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### Interviews with Anna Erskine and Martha Soliday

Phyllis Soliday

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RT  
398  
Folbom  
1961  
no. 8  
Index

CONTRIBUTOR: Anna Erskine  
INTERVIEWER: Phyllis Soliday  
Cimarron, Kansas, 1961

3 3/4

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CONTRIBUTOR: Martha E. Soliday

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CONTRIBUTOR: the interviewer

427-430 Introduction  
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473- Blank

Tape#

Time

Break between side A and B

RT

40min

398

F666m

1961

no. 8

Interview with Anne Erskine of Cimarron, Ks. - lived in Kansas all her life on farm. Home was half dug out - 40 feet long & 32 ft wide, only one small partition + 1 door in house - no floor, had carpet on ground on long room + straw underneath carpet for fleas - Ran cattle thru Abilene - had small house dug <sup>out</sup> + put butter + milk cold in + bought original Osage Farms House - planted Orange heads around 320 acres of land - 4 girls in family - 2 girls helped father outdoors and 2 girls helped mother inside - Planted cotton wood and elm trees - In 1869 her family came to Kansas from Illinois with group of immigrants - trouble with cattlemen - after that was beginning of Kansas herd law. In 1887 parents came to Green County with 7 children, on farm - Saw prairie fires - no trees, only buffalo grass burned - later moved into frame up the hill - fires started from Santa Fe engines - Horses burned - Santa Fe paid all losses that were claimed - tells of mother + small baby escaping fire - How primitive ways to stop fires - many times worked all night if close to house - Tells about hotels + feud between them - Hitching post along streets, sidewalks bad - Tells of father seeing man killed on main street of Cimarron, Ks. - Tells of employment of teacher + pay for women - working in hotel for 2.50 per week on various jobs.

Break between side A and B.

Tape #  
RT  
398  
F666m  
1961  
no. 8  
(continued)

20 min

Continued interview with Anne Erskine  
Tells of homestead - when 21 she filed a  
claim & taught school - came back to  
Cimmaron - changed schools - went to  
Weslyn Business College at Selina - for 4 years -  
trouble with homestead contested - 1906 worked  
at Citezen State Bank at Cimmaron at \$35  
per month - staying at hotel for \$1.82 per week -  
Tells of only vacation to Topeka - Tells of  
diets which consisted of chicken, hogs, beef-  
eggs - Her uncle a Doctor in Illinois  
and usually sent 5oz of <sup>(Liquor)</sup> Quinine for Xmas  
to take care of colds for family - for dresses  
made of Calico when growing up - Tells  
of house moved to Cimmaron -

Continued  
on Side B

23 min

Interviews continued with Anne Erskine  
(much interference) - Tells of "school  
entertainment" - games played, 7 different  
kinds of games - very little teenage drinking -  
More about picnic fires - & tumbledown  
were really big - very troublesome - talks  
about snow storms and teacher's duties -  
(no janitors then) - later became County  
superintendent - ends - trouble / Tape  
Tells of seeing Indians doing their dances  
& see their hogan - would charge 10¢ to watch  
Whenever they saw dogs, Indians would kill  
them for food - Gypsies came often & bother  
them - Dressed their monkey on shoulder &  
have tin cups to collect money to see monkey  
dance - Recreation was hayriding - going to  
Sunday School with someone with team & wagon  
& pick up friends - sings song on hayrides -  
talks about grandparents - married in 1910 at home.  
Had sick brother at time of wedding.

Tape	Time	Break between A + B Sides
RT 398 F6667m 1961 no. 8	10 min	Continued interview with <u>Ms Carter</u> - tells of experiences of going to school on horse + buggy + chores - milking + sell milk going from house to house - ring a bell + customer come out to get milk - tells of boys pranks at Great Bend in barn in hayloft
continued	9 min	continued interview with <u>Mrs. Decker</u> - tells of chores done daily in Great Bend and going to Ellinwood, from her diary -
Continued on Side B	13 min	<u>Mrs Decker</u> continues with her chores done from her <sup>diary</sup> diary while living on farm with her husband Theodore.

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY, FORM B

1. Name <u>Anna Davis Erskin</u>		2. Date: <u>July 1961</u>	
3. Address: <u>Cimarron</u>		4. County: <u>Gray</u>	
5. Age: <u>83</u>			
6. Place of Birth: <u>Greenwood County Kansas</u>			
7. Ancestry <u>Welsh (Father's side)</u>		9. Education (circle highest)	
8. Language spoken:		Grade School 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	
		High School 1 2 3 4 (none)	
		College <u>1</u> 2 3 4	
10. Places of residence		Dates:	
<u>Greenwood County</u>		<u>to 1887</u>	
<u>Gray County</u>		<u>1887 to 1961</u>	
11. Present occupation: <u>Retired</u>		12. Former occupations: <u>Teacher Co. Superintendent</u> <u>Bank Clerk</u> <u>Insurance Agency</u>	
13. Father's name: <u>Roderic Ransom Davis</u>		17. Mother's name: <u>Nancy Ann Miller</u>	
14. Father's place of birth: <u>Ky. or Ill.</u>		18. Mother's place of birth: <u>Ann Miller Kentucky</u>	
15. Grandfather's place of birth: <u>Eugene Bohannon Davis Ill.</u>		19. Grandfather's place of birth: <u>Kentucky George Yeager</u>	
16. Grandmother's place of birth: <u>Ohio</u>		20. Grandmother's place of birth: <u>America</u>	
21. Place and condition of interview: <u>in her home</u>		<u>Cimarron Kansas</u>	
22. Remarks:			

Collector's name: Phyllis Soliday  
Address: Cimarron, Kansas