

the weather cleared and the “ship” was permitted to continue the flight. The oil was drained from the motor into one of Mother’s galvanized wash tubs, which was placed on her kitchen stove for the night to keep warm.. The following morning, the weather cleared and the pilot was permitted to take off. The oil was poured back into the engine, the passengers were picked up from the hotel, and the plane continued its trip. Mother could not cook anything until it was removed. We children were all very excited about having a tub of heavy black oil on our stove. It was also exciting to have the passengers and the pilot come into our home. I don’t know if Mom received a new wash tub or if she had to clean the one she used for her laundry.

Weather was a dominating factor at the airport. There were several correspondences concerning weather conditions found in Edwin’s files. One such document from the United States Department of Agriculture Weather Bureau sent to the station on October 20, 1931, asked that the observers make accurate readings of current ceilings. (Attachment 7)

The years that we lived at the Airport many of the winters were very cold and we had deep snows which blew into huge drifts. The winds would blow very hard and most of the time from the west. The Rocky Mountain area is in the Westerly Wind Belt. The temperatures were extremely cold and it was not uncommon for the water lines to freeze in many homes during these cold spells. Often the pipes would remain frozen until spring arrived. That was what happened one of the winters while we were living at Site 32.

The water froze at the bridge which crossed the irrigation ditch on the road that we used to travel from the airport to Medicine Bow. The pipes to all three houses at Site 32 were frozen and we were totally without water. I can’t recall how long it was before the water lines were thawed, but I do remember all the extra work that was involved in supplying our family with water. Dad and the other Caretakers had to carry water from Medicine Bow to the airport using five gallon cream cans. I can’t begin to fathom how many cans of water they had to haul just for our daily use. The bath tub was filled and that water was used for the toilet; it was that or the unattractive alternative of using the outhouse that was near the office building. That was about a half a block walk!

A group of men gathered old tires and railroad ties which they set on fire to warm the ground in order to thaw the pipes. Mother, Evelyn and I were in the house when we heard the