JANET TIBBALS
ORAL HISTORY
BY SHARON GRANDY

Janet Tibblas was born on November 5, 1911 in, Salt Lake City, Utah to Anna Smith Tibbals and Barney Tibbals. She had one brother named Jim. Her family moved to Boulder, Wyoming from South Pass City, which is located near Lander, Wyoming. Her mother, who was born in South Pass, ran the hotel there and her father, who is originally from Bay City, Michigan, moved to South Pass to manage a gold mine, called the Carrisa. They were married in 1899. Janet's family got the ranch by homesteading and other people sold them their homesteads. This turned into one large piece of land. At the present Janet owns 3,400 acres.

The main transportation before Janet was born was buggy and team. The buggy was light weight with a fancy canvas top. Her parents traveled from Boulder to Pinedale and Newfork in it. Newfork had a store, which was run by the Bibles. People did their trading there instead of in Boulder, since it didn't have a store at that time. After Janet was born the family used a car, but it wasn't very reliable. Flat tires were common, so when they traveled to Salt Lake they usually drove to Rock Springs and took the train.

The Tibbals had neighbors that were close. The Hiddals lived right across the road and the Gilligan's west of them.

There wasn't indoor plumbing. Janet's dad dug a well by hand. They had to heat water to take a bath. Their stove had a reservoir on the side of it that would hold a lot of water. So while the stove was going water would always be heating.

VIOLENCE

The only serious violence Janet is aware of took place when she

was real young, in the 1900's, and that was the sheep raid. The cattle men decided that they did not want the sheepmen to bring their sheep here during the summer and take them to the mountains. The Bureau of Land Management did not exist then, so the sheepmen put their sheep where they wanted to, which a lot of times meant running the sheep with the cattle. When the cattle men decided that they did not want the sheepmen around, they went to the sheep camps and killed some sheep and a few herders. They blinded a Mexican man who's name was Jo, by tying him up. A lake has been named after him, Black Jo Lake. The cattle men killed the sheep mostly at night, because they were easy to get to. They drove one band of sheep off of a cliff. Janet's parents were asked to participate in this, but they declined, because they did not have cattle or sheep at the time and did not want to get involved.

NATURAL DISASTERS

The weather then was like it is now, cold. It claimed the life of the mail carrier. He was on his way from Pinedale to South Pass City, and ran into a snowdrift with his car. The authorities found him two weeks later lying dead with the mailsack ten miles from South Pass.

Medical help was available in Rock Springs and Pinedale. Janet and her family went to Rock Springs if the roads were passable. Pinedale also had a doctor, which was an alternative. A semi-retired doctor came from Daniel once and a while to help people. Diseases weren't that common to the Tibbals, because they were so isolated. The children hardly ever had hooping cough or the measles. Janet did catch the hooping cough in Salt Lake when she was six years old though. The Bibles, who owned the Newfork store caught something, which was later thought to be diptheria. The father, the two boys, and the girl all

died from it. No one else that went to the store ever caught it. Janet's mother had to be careful not to use some of the food that she had recently bought at the store, because at the time they did not know what it was, or if they could catch it through the food or not.

HOLIDAYS

At Christmas there was a dance at Newfork, because it had a dance hall. This hall was called Valhalla Hall, which is Swediah or Danish for the word heaven. When the Bibles died they were buried close to this hall. Today the graves are fenced and preserved. Janet's childhood Christmases were always filled with joy. The family always use to get a huge Christmas tree, that usually had to be cut to get it through the door. The tree would take up half the room. Since they did not have electric lights, candles were used. There were little holders for the candles that fastened onto the bows of the tree. Janet and her brother were allowed to light the candles only once, because if they messed with the matches they might have caught the place on fire. On Christmas eve they went to bed so that Santa Claus could come. They never opened a present, either. The same kind of presents were given then as they are now. The children usually received toys and clothing. The older people would get clothes, and Janet's mother would get a nice dish.

Birthday parties were also give. Children would come and play games and then eat. Janet recalls jello as being the favorite, for it had just come on the market. Janet's favorite kind was red; she like anything red at the time.

SOCIAL EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

In Pinedale there was a big hall called the Woodmen's Hall. Janet's parents would attend the social events there once in a while, but it was far for them to go. Church was also held in Pinedale. It

was a community church, where all religions went. The Tibbals only attended occassionally, because they would have to stay overnight in Pinedale to make it to church in the morning.

Janet and her family never really went on a family vacation, because someone had to stay home to take care of the ranch. But for family entertainment they did quite a few fun things. On Sunday they would have another family come over for dinner, or they would go to someone else's house. They would do this on Sundays because no one worked on that day. They would also go on family picnics and her father loved to fish and hunt. At that time there was not that much wild game.

As a child Janet had to think of most of her games by herself, because her brother was so much younger. The children that lived down at the next ranch would sometimes go over and play. The girls had dolls and furniture, and would have tea parties. They never played any games until they got in school, then they played drop the hankerchief. This is where you dropped the hankerchief behind someone and that person had to catch you.

Chores were common for Janet. She had to feed the bumb lamb, the cats, and the dogs. After she got older she had to go to the garden and bring in the vegetables. Most all the ranch kids had to do these kind of chores.

DATING AND MARRIAGE

Dating was about the same then as it is now. The parents would take the kids to the dances and they would meet each other there. Janet has never been married. It did occur to her, but she said she was having too much fun. I asked her if she had any regrets, "Yes, I don't have many relatives. If I would have been married I might have had some children, but maybe they wouldn't have been any

help either!"

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Janet received her education from the University of Utah. For her first job she taught at a local school in Boulder called the Olsen school. She was twenty three at the time. She had grades from one to eight. All the grades weren't filled, though. Janet taught for about a half a year. She was offered a job in Pinedale as deputy county clerk, and thought that was better than a cold school house. At the age of about twenty eight Janet's father past away, so she went home to help her mother and brother on the ranch.

POLITICS

Politics were a part of Janet's life, even though she didn't care for them much. She is a domeocrat since her mother was one. Women usually voted regularly.

THE 1920'S, WORLD WAR II, AND THE DEPRESSION

Prohibition took place in the 1920's and Janet remembers people running around trying to hide their whiskey, because it was said that when the officials came they poured it out and ruined the bottles. People that did not drink kept some whiskey for colds. The famous thing to make was a hot toddy. This was made with whiskey, water, sugar, and lemon.

The derpession affected Janet and her family very much. Cattle were sold for $20 a head and sheep for $2. It would have regularly been about $70 a head for cattle and sheep would have been $10 or $12.

When World War II took place, there wasn't any help around. Some of the ranch boys even went. Janet's brother did not have to go because of the ranch and livestock.

Over the years Janet has experienced many happy and sad moments.

Her happiest memory she has was when she and her family use to go to the Miller place. This is located in the Windriver mountains near Boulder. She says that they use to spend the day and visit with Mr. Miller. The saddest would be when her brother and mother died.

Janet also has seen many changes over the years. The biggest oneis the farm machinery. No one uses horses anymore. The hunters are also more numerous along with the wild game.

Janet did not have any words for her heirs, but thinks the future holds something for everyone!