



ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
INTERVIEW ABSTRACT

CONSULTANT: Genevieve Beatrice Lucero Sanders

DATE OF BIRTH: December 23, 1910 GENDER: Female

DATE(S) OF INTERVIEW: May 25, 2000 & June 1, 2000

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Sanders residence

INTERVIEWER: Marcie Palmer

SOURCE OF INTERVIEW: NMF&RHM__x__OTHER_____

TRANSCRIBED: Yes: July 3, 2001

NUMBER OF TAPES: Two

ABTRACTOR: Marcie Palmer

DATE ABSTRATED: August 2001

QUALITY OF RECORDING (SPECIFY): Good.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Consultant recalls the POW internment camp located near the family home during World War II.

DATE RANGE: 1910-1946

ABSTRACT (IMPORTANT TOPICS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

TAPE ONE, SIDE A:

Genevieve Beatrice Lucero Sanders was born in December of 1910. The interview begins with a discussion of her family. Her maternal grandfather, Henry Joseph Cuniffée, came from Ireland at the age of fifteen. She briefly discusses the dates of birth of her siblings. The family ranched in the Tularosa Basin. During WWII the army took fifty-seven ranches in the area to form the White Sands Proving Range, and Mrs. Sanders' grandfather's was one of them. She discusses her mother's family comprised of six girls and two boys. The two sons went to fight in the Civil War and never came home.

Genevieve attended school at South Ward Central and Union High in Las Cruces. She also attended the Loretta Academy for two years. She married Price Fontaine Sanders (nicknamed Sad) in 1930 and their son Phillip was born the following year out at the ranch in the Tularosa Basin. Her father's ranch was called the St. Nicolas Ranch.

Her father, Felipe, and her Uncle Joe Lucero alternated between sheriff and deputy from one term to the next from the late 1890s into the 1930s (approximately thirty years).

TAPE ONE, SIDE B:

She discusses St. Nicolas Ranch and remembers that her father had piped a spring down to the flats and that they were never without water. She describes it as "a lovely place." While many people bartered for groceries and necessary items, Mrs. Sanders remembers picking out the groceries they needed and charging them. Her father would come along and pay it later. She recalls dances, meetings, and skating that were held in the building known as "the rink." This building was located across the street from the old court house ". . . where Court Junior High is . . ."

Mrs. Sanders briefly discusses her courtship and marriage to Price Fontaine Sanders. She was married to Price twice; once at the courthouse in Deming and once in the church, "because I'm a Catholic, and, uh, I, I just thought that I should marry by the church."

Mrs. Sanders begins a short discussion of her uncle who was scalped by the Indians while with a wagon train delivering flour from the mill the family owned. "He lived two weeks."

Mrs. Sanders gives information about her father's family. Her father's mother was Macedonia Trujillo and his father was Barbaro Lucero.

TAPE TWO, SIDE A:

Mrs. Sanders begins a discussion of her parents. Her mother was born in 1874 and died in 1925. She discusses her father's ranch, St. Nicolas Ranch and describes how her father had cattle up on the San Andres range. Her father and her uncle ran the ranch together. When her uncle's heirs wanted to sell the ranch, Genevieve and her husband bought the ranch. She states, "I kept it because it was my father's." She recalls having "a lot of fun counting cattle." She shares stories about being on the ranch and many things that happened.

TAPE TWO, SIDE B:

Mrs. Sanders recalls memories about prisoners of war (POWs) detained in New Mexico during WWII. She has some memories of WWI and the prisoner of war camp near her home at that time.

Mrs. Sanders mentions that she has two scythes and wonders if the Museum would be interested in them. She very briefly discusses the blowing sand and dust, and general information about the household chores. She recalls that her husband would “make biscuits.” She relates an incident during WWII when a B-17 exploded. They reported it to the army, and went out to look at the wreckage. She recalls, “I still see those fellows that fell out of the plane . . . they looked like they were sleeping. It, it didn’t look ugly.”