

TAPE C-100
SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH MARY HELEN CRAIN

Date: March 1, 1986

Interviewer: Anonymous Evergreen High School Student

First, Mrs. Crain read from her history of the Evans Ranch on the grounds that she would not remember everything she once knew about the Evans family. Ms. Crain admires the family for keeping their ranch intact. She begins with Dr. John Evans of Chicago who became governor of Colorado Territory in 1862 and remained in Colorado. The second Dr. John Evans re-named Mt. Rosalie Mt. Evans. The ranch has a herd of cattle. Evans family members have summer homes on the ranch. The 1912 log home of the governor's sister, Ann Evans, is now the summer home of the John Evans, Jr. family.

The Vance ranch became incorporated into the Evans ranch. In a small cemetery on the Vance ranch the Crosson family maintains a family burial plot. A Mrs. Brazo lives on the ranch in an old log house and owns and trains horses.

Next door to the Evans ranch is the Outdoor Laboratory School on what used to be the Dodge Ranch. Mrs. Dodge designed the ranch house and Jock Spence built it.

Mrs. Crain said that her Cincinnati, Ohio family had known about Evergreen long before she and her husband finally moved west in 1944. She met many old timers who provided her with information. Mr. Crain was the first editor of the *Canyon Courier*, which began publication in 1958. She offered to write something on the Evergreen area to fill the pages of the first issue. Thus she wrote on Bergen Park and over the years continued to write features for the paper. Last June she had a stroke which slowed her down. The Pruett Press in Boulder published her first collection of Evergreen articles, the only known history of Evergreen. The interviewer and Mrs. Crain spent some time recalling old local businesses, then Mrs. Crain talked about her family's move to Evergreen where they stayed at the Liston Lodge while house hunting. They still lived in the house that they found then. Much later their daughter and son moved out to the area as well.

Mrs. Crain expressed strong opinions about the possibility of some winter Olympics events taking place in Evergreen. As a journalist for the *Canyon Courier*, she enjoyed arguing with a Denver Olympics representative when he spoke to the Colorado Press women. She objects that Denver doesn't have the money to do all they say they'll do, traffic will be horrendous, and ground water will be polluted.

She recalls Wally Kunin's setting up a ham radio on the mountain to connect families in Denver with relatives in Vietnam. Finally, she deplores how developers have ruined Stanley Park and Brook Forest, tearing them up for housing.