

Gift and Release Agreement

We Margaret Sherbon and Stacy Sherbon
Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

do hereby give and grant to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History, Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at

Margaret Sherbon's home: Box 206, Garden Plain, Kansas
67050

on the date(s) of Sunday, March 25, 1995
for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

Margaret Sherbon
Interviewee's signature

Address 616 Bierman

Date 3/25-95

Phone 535-2374

Stacy L. Sherbon
Interviewer's signature

Date 3-25-95

Address _____

Phone _____

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Margaret Sherbon M/F F
 Address: Box 206 Garden Plain Kansas 67050
 Phone number(s): (316) 535-2374
 Approximate age or date of birth: January 14, 1918
 Mother's Name: Cathrina Elisabeth ~~(Mama)~~ Scheve
 Father's Name: Frank Pauly
 Places lived and when: Garden Plain, Kansas 1950-present,
1918-1925 Garden Plain Township, Sedgwick County
 Education: 1-11
 Religion: Roman Catholic
 Business, political and social memberships (past and present) ?
 Present occupation: Housekeeper for Priests at a rectory
 Former occupations: Caretaker for children
 Special Skills: ?
 Major Accomplishments: ?
 National Events in which interviewee has participated: ?
 Local Events in which interviewee has participated: ?
 National born U.S. citizen? Yes/No
 Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____
 Country from which he/she emigrated: _____
 Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee:
pictures, old stamps
 Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral
 history interview: _____
 Additional information: ?

←
 - 1925 - Goddard, KS
 1950 - Garden Plain
 1940's - San Antonio,
 Texas

Stacy Sherbon

April 6, 1995

Table of Contents

I. Introduction

1. Family Origins - *Germany (mother)*

II. Life in the 1930's

1. Childhood
2. Education
3. Home

III. Family Occupations

1. Father (farmer)
2. Mother (homemaker)
3. Daughter (governess)

IV. Effects of the Summer Drought

1. Types of crops grown

V. Possessions

1. Car
2. TV
3. Radio

VI. Encounters with Indians

1. "Chief" - the Indian hired hand

2. The hired hands

VII. Dust Bowl

1. Effects on family and farming

VIII. Canning Food

IX. Banks during the Depression

X. The President

XI. The 1930's

1. Music

2. Religion - Church

3. Fashion

ORAL HISTORY TAPE QUESTIONS

What is your full name?

When and where were you born?

Where were your parents from?

Can you describe your mother's and her family's journey from Germany?

When and why did they move to Kansas?

How did your parents meet?

How many brothers and sisters do you have?

What are their names?

What was the highest grade you completed in school?

What was the name of the school you attended?

What kind of lunches did you take to school?

What kind of things did you do in your past time?

What kinds of furniture did you have in your home?

Without electricity, how did you keep your food cold?

What was your mother and father's occupation?

Did you or any of your brothers and sisters work during the 1930's?

Did you live with your family when you worked?

Did you have to share your money with your family?

How much did you get paid and how did you spend it?

Did the summer droughts effect yourfamily?

What kinds of crops were the most popular to grow?

Did you know of any bootleggers?

What kind of car did your parents own? (Description)

Did you ever experience any bad tornadoes or bad weather that

you can remember, and how did you and your family deal with it?

What do you mean when you say, "Down in the cave?" (Description)

The TV came out about 1935, did you ever own one?

Did you have a radio?

What would your family do on Sunday evenings?

Did you ever have any encounters with the Indians?

What was his name?

What were the men called that worked for your dad?

What kind of ethnic background were they?

Do you remember anything about the Dust Bowl?

Did the Dust Bowl effect your family and their farming?

Was anyone ever jobless in your family as a result of the Depression?

How did you make sure your family had enough food?

How did you can meat?

Did it taste funny?

How did your family keep track of money?

Did you have money in a bank that failed?

Do you remember when Roosevelt became President?

How was he received among people?

Did your family ever listen to his "fireside chats?"

Did you ever vote for a President or any issues?

Do you remember what the popular music back then?

Do remember the popular fashion, the style of clothes that were worn?

What was the religion of your family?

What were the masses like back then?

Conclusion and closing remarks.

Stacy Sherbon

April 17, 1995

1930's

Living in south-central Kansas during the 1930's, Margaret Elizabeth Pauly experienced life through the eyes of a young farm girl. While the Depression and the Dust Bowl were changing the lives of many other people, her family managed to stay focused on their farm and dodge ~~from~~ the terrible effects caused by the disasters.

It all began in 1893, when Margaret's mother, Cathrina Elisabeth Scheve and her family arrived at the Port of Baltimore in New York on the Steamship, "Weimar." Her mother was born in Lusche, Oldenburg on March 15. 1889.

The "Weimar" was a Scottish-built steamship. Launched in 1891, she was built for the North German Lloyd Shipping Company and was used on various immigrant routes to both North and South America. The ship was 415 feet long and 48 feet wide. She was sold to a Chilean firm in 1908 and renamed. She was torpedoed and sunk in 1918.

Margaret's father, Frank Pauly, was born at Purcell, Doniphan County, Kansas, on April 9, 1882. Frank and "Lizzie" were married on Thursday, January 7, 1909 in St. Mary's Church, Aleppo, Kansas.

According to the 1915 Kansas State census, the family lived in Garden Plain Township, Sedgwick County. In 1925, the family owned 320 acres of farmland. Here are the statistics:

180 acres of winter wheat	3 acres of milo
$\frac{1}{2}$ acre of potatoes	30 acres of oats
30 acres of corn	20 acres grass for hay
35 acres native grass	

4800 bushels of wheat and 250 bushels of corn were raised in 1924.

50 lbs. of butter were made, \$150.00 worth of milk and cream sold, \$200.00 worth of poultry and eggs sold and \$275.00 worth of slaughter animals sold in the year ending March 1, 1925.

The farm consisted of the following:

3 horses	11 milk cows	100 hens
5 mules	1 other cow	7 hogs
1 cream separator	1 tractor	

Frank and Lizzie had six children, all born while they were living in the Garden Plain Township. Two daughters died in infancy.

According to my grandma, her family was never really ^a affected by the Depression or the Dust Bowl. Her story of the 1930's showed me that where she lived and how she lived protected her and her family from the crazy [↔] on goings of the Depression.

Margaret attended a Catholic grade school, and she remembered taking molasses buckets to carry her lunch in. She describes

a molasses bucket as little $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon buckets. She says that her lunches consisted of "just a plain ol' molasses bread sandwich, because at that time, times were hard. We just didn't have it, so that's what we had."

I think that my grandma may have been comparing the times then to now. Throughout her interview, I got the impression that her life as a child in the 1930's was a lot of hard work because they lived on a farm, but she did not know of any other way of life.

I feel that her family was very fortunate to have the things and money they had during that time period. There were so many other people in the United States starving and looking for work so they could feed their families.

My grandma and her family always had food. Grandma said that her father would plant a garden every year. Then her mother would can all of the vegetables and even the meat. The animals would be butchered in the winter so that the meat would last longer. "The meat had a nice flavor all the time, tasted like roast beef."

Grandma even knows now how fortunate her family was, "Living on a farm like that we had an advantage over the city people because we had our own meat, beef, pork and chicken. We had our own milk, eggs and potatoes."

Grandma's life on the farm was filled with chores. Her chores would be, feeding the chickens, milking the cows and working in the fields. "We didn't have much time for messin' around or playing around."

Her home had no refrigerator or electricity. A box kept low in a well kept their food cold. The stove used to cook food was a wood burning stove.

Grandma's brothers and sisters all worked on the farm. In the late 1930's Margaret got a job as a governess for a little girl whose mother had M.S. Her wages started out at \$3.00 per week. Unlike girls, who worked in city factories, grandma did not have to share her earnings with her family. She chose to go see a movie every once in a while. She said the movies cost about ".15¢ to .20¢ a movie."

The weather in Kansas never ^aeffected her family much. During the Dust Bowl, they had to keep wet cloths over their windows. She said, "It was just like a dust storm. There was no sun, and it looked dark like a storm was coming in." She said it was hard to breathe. "We had to stuff rags, papers and things in windows. She said she recalled stories from western Kansas where the dust was so thick that people couldn't find their way from the barn to the house.

Another storm, a lightening storm, "took a barn of ours." 100 baby turkeys and sheep were killed. Off tape my grandma had told me that her mother was devastated and never owned any turkeys or sheep again.

I thought it was interesting when my grandma said that they used to play spelling games with corn. She said that they would have red, orange, yellow and blue corn. They would spell words and make designs and pictures. "We always had our corn to play with."

On the farm her father would hire help to plant and plow the fields. The men were known as "hired hands." These men would follow the wheat harvest from southern Oklahoma all the way to ~~Kansas~~ ^{Canada}. They drove around in horse drawn wagons.

There was also an Indian by the name of "Chief." He worked for grandma's father for about 10 years. He would return for harvest every year. "He was a very nice man. He helped my mother and my father with everything." Grandma believes he may have been a Cherokee Indian from Oklahoma.

I asked my grandma about President Roosevelt, about how well liked he was with the people back then. "Well, just like any other President I suppose, some like him and some don't."

The music she remembered the most was "holy" music. That was all they sang at home and at school.

Her family all attended a Catholic church. The masses were recited in Latin with the priest's back to the congregation. "I sort of miss it sometimes. I can get my old book out and pray it yet."

The fashion consisted of "over-hauls." The over-hauls would cover up their school cloths or work clothes while they were working on the farm. The women usually wore long dresses and never wore pants. "Bonnets were popular too, then along came hats."

I learned a lot about how my grandma grew up. It was interesting to notice the extreme difference from a little farm in Kansas to the city factories we studied in history class. My grandma did not know who or why people migrated to California.

Her world was the farm she lived on. She told me that the only things they ever had to buy were spices and sugar. Her mother made their clothes and her father grew the food.

My grandma was very fortunate to live under the circumstances she did during that time period. She was protected from a cruel time that deprived many people and made them suffer.

This topic was very important to history because the Great Depression caused world wide economic disaster in the 1930's. It was an era that boasts the longest and deepest setbacks that have scarred the American economy.

This oral history project proved that, not everyone was suffering from deprivation. Even though they had to work hard for what they had, they managed to survive one of the worst eras in the heart of the Dust Bowl.

*Excellent job
100*



This is a copy of the stamp my grandma has from 1934. On June 12, 1934 the Air mail letter rate of 6¢ an ounce was adopted by act of Congress.



This is the home my grandma's (Margaret Sherban) mother's family lived when they moved to Kansas from New York. They were from Germany. (Picture: Farm in Spearville, Kansas)



This is my grandma's mother's family at work on the farm. (1910)

This is the home
my grandma grew
up in, today known
as Viola, Kansas.
Her brother, Walter
still lives there today.



my grandma's
parents; Elizabeth
Sheavy Pauly and
Frank Pauly.
(1938)



Elizabeth (1939)



Frank (1939)



Elizabeth
Paulley's
chickens
and
turkeys.

Elizabeth Paulley's
mother, Anna Sheve
with the chickens.
Notice the car with
no windows in the
background. (my
grandma spoke about
it on the tape.)



Cows on
the
farm.
(1936)



My grandma,
Margaret Sherbon,
in 1936.



A barn
on the farm
where grandma
lived.



The Indian, "chief," that
my grandma spoke about
on the tape. He worked
for my grandma's parents.

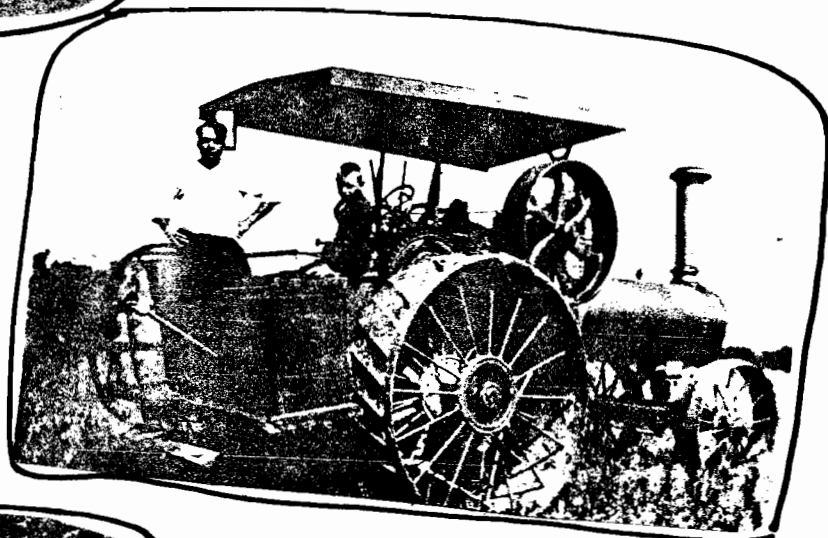


Elizabeth Pauly
with my grandma's
sister Mary and
"Chief." (1921)



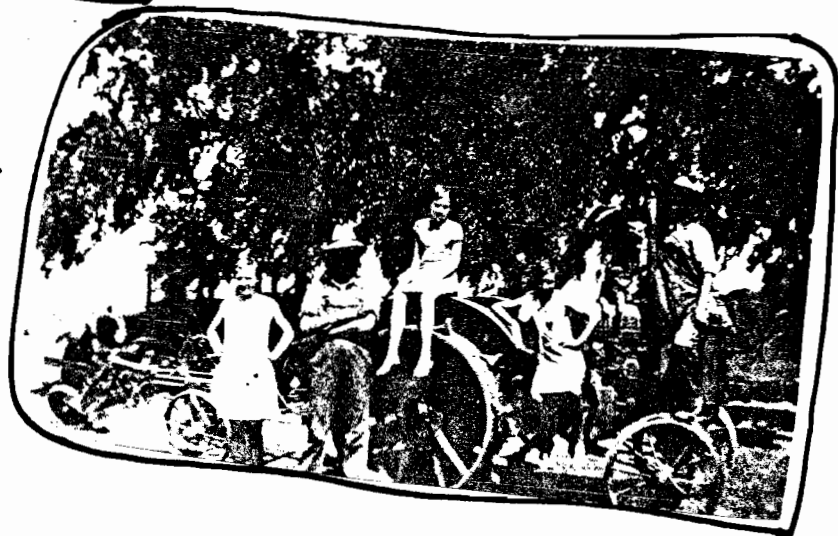
- "Chief"
- Frank Pauly
- hired hand

The Indian hired hand and my grandma's brother, Walter.

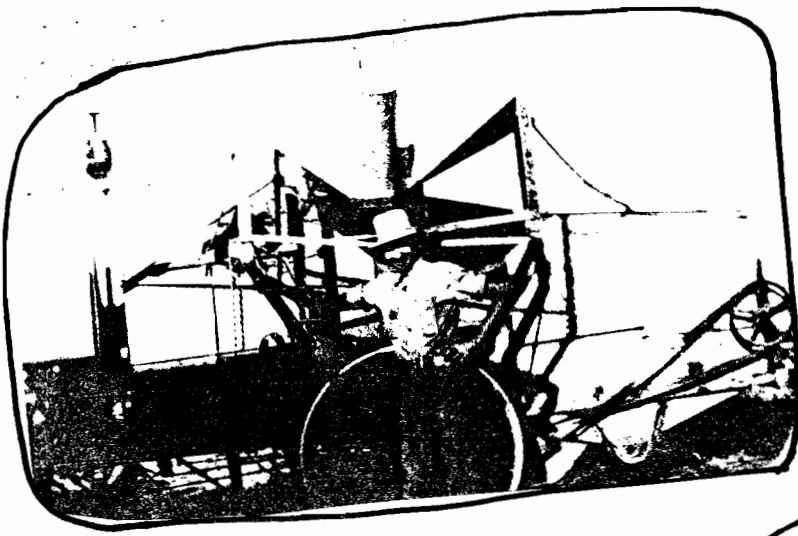


From left to right:
hired hand, hired hand,
"Chief", Walter (my grandma's
brother), Frank (dad), and
my grandma (Margaret)

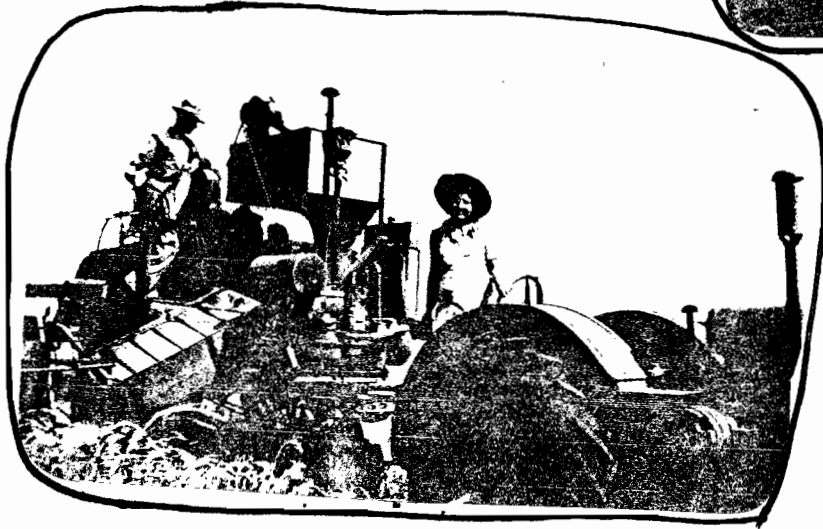
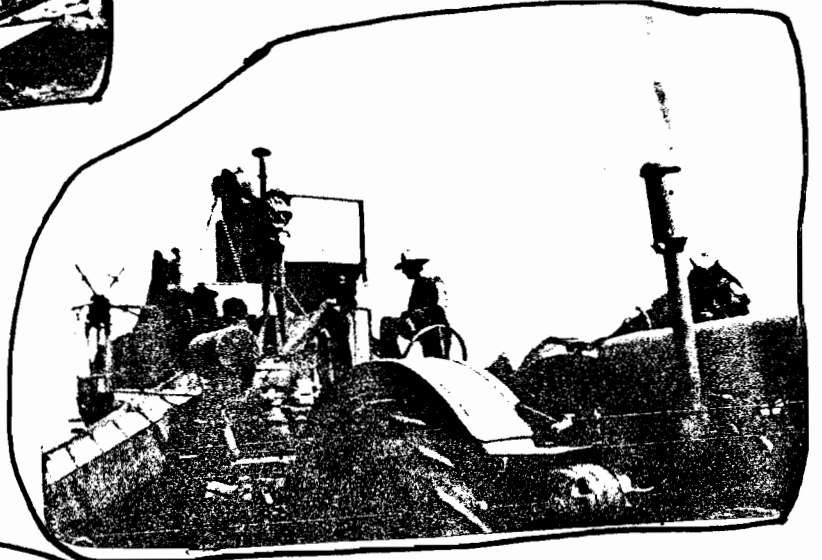
From left to right:
Margaret (grandma), Walter
(her brother), Mary (her
sister), Helen (her sister),
Dan (hired hand).
The car without windows
is in the background.



Dan (hired hand).



Frank Pauly
1946



Grandma (Margaret)
driving and my grandpa
(Elmer) in back. Harvest.
1946

Frank Pauly
and Elmer Sherbon.
1946

