

Native Wyomingites

by Patrick Van Hooser

Meet Alice and George Hawks. Two 'natives' in the respect that they were both born and raised in Wyoming. Rock Springs, Wyoming to be exact. Here is a narration, taped by Patrick Van Hooser for History of Wyoming, 24-12201 at Western Wyoming College in that same City.

George Hawks is a veteran of the United States Army. He proudly served and was a member of the second wave of the signal corps to land on the beaches of Normandy during the 2nd World War. In this tape, he relates detailed geographical accounts of his home town, Rock Springs. Places that no longer exist except in the memory of 'old-timers' like Mr. Hawks. He gives us such exciting reports as a long forgotten train/auto accident on the now defunct state highway 30. Stories of the Play-more Ballroom (now the Ace Hardware building) where he became reacquainted with his highschool sweetheart who became his wife and mother of his children.

Alice Hawks is the granddaughter of W. K. Lee, the first mayor of Rock Spring "in the old city hall in 1896" as she put it, and one of the first 'Elk's' to come to this city. Born, raised and married in the same house, she adds greatly

to the story this tape unfolds about the city. Her story of the "home-front" during WWII differs quite drastically from so many accounts of food shortages and sacrifice. There was the gas rationing, victory bonds, and all the other programs that were so relevant to the war cause. Mrs. Hawks worked as a volunteer in the local hospital. To her it was "a whole lot of fun". All the boys went away, she said "but then, a whole lot more came to take there place!" Sometimes she was asked to entertain the boys in her home. An assignment that she accepted with the usual enthusiasm of a 18 year old girl!

Together they give accounts of there life as children in the Great Depression. What school was like. How then "you did what the teacher said, ...if you wanted to use the laboratory, you held up your hand and asked and used the laboratory if she said to use the laboratory, but you didn't if she said 'no'. The games they played as children, the many different ethnic groups, but it was "no big deal" to them. They were just accepted as they were. If they didn't speak English, they just didn't speak English. "eventually the had to learn it of course", said Mr. Hawks. This is America at it's finest. Rock Springs, Wyoming: A "melting pot" where school children were "...accepted...".

NAME: Alicia Harns Hawks

PRESENT ADDRESS: 1123 Lincoln Ave Rock Springs Wyo

1. Present profession or occupation: Aide for Guest Program
School District #1 Rock Springs Wyo.
2. Occupations followed in the past (give dates):
Clerk at Union Merc. 1970-1977
3. Date of birth: 10/20/24 Place of birth: Rock Springs Wyo.
4. Date of moving to Wyoming: Life
5. Full name of parents (give mother's maiden name)
Ralph Harns - Margaret Lee
6. Names of brothers and sisters (and to whom married):
William Lee Harns to Sylvia Radoswick
James R. Harns to Patricia Stephens
7. Schools attended (give dates):
Yellowstone School R. S. High School
R. S. Junior High
8. Places of residence in Wyoming (give dates):
Rock Springs - life time resident
9. Military service (dates, awards, area served, rank, etc.):

10. Political offices held (give dates):

11. Political affiliation: Democrat

12. Religious affiliation: Christian Science

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

Gary W. Hawks Oct. 3, 1946

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

Mark Lee Hawks - 12/10/47 } Wesley James Hawks
Ann Lorraine Hawks - 12/22/51 } Glenn Daniel Hawks
Craig Daniel Hawks } Rylee Jon McKee
Thomas Albert Hawks } Rebecca Jane McKee
Alben Hawks } Rachel Elizabeth McKee

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

P.O. Sisterhood - Chapter L