

Argonaut High School  
Oral History Interview  
Biographical Sketch

Subjects full name: Dolores

Address: 10311 91. Main St Jackson, Ca

Telephone: Home: 223-0961 Work: retired

Date of birth: 4-10-21 Place of birth: Jackson, Ca

Date of marriage: 10-20-46 Place of marriage: Sutter Creek, Ca

Name of spouse: Willard Shealy

date of birth: 11-7-13 Place of birth: Sutter Creek, Ca

Subject occupation: Retired

Spouse occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of mother: Mary Danilovich Milanovich

Date of birth: 5-6- Place of birth: Yugoslavia

Occupation: Boarding House

Name of father: Galub Danilovich

Date of birth: -1870 Place of birth: Yugoslavia

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject's children and dates of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Fasy 1-2-48

Margaret Gardina 2-19-49

Subject's brothers and sisters and dates of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Subject's primary and secondary education: (Schools attended and dates) Jackson Elementary 1928-1934-

Jackson High School 1934-38

Subject's higher education: (Schools attended, graduation date, majors, degrees) None

Subject's profession or occupations: (Job, dates, where)

Bank of America - from teller,  
bookkeeper to loan officer.  
1942 - 1982

Military service: (Branch, rank, dates of service)

None

Civic and community activities: (Offices held, activities, etc.)

Saraphimist Int Pres Treas  
St Dove Church - President -

Miscellaneous information:

Prepared by:

Dolores Skalar

Date:

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Project:

Dolores Shealor, a resident of Jackson California, was born in this area and has lived on Jackson Gate Road practically all her life. Dolores was born on April 10, 1921 in Jackson.

Dolores married Willard Shealor on October 20, 1946 in Sutter Creek; he also was a local who lived his life in Amador County.

Dolores worked at Bank of America as a teller, and a bookkeeper to loan officers for forty years.

Her mother and father, Mary and Gulub Danilovich, were both born in Yugoslavia. When they moved here they bought a boarding house for miners to stay at during the mining years, and also a place to raise their children. Unfortunately the Danilovich's had a tragic loss when Dolores's father died. However Mrs. Danilovich remarried to Mr. Milanovich and had another child.

Dolores herself has two children, Barbra Farz born, January 2, 1948, and Margaret Scardina, born February 19, 1949.

Dolores attended Jackson Elementary, and Jackson High, from which she graduated in 1938.

Dolores has been very active in the community belonging to Soroptimist groups, the St. Sava Church, as well as community services.

Dolores was a wonderful person to interview, and full of great stories.

Amber: "Did you know anyone specific that worked in the mine?"

Dolores Shealor: "My mother and father had a boarding house right, since they came to Jackson, Jackson Gate - in walking distance - they walked to the mine," I remember quite a few of the in the later years - of course they had the boarders since they came to Jackson and until the late 30's, and shortly around that time there wasn't that much work in the mines, a lot of the men went to Nevada to Gottshocks".

Amber: "Do you have any names that lived worked - any names?"

Dolores Shealor: " Well what happened during my time about the 30's, if I remember right, they had a big strike at the mines, many didn't go back to work, some went into Nevada, I don't know anybody, I can't, the names wouldn't do you any good they are all dead, the old boarders."

Amber: "Do you know how many hours a day the miners worked?"

Dolores Shealor: "They left early, I remember my mother having to get up early, 5 o'clock in the morning to make there lunches, others worked the night shift."

Amber: "Did the mine work 24 hours a day?"

Dolores Shealor: "Well they worked night shift, however I don't feel as many people worked the night shift, as in the day time."

Amber: "How many days a week did they work?"

Dolores Shealor: "There were not any organizations or unions, they came in later, I remember them coming in late. If they wanted the men to work overtime they worked overtime, I don't remember there was any pay advantages."

Amber: "They didn't get paid for overtime?"

Dolores Shealor: "I don't remember of any advantages there for them."

Amber: "What were the working conditions like of the miners?"

Dolores Shealor: "They were dangerous, yeah they were deep , the air was bad, quite a few men .... I remember dying of silicosis either of that of they ended up at Weemar."

Kelly: "What was Weemar?"

Dolores: "It was a health facility, there is still a town called Weemar on the way to Reno. In that area. It wasn't a very pretty picture, the pay wasn't very big, but they made it through, they made it through the shifts. the mines didn't have the conveniences they have today. It was a gruesome picture comparing to what we have with what they had. Those people worked awfully hard for hardly any money, What else did they work for and they lost their health besides."

Amber: "Could you describe a normal working day at the Kennedy Mines?"

Dolores Shealor: "They had a change house at the mine, they would take there showers there, and change there clothes at the mines."

Amber: "Did everybody walk to work?"

Dolores Shealor: "I would say 90% walked, hardly anyone owned a car. We didn't either until later years, and they walked although it wasn't very far from here, but they put in a hard 8 hours underground, and then walked all the way home. There were a few men who walked to the Central Eureka from here, but that was where they got there job, so that's what they had to do."

Amber: "What about meals?"

Dolores Shealor: "I can remember a breakfast whatever that consisted of, and then lunch most men had this compartment lunch bucket, coffee and tea were in the bottom, then a layer for sandwiches, and a little top layer for fruit, not too much sweets, they were miserable, because they had grit on them you could feel it. Did Larry tell you about washing the dishes? I had to wash the boarding house dishes, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. More dishes then you will ever wash, everyone ate, and everyone worked too."

Kelly: "What were the eatery accommodations?"

Dolores Shealor: "We ate right at the miners table depending on what we were doing. Oh, but if we were tiny of course we at in the



kitchen, but when we could eat by ourselves we ate at the boarders table.

Kelly: "How big were the boarders table?"

Dolores Shealor: "We had a room big enough for 4 eight foot tables, 2 lined up on each side of the dinning room, they weren't always full, and it was all family style, great big pots.

Amber: "What was it like living in a mining town?"

Dolores Shealor: "All the business had to work around the mine. When I was little I still remember having to go to town to pick up things my mom forgot off of the grocery order. The grocery man would come by in the morning, pick up the order, go back and fill the order, then bring it back. Butchers did pretty much the same thing for meats. Occasionally we would go to town for something, not everyday stuff."

Kelly: "Do you remember how much the miners paid to stay in the boarding house?"

Dolores: "I remember when it was thirty dollars a month, board and room. The strike caused a lot of men to leave the area, to jobs in Nevada; thirty dollars, three meals, and always a coffee pot brewing."

Kelly: "How much would you pay to have the grocery man come out?"

Dolores: "I don't know, I remember taking money to the grocery store it was down by Wells Fargo, the antique place is there now. It was a thrill to go down and pick up something mother forgot to order, or to pay the bills, because they had these beautiful cookies, and there was always a bag full ready for us. Of course the cookies were put on the bill, and when you went to the butcher shop, you got a weenie, and that was a treat.

Kelly: "Did everyone know who you were?"

Dolores: "Oh yeah the town was small and everyone traded with mother. Everything turned out well. Every once and a while, the boarders had a big room they could stay in, and they slept in different, and sometimes they would get to drinking, mainly plain

old wine, and of course everybody made wine in those days, it would cause a little chaos, if they had too much wine. And my mother was widowed after I was born, so here she was doing all this work, and having all phases of it. If the miners got a little nasty or talking funny, she would call the sheriff's office, he was out there all the time. He'd come all the time, Sheriff Luthrow, he was a sheriff for a good many years. I was a youngster of course but he was a good man. He was real good about not hauling them away. People helped one another a lot there wasn't many places a person could go. We didn't have very many banks, I remember at Wells Fargo, the man who owned the bank did all the paper work so you didn't have to do what you do today. People were more trustworthy, and of course today we have many more people.

Amber: "Can you describe a typical day?"

Dolores: "Mom was up by five o'clock every day, she passed away in sixty-five, very strong personality and physically, she would always have a huge garden, onions for all year, smoked meat for the winter, just a real hard worker. She made sure everyone was headed to school, and that was one thing she didn't have, growing up in the old country. The boys got to learn got to learn reading and writing, and

the girls, we were shoved off for knitting and hand work, so that was an advantage right off. She did real well with what she had to work with.

Amber: "What would you do when you came home from school?"

Dolores: "The job I hated most was the, we had two different buildings that had boarders. That didn't last all the time, by the time I was in high school we only had a few boarders.

When I got home from school I had to help make beds, that was the worst because mom had to get back into the kitchen. I would have something to eat before dinner, for making beds.

Amber: "Did you do dishes every day?"

Dolores: "I know Larry told you about doing dishes. I got the job after he left for school. One of us always did dishes, my mother had enough work. Everyone had to pitch in a little bit.

Amber: "Was there a curfew for the boarders?"

Dolores: "No there was no curfew. they took care of there own differences. Sometimes there was a fight, and somebody would have to pull them apart, that wasn't very often.

Amber: "What was small traveling like?"

Dolores: "We were delighted nobody had a car, we had a car in later years. If we had to go to Sutter Creek or Plymouth that was a big deal. You didn't go to Sacramento or Stockton."

Amber: " Did you ever go to Sacramento or Stockton?"

Dolores: "Not until later years when I went to Sacramento, to get a dress for grammar school graduation. We didn't have a car, so we went with someone else.

Amber: "Did you walk to Sutter Creek, or did you?"

Dolores: "No I never did walk to Sutter Creek."

Amber: "How did you get there?"

Dolores: "I didn't really go over there until, Oh I might of been eight grade, or freshmen. And my brother had a car, so if it was important or something, a baptismal or whatever have you a..., I would go with my mother and my brother would take us. My oldest brother would take us."

Kelly: " Where exactly was the boarding house?"

Dolores: "Where? I hate to tell you, but it's right over there. There are three buildings over there."

Amber: "Is it still standing?"

Dolores: "Hardly, it's a sore spot with me, as bad as things were, that was kept up and it certainly isn't today."

Kelly: "Is this behind us part of your ranch?"

Dolores: "This part up here is my property."

Amber: "Is it part of the boarding house property?"

Dolores: "A, my mother got that a in later years, it was a group, it was a group of men, it was a church society, there were only four or five of them there, and they had that property and my mother bought it from them

Kelly: "Where is the boarding house? There are three buildings."

Dolores: "Okay the first building if you went from here, the little road that goes over that way, the first building that to the left it, the, the big building, it is all one building, but you can see the big building toward the road that room was the dinning room, it is now pretty small rooms to rent out that was the dinning room. So you could see the at eight tables four on each side a, and then when you get just, around there, there was a living room, it was a pretty good size, not quite this small. A living room and two bedrooms, and that was just for family. And a kitchen...and a bathroom, but years ago there was no inside bathroom. I can remember that it to was up on the hillside. Then the upper and lower house were both fit for boarders, there were usually to single beds in each room."

Amber: "So how many boarders did you usually have?"

Dolores: "Um... I don't know. One whole table was usually pretty full, but this goes way back to. I can remember it being pretty full and all, but I'd say we had average twenty five or so, it depended on um... the didn't change jobs to much here, some might go to Tonopa or somewhere in Nevada, or whatever, and they would also come in. And that is all I have to say about that."

Amber: " Um.. How long did it take to get to Sutter Creek? Do you remember?"

Dolores: "I don't know how long really, we didn't have the speed we have today, we get there sooner today than when I was fifteen. I'm sure."

Amber: "What kind of entertainment was there? What did you do?"

Dolores: "Well besides school we didn't really have, well like the high school, like the thirties, we had basketball and all the sports, tennis, we did a lot of tennis... But really early on if you had friends come to your house and did your own entertainment, and I can't remember what year the movies started, but Ralph(Milanovich) and I used to walk down to the movies, sometimes. Did you interview Ralph?"



Amber: "No we haven't I think somebody else is."

Dolores: "He's got a memory that I can't believe."

Amber: "Down town was there like music or anything, downtown that they had for entertainment or anything? Where did the boarders go for entertainment?"

Dolores: " There were a lot of bars downtown, and that lasted a long time to I forget when. but there were a lot of bars, and so, that I always had music, and I'd say ninety % of them had music in them. I'm not really, Not really a band or anything like that, but in those days you'd walk through town, you were probably in every store and knew everybody. I don't even know the stores anymore cause, I don't, this is more tourist things today in town, and a, several barber shops for instance you know, more of what things, you know."

Kelly: "Needed?"

Dolores: "Yeah"

Amber: "Um... what about dancing did anybody ever go dancing?"

Dolores: "Um.. in later years there were big dances. There were dances in Jackson or Sutter Creek. And until the thirties, well when I was a senior in high school a, there were dances in county all the time, good orchestras were relived, not the music of today. We were so happy when a the Crauonoph building, because they could hold a big crowd for dances. Um, and were um... just beyond the post office over there was another hall where we had dances. We had dances all over the county and good music!"

Amber: "Um can you remember any specific that you enjoyed or didn't enjoy?"

Dolores: "Oh, you know in later years Jackson, it was fun we had, we still have the Italian picnic, and all the concessions, and all the uh...dances, and what have you. Now it seems to me that, are, must, every Saturday night there was a dance somewhere in the county. When I was a teenager or a little older we had occasional school, school dances, and I mean occasional, but there would be a lot of mothers there with us. Cryno, and the year before that, that us, just before my time, it ended the lunch hall. There was dances, Sutter

Creek, the auditorium has been there forever, and then we'd go to dances."

Kelly: "Where's the Cryno - the building you were talking about, what building is that?"

Dolores: "O.K. as you go into town, and your pass the farm supply stop sign there, and then to the left there is that party store. There is a little street going up the hill, there are two nice shops in there now, downstairs.

Kelly: "Oh my mom had a furniture store down there!"

Dolores: "Oh, O.K."

Kelly: "So that's that building."

Dolores: "I think the name is on it to tell you the truth, you can see it from across the street."

Kelly: "There was one part downstairs, and I think bootlegging happened in there."

Dolores: "Everything happened in Jackson, um.. oh, the gambling in Jackson was just thriving, it really was, those were the days when money came to town, maybe, um, jobs were just too easy to get, but people were so generous, they really were, A lot of people did a lot of nice things for the community. I don't get into a lot of that today, so they are probably doing that today to, but I don't know."

Amber: "I don't think probably as much as when you are talking about, I think people were more generous."

Dolores: "I think there was a lot more help between people, and there were bad times, and really nice folks."

Amber: "Um, What other big businesses was there other than mining? Do you remember? When the mine was running?"

Dolores: "It was a long time before we got much more."

Kelly: "Was the mill here at that time?"

Dolores: "No, that came in later, I think that came in, in the early forties and that was about the same time."

Amber: "Wasn't that up the hill, where the tailing wheels are just up the hill?"

Dolores: "The saw mill?"

Amber: "Yeah."

Dolores: "Yeah, right on the highway, it's still there, for what I understand, for just a bit. But I suppose some of the cement is still there. Now that was a big boom through the whole county."

Amber: "Did that help a lot? Did it open after the mill closed?"

Dolores: "I think it was after the war, It was like the very late thirties, early forties."

Amber: "And it helped bring the economy up in the county?"

Dolores: "It gave people jobs."

Amber: "O.K. Um, were there very many ethnic groups in Jackson, and Amador county?"

Dolores: "Yeah, um, this little area here, the boarding house plus these houses, those two houses. These little ones came later, the house next door, and then going up the hill, this whole little place here was slab people. And then further on up, we had, it seems likethey were in groups, Buscalia's and Teresa's uh.. and then further up um...all my good friends, and they are all still around, like Bouninces(?) that was all pretty much family, all got along beautifully, and did anything for one another, and that's the truth."

Amber: "Really?"

Dolores: "That's the truth and it was great. As kids, as kids we used to laugh, after we were a little bit older, we thought, well how did my mother and your mother communicate? One speaked in Spanish, one speaked in Slab and, we got along beautifully, but they understood one another, and it took awhile, but it didn't matter what language, oh we used to laugh about that, and you knew well you were sorry in later years, but it was funny at the time. And Buscalia's, up there and with the Italians, he talked, they were good friends, real good friends, and they understood one another. They all came from the old country so they all had that background. And it was a good background. You know just good people."

Kelly: "Is your mom buried at the church right over here on Jackson Gate?"

Dolores: "Yeah"

Kelly: "Okay will go over there and see."

Amber: "Where there any Asians, do you remember any Asians?"

Dolores: "Yeah, I grew up with two boys, Melvin, and uh, Art, and Art I still see but I don't know what happened to Melvin but I think he's in Sacramento. But Art we're real good friends.

Amber: "Um.. what about religions. Was there a main religion that everybody went to? Or did each of the ethnic groups have there own religion that they followed?"

Dolores: "No, if you want to call the Serbs an ethnic group, um, the church up here was built, um, it had it's hundredth anniversary, and so they didn't have there own church. But it was really, in that day we just had the two churches Methodist, and Catholic, and then the

Serbian Orthodox, and that was because of the miners, and there were a lot of them here at that time."

Amber: "Um, were did, was there certain divisions in the community where different ethnic groups lived? Did they live by themselves or anything? Like did the Italians live in one area and the Spanish live in another?"

Dolores: "Well I think, there are these two rabbits that are coming into my yard and driving me crazy, but that was a cat not mine. Um..I can't I...I don't there was ever really a division there, it just so happened that in this little area, and it was only like two or three families at the most, there was no big division."

Amber: "And everyone got along pretty well?"

Dolores: "I..I..As far as I remember everybody always tried to help every body else, and if there was ever a problem everybody was always helping everybody, and I don't care what nationality they were."



Amber: "Um.. your brother talked about Mr. Begovich, do you remember him at all? Was he a good friend of the family."

Dolores: "Oh, Oh, they were like brothers and sisters."

Amber: "Did they help you in any way or did they...."

Dolores: "...Um, let's see, they knew on another in the old country, Begovich's. Oh, I'd say that was about a mile and a half from where my mother and father were born, you know they were that close, you know so they've been friends forever. And a Begovich girl married one of my mothers relations. So there has been a tie there for years and years in the old country, and over here the Begovich's had this boarding house first and then he was married and she was a local girl, um, a local girl she came from the old country too. This was before world war two. They sold out the property, my mother and father were in Angles Camp, and of course they kept close, and so they sold the place to my mother and dad. And they were going to take off for Yugoslavia or Serbia at the time, go back home, and war broke out world war two broke out, so that was the end of that. So they lived together for a long time, and then they got a house that was downtown, or half-way downtown, and then later moved to Plymouth, and uh, they were family that's all there was to it. Mrs.

Begovich was younger than my mother but oh she just catered to her. Come and see her and cater to her and the father, and I tell ya, John and I are like that today. We picked that up from the old folks, we're like that today. And John is very much like the old folks, he'd give his shirt off his back. He's done a lot of nice things."

Amber: "I think someone is interviewing him."

Dolores: "Yeah, he'd be a good one to interview."

Amber: "Do you remember the gambling halls and other businesses that were down town before the mine closed?"

Dolores: "Uh, um, yeah, I do remember them, I was old enough to remember them, and see them. It drew a lot of people into town. Um, I will say one thing, our police department was extra ordinary in those days, and they looked after, there were a lot of strangers coming into town and it's not that they minded strangers, but they were protective of the locals. Um, oh, like there was gambling, and the old Lubré, that was downstairs, where Wells Fargo is."

Amber: "Was that a gambling hall?"

Dolores: "It was a beer and restaurant. But they had gambling, that would be where Pioneer Rex is, there is still a bar there, but it was bigger, and there was gambling, there was gambling all over the place. But they were real good, real good. Be of age, but I remember watching them gamble and uh, they didn't have the money to gamble, but it wasn't really any big fights or anything because the cops were always around. You could go downtown and not feel scared of all the other people in town, the strangers and you know, walking up and down the street.

Kelly: "My grandpa is James Fregulia, he was a cop at that time."

Dolores: "Jeez, I'm gonna pen you down pretty good here. You ask Jim if he knows Dolores."

Kelly: "He just died."

Dolores: "Oh that's right. Mamie and I were really good friends in high school."

Kelly: "Mamie?"

Dolores: "Mamie Fregulia."

Kelly: "O.K. his sister."

Dolores: "Yes, his sister...Those men, O.K. those men took care of things, and took care of them nicely, uh, you know, if he saw you downtown old Jim would say 'What are you doing here' 'I'm going to see the show' or I'm doing this. We were good friends, in fact uh, my mother was good friends with the Fregulia's too."

Amber: "Do you remember anyone who worked in the gambling halls or in the bars? Or worked downtown?"

Dolores: "In well, my dad um..there was Gayardi, he had a huh, Blusa and there were people that you just knew forever. Um, the National Hotel, Vicini's and I forget now who owned Wells Fargo before Gallan Micolovich. But I think Gallan was there while our family was open. I forget who owned it before them. And then up the street the Pioneer, um, There was so many of them Burrows, there were quite a few of them, four brothers, they weren't all involved in gambling, but they were together."

Amber: "If the mining hadn't been there would they have had such good business?"

Dolores: "I think it brought in people."

Amber: "Would they have been able to stay open if the mine hadn't been opened?"

Dolores: "Oh, it was, oh, the U.S. authorities closed up the gambling, or was it California?"

Kelly: "My grandpa got blamed for the gambling. They blamed it on him and his partner Jildo. They were the ones who got in trouble for it."

Dolores: "It was the fame that closed everything down and made all the trouble. One thing, one thing the town was flourishing at the time. It wasn't the local people that lost all the money, you know, in the gambling. It brought in people to gamble, um, you know, the locals might have run it but...well, I think it was as straight as any legal gambling was used to today."

Amber: "Where did you buy your groceries?"

Dolores: "Growing up, you mean?"

Kelly: "Yes, when your mom had the boarding house."

Dolores: "Um, Delow, and they just left the county. John Delow and his father and his brothers had a store, a grocery store, and it was as you make the turn from Wells Fargo onto Water Street. A little store. I guess the books might have a part of what the store was. The book place, but that's all been rearranged. Uh, and they came every morning and picked up the order and then, after they got downtown and filled up the order, they would bring all of the stuff back. The, uh, Chicazola store, they had the same thing, they had a driver and you could call them or they would come to pick up an order, and if you needed something you could call them when they had time, they would bring it to you. But an order, not one thing."

Kelly: "How big were the orders?"

Dolores: "I can't describe, but, you see, this was still at the time when we had the boarding house, so things were bought in big

quantities. I think that was the only two spots we bought groceries, it seems like. It was only later, way later, that the purity store came in. You know, the big store that we have today."

Kelly: "Well, what about Chicazola?"

Dolores: "Chicazola!? Oh, they had clothing, too. That was where we bought my shoes all the time, and I could buy what I wanted because I was alone buying them. Grocery man in the winter time would come to pick up the order and then bring it back, but in the back of the truck, after he picked up the orders, he'd pile us, all of us in, and bring us to school."

Amber and Kelly: "Oh, what a nice guy! How sweet!"

Dolores: "That was just fine, just fine because we didn't have to walk. Yeah, that a big thing, you know, that was pretty neat."

Amber: "Where did people get gasoline to put in their cars? There weren't a lot of cars, but where did they get gasoline?"

Dolores: "At the time, we didn't have a car. By the time we got a car, to go buy gasoline we used to get it, you know, where the party shop is now."

Kelly: "J.B.'s?"

Dolores: "Yeah, and that little auto repair place there, that's where we used to get gas. And there weren't the gas stations there are today. And there was a pump over by Water Street."

Amber: "Did Chicazola sell gas at an?"

Dolores: "Yeah, yeah, right across the road from the store."

Amber: "So, they sold gas also?"

Dolores: "Uh-huh."

Kelly: "It's still there. The gas pump is still there."

Dolores: "Yeah, I was going to say...yeah, some of that is still there."

Amber: "Who was the doctor in town?"



Dolores: "Doctor Curran is the oldest one I can remember. Yeah, Doctor Curran and then, um...I think there was about two doctors, but we always had Curran until later years, and then we had Doctor Lynch for years, years."

Amber: "Was he just like-"

Dolores: "A general practice, and years ago. Um, I didn't go there, but my aunt. They used to take, um, patients that needed hospitalization to Preston School Hospital."

Amber: "And they had their own doctor there?"

Dolores: "They had their own doctors, yeah. And they were sufficient."

Amber: "Were a lot of people employed by Preston or not many?"

Dolores: "Over the years, there were quite a few who were employed at Preston. Yeah, that. I have no idea about today, but they must have a lot more employees. Of course, they are over at the other

place now. But, I do know people who have had their tonsils taken out over at the Preston hospital."

Amber: "So, if anybody needed surgery or anything they went to Preston?"

Dolores: "You didn't hear of surgeons as much as today."

Amber: "Well, like tonsils and stuff."

Dolores: "I don't know if it was just us that didn't get the care or if we were strong and didn't need it."

Amber: "Um, was there anywhere else to buy you clothes then Chicazola's?"

Dolores: "Part of, way back, you mean?"

Amber: "Uh-huh."

Dolores: "There were...some reason I remember buying shoes and walking up the hill by myself and that was the only thing, only

clothes I go there. Um, my sister was married when I was six and, naturally, I think ninety-eight percent of the clothes I had she made."

Amber: "So, most of your clothes were made for you?"

Dolores: "Yeah, my sister was always sewing for me. She had her own family to sew for. That was a good many years."

Amber: "O.K. Um, were, um, did-were there many cars in Jackson? Did any families have cars?"

Dolores: "You know, how far back are you going?"

Amber: "When you were young."

Dolores: "No, there weren't any cars. There, there were a few, it seemed, around here. Up on the hill there was a fella, a young man, who had a car. I don't remember very many cars. And as far as we were concerned, um. My oldest brother worked in the Bay Area and he had a car, but that was in the Bay Area. No, there weren't a lot of cars around. The cars that were really nice, that, uh, you know, that,

oh. Up and down the street was one of the stores up there It was a family of them. They had several cars. And every time you'd go to town, you thought 'Gee, I hope Louie, Joe, Babe', that one of them would come around 'cause they'd come give you rides all the time. Either to town or home from town, so you didn't have to walk , but there weren't many cars. We didn't have a car until, um, I think that was forty-two or forty-five. This fellow was going to the army, he was drafted, and "Please, please take my car." My mother finally said "We will." So, we thought we were pretty lucky getting a car that early."

Amber: "Um, was there a lot of ranching and farming in the county back then, when the mine was open?"

Dolores: "Well, it was either cattle or anything else as far as farming. But, uh, everybody had a garden. Everybody had a big garden, it seemed, growing up. But, I don't remember much. There were a lot of cattle , but I don't remember much farming in the county. Are you writing a book?"

Amber: "Actually, yeah. We are going to put together, um, they are going to start doing tours of the Kennedy Mine. They are, um, it's a

national landmark now so they're giving tours so we are helping doing research for the museum they are going to build for it, make for it."

Dolores: "Oh, they're going to build it up on the flat?"

Amber: "I think so. Um, actually, I think they are going to use the old house up there. Arata's house."

Kelly: "No, not Syble's house. It's the mine house."

Amber: "The yellow one. The big yellow house."

Dolores: "Yeah, oh, that's great! Is the big safe and all that stuff still in there?"

Amber and Kelly: "Uh-huh."

Amber: " Yeah, the safe is still in there, but, actually, they caught a bunch of people taking stuff out of there a couple years ago. They caught people stealing stuff out of the home, Syble Arata's house."

Dolores: "Oh, her house?"

Amber: "Uh-huh. 'K. She died a couple of years ago-"

Dolores: "I hope she gave away a lot of the stuff she had. She had some nice things."

Amber: "Actually, she had specific orders that some people were not suppose to touch this stuff at all. Some of the stuff was suppose to go to other people."

Dolores: "She had, she had a lot of nice thing. Um, she was a character, too. I liked Syble a lot...In that house, is that house in pretty good shape?"

Amber: "The big house is, but Syble's isn't in that great of shape."

Dolores: "Well, you know, that was built a good many years ago, but that was built sturdy."

Kelly: "You should go up there and take a tour and see what everything looks like now."

Dolores: "Yeah, I'm going to walk up there when, um, one of these days I will, but, you know, oh. I walked up there, I bet I was seven and eight years old, I don't think I was any older than that and the mine house, it was gorgeous around there. They had a caretaker. I hope there's pictures somewhere."

Amber: "I think there are."

Dolores: "I don't have any, but I could sure remember. There were no florists in town, um, somebody died or whatever. My mother would pay fifty cents, I remember fifty cents was more often than not, and we use to call him, um, oh, his name was John, Johnny "bouquet". Now, whether Bouquet in whatever years, I'm not sure whether that sounded like his last name or if it was because we always got bouquets from him. Now, that I don't know. John Bouquet. And he had flowers up there galore. Just beautiful, all kinds. So you'd go up there for fifty cents you got a nice bouquet of flowers you could take to the cemetery whether it was memorial day or a funeral or whatever, but I remember walking up them lots of times. And he use to live on North Main, on Jackson Gate Road,

where, uh, there were flowers galore in that place. If he didn't have them up at the mines, he brought them to you from his house."

Amber: "You can tell at one point it had some really nice stuff there because the rose bushes are all over grown. And they are all. You can get caught in them as you're walking down from the main house."

Dolores: "But there still-"

Amber: "Some of them are still alive."

Dolores: "Not there."

Amber: "I think they are going to have someone come deal with that. With the flowers and stuff."

Kelly: "They're going to get everything restored, those who are working on it are going to restore everything."

Dolores: "It use to be so pretty, even as a little kid I appreciated it."



Amber: "It, you can tell it was pretty cause if you walk up the stairs you are surrounded by, its surrounded by roses."

Dolores: "Oh, and another thing, I don't know what age, but I think it happened at a minian age growing up um. Somebody'd be sick and had to work, and didn't get up there to get his pay check, and they would give, I don't know today. Well, I don't know, well, where is he?, no questions asked, give me their pay check, and back home I'd come."

Kelly: "Did you ever lose somebody's pay check?"

Dolores: "Oh dear no."

Amber: "So you had to go through those doors, and out the other one?"

Dolores: "Oh yeah, I remember some of them, but that's been a long time since I've been there."

Amber: "Cause we got to go in there and look around, and saw where they paid people, where they went in one door and out the other and stuff."

Dolores: "That's....That building looks pretty good from a distance still, I can't believe it."

Kelly: "That building looks really good from the inside."

Amber: "It's a pretty house."

Kelly: "It's all concrete inside, looks really good."

Amber: "It's in excellent shape, it really is in really good shape still."

Dolores: "That's great."

Amber: "And they still have."

Kelly: "The safe is still there, and the old wood frame for where people would stand behind the counter in the bank room is still there."

Dolores: "Oh."

Amber: "Was the timber industry big while the mine was going?"

Dolores: "No, I'd say all that timber stuff came later. I'd say it all came later. Is there, um, then, of course, when the mill opened up, there was more hauling down the hill."

Amber: "Um, what do you remember about the Argonaut mine fire? Do you remember when it happened?"

Dolores: "Oh, no, that was in twenty-two. Oh, no, I don't think that, I was just a child."

Amber: "You don't remember that. Um, do you remember anything about the Labor strikes?"

Dolores: "Yes. It was, um, part, well, it was just Ralph and I and my mother home during those years and that was really bad, uh, you, those people didn't have money except working, you know, working pay day to pay day, paying their board and all. Those were rough times. The strike lasted and there was a bit of animosity between

people. Uh, it was really sad. It wasn't busy around our house at the time. We made the best of it, and a lot of those people, they didn't have money. Just from pay day to pay day and I don't know right about that time it was, I didn't know what board was, but it was about a dollar a day-board and room, you know, but that is unheard of today, but that was what it was, but..."

Amber: "Do you remember if there was any organized labor unions involved?"

Dolores: "I know there were fights and I never witnessed any of them. Um, there, there was a lot of commotion, and, and there were fights over and people, um. their friendship wasn't strong enough so you could say yes or no to any of this strike business, and it did hurt the economy. There was, know doubt about it, people, you know, and a lot of people didn't participate. They were having a rough time. It wasn't good news."

Amber: "Do you remember any names of mine owners or anything?"

Kelly: "Like the superintendents or anything like that?"

Dolores: "Oh, yeah. Um, right at the end of this, the first little road that goes up and back, um, the Smith's lived down there, and Web Smith and then he had a son, and the son had a family there. Um, Web Smith was very high in the...um, it wasn't owned by the Smith's, but he was one of the main men."

Kelly: "Yeah, he came and then he left. Then he came back, but he left for a short time though. I don't know why."

Dolores: "It was the middle west somewhere to the east. An then it was Alex Ross, who had a nice home above where the highway is now, going into town(forty-nine and eighty-eight). He was a big man, very nice person, although, I didn't know him as well as I knew Web because Web's son lived in the house down there and had two daughters. Hey, I can tell you who can tell a lot about them is, uh, Lavern."

Amber: "Lavern, who?"

Dolores: "I think she's at the, um, um, library, um."

Kelly: "Lavern Martin?"

Dolores: "Tall, length woman?"

Kelly: "She works in the library?"

Dolores: "She's married to a local guy, too."

Amber: "Ask your mom. She'll know."

Dolores: "Isn't that crazy. She was born down here, we walking to school together, Lavern and Marie and whoever else came by. She, she should remember a lot of mine things 'cause, um...you ask her. Web Smith had a big interest in it, if I'm not mistaken, and then her dad, uh, she should remember a lot of that, but that was in the family, so was your grandfather."

Amber: "Um, do you remember any ownership changes in the mine?"

Dolores: "Uh, no. I, I really don't. It was always Kennedy mine and Argonaut mine, as far back as I remember. I recall something-General Motors having an interest in the, um, Argonaut."

Amber: "Do you remember any conflicts between the Argonaut and the Kennedy mines?"

Dolores: "No, I don't. Between them, no, I never heard...I don't remember hearing any conflicts."

Amber: "Um, do you remember anything else special about the Kennedy mine?"

Dolores: "Um, I don't know. The, um, the, uh. It's funny. It seems like we had more boarders working at the Kennedy than we did Argonaut. Now, I don't know if there was a reason for that or not, but I think that each hired the same amount of people. I really don't.."

Amber: "Um, did you ever have anybody else other than family working in the boarding house with you?"

Dolores: "Working?"

Amber: "Uh, like working for your mom?"

Dolores: "Um, there's, huh, I'd say, maybe he didn't live at the house. Maybe he did. I don't know where he lived, but anyhow, there's a Serbian man that sent for his sister in the old country. And, of course, when he got her, she lived with my mother for a long time, and they remained the biggest friends, in fact, um, she had, she had, uh, uh, boy, she married a widower, and, of course, she had a son, and she had a boy, and that , the boy lives in Fresno now. We're the best of friends. Like we're related, but that's how close the two women were. But they had, you know, unless here to come to, how else are they gonna get her. 'Course the men without an indicated person, they were o.k. coming through, like the man from the funeral."

Amber: "Um, do you have any memories of Jackson, Jackson in general? Or Amador County in general? Living here then or anything?"

Dolores: "For years I never got out of Jackson so I don't know any different. Um, I don't know where they got that. School, school, school, and I'll tell you another thing about it. We had a little school up here on Jackson Gate, what's called the Onita school or maybe-



Kelly: "The Onita?"

Dolores: "Onita and, um, we were in the city limits and we had to go to Jackson and never did get to go up there. But there was another thing. There was a big relationship there, uh, that was a one teacher schoolroom, at one time. Just one teacher in there. Imagine, eight grades then finally got a second one, but going home four out of five days a week, um, the teacher would stop at the house and have coffee with my mother and I. The reason I could not get away with anything was because she knew every teacher. She made time instead of her nap in the afternoon. She made time to go to the school and talk to the teachers. And, unfortunately, my mother didn't know how to read or write and that was a hardship. But she'd look at my card and say I could be better. She would say 'that's pretty good, but you could do better.' Well, it was true. No matter what, she could talk to the teacher, but she knew it wasn't top of the class. Um."

Amber: "Since your mother didn't know how to read, how'd she do things like documents and stuff like that?"

Dolores: "She could handle the money herself, but as far as bookkeeping on it, no, you know."

Kelly: "Did you even have bookkeeping?"

Dolores: "You mean because it was a boarding house?"

Kelly: "Yeah, and your mom couldn't read or write."

Dolores: "Um, actually, my money was kept in just an old trunk that we had. Nothing ever happened to it. Nothing was ever stolen from it. Mother never complained money was short."

Interviewed by:  
Amber Holland and  
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