

Idaho Panhandle Oral History Project  
Interview with Alice Carnie  
October 25, 1979  
Mica, Idaho  
Interviewed by David Barton  
Questionnaire Information

AC = Alice Carnie  
DB = David Barton

Tape 19; Side 1

AC: 1946

DB: And, how did people decide that they wanted to build a Grange there?

AC: Well, we had a...a family moved in right across from the Grange Hall, who have been active Grange members in Washington. And after the school was abandoned, she thought it would be nice to have something to...as a community center, you see. And, it was in 1946 that the Grange was organized. It was Minnie...Minnie Gerard, she was then. She was behind getting it started, I think they had 40 some charter members. They have 300 some members now.

DB: How far does the membership spread around here?

AC: Oh, it's from all over this are, and Kid Island and Coeur d'Alene, and other side of Coeur d'Alene. Some people, some of our members are from up towards Kellogg and...even.

DB: Where is the closest Grange to here, do you know?

AC: Belle Grove. Its about five, six miles south.

DB: Is this one of the major Granges here?

AC: Yes. It's the biggest one in this area. There is one in Rathdrum and one in Cloverleaf and Worley.

DB: What kind of things do people do when they get together at a Grange?

AC: Oh, it's ah...they do a lot of things that are a service to the community. One thing, they let other groups use the Grange Hall, for their purposes. And, now there is every Tuesday afternoon, after school, there is, kids get off the school bus, and there is a...they have Bible study there for about an hour, for the kids. And, they ah...the Grange, had...they have resolutions that they present to the legislature that are favorable to farming. In fact, our Grange...the Idaho State Grange Master is a member of our Grange. And he's very active in getting what the Grange would like to see passed in the legislature.

DB: Are Granges a relatively recent phenomenon, you say 1946, were they around in the early days too?

AC: Oh, yes. The Grange organized in 1867. The National Grange.

DB: Do you remember what some of the earliest Granges in Idaho are? Well, how about in this area, what would the earliest Grange be?

AC: Well, Belle Grove is ahead of us, I know. And, I think Rathdrum was organized before we were.

DB: Why did this one here get so large?

AC: I don't know, but we were always quite a active Grange. And, concerned about other people. We always have a...it's a...the Grange is an organization that we have a password in. You have to know the password, and all this. There is a ritual. And then we have the business meeting and then a program at every meeting. And the program, I think, helps interest people too.

DB: What kinds of things are on the program?

AC: Sometimes there are musical numbers, sometimes, oh, short skits or readings or...at Christmas time we always have an open house for the whole community to come. And, Santa Claus comes, then we have the Christmas story told. Last year they had the...some of the kids take the part of the first Christmas, the Mary and Joseph and the Christ child. They have a stage that they can do all this on.

DB: How often do you meet?

AC: About twice a month. And then the second meeting of every month...we meet the first and third Fridays...and the third Friday we have a pot luck. People enjoy...getting together for a pot luck, and socializing.

DB: Were you a member of the Grange when you were a child?

AC: No. This is the first Grange I ever belonged to. I was a charter member of this Grange, though. No, they didn't have any Grange Hall when I was a child. They...just them they had the school. Social life was bound around with the school.

DB: How about Chautauquas. Are there any of those?

AC: No not here.

DB: Have there ever been?

AC: In Coeur d'Alene. I remember going, having gone to one in Coeur d'Alene.

DB: What did they used to talk about there?

AC: I can't remember; it's been so long ago.

DB: Could that have been when you were 10 years old?

AC: I suppose.

DB: Where did they have community dances here?

AC: Oh! At the Grange hall. By the way, there is one tomorrow night, if you want..to dance.

DB: To dance around, Yea.

AC: And, they have...they have card parties. Dances the fourth Saturday of each month, and the card party the second.

DB: What kind of cards do they play?

AC: Pinochle.

DB: Pinochle? Did you ever go to any of the dances in Coeur d'Alene? At any of the Elks Lodge, or anything like that?

AC: No.  
DB: Was there ever much gambling up in Coeur d'Alene, that you ever heard of?  
AC: Oh, I guess there has been but I don't...I wasn't involved with it.  
DB: Did people around here ever talk about bootleg booze, or anything like that?  
AC: No, not really.  
DB: How about homebrewed beer, did you ever hear anything about that?  
AC: I heard about it, yes. Not up here.  
DB: Was it more in the logging country, or...?  
AC: I think so.  
DB: Has Coeur d'Alene developed much, since you've been here; what are the...?  
AC: Oh, yes.  
DB: What are the triggering events that have caused that development?  
AC: It's grown an awful lot since we came here.  
DB: Why do you think it has grown?  
AC: Well, people enjoy the climate, they like to live here; they like the Lake. Lots of people from California have come here. In fact, we have five or six families living up on this hill, back here, that came up here from California. This area, right in here, is, many people, new people moved in.  
DB: Well, you've been around since 1905, would you say that this was a good place to have grown up?  
AC: It was.  
DB: How about from a woman's point of view?  
AC: I've always enjoyed living here.  
DB: Was the work hard?  
AC: Yes, it was hard. And our kids had to work, and they lived at home. Never had any time to get in any trouble. The 4H is active out here too. And with the kids. I was a 4H leader for a long time, and they have good 4H leaders now. In fact, I still belong to the 4H. It always uses the Grange Hall, to have their meetings.  
DB: Where is the fair around here? Where do you go to county fair?  
AC: Well, Kootenai County Fair is out north of Coeur d'Alene.  
DB: Do most people participate in that, around here?  
AC: Oh yes. In fact, our Grange got the purple ribbon, the grand prize last year.  
DB: For what?  
AC: The Community Award.  
DB: Oh! That's nice.

(END OF TAPE 19; Side 1)