have a half section and he proved it up and deeded it to my father, and that was my father's last home.

BURROUGHS: Tell me about your first home. What kind of house did you live in?

FRANSE: We lived in this one I'm speaking of. It had three rooms. We had Marie. We had a good well of water. It wasn't strong, but it was real good tasting. We had cows and chickens. The cows and chickens also went with this place. It was a gift of about a thousand dollars.

BURROUGHS: You were fortunate.

FRANSE: Yes. As long as my father was up able, he was most generous with it.

BURROUGHS: Not many started out that well.

FRANSE: No. My husband was a real good farmer and we did real well there. We might have never turned it loose, but for the school situation.

BURROUGHS: How many children did you have?

FRANSE: Three.

BURROUGHS: Who were they? Give their names.

FRANSE: Marie, Clarence, Thelma, and Caroline. Four.

BURROUGHS: You had four. Where do they live now?

FRANSE: Marie lives in Quay County at San Juan, (the first four?), Clarence lives in Clovis, Thelma lives in San Pedro, California, and Caroline in San Fransisco.

BURROUGHS: So they are pretty well scattered.

FRANSE: Well, I have three more daughters...

BURROUGHS: You said the first four. Now who are the rest of them?

FRANSE: Donald. This is his home here.

BURROUGHS: He is the one that is associated with the University?

FRANSE: Yes. Ida Lou lives in Garden Grove, California in Orange County. Helen lives in Los Angeles, Letha lives in Los Angeles (they're both single), Ralph lives in Farwell, Roy lives in Clovis, and Betty lives in Los Angeles.

BURROUGHS: Well, you have about six of them out in California. Do you go visit much?

FRANSE: We used to, but I've just slowed down and I haven't been now, going on two years.

BURROUGHS: Do they come to visit you?

FRANSE: Oh, they come often. They say, "Mama, you just stay here and we'll do the coming."

BURROUGHS: That's easier, isn't it? When a large family like that gets together, what do you talk about? Is much of the time spent in old times, or do you just pick up life like it is now?

FRANSE: It's more...our daughter, Helen Ruth, just got back from Russia and we are just dying to be with her to hear about Russia. Her impressions. Letha has been with Hughes Aircraft now fifteen years and she spent a year in Denver. No, we use to, but we don't anymore.

BURROUGHS: You're too far away from that time. I suppose every family would out grow it, but still it's those early memories and experiences that tie you together so close, especially if there are hardships.

FRANSE: Thelma has worked for the telephone company now over thirty years, and she is retiring next spring. She use to love to

dwell on old times and see just how sad she could get, but she doesn't care for it anymore.

BURROUGHS: How sad she could get? What do you mean?

FRANSE: Oh, there were times when it wasn't so rosy.

BURROUGHS: I see. Hard times impressed her then. How many grandchildren do you have out of that big family?

FRANSE: I don't have as many grandchildren as I do children. I just have ten.

BURROUGHS: Ten grandchildren and eleven children. But two of the girls are unmarried?

FRANSE: Yes, and Donald.

BURROUGHS: Actually that would reduce your number of potential family. Do you anticipate more grandchildren?

FRANSE: No.

BURROUGHS: Are any of your grandchildren married?

FRANSE: Yes, my oldest one. Marie's son, Billy Rodden.

BURROUGHS: I'm interested in finding who, of that large family, still lives here in the county besides Donald.

FRANSE: None.

BURROUGHS: And he doesn't have any children?

FRANSE: No, he isn't married.

BURROUGHS: So actually, there are only two generations of you in the county. You and your husband and your son, and no grandchildren. Well, that's sad that you don't have somebody to carry your name on.

FRANSE: In the county. Now, of course, in Farwell and Clovis we have grandchildren. We've had two grandchildren go to Eastern.

BURROUGHS: Now that's what I'd like to suggest. That you talk about your family reunion that you had recently, and the people that came, and the number of children that are now going to Eastern. Would you tell about that?

FRANSE: You mean my own family reunion?

BURROUGHS: Yes. Redlake Community.

FRANSE: Yes, but none of my children got to attend. Thay have in the past. It started in 1958, and a number of the old-timers that helped start it are gone now.

BURROUGHS: Now where was the Redlake Community in the county?

FRANSE: Six miles west of Dora and two north.

BURROUGHS: So it's down in the southern part of the county, southeastern part.

FRANSE: Dora is just about twelve miles from here. Kind of central,

BURROUGHS: How many people lived in that community and were you ever a part of it?

FRANSE: Oh, yes. That was our post office. We never got our mail at Elida. We did our trading in Elida, but Redlake was always our post office.

BURROUGHS: How many miles then from Elida and where you lived to your post office?

FRANSE: Where we lived to our post office was two and a half miles. We went every way. We went horseback, hitch up a horse to the buggy, walked after the mail. I think we went every day.

BURROUGHS: Who in your family was such a letter writer? Why were you so anxious for mail that you walked every day?

FRANSE: My mother had never been away from her people in Osage County, Kansas. Her mother was still living. My father had seven brothers, and my mother had two brothers, and a little sister to write to, and she wrote to every one of them.

BURROUGHS: That's quite a correspondence. She did that nearly every day, then. She'd have to write letters.

FRANSE: Nearly every day. My father was really good, I guess, to provide. Of course, we got stamps at the store. They had a telephone, and one of my uncles died real sudden and that was the way we got the message.

BURROUGHS: You had a telephone on your place then?

FRANSE: No, at the store. In 1911, the first one of his seven brothers died.

BURROUGHS: Did many families have telephones?

FRANSE: No. I think this was a direct line from Delphos to Redlake.

BURROUGHS: Then how did you get the message from Redlake to where you lived?

FRANSE: I'm sorry to say there was quite a bit of disappointment there. This family waited until we went to the store to get something, and the funeral was already over.

BURROUGHS: They didn't send word to you?

FRANSE: It just broke my father's heart because he was so close to his brothers, and he didn't even get to send flowers. I suppose my memory of it, my father didn't hold...I don't remember any unpleasantness about it. But he was really disappointed.

BURROUGHS: Surely, he would be hurt that he couldn't participate. About how many days elapsed then from the time the message came til you went to the store?

FRANSE: I would say four or five. I'll tell you how I found it out. I was visiting in Elida and these people in Elida had come from Kansas and were taking the Kansas paper. I had over stayed down in Elida, and when I read this about my uncle, I immediately found me a way to go home. I just got out and went around the little square until I found some people that lived part way and I walked about seven miles. I should have had a spanking, but I'm sure I didn't get it.

BURROUGHS: Why should you have had a spanking?

FRANSE: I didn't come home when I was suppose to.

BURROUGHS: You had already overstayed. Well, I know they appreciated that. That again, as the incident with your little brothers, shows the isolation of the families. We don't even understand now we are so close. Communication is so rapid.

FRANSE: My son Donald has often called us the lost family because we had so many ties back in Kansas. There wasn't very many people out here from Kansas. The neighbors were wonderful to us. You know it was customary when you come from Texas to say what county you were in, and when they asked my father, he would just say, "Osage." And they'd say, "I've never heard of that."

BURROUGHS: No, I guess they didn't. I have noticed that people from Texas give their county as if that's all that's necessary to know. You don't have to call the name of the state. There were many, many Texans came over then.

FRANSE: I had never lived in a town where they had bars. Well, I had lived in the country. I hadn't lived in town period.

BURROUGHS: Elida had bars?

FRANSE: Yes. They were run by two brothers. The Swaggerity's, John and Jim. While we were living in this little two room house, my mother had the dinner meal ready so she said to go find my father and I said, "Well, I think he went in one of those places, one of those bars."

BURROUGHS: That was the wrong thing to say, wasn't it?

FRANSE: It just stayed with me. I don't know why. I don't know what the consequenses were. He didn't drink.

BURROUGHS: Well, men did go into bars. That was a means of conversation, and keeping company, and they didn't get drunk so much. They just went in and had a social...

FRANSE: Naturally, he was a yankee. His father was born in Massachusetts, and he had taken the jokes very well, he never made any enemies.

BURROUGHS: They teased him about being a "damn yankee".

FRANSE: Yes, about how they rather be a horse thief as to come from Kansas, but he took it with him. But my mother, she didn't understand it so well, but my daddy didn't really care.

BURROUGHS: That's typical of a man's reaction in a woman being more sensitive. You mention that your father was one of the younger children in a large family. Will you name some of his brother and sister's who live here in Roosevelt County?

FRANSE: My father was the only one.

BURROUGHS: Only one?

FRANSE: That came. He was born in Kansas.

BURROUGHS: Well, what relation are you to Mrs. Cristo?

FRANSE: Sister in-law.

BURROUGHS: Sister in-law.

FRANSE: Her brother is Walter Franse, and my brother is Dave Burnett who lives...

BURROUGHS: I see, so your husband is Cristo's younger brother.

FRANSE: Yes, only brother.

BURROUGHS: And Ms. Rusher Smith is also your sister in-law.

FRANSE: Yes.

BURROUGHS: They have no children, and they live here in Portales?

FRANSE: Yes.

BURROUGHS: Do you see them often, and do you have much in common with them since you were a farm girl and they were business women?

FRANSE: They have been lovely to me, I couldn't ask for a better relationship, and now we do see them often.

BURROUGHS: I imagine.

FRANSE: Since my husband is retired, he takes them places. I couldn't ask for a better relationship.

BURROUGHS: Which is the basketball player that was related to you that was on the team at Eastern, and really was the one who started Cristo on her love for basketball?

FRANSE: That's our son Roy, who is the vice-principal of Clovis High School.

BURROUGHS: When was he playing for Eastern?

FRANSE: From 1950 to 1954 would be...

BURROUGHS: He was quite a star, wasn't he?

FRANSE: Well, he did his part.

BURROUGHS: I am sure he did. Mrs. Franse has a photograph album of her son, and this is Roy. He was tall, lanky, and fast as he could be.

FRANSE: This is our oldest son, and Ralph.

BURROUGHS: And that's very interesting and you have many memories. Tell me more about your immediate family, some of your brothers. I think you mentioned Dave.

FRANSE: Yes, he is the only brother I have left, and he lives on a farm just at the edge of town. He has three boys and two of them are graduates of Eastern, and the youngest one is a junior. He and his wife, Omega, are lots of company and consolation to us.

BURROUGHS: I'm sure. Do they have children?

FRANSE: The three boys.

BURROUGHS: So your brother Dave would have three generations, I mean be the third generation, his children are the third generation of Franse's living in this county.

FRANSE: Yes. Well, see, they are related to my children, but not to the Franse family. See, Dave was a Burnett.

BURROUGHS: Oh, yes. So the Burnett's though, are the third generation, through you, that have lived in this county. How old are those children?

FRANSE: They range from nineteen to twenty-four.

BURROUGHS: So they are at Eastern, or have been.

FRANSE: Have been. The two oldest ones have marvelous jobs, one in Kansas, and the other one in Tuson, Arizona. And then my only sister has three sons and lives in Kansas.

BURROUGHS: Would you venture a comment on the number of families that have had this same occurance where the grandparents, parents, and children are all remaining in the county, at least some of nearly every family. Why is that?

FRANSE: Why have they stayed together?

BURROUGHS: Yes, why have they stayed. In this present time, so many of them wander off and I know a number of yours are not here, but there are still some here and that seems to be a typical pattern more in this county than in other places in New Mexico. Can you account for that?

FRANSE: Well, I don't know whether it would be the way the children were brought up, the dedication that they have to their parents and to this paticular...Now the Franse family still owned their land by Redlake.

BURROUGHS: Well, there is a stability in the pattern, and I think you put it very well when you spoke about the way they are brought up and their parents' teachings and the things that they stood for.

FRANSE: And I think the University here keeps...My brothers' sons never thought of going anywhere else but out here, and same with our children. Now they have gone on and gotten their higher degrees in California. But they all got their bachelors, and some of them got their masters out here.

BURROUGHS: So you think that Eastern has been quite a drawing card. I expect that there are many parents that feel that way. That is an asset to the county.

FRANSE: My two grandsons, my oldest grandson got his masters degree out here, the other one didn't finish, but he went to college some.

BURROUGHS: You never have told about your mother's later years. Your father preceeded her in death.

FRANSE: Yes, she was left with David who was nineteen, and Dolly who was four. David made the living for them and Dolly went ahead

and graduated from high school, and she got a job. Then my brother, Dave, was drafted into the Navy, in World War II, when he was thirty-two years old. And that was really sad for mother.

BURROUGHS: If he was her source of lively hood, at that age, that is a little strange.

FRANSE: Well, she was his dependent and she got a check from him. But she saved every dime of it for him, and my sister supported both of them. Mother started in helping Dave in every way she could. She sold milk, and light bread, and, for a number of years, she kept college students and fed them. We were all living in town then. We came to Portales early, we came to Portales in 1927. My husband just had a job. We left the farm.

BURROUGHS: Did your mother live with you?

FRANSE: No. No, my mother always had her own home. But I was never separated from my mother, only three years, and that was just the distance between Bethal and out at Redlake.

BURROUGHS: Not very far. How far would you estimate that to be?

FRANSE: Oh, thirty miles.

BURROUGHS: Just different parts of the county. I think that you have shown by your remarks that your mother was a remarkable woman.

FRANSE: Oh, she certainly was! I still have...She just died in 1966, and I still have people tell me what a strong, courageous person she was. That she could survive the loss, and go ahead and help in church and Sunday School, and try to make a living. She was strong physically, and very strong spiritually.

BURROUGHS: I am sure she must be, she sounds like a typical frontier woman.

FRANSE: Yes, she was. She was an immaculate house keeper. None of her girls ever followed along...never were as good of house keepers as she was.

BURROUGHS: Your home is very nice, Mrs. Franse, and I think that you under estimate yourself, but I am sure that you do appreciate the memory of your mother and the things that you have told us this afternoon will contribute greatly.

FRANSE: She was a member of the Methodist Church, and a member of the Kings Daughters Sunday School class. There are a few of them left that were in her class.

BURROUGHS: She had a strong faith then.

FRANSE: Yes, she did.

BURROUGHS: Thank you so much. Do you release your statements for use in the Oral History Program at Eastern New Mexico University?

FRANSE: Yes.

BURROUGHS: Thank you so much for contributing. This has been a very enjoyable afternoon.