

1 day late

ORAL HISTORY: MRS. ELISE JAMEISON

BY  
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HISTORY OF WYOMING  
MR. CHRIS PLANT

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ORAL HISTORY: MRS. ELSIE JAMIESON

Mrs. Jamieson was born in 1905 at Denver, Colorado. She was three weeks old when she was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Shinazy. Mrs. Jamieson came to Wyoming in 1906 and has lived in Rock Springs ever since.

Mrs. Jamieson went to school in Rock Springs, one of her schools was Washington School. The only real problem she had in school was her big mouth. Elsie can remember that when the teachers went shh! and pointed at her, she had better shut up. Elsie doesn't remember any prejudism in the school when she was young.

It seems the favorite game for the whole block was run sheepie run. Run sheepie run was a boys game. That's about all I could find out about the game. She also did the kids most favorite thing of all, played in the mud. They played down at the Bitter Creek.

Elsie's mother and grandmother ran a boarding house. Her father worked in the coal mines, and was a state Senator for at least one term.

It seemed that one of the worst times of Mrs. Jamiesons life came when she was seven years old. That was when she first found out she was adopted. She said "I was hurt when I first found out". What hurt the most was that she found out at school from a classmate. The classmate didn't do it on accident, she did it to hurt her. But, Elsie said after she found out it didn't bother her, for her parents loved her and she knew it.

Another bad time was the day she and her father went to the store. They were going past City Hall, when two men came out and got in their car. The two men had guns, and they told her father where to go. Mr. Shinazy talked the two men into letting Elsie go. When they let her out of the car, she ran all the way home screaming her lungs out. When

they caught the two men, the single man took all the blame because the other man was married and had children. For years after, the single man, who went to prison in Rawlins, sent her necklaces and bracelets made out of beads.

Dating wasn't a big part of Mrs. Jamiesons life. She really didn't date until she was seventeen years old because a chaperone was required. Oh, but there were always school dances and activities to go to. It was at a basket ball game that she met her husband, John Jamieson.

John and Elsie were married February 5, 1926. They went to Salt Lake City for their honeymoon. After their honeymoon, they came back and took up residence at 516 Walnut Street.

After her marriage her life changed. She then lived six months in Rock Springs and six months at the ranch in Kemmer each year. The ranch was started during the depression. John would take care of the sheep, and Elsie drove the truck to haul the feed. They made it on \$30 or less per month.

They only had one child, Elsie Bell. Elsie Bell enjoyed the outdoors most, so that was where she was most of the time. Most of Elsie Bell's discipline came from Mrs. Jamieson. When Elsie Bell grew up she became a nurse and later married Claude Watterson.

Mrs. Jamieson doesn't remember much change in Rock Springs before or during World Wars I or II. She said that about the only thing that she can remember are the different nationalities of men, one would be the Scotties, the next would be Irish. Otherwise she didn't pay much attention. She also feels that Rock Springs has been good to her most of her life. She said she doesn't remember much violence in Rock Springs.

But, Mrs. Jamieson does remember the prohibition. Trucks loaded

with beer kegs went by the ranch quite often. They went by at night to the stills that were consealed in the trees. They tried to hide their stills by putting green tents over them that blended in with the tree leaves. This was in the Kemmerer area. Mrs. Jamieson and her husband were not involved with the making of the booze, but, their shepherders drank the booze that was made in the hidden stills.

All in all Mrs. Jamieson feels that she has had a happy life. She also had a happy marriage, until April 1975 when her husband John died. So, Mrs. Jamieson now lives by herself with her dog Mac, and two cats. She is still in the sheep business, although she isn't active, for now Elsie Bell and Claude run the ranch in Eden, Wyoming.

NAME: Elsie Jamieson

PRESENT ADDRESS: 516 Walnut St

1. -Present profession or occupation: Housewife

2. Occupations followed in the past (give dates):

3. Date of birth: Denver Place of birth: 1905

4. Date of moving to Wyoming: 1906

5. -Full name of parents (give mother's maiden name) Rachel Francis  
Pete Shinazy

6. Names of brothers and sisters (and to whom married): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Schools attended (give dates): Rock Springs Schools

8. Places of residence in Wyoming (give dates):  
432 A St. 516 Walnut St.

9. Military service (dates, awards, area served, rank, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

10. Political offices held (give dates): \_\_\_\_\_

11. Political affiliation: Democrate

12. Religious affiliation: Congregation

13. Marriage (spouse's name, date and place of marriage):  
John 1905 Rock Springs

14. Children (names, dates of birth, grandchildren, etc.):  
Elsie Watterson

15. -List of clubs and societies of which you are a member: \_\_\_\_\_