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### Interview with Vern Kear, Mable Bruster Sears, Mary Vlcek Pfeiffer, Leona Blanch Towner, and Manfred Ernest Denny

Eula G. Davis

Dale Anderson

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RT  
398  
F666m  
1960  
No. 18  
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Side #1 - 3 3/4 ips.

Interview by Eula G. Davis on July 16, 1960 at Colby, Kansas.  
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Interviewee: Mrs Leona Blanch Towner, Mr Manfred Ernest Denny of Protection,  
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633-644 Introduction.  
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940-968 (Mrs Towner) Jack Rabbit drives.  
969-974 Grasshoppers.  
975-end Grasshopper story retold by Dale Anderson as told to him by Mr. Denny.

Side #2 3/ 3/4 ips.

000-020 Same story as on end of side #1 completed.  
021-032 Story of early gas station owner when cars first appeared on the road.  
end

kwf

Song or Story Information, Form C

1. Informant's name: Mr. Verney A. Kear	2. Date July 16, 1960
3. Informant's name of song or story: No Place for Me in the Crowded Town	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story: Does not recall any other	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? Parents as sung when young folk would get-te-gether	
7. Approximate date of learning: Early 1900's	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u>X</u> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: To keep the young men down on the farm	
12. Remarks	
Collector's name: Eula G. Davis Address Colby , Kansas	

Song ----"No Place for Me in the Crowded Town"

As given by--- Verney A. Kear.. Colby , Kansas

No place for me in the crowded town

With gloomy houses high

With lengthy streets of dusty brown

And pavements hard and dry.

Where every boy must bounce his ball

Upon his neighbors ground

And every shout and every call

Disturbs the folks around.

I'll plow and sow and drive my team

Before the rising sun;

Then swim and sail on silvery streams

When all my work is done.

I'm bound to be a farmer boy

With life so grand and free;

I'll live the life that I enjoy

So a farmer boy I'll be.

Song or Story Information, Form C

1. Informant's name: Mr. Verney A. Kear	2. Date July 16, 1960
3. Informant's name of song or story: Birdie or Cradle Song	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story: Does not remember any other	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? Learned song as a child..Mother sung to him as a cradle song	
7. Approximate date of learning: Between 1897 and 1900	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u>X</u> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: Sung to the little ones during rest periods or at bed time.	
12. Remarks	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> Collector's name: Eula G. Davis Address 1440 West 5th St., Colby, Kansas </div>	

Song --- "Cradle Song"... "Birdie"

Birdie, birdie in a tree

Come and sing a song to me

Sing it loud and sing it long

Sing to me a pretty song.

Song or Story Information, Form C

1. Informant's name: Verney A. Kear	2. Date July 16, 1960
3. Informant's name of song or story: "Mousie" a cradle song	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story:	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? Learned song as a child..Mother sung to him as a cradle song.	
7. Approximate date of learning: Between 1897 and 1900	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u>X</u> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: Big favorite of his and his brothers and sisters when small Also supposed to have a moral..Mothers should stay at home and care for their children, never leave them unprotected.	
12. Remarks Mr. Kear said that he was so singer so he just gave the song as a rhyme, couldn't give the tune.	
<div> Collector's name: Mrs. Eula G. Davis Address 1440 West 5th St., Colby, Kansas </div>	

Song -- "Mousie"

As given by Verney A. Kear, Colby, Kansas

An old gray mouse  
Once had a house  
All made of leaves and grass  
And every day at work or play  
Her time would gaily pass.

Chorus:

Mousie, mousie, you should watch your children.  
Mousie, mousie, you should stay at home.

One day this mouse  
She left her house  
With all her young ones there  
She left them home  
And all alone  
With no one to take care.

Chorus:....

Long came a boy  
With thoughtless joy  
He found those little mice  
And in his hat to an old cat  
He bore them in a trice.

Chorus:...

The old gray mouse  
Came to her house  
With all her visiting done  
In much distress  
She found her nest  
With all her loved ones gone.

Chorus:...

Song or Story Information, Form C

1. Informant's name: Mrs. Mabel Brewster Sears	2. Date July 16, 1960
3. Informant's name of song or story: The Frog- Song- used as- cradle song	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story: Does not recall other than..The Froggie Song"	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? Learned from her mother as sung to her as a child	
7. Approximate date of learning: Born in 1880- so learned in early '80's	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u>X</u> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: One of the favorite songs sung by her mother then in turn sung to her own children her grandchildren and now to her greatgrandchildren.	
12. Remarks	
<div> Collector's name:  Eula G. Davis  Address Colby , Kansas </div>	

Song... by.. Mrs. Fred Brewster Sears

Mr. Frog Lived in the Well

Mr. Frog lived in the well

La-fo-lu-de-le-de-la

Mr. Frog wished to have a wife

La-fo-lu-de-le-de-la...

He saddled his horse and rode for his life

La-fo-lu-de-le-de-la...

When he got there , he rapped on the sill.

La-fo-lu-de-le-de-la...

Says lady mouse, "Will you come in?"

La-fo-lu-de-le-de-la....

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La-fo-lu-de-le-de-la...

Song or Story Information, Form C

1. Informant's name: Mrs. Mabel Brewster Sears	2. Date July 16, 1960
3. Informant's name of song or story: I Can Do Anything Any Man can...	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story: Does not recall any other name	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? Early 1880's from a lady who stayed with them some.	
7. Approximate date of learning: Early 1880's	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u>X</u> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: Used as a cradle song	
12. Remarks	
<div> Collector's name: Eula G. Davis Address Colby, Kansas </div>	

Song or Rhyme...

I can do anything

by... Mrs. Mabel Brewster Sears

I can handle a musket

And I can smoke a pipe,

And I can kiss a pretty girl

At ten O'clock at night.

Song or Story Information, Form C

1. Informant's name: Mrs. Mabel Brewster Sears	2. Date July 23, 1960
3. Informant's name of song or story: "Hobby Horse" or Ride the Hobby Horse	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story: Ride the Hobby Horse	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? From her mother when a child	
7. Approximate date of learning: During the early 1880's	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. _____ (Where and when) Could not remember	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Describe: While singing the song she would place child on her foot and swing her up and down, had several verses so would sing as long as her strength held out.	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: Singing and action to entertain toddlers	
12. Remarks	
<div> Collector's name: Eula G. Davis Address Colby, Kansas </div>	

Song or Rhyme...

The Hobby Horse

Sung by Mrs. Mabel B. Sears..Colby Kansas

No music used...

Giddy-up, giddy-up, you old hobby horse  
Give us a ride to Banbury Cross  
Had two bright eyes, and his coat was dapple gray  
His mane was made of straw and his tail of hay.

\*\*\*\*\*

There are other verses but not recalled at this time.  
May be able to get them later...

Song or Story Information, Form C

1. Informant's name: Mrs. Mary Vlcek Pfeiffer	2. Date July 20, 1960
3. Informant's name of song or story: Ah, Lovely Meadows	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story: Ah, Lovely Meadows	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? Learned from mother, when a child	
7. Approximate date of learning:	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> (Where and when) In an old music book	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: Special explanations given on tape.	
12. Remarks	
<div> Collector's name: Mrs. Eula G. Davis Address 1440 West 5th St., Colby, Kansas </div>	

Song-- American Translation of --Czech Folk Song

On Tape Recorder..Sung by... Mrs. Mary Vlcek Pfeiffer ..of Wilson, Kansas

Ah, Lovely Meadows

1.

Ah, Lovely Meadows, green and wide,  
Grasses are growing, grasses are growing  
Ah, lovely meadows, green and wide  
Growing so higg on every side, Hey!

Chorus

Water from mountain flows, Melted from winter snows  
Turning it gaily goes, circling the maple tree,-  
Water from the mountain flows, melted from winter snows,  
Turning it gaily goes, calling to me. Hey!

Vern Kear at Colby narrated about family pioneer life and sod houses recreations, dust storms, etc. Very good and clear. Mentioned songs sang, games played, children born plus other interesting events. Mrs. Mabel Bruster Sears relates of wagon trains and covered wagons stopping at father's house also dust storms plus songs sang good and clear.

Mrs. Mary Vleck Pffieffer talked about marriage customs. Songs sang and dancing. Thanksgiving and Xmas festivals and foods. Family history and schooling in old country. Bohemian people clear.

Mrs. Lions Blanch Towner soft spoken and not too clear. Spoke of earlier days and hardships feud between Osage Indians and soldiers.

Mr. Manfred Ernest Denny related about fires earlier days. Also about cyclones destruction, raisin turkey and cattle, killing turkeys. Unknown man narrating about earlier days and killing rabbits.

Mr. Manfred E. Denny- In 1874, grasshoppers overflowing. Guinees gobbled them down. Then too many grasshoppers and ran for cover. Filling station manager's experience - boys stealing gas. Some interruptions. Unidentified man called John told tales of fields and corn. Plenty of cornbread, sow belly, squash chicken, plumbutter made, smoked hams took 6 weeks to cure, potatoes stored in the cellar. In 1894, courted lady on horse, married her. Cost \$2 to bring in baby then by midwife. The mother also worked to fix as doctors did.

Mr. Denny related how to make sod houses. Recreation and box suppers

Mrs. Sears related about horse riding and making rugs and pillows with down feathers.

F 1960-18

Tape 1

A-30 min  
continued on  
B+3 min

Vern Kear <sup>at Colby</sup> - narrated about family pioneers life and sod houses  
Side A recreations - dust storms - etc. Very good + clear  
mentioned songs sang - games played + children born  
plus other interesting events

B-9 min

Mrs. Mabel Bauster Sears - relates of wagon trains and  
covered wagons stopping at father houses  
also of dust storms other songs sang  
good + clear

B-9 min

Mrs. Mary Fleck Pffiffer - talked about marriage customs,  
songs sang + dancing - Thanksgiving + Xmas  
festivals + foods - family history and  
schooling in old country + Bohemian people  
clear

B-5 min

Mrs. Leona Blanch Towner - soft spoken - not too clear  
Spoke of earlier days + hardships  
fued between Osage Indians + soldiers

B-5

Mr. Manfred Ernest Denny - related about fires earlier  
days - also about cyclones destruction  
raising turkey + cattle killing turkeys  
fair

B-2

Unknown man narrating about earlier days,  
killing rabbits -

Tapes 2

A-contr.

Mr. Manfred E. Denny

In 1874

Grasshoppers overflowing - guineas  
gobbled them down - then too  
many grasshopper + ran for cover.  
Filling station manager's experience  
boys stealing gas - some interruption  
unidentified man called John told  
tiles of fields / corn - plenty of  
Cornbread - Corn belly - Squash  
Chicken - plum butter made  
Smoked hams took 6 weeks to cure  
Potatoes stored / cellar

In 1874 Courtied lady on horse / married her

Tape #

Time

#26 age  
Break between Side A + B

F1960-18

30 min

Tape 2-B

continued

cost \$200 to bring in baby then - by midwife.  
The mother also worked to fix as doctors did.

By Mr. Darryl - related how to make sod  
houses - Recreational / boy supper

Mrs. Mabel Buster Sears - related about horse-  
riding - making rugs also - pillows / down feathers