-McCallister. She was a very good subject, as she is a born native of Wyoming. She is now employed at McCallister Brothers Trucking Company, and married to co-owner, Mr. Monte McCallister. The company and her family have been in Rock Springs since 1975.

Mrs. McCallister was born in Laramie Wyoming. Her husband in Montana. Verna enjoyed a very happy childhood. Living in the city, things went a little easier than they might have elsewhere in the state of Wyoming. Verna and her family shared a very close family relationship. They were a very musically inclined family, as her parents were very demanding of the children to learn to play certain musical instruments. Verna herself learned how to play the Piano and Violin, while her sisters played the Piano and had wonderful voices. She does not at all regret her parents enforcing the music lessons upon them. Music was a sort of hobby for the family ~~xxxx~~ and it was what they enjoyed doing together the most. Verna apparently had strict but loving parents, as she and her sisters were also demanded to attend Sunday School and church services every Sunday. She was raised a Baptist and still practices the same religion today, though she is not as involved as she would like to be.

Verna's husband Monte was born in a mountainous area of Montana. He had a very close and loving family also, but times were a little tougher for them than for Verna's family, as they lived a long way away from the city. He and his brothers hunted for all of the food which their family ate. For this reason and more, Monte missed a considerable amount of schooling. Out of the nine

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children in Montes family, only two of them actually earned a high school diploma. Montes mother taught all of her children at home through about the sixth grade. They later took their eighth grade level exams at home also. Two of the children continued school at Laramie High School, but Monte never finished. It is quite apparent now that his lack of a formal education had no effect on his future though. Verna did finish high school; even though she did not enjoy it at all. Monte lived too far away from any schools while Verna walked fourteen blocks to and from school. Montes family was not a religious one, as they lived too far away from any church. Monte still practices no religion to this very day. His family moved away from Montana in 1942 to Laramie, Wyoming.

Verna and Monte met one another in 1953, dated for three years and got married in 1955. Once they were married, they moved into a small cabin in the hills in Albany, Wyoming. At the time there was five feet of snow on the ground. The cabin had no electricity or indoor plumbing. Verna hauled her water in buckets from a community water pump. She fed her husband and his two brothers three times a day. She did all of her cooking on a wood stove, so they needed to keep a stock of dry wood, which must have been very difficult with five feet of snow on the ground. They ate mostly Venacin, such as antelope, deer and Elk. They also had a lot of potatoes and canned vegetables. They lived there for that one winter only so it was hard for her to keep fresh vegetables. Getting back and forth between town and home was alot of trouble. Besides being far away, they

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had to park their 46 Ford away from the house, so they had to walk a lot in the deep snow.

After that winter they went and stayed with Vernas parents for a while and then they stayed with Montes parents. During this time, Monte drove a truck out of Laramie for two years. Monte soon after, bought a logging truck of his own and hauled logs in Red Feather Lake, Colorado. It was a family thing as his brother cut logs, his five sisters skidded logs with a skid-horse and Monte hauled the logs. They did that for one fall only, as Montes truck had blown up at the end of that fall. Because of this misfortune, they went back to Laramie and moved in with Vernas sister. While staying there, Monte got a job hauling cement to the building site of Alcova dam, for a Mr. Don Ward. After two years working for him, Monte got a different job with a gasoline company. He hauled gas for that company for fourteen years, and soon had enough to buy another truck. He also bought some caterpillar and scraping equipment, and went into the Reservoir building business. Monte bought another truck in 1973 and started hauling gravel for the Jim Bridger Power Plant.

Verna and her children moved to Rock Springs to join her husband in 1975. In 1978 Monte merged with his brother to form the current McCallister Brothers Trucking Company, located in Rock Springs, Wyoming. At the time, the two brothers ~~xxxx~~ had seven trucks apiece. Fourteen all together. They currently have twenty five trucks and seventy trailers of different types. Verna says that the children helped out in working on the trucks and the hauling. The whole McCallister family was a big part in what they have today.

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In the earlier years of Verna and Monte McCallisters marriage while her, excuse me, their children were young, the family liked to go ice skating, horseback riding and sledding on cardboard boxes. Verna passed on her religious beliefs to their children whom still practice it today, much to the appreciation of Monte. All of their children have had formal schooling and have graduated from high school, except for their little ten year old daughter.

Verna stated to me that there were the rough times, but they were mostly happy times. She enjoyed her early marriage life as well as she enjoys it today.

THANKYOU MRS. VERNA McCALLISTER