

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #214 - Side A

Subject: Norma Paulus

Place: Burns Union High School

Date: 1985

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

Release Form: No

NORMA PAULUS: ... drove from Hampton to LaGrande, and then from LaGrande to Baker, and spent last night in Baker. And I met with people there this morning ... the press and the newspaper there, and the radio. And then we drove to John Day, where I met the man that owns --- runs the newspaper up there and the man that runs the radio station. And to tell you how small a world it is, when I walked into the newspaper I looked at this girl there, and she had hair about the color of mine, and I thought, boy that girl looks familiar. You know who she was? She was the daughter of my best friend in high school, Bunny Laythe. And I asked her how Hazel was, her grandma. You know Alice Johnston's store down here, the dress shop store ... well it's her sister.

Anyway this girl popped up, she was doing this computer work in this little newspaper and she said, "My mom is Bunny, you were in high school, and I understand you were real terrors." (Laughter) So I visited with her about her grandmother ... And then I drove right from John Day to here ...

There's another thing that I did on the way that might give you some idea of what I do. I'm reading Chuck Yeager's book, you know who he is? Yes. Well Chuck Yeager is coming to Portland Friday night to help me raise money for my campaign. And I wanted to make sure I read his book before

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

... So I'm riding in the car reading his book, very fascinating, I'd recommend it. So that's kind of what ---

Well let's talk a little bit about leadership. How did you happen to get in this class? Was it anything special? ... or did you just volunteer, or did the teachers put you here because they think that you're ... How are they chosen to be here?

BRIAN METKE: In order to run for office they had to agree to belong to this class last spring when they went through the student body elections. They knew that if they were elected that they would be in this class.

NORMA: I see, well that's good. When I first came in, I told you that really my first political endeavor was to get myself elected to the president of the senior class. And it was a big deal. And you know how I won? My big campaign slogan was that I was going to make sure that when we had senior skip day that we went to the beach. (Laughter) I had never been to the coast before, I had never been anywhere. And I wanted to go to the beach, so I made that my campaign promise, and I delivered on it. There were some kids in our class that didn't have the money to go, and I didn't either, but we made cookies, and washed cars, and put the squeeze on some businessmen. And Don Higgins, one of my teachers --- is he going to be here Pauline, do you know? He was one of our chaperons, and I'll tell you, we kept him hopping. (Laughter)

I think that these are people that do this, that are born with the talent to be leaders. People that make other people --- are genuinely interested in other people and are concerned about what's going on in Oregon, and people that want to have something to say about what's happening to their lives. And if you find that you're interested in what is happening in Burns, and here at school, then that's the first step towards being a leader.

If you want to be a successful leader, of course, you have to know the issues. You have to

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

understand the concerns, and you want to be able to sit down and listen to both sides of the question. And there will always be two sides. There are always two sides to every issue. And you can never, ever make everyone happy, and sleep well at nights. Because there just simply isn't any way that you can satisfy both sides of a question.

For instance in Baker this morning, there was a large turnout of businessmen, or whatever, who want to support me, that's why they came there. Two or three men walked in that looked a little apprehensive about coming in, and I could tell from their appearance that the people that arranged this meeting for me, weren't very interested in seeing them there. And I thought, well they're here because they're mad at the LCDC, you know. Everybody ... LCDC. So I tell you what we ...

And then I looked at them again and I thought no, that's not why those men are here. The reason those men are here is because they ... to speak about an abortion issue. And that's why they were there. And they wanted a lot of pictures and wanted me to look at pictures of fetuses, and they were very, very into the right of life movement. There was no way that that --- those two men and I are ever going to agree on it, because I'm on the opposite side of that issue. And so it doesn't do anybody any good, and it certainly doesn't do the system any good for me to sit there and listen and say, "Well I'll think about it and I'll consider what ... I haven't made up my mind yet. Or you do have a good point." Because that wouldn't be honest. Maybe they'll have more respect for me, I hope, when I say, "I'm sorry ... I consider-ed all of the arguments before, I considered it time and time again and I have reached a contrary conclusion for what you believe. And I don't think I'm going to change my mind."

So --- but there will always be two sides of an issue, and you have to have courage enough to speak your own convictions. And I believe in this state, the people care more about the kind of position, and having the guts to stick with it, when they really ... As long as you'll take the time to listen to

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

them, and you reached your conclusion after listening to both sides, most people will not be single ... So I think that's what you have to do. If you go in and decide that you're going to make everybody happy, and you're going to sit on the fence, you're never going to get anything done. And in the end, people won't respect you. You'll find that politicians are not long-lived. If they do hang around a long time, they're not being ... respected by their colleagues, and certainly not respected by the system.

The other thing is, I think you have to go into it with the idea that you don't want the job bad enough to compromise with yourself. Because you're always going to have to make compromises, that's what politics is all about. Because there are two sides to the issue, but as far as compromising is a very basic social ethics ...

And thirdly, I don't think that you get anywhere by shading your comments to fit an audience. Now the people down --- in the south end of this county feel a little bit differently about the water problem than some of the people here. But if you --- if you're trying to get yourself elected to the legislature from this area and you went down to Fields, and down to Frenchglen, and talked to the ranchers down there and told them one thing, and came up here and told them ... pretty soon it would catch up with you. You're better off to sit down and take --- made sure you take the time to find out everything you can about the issue, and then once you've made up your mind, tell everybody what it is.

Then you always have to be a pretty good ... pretty good humor. And it takes a lot --- a good sense of humor to be in this business and ... because there is a lot of stress in the world today. ... there's a lot of times, and a lot of people. So you have to keep yourself healthy, so that you can --- and get enough sleep, you have to sleep in the back seat of cars. I can go to sleep anyplace. I can lie right down there and sleep for ten minutes ... that would bother me, but I've trained myself to do that. So

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

I think health is very important.

The other thing is that you have to learn to discipline yourself. You need to not be a leader, you expect people to follow you, expect people to respect your opinion, but unless you can discipline yourself --- and I had polio when I was --- lived in Burns. There was a terrible epidemic here; I think I was about the twenty-seventh one to fall with it. And of course here there were twenty-seven people, that's a major, major epidemic ... a major epidemic. And I assume that we all got it from the old swimming pool that used to be out by Hines Lumber ...

Anyway, I learned a lot about discipline through that encounter, and I came out of it initially a lot better than most people. But I was able to overcome the effects of it almost totally. And a lot of it was due to physical discipline, and how you have your mind set. But I think you can learn to discipline your body, you can set an example.

For instance I used to smoke, when I went to Burns High School, I smoked. We used to sneak to smoke, we all did that. And then when I had children, I thought that was really a bad example, so I quit smoking. And I quit smoking for about seven years. And then when I started campaigning state wide, the lady that I traveled with smoked, and so I started smoking again. But then I quit. And I'm very happy that I overcome that habit.

Well I think you --- things like that are important. You have to be in good physical health, watch --- and discipline your mind, and discipline your body. And sometimes if you want to be a leader it's easier for you.

Well look who's coming here ... These two people are also news reporters from the campaign. They're very involved in politics. So sit up straight you'll want to ... have good posture. For heavens sakes, smile. I don't want to go home and have the people in Salem seeing you on Channel 8 and you're looking at her like I don't believe this woman. (Laughter) You got to look really good,

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

okay. This is a leadership class. ... Well let me stop and try to answer your questions.

BRIAN METKE: Norma, you brought up the water issue. We have Kiki Vogler here, a student; her parents are no longer here. I think their ranch is under water. Kiki are you concerned about --- here's your chance.

KIKI VOGLER: What do you propose to do about the current water problem?

NORMA: Well, first of all you have to tell me, isn't it going down? Isn't it --- is it evaporating? What is happening to it? Because I know there is less water than there used to be.

KIKI: Well it's evaporating, but it isn't ...

NORMA: It is still ... The almanac says it's going to be ... I know that Bob Smith, incidentally he was ahead of me at Burns High School, but he and I grew up together. But Bob Smith has been working with the Corp of Engineers to get some sort of drainage system in. And I believe the biggest controversy about drainage system after they gave up on the cement tunnel, or the cement wall which I would never approve of --- that's ridiculous. Seventeen miles of cement rock, you and I are smarter than that. The engineers may not be, but you and I are. So, I'm glad that they scratched that. The last I heard is that he had, Bob Smith had forced the re-evaluation of that issue on the cost factor ... The big controversy there is to put that alkaline water into the Malheur River and the control ... Is that fairly accurate? That's as up-to-date as I am on the issue ...

KIKI: ... that Bob Smith was trying to do ...

NORMA: Well then there is no solution to it then right now.

KIKI: No, not really.

BRIAN: Okay, but isn't also the refuge --- now is concerned for environmental factors and considerations. And now that the water, the boundaries of the refuge are fixed, but the water is still moving, which now is also affecting the nesting and habitat conditions so ---

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

NORMA: I know the last time I was out here I intended driving out to see if the old derrick was still standing, and it wasn't. And I was fascinated by the number of birds that had been forced to move in. It is incredible. So you're saying that the --- I don't understand ---

BRIAN: Well there's, I think that the advanced issue now, or the environmental concerns, at first I think people were saying let the water go, its just a few ranches. But now it's more than just the ranches. We're now faced with one of the largest bird refuges in North America that is going under water.

NORMA: Uh huh. I know that. That isn't known. A very important resource ... is a very important resource for the state. All I can tell you is that I would pretty much be guided by what Bob Smith said. Because that is something that he is imminently involved in, and trying to find a solution. And I know Bob well enough to know that he is working very hard on it. And if he hasn't found a solution, I don't think there is any way that I can. So I would just kind of ... and what he said, and what he has reported on. I've kept abreast of pretty much what he's doing. I don't have any magic solutions ... and I don't see that I would. If he can find some way to drain it into the southern end without creating an environmental ...

The other thing that I'm interested in knowing about that is, that the newspaper is ... the Burns Times-Herald files and discovered it --- this same thing happened about fifty years ago. That's what I read. I don't --- has there been a lot in the paper about this?

BRIAN: Marcus Haines has the levels of the refuge clear back, and has been very hopeful about it.

NORMA: And it was ...

BRIAN: Well Pauline ---

PAULINE BRAYMEN: It's been at least two hundred years, according to my research.

NORMA: Oh, has it?

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

PAULINE: Uh huh. At least two hundred years. That's my --- the research I have done, has pointed to that. I'm not going --- I could be proven wrong, but ---

NORMA: Well I --- all I can do is say that I'm following the problem, what Bob Smith is doing. If there is anyone who can assist in that problem, it is Bob Smith, and I assume a few senators would follow his lead as ... Hatfield and Packwood's office.

STUDENT: Okay ...

NORMA: Okay the sales tax. The reason that the sales tax is controlled by the legislature is because for over ten years now this state has had a property tax revolt. It is led and fueled primarily by senior citizens. Starting in the late '60's and early '70's, people that felt that they were property taxed right out of their homes. Our property taxes are too high. The reason our property tax is --- are too high --- does everybody know why they're too high? The reason our property taxes are too high is that's how we fund this school.

Most --- most funding for kindergarten through grades twelve, in the entire State of Oregon, are funded out of property taxes. And for at least a decade, most political leaders, whether they are democrat or republican have been saying that we've got to find a different way to fund the schools. It's not a just way; it's not an equitable way. Most people are very concerned about education; do not want the community to go through this constant strife of trying to get budgets passed.

Most people that I know in government, whether they're city folk or rural folk, whether they're democrats or republicans, agree that these basic statements that education is probably the most important function of a democracy. And most people agree that we should find some other way to pay for elementary and secondary education.

Now the rub is in finding and agreeing on how you shift that cost. So this last attempt --- now the sales tax of --- sales tax usually are not supported by democrats. I used to be a democrat. I'll bet



## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

most of you are democrats. ... (Laughter) So most democrats do not support a sales tax. The democratic parties never support a sales tax. And the reason they don't is that they think a sales tax affects lower income people more. It takes a bigger bite out of their, out of their income and ... people. So they, whenever the republican businessmen over the last couple of decades have come out and said we want a sales tax, the democrats, well they say we don't want a sales tax, it affects the lower income, it affects the elderly, it's aggressive. So nix on the sales tax.

Now in 1969, the republicans controlled the legislature and they were a ... conservative element too from the senate side that supported the sales tax. And it went down, just overwhelmingly. In Baker County, they defeated it 20 to 1. That's a real high margin. So it took a long time to bring the sales tax up for issue again. But I think all of us that supported it, and most of the politicians in Oregon, whether they're democrat or republican, most of them think the rational policies in this state, got together and said we've got to do something to stop this property tax, you know, we've got to find some way to take care of schools. And that sales tax is what they came up with. And it would have reduced property taxes by about 40 percent, and reduced income taxes about 10 percent.

And I supported it for two reasons. First of all I think that it's critical for this state ... that we balance our tax system. It's out of kilter. And then very importantly we have to find another way to keep our schools going and adequately funded. And I think that that tax ... people that have done that. It would have relieved all that underlying tension that schools have. But now that the sales tax was defeated so resoundingly, I'm not going to come back and say I want you to vote for the sales tax. People don't trust politicians, and they don't trust the governor. So what I'm committed to doing is getting myself elected governor, and demonstrating to the people of this state that I can do more with what's already there. And I think the people want that. It's not just decreasing budgets, I think it's restructuring some government, and the way we deliver services ...

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

STUDENT: What is the future of state aids for higher education?

NORMA: State aid to higher education. Now, before you can understand all this ... this is another rule of leadership. Under our system of democracy, you can't understand government, and you can't really ... to make changes, whether it is city, county, or state, until you know how it's funded. So whenever you're tackling a problem as a leader, whether it is for this school, or city, or county, find out how it is funded, where the money comes from. And look to see whether it should come --- if it's coming from the right source, if that's fair, and if it's right.

So now we know that elementary and secondary education is primarily from property tax. Well higher education in this state, a lot of it comes out of personal income taxes. My personal income taxes, and corporate income taxes, and then of course the tuition that the students pay. Tuition and income taxes. Well Oregon's income taxes, personal and corporate, is used in funding not only higher education, but also all the state agencies, the prisons, different hospitals. All state governments essentially is funded out of personal income taxes too.

So higher education has to kind of get in there and bid --- put its best foot forward when the legislature, when they're divvying up the personal income pot. And when unemployment rises, and we have fewer jobs, then our income tax revenues go down. So that means that the competition for those income tax dollars ... And this last time the governor and legislature tried to emphasize higher education. And we were losing ... or having what is called a brain drain. Did you ever play ... but we were having a brain drain. And that means that some of the best minds that we had at our institutions were leaving because they weren't paid enough money. And the reason that they weren't paid enough money, is the legislators who was doling out the personal and corporate income taxes -- the crunch was on, the state had fewer dollars, and so higher education was getting a --- was kind of taking a back door.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

So this time the governor and the legislature said higher education is critical to enticing new business in, new high tech. So they worked really hard, and voted a lot of the lottery money, a lot of it to higher education. I believe, put it all in bullion ... very important, but I think we're going to have to take a closer look at that and find out if there is ... to this problem. And also find ways to move some of this science and engineering, parts of higher ed to the Portland area because that's where most of the high tech is, and high tech is interested in engineering and sciences. So I think concentrate the lottery money, more to the people.

STUDENT: What is your position on the Oregon lottery?

NORMA: My position on the Oregon lottery is that I'm opposed to it. I not only voted against it, but I argued against it. Philosophically I'm opposed to it. I think it is kind of a ... Oregon system. We ought not to try to solve our problems by turning on innocent people and our citizens. I think that's what the lottery does. And I also think that it's easier for the criminal element to operate if you have a ... which is what the lottery is. So I don't approve of it. But now that we have it, and the people voted it in, we ought to treat it as butter and egg money.

But when you're talking about Oregon's economy, or Oregon's future, please do not make the mistake of thinking the lottery is going to solve our problem. The lottery will not solve any of these problems. And it won't because we don't have a large enough population to sustain it, and those people that are here aren't suckers. And people try it for the novelty of it. But as far as you and I could continue ... make mistakes with the lottery, we're not going to do it. We're too smart for that. So look at the lottery money as just butter and egg money, use it for special projects, not as something that's going to solve our problems.

STUDENT: What do you plan to do about the high unemployment rates in Oregon ...

NORMA: I have every intention of ... What do I intend to do about high unemployment rates. Am

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

I correct in thinking that Burns, or that Snow Mountain is going to put in another plant? Well that is good news. And there's something else that is on the burner that nobody is talking about. Another plant that is going to come in? I was giving a speech about a month or so ago and Arlie Oster, who went to high school in the local area, was in Portland for a conference and he came up later and told me that he was really excited because there was going to be another business in Burns, but they couldn't say what it was. You don't know what it is? Well they were very excited about it; I was hoping you'd all know by the time I got here.

Anyway, unemployment. Oregon has gone through a serious problem. The recession has hit us, our state more than any other state. And I might give you a little history on it. Then you won't make the same mistakes. Noisy little fellow isn't he? Now don't forget to smile.

When I used to work for the Secretary of State's Office, he used to come in my office, I had a really good looking woman that worked for me and he used to moon over her all the time. (Laughter) ... The unemployment situation. I think that this little bit of history would be important for you to know. Oregon is relying almost totally on timber, that's been the mainstay of the economy. And secondly, agriculture. Historically that's been where our economy comes from.

It always used to amuse me when I lived here; people come in and say why do you have this huge mill out here? Where in the world are the trees? You and I don't think of that, because we live here and know where the trees are. But when you drive through here, it's hard to comprehend ... this big mill out there. Anyway Burns has really depended on the timber, and most of the communities in Oregon were.

In 1973, a professor at Oregon State University by the name of Buder came out with a report, and it was a blockbuster. He had spent two or three years analyzing what has happened to the timber market. And in 1973 he came to the legislature and he said, "I have some very bad news for you.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

And the bad news is this. That by the end of this decade, Oregon's economy was going to be in very terrible conditions, if you don't do two things. The timber supply ... competition from the Canadian markets, and they had competition from these other mills, and our wage rates, wage rates are going up so high that Oregon won't be competitive. And if the nation stops making housing a real priority, then Oregon is going to have a terrible problem."

Now this is over ten years ago. And that report was accompanied in the legislature by the economists from our two major banks. So he came to the legislature, and he said, "Hey you folks, you better pay attention because this is real serious business. The bottom is going to fall out of the timber market. You better do two things. You had better change the tax structure, and you better diversify. Start doing some other kind of economic base in this state to, to take the place of the timber when it is going through this big cycle."

Well in 1973, the legislature wasn't interested in business. The legislature was interested in environment. We had just come off Watergate and Vietnam. There was a very liberal feeling running through the legislature. And business was ridiculed. The stock ... was not held in high regard at all. So no attention was paid to that warning. Now the next year, about a year later, Tom McCall, our most famous governor and most respected governor, came back with a conservative democrat who was president of the senate, and said, "Hey, I think this is kind of serious business. I think Professor Buder was right, and I think what we ought to do is establish a Pacific Rim study so we can start looking to the Pacific Rim countries." And the legislature didn't pay attention to that either.

So the message to you is treat your leaders here --- that if people come to you with information like that, pay close attention, sit back or listen and take a broader view of what it is, and pay attention. If you've got people that are economists and business leaders come to you with messages, you ought

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

to understand that they are there for a reason.

Well it was not until 1980, that the legislature really paid attention to the economy. Now I should stop right there and say that these are my opinions, as being involved and an observer. And other people might have different opinions. But since 1980, even the most liberal people in the legislature they say yes, we better look at the economy. And I think the most amazing thing, the first mistake that was made by the legislature and the executive branch, was they didn't inventory the needs of the existing businesses. If things go bad, there is a tendency to run after the loose stuff.

And you can see that in your own lives ... if it's --- and it's kind of like if the queen comes from ... and you think oh gee, that girl looks a little better, and her hair looks real good, and the new kid on the block, and you realize that it's too late, that you should have stuck with the one at home. (Laughter) The message is, that that's where you improve the economy, is to make sure that the existing businesses are flourishing.

And in conjunction with that I think you must understand, and I'm saying this because I believe the economist that I've used --- there will be no company that likes it, a big company that rides the white horse ... that is not what is going to happen to save it. What is going to save this state is we're going to pull ourselves together and inventory our assets and liabilities, and then concentrate on the businesses ... Like finding out what they need to stay in line. And we're going to understand that small businesses --- now that means everything from the guy that fixes shoes --- does Sandy still have the shoe shop here? Sandy's Shoe Shop ... You've got to find out what those businesses need to stay afloat for another year.

And there are things like workers compensation system that will have to be changed. We'll have to change attitudes ... a lot of money. But people are afraid to invest it, they're afraid to renovate, and they're afraid to spend because they're not sure where the state is going.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

So I feel very good about Oregon's future. When you have to look, kind of look at ourselves differently. You have to understand that the Pacific Rim countries ... countries are going to be very important not only to our future, but to the future of this country. That's where it's --- most country's products are going to have to be marketed. And Oregon and Washington are just sitting there, waiting to have all of that funneled through ... our contracts.

We are constantly upgrading reports, making sure that there are highways to the ... and concentrate a lot on the railroad. Then you have to start thinking outside of Harney County and thinking outside of Oregon.

You know an interesting thing, yesterday when I was in Pendleton there are grain and wheat fields up there that are very important. They are very sophisticated people. And when they stood up, up in Pendleton, they don't talk about what's going on in Portland; they suggested that we find out what was going on in St. Louis Seaways. There is a nice article about it in the paper yesterday. But the St. Louis Seaway, with the locks that's ... so the Canadian wheat can't get out.

And the countries in the Midwest that use any kind of wheat can ... ship their products to the east, and now they're looking to Oregon. And the wheat growers up there are concentrating on the railroad so it would help move some of those products to the Midwest through the Columbia River.

And senators are trying to update the locks ... so you're going to have to learn to think here on ...

STUDENT: How do you feel on the recent arrest of the Baghwan?

NORMA: The recent arrest of the Baghwan. Well I'll tell you a little story about --- I had a real run in with Baghwan last year over, near Prineville ... from Wasco County. And I don't know too much about this publicly ... I really don't know about the current situation, because Mr. Frohnmayer ... prosecution ... But I'll tell you this; it will give you some idea of where I came from. Last year when I was having my problems ... One of the ... former Governor Straub, the former chief judge

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

of the court of appeals, and former supreme court justice ... on election day to be independent monitors. The reason that I asked them there is that no one could have passed their credentials. The Rajneesh could not have said that they were prejudiced.

And that the finishing touch to my plan was to have three independent and highly respected people that could say to the court ... to the system to make sure that I didn't disenfranchise anybody, and that the Rajneesh didn't take advantage of the situation. Well, I couldn't tell anybody this a year ago, but I'll tell you this now. There is a woman that's traveling with me in the group with ... dark hair. She picks all the food, everything that goes through ... lives that ... eat and drink in Salem. ... a constant path and that we keep ... close, the state policeman in Madras when local foods that we brought in from outside ... Now if I was doing that a year ago, that'll give you some idea of what we were thinking a year ago, but were not talking about.

STUDENT: ... what kind of action is being taken to stop another type of Rajneesh entering Oregon?

NORMA: Well, I don't know that there is anything that can be done. And I don't know that we want to do that. We certainly don't want to ... we're going to have to be tolerant of other people's religions. As far as I'm concerned, when I first went over there, I don't think the people of Eastern Oregon wanted to discriminate against those people. If they wanted to abide by the same laws that you and I have to, that was the rub. If they want to put on red dresses and beads and drive Rolls Royces around Madras, and bow to each other, that's their business, and I don't care. But it's when they refuse to abide by the laws, and think that our system and our beliefs in the law are irrelevant and can be ridden rough shod, that's where I get my dander up.

But you want to be careful and not ... to the rest of the country. I do think that each of us, and I'm guilty of this my-self, I did not press the immigration service. I just assumed that the immigration



## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

service was really hot on the trail of that people. Now when Shelia said the Baghwan had been adopted by her folks, you know, that was ridiculous. So I just assumed the immigration people were really on to them. And now I find out through the stories in the Oregonian that they weren't. So I think the people ... get in on this, should have really been pressuring the immigration service. So the next time --- the one thing that I --- make sure federal authorities were pursuing their jobs more. ... Does that mean we're over? Thank you.

STUDENTS: Thank you.

...

NORMA: ... so I have always read, and I would encourage you to do that. And you fellows if you don't want to read about history, and don't want to read about politics, or current events, then read about hunting, read about fishing, about cars, or sports, but read. Do not let television be your sole source of information. If you will dedicate yourself to learning to read and made reading a habit, I guarantee you that it will be very, very beneficial to you. Because everything that you read, and you stick away up here, is the one thing that you will be able to keep with you. Nobody will ever be able to take away from you. You can gain enormous amounts of knowledge without spending any money, by reading.

Secondly, if it is at all possible, learn a second language. I have always felt inadequate because I do not speak a second language. And that's going to be --- it's critical for my age group right now, but it will be more so for you. You simply have to have some second language. And that too can be gained without much expense. A little dedication and hard work that you can.

Now when I went to Burns High School, one of the best things that happened, looking back on it, is I took Latin. We had a teacher that was an extraordinary Latin teacher, and I was just immersed in it. And I'll tell you what it did for me. When I couldn't go to college, I went to work as a secretary

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

to the district attorney in Harney County, who at that time was the uncle of now the superintendent -- the school superintendent, Vern Duncan. His uncle was the district attorney here. And all the words used in the legal profession have a Latin root. And so by the time I was 24, and talked myself into going to law school, and at the time I was making enough money and saving enough money to pay tuition. Even though the men that I went to law school with had gone to college, I was almost even with them, because I knew a lot about the procedures that I had learned in the Harney County Courthouse. Everybody taught me, the judges, the sheriff, the county clerk, the district attorney, they all knew I was interested, so they all helped me learn the procedures.

And I've also had this fantastic background, Latin background, and I knew more about the root words used in the legal profession than the men that I was in class with, that had gone to college. So sometimes things work out for the best, if you apply yourself, and take advantage of what's there.

The other thing I would ask you to do is to concentrate on your health, concentrate on wellness. Have strong healthy bodies, that's going to be necessary, you'll enjoy life a lot more. And discipline yourselves; learn to discipline yourselves to achieve tasks, and to achieve the goals that you set for yourself. Be physically active, and you'll be more productive, and you'll be happier citizens.

And the last thing I'd like to tell you, and I believe this with every part of me, and I want you to believe it, because I think it will be the key to your future. If you want to be something, or if you want to accomplish a particular goal or task, start imagining yourself in that position. See yourself in that position, see yourself accomplishing that goal. And concentrate on that so much, that when you close your eyes you can visualize yourself in that situation. And believe me, if you can put yourself in that mental state, then you're halfway home. Everything that you can imagine, you can become; you can discipline yourself and have the will to do it. I believe that as surely as I'm

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #214-A - NORMA PAULUS

standing here, and I think I'm living proof of it. So concentrate on that too. Thank you, and I will close now, and hopefully I will see you at the reception. Thank you very much.

STUDENT: We now have the representative from the Harney County Chamber of Commerce, and also a good friend, Margaret McRae.

MARGARET McRAE: Friends, I can't run as fast as Norma, and I didn't want to take up a lot of time, but I do --- and before I make this presentation, I want to remind Norma about something. I saw her shake her head a while ago ... and I asked her if she knew what she wanted to be when she was a little girl. I used to walk to school with Norma in grade school, right up in front of the Chamber of Commerce, and on up "B" street, to what is now Slater School. One morning I asked Norma, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" She said, "I'm going to be a lawyer." And that has stuck in my mind every time I see Norma on TV, or wherever I see her. Like she says, set your goals, and be what you want to be, and that's what you'll be. I welcome the next governor of Oregon! By the way, Norma, that is your bouquet from the Harney County Chamber of Commerce. We all love you!

STUDENT: The leadership class invited Norma here today, and we all got together and thought we should give her something. And so we put our heads together, and since --- when she was going to school here it was the Bulldogs. It was never the Hilanders. So, we're making her an honorary Hilander. We made a silhouette for her and signed it. (Band plays.)

(END OF TAPE)

--

bl