



**Interview with
Roelof Scholten at His Home in Picture Butte
Coyote Flats Oral History Project**

Interviewed by
Shannon Ingram
26 January 2015

Transcript of Roelof Scholten
Interviewed on January 26th, 2015
Coyote Flats Oral History Project
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SI: Shannon Ingram, Interviewer

KL: Kimberly Lyall, Interviewer #2

RS: Roelof Scholten, Narrator

DS: Diny Scholten, Narrator's wife

Time Log:

0:01 SI: Today is Monday, January 26, 2015 at approximately 10:35. I am sitting here with Roelof. My name is Shannon Ingram and we are interviewing Roelof about his memories of growing up in Picture Butte. How long have you lived here for?

RS: In Canada or in Picture Butte?

SI: In Picture Butte.

RS: Since 2000.

SI: So tell me a little bit about yourself. Where did you first grow up?

RS: Well, we grew up in the Netherlands and come from a family of 12. I was born at the beginning of the War in 1940, and experienced some of the tragedies of war and the nervousness that our family went through. My parents were very helpful. The city people always gave them some food, but it was also a very dangerous time. You also hid people in the loft. A lot of times, the Germans would come and check to see if they could find anyone. We also had our suitcase. Every family member had one. When the bombs fell at midnight, we would all head for the bunker and protect ourselves as much as we could. It was a very nervous time for Mom and Dad to go through that period where any small mistake could have cost you your life.

So, from there, there are many stories to be told, but in 1949, the family decided to move and immigrate to Canada. It was a big move. We left grandparents behind. The move was made with three wooden containers and we also brought along an army truck and a trailer. They were put on, the containers were put on those vehicles and that way, they were transported. They came into Picture Butte on a railroad car. It was quite something to see. It looked like the whole 500 people of Picture Butte were at hand and figured World War Three was starting because an army truck came rolling out of the railroad car. From there, we initially came from Halifax and through Medicine Hat to Lethbridge and we settled in two bunk houses just north of Picture Butte at the J.E. Lawlor farm. The facilities were not very good. In March, we arrived on the 18th of March and it was very cold. It was as cold inside as it was outside. Mom and Dad slept in one of the bunkhouses and the kitchen was there. The other

was another bunk house where we all slept. Dad put double beds on top of each other about two feet in-between them Girls on one side and boys on the other side with a change room up front. From there, it was difficult going. The wages were about \$0.25/hour. Mom and Dad were very nervous in those years as to how to buy enough food for the family. Even though, Woodruff and Stella-Lacey, the grocery stores, were very helpful. We could charge there and sometimes even the grocery stores would give something for free. But in the wintertime, there was very little work. The boys went to Burmis and worked in the lumber yard. Even though they hardly made any money, they had a place to stay, they had clothing, and they had food.

05:36

From there, we moved to another farm just east of Picture Butte in 1952, I believe it was, and we stayed there for a year and worked beets through those years. Then, in 1953, Dad bought a farm just four miles west and one-mile north of Picture Butte, about two quarters of land. I went to school here in Picture Butte for about five years, and in the meantime, helped my dad on the farm. Some of my brothers went to farm on their own and some took up other occupations and went to school. Some were teachers, actually two were teachers and moved to a different part of Alberta. And then as the years went by, I stayed on the farm with my dad and helped him along. At the end, my parents had a very meager living and my dad, since he had been in the War, had had pneumonia. He was a tall man, but wasn't very strong. He had pneumonia and they didn't have penicillin in those days, and so my Dad passed away in 1967. Mom made it to the good age of 89. I always felt bad because when we started farming, the land was heavy gumbo land and was hard to raise a crop. We started with seventeen bushels an acre. A lot of times, the wind blew and only two inches of top soil was loose, and the sugar beets would blow out or the grain would blow out. But as we went along, by the time that dad passed away, we were up to 60-65 bushels and it was good to see some improvement. Although, I would have loved to see it where it had been five to ten years later, but that wasn't to be. So, when Dad passed away, I rented the land for a few years and then in 1962, I got married and we purchased a farm. We had dairy there and for about seven years, I ran a dairy farm.

Then when we got married, it was a tough go. I had never made any wages. I had always worked on the farm and got a little bit of spending money on the weekend. Even in the first half year that we were married, I worked for a board and room. When the deal went through, we were on our own and we got our own cheque. I paid dad, and I borrowed money from Farm Credit Corporation and paid that out, and we went from there. Then of course children came along and it wasn't easy. It was a lot of hard work in those days. I remember starting, and we borrowed a horse from the neighbour to rake the hay, so I worked with every piece of machinery. The horse pulled and just cut the wooden draw bar off and put it behind the tractor. Most of the equipment that's at the Prairie Tractor Museum, I've basically worked with them. So, when I do some tours there that really comes in handy to explain that to different people. So, we farmed.

We have two girls and four boys and we've farmed until the year 2000. Two boys are on the farm helping operate the farm. One is on the farm full time and the other works

in partnership, but he works at the Bank of Montreal and does the basic bookwork. He knows all of the farming and what needs to be done at the farm. So, in 2000, when we left, they took over the farm and moved to Picture Butte. We have one girl that lives in Vancouver, one works in Okotoks, one works here at Gas King, and one works at Dobson Feed Lot.

11:42

So, we have also been involved in Picture Butte. I have been a member of the Chamber of Commerce. I had the privilege of representing the farmers from this area. I believe, I'm not 100% sure, in the 1980s when the sugar beet factory was going to be taken down. I was a representative with 50 other farmers that went to Ottawa and tried to keep the sugar factory alive. We were unsuccessful and that didn't happen, but it was quite an experience to go to Ottawa and meet with the different dignitaries there. I also have some pictures from that area.

And for the rest in Picture Butte, I've been involved with the Ag Society since, I would say, 1998 and have been the President of the Ag Society and we put on the Jamboree Days every year. With the Prairie Tractor Museum, we try to help each other out. It used to be on a separate weekend but now it's on the same weekend. We help them out. We supply some money for the horse pull and support them with the advertising. We also, the Ag Society, is also quite involved with the community. We help the 4-H clubs out with the beef and the dairy. We do the high school's educational program where we made some money. We also help the students from the high school. We make some money available so they can help seniors.

And then, I'm involved with the transportation society in this community. I chair that organization at the moment. We have just recently bought a new bus, which is really nice. It mainly comes through casinos. We try to keep our community together by allowing them to rent that bus at a nominal fee with volunteer drivers. None of our drivers get paid. So, that's been an ongoing project. I've also got to say that my experience in this country, even though we started as desperate situations and mom never said anything until her final years. She said, "The time I came into this country, if I could have crawled back, I would have crawled back. She was a very tough lady. She was only 5'4'' and had twelve children. This country has been through difficult times but has been good for our family. Our family has been treated well. We've had our community in Picture Butte. In the early years, you could not borrow money from the bank. All of the businesses in town, whether it was automobiles or mechanics, feed mills, or grocery stores, everybody trusted you. They said, "If you can give us a payment in the fall, we would be happy." And they never even charged us interest on the money. I have nothing but praise for this great land that we live in, and my country that's free. We can practice our religion in freedom. We, as a family, belong to the United Reform Church in Lethbridge. We attend our worship services there and our children go to church as well. And so, I believe strongly, that the good Lord above has blessed us tremendously in this country with health and everything that we stand in need of each day. I have to say that the Lord deserves credit for that.

17:24

SI: Wow. Well, it sounds like you've had quite a life. That was a lot of information. So, the next question that I'm going to ask is two-parts. So, you had mentioned that there were twelve children in your family; were you close to any of your siblings? Can you recall what your impression of the area was when you first came to Canada?

RS: Well, when we came to this country...I was eight years old and I couldn't believe what we were getting ourselves into. We were coming into two bunk houses. There were still beds and mattresses, or there were no mattresses. It was just a steel bed. You threw a few coats down and sleep. It was just as cold inside as out, or outside as in. The stove was wood and coal and if it went out, you were in trouble. So, I as a young boy, personally, I had a younger brother. We were very close. We went to school together. It was very interesting because when we came to this country, we came in our coveralls and I'm not sure, we probably had wooden shoes on as well. And we had come to school that day, and I had kind of already feared that they might pick on our clothing and make us feel uncomfortable and so I said to my brother, "Looking is free. Touching is a no-no." And sure enough, we stood in the corner, and there was a whole group in front of us, and they started pulling and pushing on our clothes and so on. I had said to my brother earlier that if that happens, we're going to nail them the both of us right now. [laughs] And that's what happens. The game was over and through the years. I only finished grade seven, so I'm not very smart. [laughs] But, the games that we always played at school, we played with marbles. I remember we always had...my brother, we would each take two marbles and one was put it in the pot and the other was the shooter. That way, we could only lose two, but we'd usually come home with a pocket full of marbles. [laughs]

But, unfortunately, my youngest brother went to Ontario and got married over there and he passed away at an early age. I'd usually phone him every month, and we'd have a conversation, and that probably hurt me the most. And...I'm sorry...But it still comes to your throat. But, there is twelve of us and the youngest one has passed away and one of my brothers above me has passed away, so there is ten still alive.

SI: Wow. If you ever feel that you need to take a break, don't hesitate.

RS: But those, like I said, that was a tough time and the passing of my dad, that would be the other one. And then, of course, we have my brother in Lethbridge that his house burnt down. Somebody had set his house on fire. I got a phone call at 2:30 in the morning. He was the first one to call me and I said to my wife, "This is not good. This is something wrong." And so, I phoned and I went down, and he was quite calm about it, and I went to the hospital right away. The two kids were laying there and you could see smoke in their noses and they were gone. But there again, this country and the people in this country, no matter what happened to us, they were there to support us. Even though, I sometimes think that we didn't do enough for the community and for the people. When you see that you have a problem and all of a sudden, the community comes out in big numbers. There's no grudges or any mistakes that our family might have made is ignored and they are out to help. I found that in our community as well, the different organizations that I belong to and worked

with, even though volunteers are harder and harder to get, up to this point they have always been there to support and keep our community vibrant.

22:45

SI: Absolutely. Well, what you've told me about all of the organizations that you are involved in, I would definitely say that you've done plenty for the community. We'll just end at that. So, what did this area initially look like when you moved to Alberta and started settling in Picture Butte?

RS: My impression, as a young boy in Holland, was that the farms, every piece of land is being used. Every foot, it's cleaned up, and every foot something is raised on. What really surprised me is that there was so much waste land here. Old buildings were just ignored in the corner and a bunch of dead trees fell down. It wasn't cleaned up and I just couldn't believe it that they could afford to do that. I think, not that I want to put a feather in the Dutch people, but when they came, I think they made a difference when they came by taking their land and cleaning up their farm yards and corners of land to produce on every acre. I think that was one of the biggest things that I've seen that was so different from the Netherlands to Canada.

SI: Absolutely. Do you recall childhood friends when you moved here that you felt particularly close to other than family? Was there individuals that welcomed you or did you feel like the outsider?

RS: Like I said, I was eight years old and I went to school on the school bus. I met my friends at school where we'd play baseball and where we'd do things in class so basically, yeah, I had friends enroute on the school bus. Some of them are in Picture Butte and still live here and some of them have moved on. But, things that we would do in school we were a little bit separate because we had our own church. We initially started in the Christian Reform Church. Of course, that's where we came together. In the beginning, they didn't even have their own cars. We would have a school bus to pick us up. We would stay at church all day and we'd have lunch over there so there was a sort of unity there that we would meet on Sunday. During the week, you would see nobody except maybe going to the grocery store and so on. So, to have any real friends besides our school and church, that was about it. But you know at our school, I didn't mention that earlier but in 1958, we also had a tragedy in that the family home burned down. And it was quite the experience.

My youngest brother got on the bus, I wasn't going to school anymore, but he got on the bus and he asked the bus driver, "Turn around! Turn around! I see smoke coming from the house!" And the bus driver said, "Oh, no no. That's just the chimney." And they wouldn't turn around. In the meantime, somehow somebody went to town and contacted the fire department. They came out and dug a hole in the ice and they were going to start to pump out. What I heard afterwards, was that somebody opened the valve on the pump before they left to town. It was 26 below and the impellor froze and they couldn't get the pump going. And so the whole house burned down to the ground. And the chimney was standing there twenty feet high for about fifteen minutes until it doubled up too. But there again, the neighbors provided a trailer that

Mom and Dad could stay in and we slept up on top of the pig barn that's on that picture. That red barn there. Dad made a room where my brother and I stayed until the house was burnt. Yeah, it was tough going for the first number of years.

28:35

SI: Wow. I can't imagine...So, I guess switching to your later life, when did you first meet your wife Diny? Did she live in the community?

RS: Well, it's kind of a nice story because my wife's family came in 1953 and it so worked out that they came from the same area in Holland as we did. We were on the farm and they were in the town. My dad was farming and he made wooden shoes. So, when the fieldman...they have a field man that takes immigrants to their destination and gets them comfortable so they have some friends to talk to. So, they came to our place in 1953 on the farm. I saw them walk down the driveway to the house and so I have always joked that I took a look at her and I picked her out right away. [laughs] But we went to church all of these years. We would go to, it was a tradition, the families would go to a picnic by the river just close to Iron Springs. The farmers would borrow their trucks, three ton trucks, and there would be twenty people on the back of each of the trucks. There would all drive down in a convoy and they would have a picnic there. So, my friend said to me, "Well, I'm going to ask that gal out." And I said, "Well, you've got two weeks and if you haven't done it, I'm going to take over." [laughs]. So, he chickened out, I guess. On that picnic day, I asked her out and she said yes. On our 52 anniversary a couple of years ago, they asked me on that occasion, "Where did you meet your wife?" And so I sang her a little lullaby, "Down by the riverside. Down by the riverside!" [laughs]

So, from there on, it was game on and I've never looked back. It's been 50 years of bliss. We've had a good family. The kids love coming home for dinner and it's been nothing but blessings, really. There have been no big incidents or serious accidents or anything. Even though we have one of our children have a Down Syndrome Child, but he's become more of a blessing than anyone of the others. He's been such a, even on our anniversary, he could play the trumpet. He played the trumpet and it was amazing. All of our children have gone to Immanuel School. Here, a couple of years ago, he was at Immanuel. At our church, at the United Reform Church in Lethbridge, they have a nice even floor that you walk in on. Immanuel School had a band concert there and on the front screen it said, "Prelude by Braiden Scholten." I thought, "What in the world is going on here?" And it stayed on the screen for fifteen minutes before the program started. Once the program started, they called Braiden up to the front and he comes up with his flute. There must have been 900 people in attendance, and it was perfect! There wasn't a mistake in the thing. I couldn't believe it. And so at the end, he goes and bows like this [bows]. Everyone was on their feet clapping. So, yeah, he's been a real blessing. Many of times, kids would shy away if St. John's Ambulance would come into the school. And he would go up and say, "Are you boys policeman?" And the kids would look while he's asking questions and before you know it, there are fifteen other kids around. But, you know, he has his limitations. He's 18 now and probably at a 10 or 11-year level. But for the rest, yeah, they've all got good jobs and doing well.

33:49 SI: Wow...So, you had mentioned that your sons had taken over the farm?

RS: Yes.

SI: Was your wife ever involved in the farming?

RS: Oh, yeah. We started farming in 1962. We had a dairy farm with 50 cows and two quarters of land. All of the land, at that time, was flood-irrigated. Everything was hand labor. Manure was taken out by fork and shoveled. Loose hay was put up on a stack. The feed was all by pails. We had a barn with a holding area to milk the cows that was called a surge parlor where you could prepare four cows. My wife did a lot with milking and raised kids in the meantime. Every half-hour, or three-quarters of an hour, she would take a stroll through the house to make sure that the kids were okay.[laughs]

SI: Make sure that they weren't wreaking havoc.

RS: Yes, wreaking havoc. But you know, it was a team effort and that was the only way. We couldn't afford to hire a man, so many days were 16-17 hour days for me and her as well. Many mornings, we would get up at 5:00 to milk the cows and when the hay was to be put up, it was too dry during the day, so in the evening, after milking at 10:00, you would do some bailing. Then, you looked at the sky and thought, "Oh, it might rain." So, you would finish the bails and come home at midnight and the next day, up at 5:00 to milk the cows.

We were very fortunate health wise. One time, I had a slipped disk in November, in the middle of winter, and in the beginning of spring, I was able to continue my work. But with all of the hard work and hand labor, my back is still pretty good and I can still do things. So, right now too, we curl three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. [laughs] We have our community things that we're involved in. Sometimes, with the transportation, it's a little difficult. You take a person from Lomond and you take her to Lethbridge to the doctor and dentist and back and forth. It's a seven-hour job. A lot of people like that the community has services for them. In fact, just on Saturday, we went to the Ukrainian New Years! We took 13 or 14 people there. We had a good time. [laughs]

37:39 SI: My friend danced at the Ukrainian New Years...So, can you recall when you first became involved with the Coyote Flats Museum or the Prairie Tractor Museum? What specifically drew you to the museum?

RS: Well, you know, I'll be honest with you, I don't know exactly how many years I've been a member of it. Probably, for the past ten or fifteen years. I have a hobby of my own. I kind of promised myself through all of the years that I've farmed, I've never had time to do any hobbies. It's always been things that had to be done at the farm. I had to fix my own things, do my own carpentry, do my own plumbing, and do

my own electrical work. So, I promised myself that the first when I quit farming. I couldn't have quit right away because the boys would have never been able to afford farming if we didn't go for a lower price. I spent ten years helping them and I didn't charge them for that. I probably six or seven hours a day to get them on their feet and get them going. So, with the Prairie Tractor Museum, I've gone there and helped on occasion and helped do some tours. Like I said, I've also restored seventy tractors of my own. In the future, I intend to spend some more time at the Prairie Tractor Museum. As I get older, I'm not going to do that much restoration of tractors anymore. When you have a family like ours...my wife and I feel that it is very important to...our children are God given and we believe that our number one priority is to our children. It's not to spoil them but to help them wherever we can so that they can succeed. For example, I've bought a house in Picture Butte in 1989 and three of the boys rented that property basically for the cost just to get them going. So, when you have six children, a lot of time goes towards helping your family. As I mentioned earlier, our community, what they did for my parents through those early years and what they did for me, I cannot ignore that. I've stayed as long as accountable to them for helping us succeed, financially, where banks would not. So, those things, I cannot forget. We stayed true to these people for as long as we could.

SI: Wow. So, are any of your children involved with the Museum or do they have any connection to it?

RS: Not at this point. They are busy farming but they love my hobby. Like I said, we had three generations in the parade driving six tractors. They love going to the museum. As they get older, some of them would be interested. Like I said, nowadays, I'm a little concerned for our different societies and for the Prairie Tractor and for the Ag-Society. It is extremely hard to get volunteers. We're sitting at the Ag-Society with people that are 65 or 70 years old or older. To get some new blood to take over. We are, as I see it anyway, so caught up in modern technology of our iPad's and our phones. Everybody knows everything about everybody but nobody is accountable to anybody. And that really concerns me. That we can be in-touch through our iPad's, through our phones, and through our computers with everyone. But who's going to keep our communities alive and volunteer. I know for myself in the early years when I was farming, when our first son finished High School, I just looked up and thought, "Boy, oh boy. Did we spend enough time with the kids?" But we did the best that we could. None of our kids ever said, well they did say that they wished dad could have come to more of our hockey games or could have been involved in more sports. But those were the times when we couldn't.

Nowadays, we've gone way to the end of technology and I fear for where our communities are going and whether we can stay vibrant with the Jamboree Days, and the museum and the different groups. Who's going to volunteer as driver? We're all too busy taking our kids to hockey and nobody seems to be showing an interest to keep these things alive. That concerns me.

44:18 SI: So, if you could give any advice to some of the younger generations, what would it be?

RS: I would say that our young people or young adults to take a look at what we have. Do you want to keep it? You're going to have to get involved or we're going to lose it. Just the president of the Ag-Society, for example, I've been there for a number of years. If we don't get some support, in six years, we could be broke. We get a certain money from our Provincial government, but at the present, we're going down \$5,000 a year to provide what we have. We've either got to cut all of these programs out and maybe keep our Jamboree Days alive. but if we don't community involved, the business people, our town, and the volunteers, our young adults and our young children. We have great participation in our parade. That's not a problem. We had one of our biggest parades last year that I've ever seen. Make a commitment if you want to keep the community alive and vibrant. That would be my hope for this community.

SI: What do you think is special about the Prairie Tractor Museum that could draw the younger generation to get involved in the community to keep things alive?

RS: Well, the Prairie Tractor Museum has so many facets of everything that I've encountered since I came to this country from the post office to service stations to houses. I think it's very important for our young people to understand where they came from and where they are going. If you don't know where you came from, you don't know where you're going. This is extremely important to me. I was taught that from my parents and I want to pass that on to our generation. And if we're going to forget about this just like the War. I had mentioned once before that we put on, "Veterans Appreciation Day." We wanted the media to come out for fifteen minutes to take a few pictures and they run off. Well, it took us a year to put on that program and to say thank you, Canada. I told them that they missed the point. They all phoned me back and I explained to them that this is what put Canada on the map. You have fifteen minutes and we have a twenty-one-gun salute in the park with 350 Veterans in the parade. All of a sudden, just because it's on the weekend your media can only come for fifteen minutes and take a few photos of a jeep with a Veteran on it. I said, "This is shameful. This is totally shameful."

When I went to the old country, and I went to a graveyard and there is 2,500 Canadians buried from sixteen to twenty-four years old. If you've ever had your heart jump into your throat, that's the day when I walked into that graveyard. When I came over here and we put "Veterans Appreciation Day" on there was people willing to make donations to it. I was the Vice-Chair of it. I said, "Do you want to have advertising?" And they said, "Yes, we want to be recognized." I said, "Sorry, it's not going to happen." This is the Dutch saying thank you to Canada, period. If you want to give or donate. That's fine. You can come and help us. This is on the Dutch. This is only going to happen because we are so thankful. At one time, for our 75th Anniversary of the planes and aircraft from Holland. KLM were going to give free tickets for a good cause. We asked for twelve. We were going to send six Veterans.

They sent us twenty-five tickets. Coca Cola had given them a bus to tour them all around and they stopped in different places. They never charged them a cent. Not for meals or anything. They came to a clothing store and he didn't know what to get him, so he gave him one thousand guilders.

50:05

When I came to the airport to pick them up, the committee picked them up, they looked a little somber. I said, "What is the problem? You didn't have a good time?" He said, "Good time? Oh, we had pockets of Canadian pins and they were gone in no time flat. After that, all we could do was hug the kids and cry. And we couldn't get rid of a dime" I said, "That is the way that it's supposed to be. That is the point of 'Veterans Appreciation Day.'" In this town, the first time, we had 1,185. In 1995, 1,400 and 850 in 2005 in this community. I always remember when the Dutch government phoned up and wanted to sent tulips. And they said, "But where do we send them? I know where Edmonton is and I know where Calgary is, but where in the hell is Picture Butte?" [laughs]

So, if you're talking about something that I really felt apart of is that three years "Veterans Appreciation Day." That really puts the cap on what I think about Canada. Even when I talked about the War and the difficult times, as a kid of five years old, I still remember the Canadian in the army truck driving up to the driveway and giving us chocolate bars. And they said, "Quickly get back in the house. We're not quite ... we haven't pushed them far enough back, so quickly get back in the house." I've never been more proud to belong to that organization.

SI: Wow. Have you ever been back to Holland?

RS: Yes. We've been back in 1982, 1996, and 1997. In 1982, we did a tour in twenty-one days. We did eight countries in ten days and then we spent a week in Holland. And then, in 1996, my wife had a school reunion. They do it a little different. I wasn't allowed to be there with her classmates. So, while they were doing that, I took my bike and went to my old school and the little store where I always picked up my candies. And you know, we've been involved with the parade while we were in Holland before. The five youngest ones were in the parade and it was exciting. Then, in 1997, they had a reunion. It's just like a county like we have here. It was 100 years in existence. I said, "Well, we went last year. I don't think we can go again this year." So at the last minute, I decided that I'm going to go again anyway. So, we booked our flights. And lo and behold, the tents that were set up for the celebration were set up on my dad's land. And I met my grade two teacher there. [laughs] It was meant to be. And then they had tours of the old way of farming the way my dad farmed. We had some friends there, and we biked around on these tours. There were so many people that they had a ribbon of all different colors from maybe seven or eight different ribbons. I was very happy I went. I sure didn't want to miss that.

54:08

SI: Is there anything else? Do you have any final comments to add about Picture Butte or the Prairie Tractor Museum?

RS: No, I spent 66 years, I guess it is now, in Picture Butte. We came here in 1949 until now. Picture Butte has been my home. I have always appreciated coming to town here and doing business here. Nobody has chased me away. I think I've paid my bills. Nobody has foreclosed on me. [laughs] No, I've enjoyed Picture Butte and the people that live here. I want to continue living here and working here as long as my health stays with me. When we first came to Picture Butte, there was 500 people but not there is 1700, but some of the stores have gone. It's amazing what I remember. We had the shoemaker on the corner where the dentist is now. I'll never forget, you know, because we had a lot of shoes to fix. He worked at the factory in the daytime and then he would fix shoes. His wife would give them to the customers during the day. You'd get your shoes fixed and you would say, "How much is that, Joe?" And he would say, "\$0.25." [laughs]

RS: I think there was four grocery stores that we had in town. There was quite a few stores. We had a theatre in town. It was the first time that I went to a movie! [laughs]

SI: What was the movie? Do you recall what it was?

RS: It was, "Ten Commandments." [laughs] So, it's been a good life. We have no complaints or are not allowed to complain. [laughs]

SI: Well, thank you very much. I think that was just under an hour. It's 11:30. That's a good place to stop it.

KL: Yes, I would agree. Actually, I was thinking of two things. Maybe if you wanted to stand up with your suitcase so we can get a good shot of you with it. And then I thought, if you could just go that way a bit because the light will be in the way...give us a smile. And then I was wondering if we could get Diny to come? I would love to get a picture of the two of you together.

SI: Yeah! That would be great.

RS: Oh, she's got to be here somewhere. Diny are you somewhere in here?

DS: Yeah, why?

RS: They want number one over here.

SI: So, can you show us inside the suitcase?

RS: Sure.

SI: So, all of your belongings would fit in there?

RS: The main necessities. Just some pajamas or some clothes.

SI: Wow. It must have been such a scary time.

KL: Now, Diny, you come on back sweetie!

DS: I am coming back. So, what am I supposed to do? Just stand here?

KL:I would love to get a photo of just the two of you with your arms around each other.

RS: Okay. Alright.

KL: He said that you were one of the most wonderful things that happened in his life! We can't finish without getting a picture. Oh, that's beautiful. Thank you so much!