

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #232 - Sides A & B

Subject: Austa Carlon

Place: Carlon Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: July 20, 1988

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy and we're talking, and I'm with Barbara Lofgren, and we're talking with Austa Carlon at her home in Burns, Oregon. And the date is July 20th, 1988. Okay Austa, we're going to talk to you a little bit, and kind of reminisce, and try to find out who you are, and what you --- and where you came from, and what you've been doing all your life. Can you first tell us your name?

AUSTA CARLON: Austa Marcile Carlon.

DOROTHEA: And can you spell your middle name?

AUSTA: M A R C I L E.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell me something about your life here in Harney County, and have you lived here all your life, or ---

AUSTA: No, my husband and I came here in 1941, to --- at Riley, Oregon, where we had purchased a cattle ranch.

DOROTHEA: Let's back up a little bit, and find out where you were born and what your maiden name was, and how you met your husband, and what his name was.

AUSTA: I was born in Bakeoven, Oregon, which is a wide place in the road near Antelope, and Shaniko, in that area.

DOROTHEA: Bakeoven?

AUSTA: Right.

DOROTHEA: B A C K O V E N. How do you spell it?

AUSTA: B A K E O V E N.

DOROTHEA: B A K E O V E N. Okay.

AUSTA: My dad was a freighter. He freighted from The Dalles to Shaniko, and that general area.

BARBARA LOFGREN: And when were you born?

AUSTA: I was born in 1907, February the 6th.

BARBARA: And do you have any brothers and sisters?

AUSTA: I had three brothers, and two sisters. One brother died at birth. Both the brothers are dead, and my older sister is dead, and my younger sister still lives in Oakland, California.

DOROTHEA: Oakland?

AUSTA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell me their names?

AUSTA: Frank, Ted, Esther, Neva, and the baby was not named.

DOROTHEA: And your maiden name was?

AUSTA: Graves.

DOROTHEA: Graves. And your father's name was what?

AUSTA: Elmer Godley Graves.

DOROTHEA: And your mother's name?

AUSTA: Hema Hamilton.

DOROTHEA: Can you spell that?

AUSTA: H E M A.

DOROTHEA: H E M A.

BARBARA: That's an unusual name.

AUSTA: Well she was christened Mary Lucy. But --- not Mary Lucy, Martha Lucy, I believe it was. But they lived at the time she was born, down near Cottage Grove where the Bohemia Mines are. And they nicknamed her Hema. (Laughter) That's what she was always called, Hema.

DOROTHEA: She didn't go by the other ---

AUSTA: No.

DOROTHEA: --- the baptized ---

AUSTA: Baptized, baptismal name.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Okay, and your father was a freighter. And where did you meet your husband, and what was his name?

AUSTA: I met Homer Carlon in Summer Lake, about 1926 or '27. I was working for a family at Summer Lake. And he lived at Summer Lake. We started dating then.

DOROTHEA: And you got married ---

AUSTA: Got married June the 13th, 1928. The day after I graduated from the University of Oregon.

BARBARA: I might go back just a little bit, where did you go to grade school?

AUSTA: Silver Lake.

BARBARA: Silver Lake.

AUSTA: I was raised in Silver Lake from about the age of five.

BARBARA: All through high school?

AUSTA: All through high school. And my dad had a livery stable there the first few years we were there. Then he bought a farm about a half-mile out of town, where he lived until he passed away. Uh huh.

BARBARA: And then you went on to college right after high school?

AUSTA: Right after high school.

BARBARA: Oh. And what did you major in, in college?

AUSTA: I started out in English, and romance languages, and ended up in education.

BARBARA: And then after you graduated from college, did you go into teaching right away, or ---

AUSTA: No. I didn't start teaching until 1941. Thirteen years after I was married.

BARBARA: Oh.

AUSTA: After we had moved to here.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: We came to town to send the children to school. They lost a teacher in October of '41, and conscripted me to fill in. At the time I was working at the local U. S. Bank.

BARBARA: Oh.

DOROTHEA: And what school did you work, teach at, at first?

AUSTA: Well the, what is now Slater.

DOROTHEA: Slater?

AUSTA: The fifth grade.

DOROTHEA: Fifth grade.

AUSTA: Uh huh. The next year I went to the high school and taught for ten years.

BARBARA: So when was it that you graduated from college then?

AUSTA: 1928.

BARBARA: 1928. And so you didn't teach school until '41. Then you had kind of a lot of catching up to do.

AUSTA: You can say that again! (Laughter)

BARBARA: Preparing yourself. Was that a pretty scary thing to start out?

AUSTA: It was scary, and I'm sure I worked harder than any of the kids that year.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: What was the high school like when you started there? Who was the principal and superintendent at that time?

AUSTA: Mr. Gabbert I believe.

BARBARA: Gabbert?

AUSTA: If he wasn't at that time, he was shortly after I went out there.

DOROTHEA: I was trying to think who is ---

AUSTA: But he wasn't ---

DOROTHEA: --- before ---

AUSTA: I can't remember who.

DOROTHEA: I can see the man, but I can't ---

AUSTA: And I can see him, he was a very tall slender fellow, and they had one daughter.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

AUSTA: But I can't think of his name right now.

DOROTHEA: I can't either.

AUSTA: I should have looked that up.

BARBARA: Did you teach English all during the time ---

AUSTA: No.

BARBARA: Or what other classes did you teach then?

AUSTA: I taught girls P.E. to begin with ---

BARBARA: Girls P.E. Oh.

AUSTA: --- for several years. Then I taught, then I was put into the library, which necessitated my going to summer school about every other summer.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: The last --- after ten years, my three kids were all out of school, so I went to the

ranch, was there five years. During those five years, I taught one year for Mr. Slater, 7th and 8th grade math. Then I came back in '57. My husband died in May of '57, and I came back that fall and taught ten more years in the high school. The last few years were in the English Department.

DOROTHEA: You mentioned you had three children. Can you tell me their names?

AUSTA: Their married names?

DOROTHEA: Well let's start with their names, just ---

AUSTA: Doris Ann, Betty Lee, and Larry.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And their names now is Doris White.

AUSTA: White.

DOROTHEA: Betty Morgan, and Larry. And his wife's name is?

AUSTA: Wanda. And she and Mike Morgan are brother and sister.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Can you tell us something about maybe your life with the children on the ranch?

AUSTA: Well, it was, was a very close-knit family. They all worked, worked in the hay field. They helped in the summers. They cooked when I had to go to summer school. We did things together. We had picnics. We, they had friends that could come at any time. And they would play games, and play cards and have good times together. We came to town frequently, and always brought them with us. We ate out, went to a movie, did things like that.

DOROTHEA: Normal family life.

AUSTA: Normal family life, at that time anyhow.

BARBARA: A little different now, but at that time it was pretty much the norm.

AUSTA: Pretty much the norm.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And you had cattle, is that what you ---

AUSTA: Yes, uh huh, we had cattle.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And you did haying and that sort of thing? Did you have hay crews come in to help during the summers?

AUSTA: Oh, yes. At that time, we did. At the beginning of our time there we did all our haying with horses. And we had two crews. We would have a mowing crew, and a stacking crew going at the same time. So we had quite a few men to cook for.

BARBARA: So did you do the cooking mostly, or did you have help come in at that time?

AUSTA: I usually had someone helping me. And then if I was gone, we either had a cook, or the girls did the cooking. Most of the time we had a cook, if the girls worked in the hay field.

BARBARA: Was it people, men that just hired to come around to do that sort of thing, or did you trade off with other ranchers to help each other out ---

AUSTA: No.

BARBARA: --- with haying?

AUSTA: No. At that time we each did our own, because our hay would get ready at the same times.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: So we couldn't very well do that.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: And there would be men who would come regularly, work summer after summer. And some of the local people would help. We hired boys, Chuck Patton, Dale White, young school, high school boys would come out to work.

BARBARA: Did they live at your ranch then?

AUSTA: Yes, we had a bunkhouse, and extra rooms in the house. We had plenty of room for the hay hands.

BARBARA: So about how many did you have then?

AUSTA: Oh, we had ---

BARBARA: I mean, kind of on an average?

AUSTA: Oh, probably around eighteen or twenty.

BARBARA: My, that's a big crew then, isn't it?

AUSTA: It is a big crew.

BARBARA: How big of a ranch did you have?

AUSTA: We ran about a thousand head of cattle.

BARBARA: Oh, my.

AUSTA: We had holdings in the mountains.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: At Emigrant Creek, Egypt Well. We owned the Gap Ranch, besides the home ranch. The home ranch has been divided into two parts. Hoyts own half of it, and I think Mrs. Clark owns the other half.

DOROTHEA: Clark, I can't --- I can't.

AUSTA: They're the ones that bought Mike's and Betty's ranch out there. That was the Zogleman's Ranch.

BARBARA: And where did you take your cattle to market at that time?

AUSTA: The buyers would come in, and they would be trucked out to --- I'm not sure, wherever the buyer happened to be from. He might have them shipped to Klamath Falls, and on to San Francisco. Or he might ship them east to the stockyards to be fed.

BARBARA: Were prices pretty good at that time?

AUSTA: Oh, for the time, yes. They were all right. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You saw the time when cattle prices went low, and way high.

AUSTA: Right.

DOROTHEA: But now they're at that medium stage where they never raise, and they never ---

AUSTA: Sort of leveled off ---

DOROTHEA: Right.

AUSTA: --- haven't they?

DOROTHEA: They don't get too high. Let's go back a little bit and kind of talk about when you first came on the ranch with your husband. What enticed you to come to Harney County in the first place?

AUSTA: The three --- there were three brothers; they were in partnership at Summer Lake. And the ranch was just too small for that many, so they divided it up. And the two brothers, the other two stayed there and bought another ranch that had belonged to their grandparents, and bought Homer out. And he had been looking around for a suitable place, and he liked this spot out here. It belonged to Davey Jones. He was running both sheep and cattle.

DOROTHEA: The three brothers was, were --- are you saying that that was Homer's brothers?

AUSTA: Right.

DOROTHEA: And they were all in partnership more or less together.

AUSTA: Right.

DOROTHEA: What kind of a place did you look at when you came here? Was there a house, a home, or did you build your own, or was it ---

AUSTA: It was a big two-story house. The ranch was originally part of the Pacific Land and Livestock Company's holdings.

DOROTHEA: So there were ---

AUSTA: And originally it was painted barn red.

BARBARA: Oh, my.

AUSTA: But when we bought it, it had been repainted white.

DOROTHEA: Did you have to do some remodeling, or did you just go in ---

AUSTA: We didn't for quite a while. But when I quit teaching the first time, we did remodel it. We built a big dining room at the back for haying time. And a laundry room. We already had two, three --- five bedrooms. A big living room. We opened up the living and dining room areas into one area. And remodeled the kitchen. Did quite a bit of work. Put in a fireplace.

DOROTHEA: So, in other words you made it more the comforts of your home rather than what it was.

AUSTA: Right, right.

DOROTHEA: Were your children born in Harney County, or were they born before you moved to ---

AUSTA: They were all born in Lake County.

DOROTHEA: Lake County.

AUSTA: Doris was in the 6th, Betty the 4th, and Larry the 2nd when we came here.

DOROTHEA: They were all in school then?

AUSTA: All in school.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us some of the differences between Lake County and Harney County as far as weather and ground, and growing crops?

AUSTA: There is not a great deal of difference. The climate is pretty much the same, except Summer Lake was a little warmer. It's a sheltered valley. When Fremont came across this country and went up above Summer Lake on up --- it's called Winter Ridge, and looked over into the valley and named it Summer Lake, because it had a good-sized lake. There is a natural spring there that makes Ana River, and it runs into the lake. And

it was pretty summery looking to him at that time.

DOROTHEA: Are --- is Riley a lot drier than areas around in Harney County, or do you get a lot of moisture, did you get a lot of moisture out there?

AUSTA: They do flood irrigating from Silver Creek.

DOROTHEA: Silver Creek.

AUSTA: So the moisture, rainfall is about the same as the rest of the county.

DOROTHEA: Because I know that there is different, different climates. Now like up in Silvies, well we're never as hot, you know, as we are down here.

AUSTA: No, it's higher up there.

DOROTHEA: And you get a little better crops up there, I think, because of the cool, cooler weather. It holds the moisture in a lot better.

AUSTA: Perhaps.

DOROTHEA: So I was kind of wondering about whether Riley was the same or not.

AUSTA: Well they had water, and the crops were good. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: They did flood irrigating.

DOROTHEA: Look at my notes.

BARBARA: What did you and your husband do for entertainment? Did you go to dances and things like that when you first moved to Harney County?

AUSTA: Yes, there was a grange hall out there. We went to the grange dances. We came in here to the grange dances. Belonged to the grange. We went to the Pine Room. George Tilley was, the --- I think he and Marge were partners in the Pine Room.

BARBARA: Oh.

AUSTA: And they ---

BARBARA: So they've been around for a long time too.

AUSTA: They've been around for a long time. Yes. (Laughter)

And we went to the hills and picnicked. And worked pretty much most of the time it seemed like.

BARBARA: Did you play cards and things like that, at that time?

AUSTA: But kids --- played pinochle with their dad. I was usually busy cooking, and didn't join in much. So I never learned to play pinochle. That was their game. And they had dates. We'd go riding in the country with the cars, and come to town. Go to the movies.

DOROTHEA: When you quit using horses as your main type of equipment production, or whatever, and started using tractors, did that seem like a real fast way of doing your haying and farming and ---

AUSTA: It was somewhat faster, and it took a lot fewer men. That got to be a problem to get enough men who weren't winos, and would stay on the job to do the work. So it did help in that respect.

DOROTHEA: This sounds so familiar. Because my parents went through the same thing.

AUSTA: I'm sure they did. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: We had a lot of Indians working for us, and not always the same ones, but a lot of ---

AUSTA: I know what you mean, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us some of the difference and changes of the ranch when you first moved on to it, and bought it, compared to when you sold it and moved to town?

AUSTA: Well I think we did quite a bit of work in the irrigation department, by building dams and head gates, and that sort of thing. And then in the forest, we had forest permit. There was quite a change in that. They began to have us cross-fence our permit areas

and move our cattle more, from one field to another. That was quite a change. One, which my husband wasn't real crazy about. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: This meant a lot of work on the rancher itself. I know this is ---

AUSTA: You know about that.

DOROTHEA: --- some of the changes that we've experienced too.

AUSTA: Right.

DOROTHEA: We used to have a rider on ours. Old Jim Lumsden did a lot of our salting.

AUSTA: I know that. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And did he ever work for you in that respect?

AUSTA: No, but he was a good friend of ours.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: As far as I know, he didn't. We also had a permit on the bird refuge where we put up some hay and had pasture. Down below the Double O.

DOROTHEA: Did you trail your cattle this ---

AUSTA: Yes.

DOROTHEA: --- to this end? Did you stay overnight in several places? What was your experiences with trailing cattle?

AUSTA: Well usually there was a place to hold them. You could move far enough to get into a field to hold them.

DOROTHEA: About how many miles did you travel a day?

AUSTA: Oh, probably ten or twelve.

DOROTHEA: This was an interesting part of some of our lives, even mine. I mean, you know, and I'm, I'm getting used to being older I guess. I guess I'm joining the ranks of the older group, person. But we used to trail our cattle from Silvies, and it would take the whole day, and then we would just reach the Baker Corrals about dark. And we would

start out bright and early in the mornings. So that was twelve miles.

AUSTA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So I know it's a long trek. And you ---

AUSTA: That is what Doris and Frank did, and they stayed at the Baker Corrals with theirs.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: I drove the pickup one time for them with their lunch.

DOROTHEA: That's my job; I always got to do the cooking.

AUSTA: I got to do that out there too. I'd take the lunch, and I'd take the truck and haul them back to the ranch for overnight, and take them back to where the cattle were the next morning.

DOROTHEA: I always considered myself the most important part of that operation.
(Laughter)

AUSTA: I didn't like it.

DOROTHEA: The feeder, and the trail --- and driver.

AUSTA: I'd rather ride; go horseback right along with the cattle.

DOROTHEA: Me too.

AUSTA: But I don't have any choice.

DOROTHEA: I don't like it either. But some reason or other, I always got nominated for that.

AUSTA: So did I.

BARBARA: Did you enjoy life on the ranch, that type of living?

AUSTA: Yes, yes I did. I liked it.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: In fact I'd still like to be there. We lived at Wagontire for a number of summers

before we bought the ranch at Riley. And one of my worst experiences was having our friend Frank Dobkins murdered there, when we were living there.

DOROTHEA: This is at Wagontire?

AUSTA: Uh huh. He had gone with Homer, started out with Homer to look at some cattle. And Homer was riding a colt, and that's the only reason he went with him. He didn't want him to go alone. The first gate they stopped, he got off to open it, Frank did, and this man just shot him in cold blood. Said he had been told he needed killing. So he thought he'd do it. They sent him to the pen, but he was paroled later.

BARBARA: Well ---

AUSTA: So that's my ---

BARBARA: Not too good an experience.

AUSTA: Worst experience.

DOROTHEA: That's something that you remember with regret.

AUSTA: That happened May the 20th, 1936, I think. I remember the May 20th date perfectly, but I think it was '36. That's one of about four murders that I know about.

DOROTHEA: Out at Wagontire?

AUSTA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Maybe that's not a good place to go to. I'm looking for a place to retire. Maybe that's not a good place to retire.

AUSTA: Well I think it's calmed down now. It was a good place to live in the summertime.

DOROTHEA: When your children were going to school, can you tell us some of the changes in their school lives, and the school lives of students today?

AUSTA: Well I haven't taught for twenty years, so I'm not too familiar with the present day school system.

DOROTHEA: Well you've seen the kids though, around, and ---

AUSTA: Well I think there is a lot of difference to be frank. I hear kids going by here swearing and using foul language. And if I'd heard my kids doing that when they were in school, they would have gotten their little bottoms tanned! It makes me, it makes me kind of sick really to think that they are so --- everything is so permissive, and there is so little family life that I feel sorry for kids growing up now. I really do.

DOROTHEA: Go ahead.

BARBARA: Was there much problem in discipline and that sort of thing when you were in the classroom? Did you have any unruly children?

AUSTA: I had absolutely no discipline problem. I handled my own discipline problems.

BARBARA: Uh huh. I mean as a general rule in school, did the teachers comment about on that sort of thing that they thought they had problems with their students in the classroom?

AUSTA: Not many of them. Occasionally one would. I know of one or two that did have problems.

BARBARA: But it's not a general thing.

AUSTA: But it wasn't a general thing, no.

BARBARA: A chance to be, you know, in now ---

AUSTA: And kids wouldn't swear at you, and say nasty things to you, as I understand they do now. I've had teachers tell me that. And why they permit it, I don't know.

BARBARA: Somewhere along the line it seemed to have turned around, and some of the students seem to be in charge, rather than the teachers.

AUSTA: I think we have a lot more younger teachers now. And perhaps they get a bad start, and try to be too ---

BARBARA: A friend, rather than one in charge.

AUSTA: Yes. I think you can be a friend, but I still think you have to be in charge. I always felt that I was friends.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: That I was a friend with my pupils. I really did, with most of them. There was always a few that dislike you.

BARBARA: What kind of class sizes did you have then?

AUSTA: Fairly large. Anywhere from twenty to thirty, thirty-five. Sometimes even forty.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Do you recall what the enrollment was at the high school at the time that you were there?

AUSTA: It must have been fairly large, when I quit.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: By having that size classes.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: What was the year that you quit teaching in high school?

AUSTA: The first time it was '50 --- the spring of '52. And the second time, the spring of '67.

DOROTHEA: '67.

AUSTA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Because I know I graduated in '54, and our class was fifty-four. That was the --- we graduated fifty-four in '54. That's our kind of a motto that we have. And I think that probably, there was probably about two hundred, two hundred and fifty kids at that time.

AUSTA: Not too many at that time. I know there weren't --- Doris graduated in '49, and I think there were only forty in her class, something like --- forty some in her class I think.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: So it was fairly small then.

DOROTHEA: Of course we graduated out of the old, what is now the Lincoln School.

AUSTA: Right.

DOROTHEA: And it's hard for me to call that Lincoln School, because that is still the high school to me.

AUSTA: (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: And I talk about the high school to the kids, and they said, "Mom". You know, they always say Mom. But it's, it's hard for me to think of this other school as the high school, because you know, the other school was our high school and that's what I remember it by. But I think it was about two hundred, two hundred and fifty the whole time that we were in there.

AUSTA: I taught in both of them, of course. And by the time I quit the second time, it was a pretty good enrollment. Possibly eight or nine hundred, I think.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Yeah, I think that school had increased with the Air Force and everything coming into Burns, and Harney County at that time. I think the school classes had increased, I think; my youngest daughter had 108 in her class. So ---

AUSTA: Well, it wouldn't have been eight or nine hundred. Probably six hundred probably.

DOROTHEA: Well, it was pretty high, probably close to 600 anyway.

AUSTA: Uh huh. Yes, I think you're right.

DOROTHEA: Then after the close of the mill, it really dropped. AUSTA: Fast.

DOROTHEA: We're back down to, I --- what was it this year, at graduation of high school was probably eighty.

AUSTA: Is that so?

DOROTHEA: Maybe.

AUSTA: I haven't been to a graduation since Mary Lee graduated.

DOROTHEA: I haven't either. This is embarrassing to say, but I haven't either.

BARBARA: I know you were one of the honored guests at the Burns Excellence in Education Program last October. What did you think of that ceremony?

AUSTA: Oh, I was terribly thrilled. And I felt very honored, I surely did. I still am. I have a renewed teaching certificate. (Laughter)

BARBARA: I was going to ask you if you thought you might just take a place on the faculty.

AUSTA: Well you know I asked him for a position, but he didn't answer me.

BARBARA: He did not respond, did he?

AUSTA: No, he didn't give me one. I felt a little hurt about that. It was really a nice honor.

DOROTHEA: That brought back memories, and memories, and memories. And with these memories, probably you recall some of the students in your classes. Can you tell us some that especially were close to you, or made you proud of them in accomplishments that they have done since graduation, or ---

AUSTA: Well I had Norma Paulus in the fifth grade, and again in high school. And of course we have all been proud of what she's accomplished. My own daughter has did pretty well. Is now a veterinarian. She isn't practicing at this point, but she did practice for a number of years. And remember this --- one of the speakers at that program ---

BARBARA: Dr. Mosley?

AUSTA: Yes. We had him, and he's admissions --- isn't he head of admissions at ---

BARBARA: I think so.

AUSTA: At Princeton?

BARBARA: No, Harvard, wasn't it.

AUSTA: Harvard, Harvard, uh huh Harvard. Oh, we've had lots of students go on and do very, very well. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever teach Bob Smith?

AUSTA: Oh, I --- no. Bob went to a, I think a private school the year he was a sophomore. But I knew him very well. I knew his parents very well. Dr. Smith was my --- our doctor.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. He was a doctor to a lot of us there at --- all through most of our lives.

AUSTA: Right. And he and Doris --- Bob and Doris were real good friends throughout their school.

DOROTHEA: How about Corky Corbett? Did you have him as a student?

AUSTA: Huh. How old was --- is he older than Doris? Yes.

DOROTHEA: I think --- yes he and Chuck Ereno and ---

AUSTA: No, I didn't have him. He was just a little older.

DOROTHEA: They're a little older I guess.

AUSTA: About the first class I remember was --- is Peggy Sitz and that group.

DOROTHEA: So you taught Peggy Sitz.

AUSTA: I had ---

DOROTHEA: Peggy Slater at that time.

AUSTA: Yes. I had her in P.E. Uh huh. Barbara Miller, you remember Barbara Miller who has been in Washington, D. C. all these years?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

AUSTA: Works for the government I think.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, when you get to thinking back you can remember some of these people that have really done a lot with their lives.

AUSTA: Well, there has been a lot of them.

DOROTHEA: And you know, there are a lot of people from Harney County that have made us proud.

AUSTA: That's for sure. We don't need to be ashamed at all of what our young people have accomplished in their lives.

BARBARA: If they want to make the effort, they can certainly do it. They have the opportunity to make ---

AUSTA: Right, and it doesn't mean they can't, just because they are from a smaller school.

BARBARA: That's right.

AUSTA: It doesn't mean that at all.

DOROTHEA: My husband went to school with your youngest son, or your son. The only son I guess.

AUSTA: Only son.

DOROTHEA: Larry. Can you tell me something about maybe their lives? Because they were buddies. Can you remember anything?

AUSTA: Nothing special, except that my son quit the year he was a sophomore. Which caused me many a tear. And he's told me since then that he wished I had made him go on. I said well I tried to, but it ---

DOROTHEA: He never got a G.E.D. or anything?

AUSTA: No. Well he did go on to school at Klamath Falls one year. DOROTHEA: Clinton quit about that same time. I think maybe that might have been a trend that they seemed to be going through. Him and Larry Blair and Larry Carlon, and I think even Maurice Manning at that time were a bunch of the ones that decided school wasn't for them.

AUSTA: Did Maurice quit too?

DOROTHEA: I can't remember if Maurice quit, or he moved.

AUSTA: Larry and Clinton were good friends too.

DOROTHEA: And Larry ---

AUSTA: Jimmy Shepherd was another one, but he went on.

DOROTHEA: Jimmy Shepherd. But he went on, he graduated, yes.

AUSTA: But there were quite a few of them that ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they decided that life wasn't school time.

AUSTA: School. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Scott Clinton always tells me; well I don't even remember you in school. And I said no, you was too busy chewing your snooze, and smoking your cigarettes and acting like big shots, you know. (Laughter) But --- when you retired from the teaching, and you went into --- how did you get started --- you now have a home here at the Highland Rock Shop. And you got interested in rocks. Can you tell us something about that?

AUSTA: Yes, I lived on the east side of town, and my friend Emory Clapp lived next to me, and we both belonged to the Rock Club. And so we got interested in rocks and got acquainted with each other. And after a year of not working, I was bored. And he was working for the Forest Service, and was sick of the paper work, so when the shop was for sale, we bought it.

DOROTHEA: And you lived down on Riverside Drive at this time?

AUSTA: It was off Riverside Drive.

DOROTHEA: Off of Riverside Drive.

AUSTA: Yes, North Cedar.

DOROTHEA: Yeah

AUSTA: And he lived right back of me.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I remember.

AUSTA: And this is our twentieth year here.

DOROTHEA: Here?

AUSTA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Oh, it doesn't seem possible.

AUSTA: Makes me pretty old, doesn't it.

BARBARA: Oh no, no. Never admit to that.

DOROTHEA: We're only as old as we feel Austa, so ---

AUSTA: Well, I'm beginning to feel it some days. Well I'll have to tell you the, probably the most exciting visitor we ever had here was Vincent Price.

BARBARA: Oh.

AUSTA: He and his first wife stopped here. She was an interior decorator and she needed some pretty rocks for her, some of her work that she was doing. And they were here probably a good half-hour. He was dressed in boots, Levis, had a kerchief around his neck. We didn't recognize him, because we hadn't watched any of his things in the movies to know, to recognize him. But a young man came down from the radar base, which was going at that time, and recognized him. So before he left, we knew who he was.

BARBARA: Quite an interesting voice.

AUSTA: That was --- yes. He's an interesting character.

BARBARA: Where all have you gone collecting rocks then for your shop? Do you go out and do rock hounding and that sort of thing, when you first started out?

AUSTA: We don't do much --- oh yes, we did a lot of it. We would go to Stinkingwater Mountains, and Harney Lake, on down to the snakeskin agate at Burns Junction. We'd

go to the coast and hunt agate in the ocean. And we'd been to Maury Mountain, which is in Oregon. We'd been to Washington to look for petrified wood. And Nevada for thunder eggs and petrified wood.

DOROTHEA: Do you collect any of these, and then fix them up and sell them as items out of your store? Or do you just collect them for yourself?

AUSTA: Oh yes, we cut and polish thunder eggs, and polish petrified wood, make bookends.

DOROTHEA: Do you get a special attachment to any of these pieces?

AUSTA: Oh yes. We have two cases full out there that we don't sell from. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well I --- it would be hard for me to let them go, but I suppose you can't keep them all.

AUSTA: You can't eat them!

DOROTHEA: No, no, that's right.

BARBARA: They don't pay the bills sitting on the shelf.

AUSTA: No, don't pay the bills. We have it up for sale.

BARBARA: You have the shop up for sale now?

AUSTA: Yes. And if we sell it, we'll let most of the --- we'll let practically all the rocks go. Most of our antiques will go. We have an old player piano in the back that came out of the Juntura School. We bid on it and got it. And we each have some antiques. And we'll let them go too.

BARBARA: Well what interested you in becoming involved as a rock hound to begin with? You retired from teaching, and you decided you needed something to do, or was it something that you had been interested in prior to that time?

AUSTA: No, I hadn't been.

BARBARA: So what kind of sparked you to get going in that direction?

AUSTA: I think joining the club and wanting something to do. So joining the club to get, to see what I liked it.

BARBARA: Uh huh. That was just a local club at that time?

AUSTA: Yes.

BARBARA: Oh, I see.

AUSTA: They had a good-sized membership.

BARBARA: I see.

AUSTA: And they went on field trips.

BARBARA: Did you just go in cars, or did you go in busloads?

AUSTA: We went in cars.

BARBARA: I see.

AUSTA: Pickups mostly.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: And collected materials. And so by the time --- and then we bought equipment to polish, cut and polish and put them in Emory's garage. So by the time we bought the shop, we had collected a pretty good pile of rocks ourselves.

BARBARA: So in your club did you study about different rocks ---

AUSTA: Right.

BARBARA: --- and that sort of thing to learn what you were looking for?

AUSTA: Right.

BARBARA: I see.

AUSTA: And had programs to identify. And we would take specimens with us to our meetings, discuss them, and trade items. And some of us would go to rock shows in other towns. It was really a very active group for several years.

DOROTHEA: Do they still have a rock ---

AUSTA: No, it's ---

DOROTHEA: --- club?

AUSTA: No, it's fallen apart. They don't have one anymore.

DOROTHEA: Like most of every club.

AUSTA: Yes, the Library Club, I belonged to that.

DOROTHEA: Now that is what I was going to ask you, can you remember some of the clubs that you belonged to, like Mother's Club and the Library Club, and any of those?

AUSTA: I didn't belong to Mother's Club. I did belong to Library Club. And gave book reports when I was asked to. I was an Eastern Star member for a while. But I got too busy and I took a demit. Don't belong --- I still belong, but I'm not an active member. And those two, I guess about --- well no, I've been sponsor of the local --- (Laughter)

BARBARA: Now Austa!

AUSTA: Beta Omicron Chapter, for thirty-five years.

BARBARA: Of Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority ---

AUSTA: Of Epsilon Sigma Alpha.

BARBARA: --- educational and philanthropic group.

AUSTA: Right, right.

BARBARA: And I know you have been our sponsor from day one. April 1953.

AUSTA: Right. (Laughter)

BARBARA: What --- it's something that I might ask you, being a member of this, why did they, and who started the chapter here in Burns? Was it chartered --- did just a group of ladies know about it from some other town, or did another town come into, to charter the chapter? Do you recall?

AUSTA: No, there were two or three girls here, who knew about it.

BARBARA: I see.

AUSTA: And they got together. I've forgotten who the first president of it was.

BARBARA: Well, I'm not sure who it is.

AUSTA: It's in our book.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: Vianna Hall was one of the girls too. Do you know her?

BARBARA: Well I know --- no, huh uh, I didn't know her. I know Lois Clemens is one of the charter members that is still here.

AUSTA: And Peggy.

BARBARA: And Peggy Sitz, and ---

AUSTA: Colleen Clemens was.

BARBARA: She is inactive right at the present. And Donna Harris also came down I think from ---

AUSTA: LaGrande.

BARBARA: --- LaGrande. I know she had belonged there.

AUSTA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: But I know you have been very active in that organization for ---

AUSTA: Not very active recently.

BARBARA: Well ---

AUSTA: Pretty quiet. They really don't need a sponsor.

BARBARA: We know you're there whenever we want you.

AUSTA: They really don't need a sponsor. And I've told them many times that anytime they wanted to get somebody younger, or actually they really don't need a sponsor. They manage to settle everything themselves without any quarreling. (Laughter) They do really well.

DOROTHEA: Well this is what --- not being a member, I don't understand what a sponsor

is. Can you tell us something about what being a sponsor entails?

AUSTA: Doesn't entail much of anything. Somebody might ask me a question sometimes what I think about a proposition that they have before them, but normally they get everything settled without my help. So ---

DOROTHEA: Well why do they feel that they ---

AUSTA: Well I think at the time that the chapter was formed; it was recommended that they have a sponsor.

BARBARA: Just to kind of keep them going to start out with. And I think it's just ---

AUSTA: I don't think any other chapters have them anymore.

BARBARA: I don't --- I'm sure that they don't. No one ever mentions it.

AUSTA: No, I'm sure they don't.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: And it isn't necessary.

BARBARA: But we love having her.

AUSTA: Well thank you, I love being there too, and I should go more often.

BARBARA: Nice group of ladies.

AUSTA: It really is.

BARBARA: And I think we do a lot for the community.

AUSTA: Right. They are very philanthropically minded. They help local people that need help. And they help organizations. They send money to St. Judes Children's Hospital.

DOROTHEA: Now I know Doris is a member of that. Is Betty also?

AUSTA: No. Betty is not a joiner. She doesn't belong to --- I think she may belong to the Cattlewomen's. That's about it.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about your children and their lives maybe. They're all ranchers.

AUSTA: Right.

DOROTHEA: And have continued in the ranch business. Are their children following in their footsteps? Or how have their children differed from their parents?

AUSTA: Well, in Doris' family, John is a mechanic. And although he has been very active at the ranch, right now he is living in Bend to get more experience in working on big motors. The company he is working for over there may put a plant --- a shop in here. And if they do, would probably send him back over here. And if they don't, and if the community can be --- economy doesn't go completely bad, he may put one up himself here eventually.

DOROTHEA: Now this is John White. And he is Doris and Frank's son.

AUSTA: Uh huh. Mary Lee is still at the ranch, and loves it. She is very active. She does a lot of the decision making. Goes to shows with the cattle, with the show string. And breaks her own horses. Loves to hunt and fish. And just a regular ranch girl.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And this again is one of Doris and Frank's --- we've got to kind of tell who these kids are.

AUSTA: Who these kids belong to.

DOROTHEA: Right, because if somebody comes in here in fifteen or twenty years, they'll say well who is that.

AUSTA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So we have to say yes, that Mary Lee is --- and she is not married.

AUSTA: And Dr. White also has a son who is Doris' stepson. He is a teacher near McMinnville. And his wife is a teacher in McMinnville.

DOROTHEA: Do they have children?

AUSTA: They have a boy and a girl.

DOROTHEA: Boy and girl.

AUSTA: Mike and Betty have no children. Larry has three boys. The oldest boy is on their ranch. The middle ---

DOROTHEA: His name is?

AUSTA: That's Bill.

DOROTHEA: Bill.

AUSTA: Mike, the middle boy works for McAllister in his John Deere shop. He's a mechanic. The youngest boy is rodeoing, Terry.

DOROTHEA: Terry. And how has Terry done in this rodeoing? I ---

AUSTA: Well I guess enough to eat.

DOROTHEA: I know that he has done quite well in past years. But I haven't heard too much about him in the recent years.

AUSTA: I don't see much of him either. He flits in and out pretty fast. But I think he is not doing fantastically well, but he seems to be doing enough to keep going.

DOROTHEA: Do you think he will ever get that out of his blood?

AUSTA: I hope so.

DOROTHEA: Do you? (Laughter)

AUSTA: It's pretty far back though, you see. Larry rodeoed and so did Homer.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it kind of runs in the blood.

AUSTA: And so did, so did their other granddad, Frank Morgan. So, it sort of runs in the blood. At the present ---

SIDE B

--- we had horses, and we all rode. And then I had my own horses when I was married to Homer.

DOROTHEA: Did you help buckaroo?

AUSTA: Some. Uh huh. My job to help hold the cattle.

DOROTHEA: Well, you got the good job.

AUSTA: Yeah, I always got the good jobs.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. That's the interesting ---

AUSTA: The wife seems to get those kinds of jobs, you know. And the kids get to help their dad. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they get to do the interesting jobs. The wife gets to stay in the kitchen.

BARBARA: Well what was your day like on the ranch? Me being a city girl, you know, it's a little hard for me to relate to growing up on a ranch, or being on a working ranch. What did your day consist of? You got up in the morning, and what did you do?

AUSTA: Breakfast, very first thing. My husband would get up and put the coffee pot on, and whistle and sing. And of course you can't sleep if your bedroom is fairly close to the kitchen. (Laughter) So you'd get up and cook breakfast. He'd probably get up at 4:30. And you'd have breakfast by 6:00.

BARBARA: Big breakfast?

AUSTA: Big --- especially when you had a crew.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: You would have biscuits, steak, gravy, sometimes potatoes, jam, cereal, rolled oats usually. Big breakfast. You would spend your morning, or I would, during the haying season cooking and baking. You always had dessert twice a day. I would bake cakes, pies, cookies, puddings, so that I would have them for the noon meal, which was the main meal. You'd have a big noon meal. You'd have potatoes, meat, gravy, couple of vegetables, a salad, dessert, hot bread of some sort. I made my own light bread, biscuits. And then in the evening --- you tried to cook enough in the morning so that mostly for the

evening meal you would warm up what you had left from noon, plus a salad and your, a different kind of dessert.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: And then I always set my light bread at night so that it would rise during the night, ready to bake in the morning.

BARBARA: So in the summertime you really spent most of your time cooking.

AUSTA: Cooking, yes. And we had chickens. And I took care of the chickens.

BARBARA: Did you have gardens; did you have a vegetable garden?

AUSTA: Didn't have very good soil most of the time where I lived, so I didn't have much garden.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: One time my husband bought twenty head of sheep from a neighbor. Brought them home and gave them to me immediately! He was a cowman. He was not a sheep man! (Laughter) So I had a few sheep for a number of years. But, he would shear them and I shipped the wool off to Salt Lake City and had blankets and saddle blankets made up.

BARBARA: Oh.

AUSTA: Uh huh. Winters weren't --- well there was spring and fall they had a lot of riding to do, and a lot of times the men would be gone until two or three o'clock in the afternoons. So it sort of upset your schedule for meals. Because you had the meal when they got in.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: If it was one o'clock or four o'clock, or whenever.

BARBARA: So did you can and --- can meat and can vegetables and that sort of thing?

AUSTA: Yes. Canned meat and vegetables and fruit.

BARBARA: So, did you come into Burns to buy your fresh vegetables to can? Or did you buy canned goods and that sort of thing?

AUSTA: We bought canned vegetables mostly. But I'd buy fresh fruit and can it.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: Peaches and apricots, pears, and things like that. And then we raised our own meat.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: Chickens and pigs, and cattle, so I canned the meat.

BARBARA: Have your own milk?

AUSTA: Oh, yes.

BARBARA: Did you make butter?

AUSTA: Made butter. Uh huh. Sure did.

DOROTHEA: Milked your own cows.

AUSTA: And I had to help milk, or milk them myself, depending on what the rest of the crew was doing. Dorothea, you're a little familiar with all that.

DOROTHEA: Oh, boy! (Laughter) I was thinking the other day as I was --- you know when you're out there; I first started running a tractor with the mower behind it. Well now I've graduated, and I'm up on a swather. So of course all you do is work your feet and hands, except when you're plugged up. But I was thinking, you know, I would like to really get a bunch of us ranch wives together and write a book. I think it would be interesting. The life of a ranch wife.

AUSTA: Emory is always telling me I should write a book.

DOROTHEA: Well I believe it. In fact I'm seriously considering talking to Pauline about it. Because Joyce and I were talking the other day. She is running back and forth, and you know what, you know what the wives do? They are the ones that they go out the first

thing starts at well 4:00, 4:30, 5 o'clock in the morning, they get the breakfast. And they go out, not only are they raising children, trying to keep their children in the right frame of mind, you know, but they are also teaching their children. And then the husband comes in and he says I need you to do this, so you drop all your bread, you drop all your cakes, you turn off your stove, you run to town. You get all the equipment and repair the things that they need. You run back home, you put that meal on the table, you feed them, you do the dishes, you run back outside, you do your chores that you have to do like feed the chickens, gather the eggs, milk the cows, and diaper the baby. And then you come back in and you put on that big dinner that you've worked all morning on, because you've baked the pies, you made the bread, you've made all this. Then you come back in and you have your supper. And like you say, you always have dessert.

AUSTA: Always.

DOROTHEA: My husband was so spoiled with dessert. He's not that way anymore. We don't eat a lot of dessert. You can't tell by looking but --- It is, it's kind of a ranch --- being a ranch wife is an interesting life.

AUSTA: It's kind of a rat race.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it is.

AUSTA: I always had to come to town too, and get the groceries and repairs.

DOROTHEA: Repairs. And then they come, you take it back out and they say, "Why did you get this, this isn't the part I needed." So you turn around and you drive back to town. You said, "Well that's the part that they sold me." (Laughter) They told us we didn't know what we were --- But I also learned to be a mechanic. And I imagine you've done plenty of that.

AUSTA: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Put the parts and the pieces back together.

AUSTA: I didn't have to do much of that. No, we either had a --- we usually had a shop man. Or else Homer took care of the shop himself.

DOROTHEA: Well, I've kept the guys busy. (Laughter) I'm not a mechanic. I never --- I quit that. I learned that I wasn't as good of that as I wanted to be. So I did quit that, but ---

AUSTA: Another nasty job I had was driving pull-up on the stacking crew.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

AUSTA: Back behind the ---

DOROTHEA: Boring!

AUSTA: All by yourself. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Boring.

AUSTA: I felt like pulling them off the stack a lot of times. I only did it once. (Laughter)

BARBARA: So what time did your days end then, what time did you go to bed?

AUSTA: Oh, eight or nine o'clock, pretty early.

BARBARA: You were pretty tired, and so that looked pretty good to you.

AUSTA: I usually got a little nap in the afternoon.

BARBARA: Did you?

AUSTA: I've been a napper all my life. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you listen to the radio at night then before you went to bed, or ---

AUSTA: Uh huh, yes. We had the radio.

BARBARA: And what were the winters like then? You didn't have your haying crew and that sort of thing.

AUSTA: We didn't have --- no. We didn't ---

BARBARA: So how did you spend your times during the winter, in the day?

AUSTA: Well sometimes, if the wind, if we were having windy weather, which we do in this country, they'd have to get up early to feed before the wind came up. That wasn't so

much true here as it is over at Summer Lake where we lived. But normally we didn't get up as early in the wintertime.

DOROTHEA: Well is it my imagination, or have the years --- the winters and summers changed a lot?

AUSTA: Oh yes. Winters aren't nearly as severe as they used to be.

DOROTHEA: I remember, you know, you had like you say, the wind blew so hard that --- and it drifted so bad.

AUSTA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You'd have to go out and plow trails for your cows to eat in. We don't have as severe winters anymore like that.

AUSTA: No.

DOROTHEA: And of course a lot of those fed by, you know, with the horse, and so you had to have trails for your horses to plow through. But summers are not as hot to me either.

AUSTA: I don't know whether that's it, or we get used to it, which is it?

DOROTHEA: I have ---

AUSTA: I haven't noticed this heat. I did the first hot spell we had, it really got me. But this time I'm managing pretty well. Yes.

DOROTHEA: Well it seems to me like that when we were kids, you know, we could fry eggs on our sidewalks. And we've not had that kind of weather in years.

AUSTA: Well I remember when we used to hay, I used to about melt I thought.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: I just thought I couldn't stand it, afternoons.

BARBARA: Well they don't have the air-conditioned, tape deck type of tractors and equipment now --- then as they do now. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: No, we went out with our heads in big hats, and --- I don't wear a hat. I catch ---

BARBARA: Did you have help during the wintertime then on your ranch? Did you have men that stayed in your bunkhouse at that time?

AUSTA: Usually we'd have about one, one hand. Uh huh. Helped the --- that's almost a two man job when you're driving a team. Wanted to drive ---

DOROTHEA: The little bit of the difference that you can probably tell us about in your feeding was the way they did it. Today they go out with their big tractors and their forks and they just pitch this off of the, either with --- out of this bale, or with their, the fork itself. And in the days when you first moved here, did you have to; my dad sawed a lot of hay. It was so frozen, and so covered with snow that you would have to go in with a big saw, and saw a lot of hay loose, because you couldn't, you pitched it off. AUSTA: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Did you do a lot of this?

AUSTA: Oh some. I can remember them doing some with a hay knife. DOROTHEA: Uh huh. I didn't know what you called it. But ---

AUSTA: They just saw off a section of it so they could loosen it. But, yes we stacked all our hay loose. We didn't have any bales

--- any baled hay at that time. Most people bale their hay now I guess.

DOROTHEA: That's one of, the difference between your life, ranch life, and today's ranch life.

AUSTA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I imagine that Larry and you can make a difference in that yourself. Even with Doris and Betty, I imagine their hay is all in bales. And ---

AUSTA: Yes, and they worked on the ranch when it was all just loose hay and mowed it, raked it, bunched it. And then took it to the stack with a hay buck.

DOROTHEA: It's a lot of difference between the way we did it earlier and now.

AUSTA: Very different.

DOROTHEA: We used a lot of horses in those days. And today you go out and two machines and you've just about got your haying done. Yes.

AUSTA: Yes. You have a swather, and then sometimes you bale it right out of the swath. Sometimes you rake it.

DOROTHEA: We have a ---

AUSTA: With the windrows.

DOROTHEA: We have what they call the bread loaf; you know, the big ---

AUSTA: Do you have one of those?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And so we go out and swath it, Tim comes in behind me and picks up that, and he puts it in the stack yard. And that's the end of our haying.

AUSTA: Yeah. Mike has the, what's the wagon called that they haul the big loads with?

DOROTHEA: A bale wagon, or a ---

AUSTA: Well that's what it is, but that's, isn't the name ---

DOROTHEA: Stack wagon.

AUSTA: That isn't the name of it.

DOROTHEA: I don't know what it --- I don't know what it is called. We don't have one. And I can't think what it is called. Yeah, but I know what you're talking about.

AUSTA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: They move those big stacks. I think one of ours is almost four ton. And they move those stacks right down the highway.

AUSTA: Right, right. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Anyplace they want to move. And they have special knives that cut the amounts of hay off, you know, out of, so that they aren't leaving the whole stack in one

piece to feed that. That's a big change that, between horses and tractors today.

AUSTA: I still like the horses. (Laughter) You can have ---

BARBARA: What were some of the other things that you and your husband did when you first started out? I know you said he liked to rodeo.

AUSTA: He didn't rodeo after we were married.

BARBARA: I see.

AUSTA: Maybe once or twice. But he didn't really rodeo much. Just locally.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: We belonged to the grange in Summer Lake, and we went to their functions. And another thing we did when we lived there, was to get together with three or four different families oh, every, probably every two weeks on a Saturday night and play cards. We did a lot of that.

BARBARA: Did you play bridge, or pinochle, or canasta?

AUSTA: Five hundred.

BARBARA: Five hundred.

AUSTA: And we'd go from different homes, and always had things to eat.

BARBARA: Carry in potluck dinners, and that sort of thing?

AUSTA: Yeah, we did that sometimes, uh huh. And sometimes the host and hostess would furnish some food. And that's about all we did for fun it seems like.

DOROTHEA: Your children belonged to 4-H, were you an active 4-H person, or did you help lead, or ---

AUSTA: Not here. I had a sewing club in Summer Lake, 4-H Club. That's the only 4-H Club I had. But the girls both were 4-H'ers for the length of time they could be. And they took some of their stock to Portland to a livestock show there. Larry was only in it a couple three years. He wasn't as interested in that sort of thing, as he was in just having

his regular cattle at home.

BARBARA: So how do you spend your time these days? I know you play bridge.

AUSTA: Read.

BARBARA: Read.

AUSTA: Sleep. (Laughter) Up until this year, I raised a big garden.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Well you still have your flowers out here. I see you weeding those.

AUSTA: Yes. We have raspberries and strawberries out back. I'm right now in the process of picking raspberries nearly every day.

BARBARA: Oh my.

DOROTHEA: Do you make jam out of them, or ---

AUSTA: I freeze them, and then in the winter I make jam. I don't like to make jam when it is hot. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Do you make a lot of pies?

AUSTA: No, we don't eat desserts.

DOROTHEA: Don't eat desserts.

AUSTA: Much. I love them. Pies too, but I just don't, we just don't eat much. So if I don't have it around, I don't eat it.

BARBARA: Do you do any traveling anymore? Or do you stay pretty close to Burns?

AUSTA: We stay pretty close to Burns. We go to Winnemucca once in awhile. We used to go to the beach every year, but for a year or two now we haven't gone.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: Emory is getting, it's getting so hard for him to get around though. He can't do much walking.

DOROTHEA: Do you still like rodeos, and you still participate in them?

AUSTA: Still go to this one. Do a little betting on the horses.

(Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I know.

AUSTA: And Larry won the All Around here the year he was eighteen. John won it one year. And Terry won it one year. So three of the --- two of the grandkids have participated here. And Mike ropes, team ropes.

DOROTHEA: And Mary Lee ---

AUSTA: And Bill rides bulls.

DOROTHEA: And Mary Lee was real active as a 4-H'er, and also she became, what was it, Miss National --- what was it ---

AUSTA: Well she was Harney County Queen.

DOROTHEA: She was the fair court queen, but then she was also the, something in the beef line, or ---

AUSTA: She's been president of the Oregon-Washington Hereford, Junior Hereford Association.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: Uh huh. She's been active in that group.

DOROTHEA: And she continues with her cattle now on taking them to shows. And I know she must go to Denver once in awhile, because she said something about going to Denver.

AUSTA: She goes nearly every year to Denver. And she goes to the state fair, and to Portland, and Yakima, Spokane. She's been to San Francisco, Redding, Reno. I know she's been to all of those. DOROTHEA: Did she graduate from college, or has she gone on to college in a special education, or ---

AUSTA: She went three different years at San Luis Obispo in Animal Husbandry, and took photography on the side. She loves to take pictures. There's two of her pictures

right there. The fawn and the creek.

DOROTHEA: Oh, boy.

AUSTA: That little fawn, she was a horseback up at the ranch, came out of the brush and went under her mare that she was riding, and touched noses with her dog. She's got a picture of him touching noses with her dog.

DOROTHEA: Unique. Oh, wow.

AUSTA: She happened to have her camera with her, so she got some nice pictures.

DOROTHEA: Well you talk about the ranch. Where is this located?

AUSTA: As you go into Silvies Valley up to your right about two miles to your right when you get into Silvies. Just as you go into Silvies. You go through Purdy's, which one?

DOROTHEA: Wayne.

AUSTA: Wayne's place.

BARBARA: Oh, is that where we had our summer picnic?

AUSTA: Right, right.

BARBARA: Oh, that's beautiful.

AUSTA: It's pretty up there.

BARBARA: Yes.

AUSTA: That's where they keep their cattle in the summertime.

DOROTHEA: Gorgeous place up in there.

AUSTA: It really is nice, cool.

BARBARA: Well if you get your shop here sold, what are you going to do then? Are you going to move?

AUSTA: No, Emory is planning to buy a two or three bedroom home. So we'll have plenty of storage to take some of our junk, rock. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Would you like to live kind of on the edge of town, or do you like living right

in town?

AUSTA: Probably would rather live on the edge of town. But since it's getting more difficult to get around, most likely we'll live right in town. There should be some choices of homes I think. There seems to be quite a few for sale right now.

BARBARA: Have you had any nibbles on your shop?

AUSTA: Yes, we've had --- we had a man and his mother in here last week who were quite interested. In fact he wants to come to this area. He's also a gunsmith. But the job he has now runs another year and a half, so he doesn't know if he will be able to get loose from that or not.

BARBARA: I wonder when they have the Rock and Gem Show here in Hines if you get some people down here that look you over a little bit?

AUSTA: Oh, we always get people who come in to buy things.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: We used to take our supplies out there, a lot of them, but we haven't for two or three years. But we keep the shop open during those days. It's just too much work for him to ---

BARBARA: When you first started out twenty years ago, did you go around to the different rock shows and display your items too?

AUSTA: No, no, we didn't do that.

BARBARA: You didn't do that.

AUSTA: We'd go to Nyssa nearly every year. It's a big show, and we're able to buy what we need there.

BARBARA: I see.

AUSTA: But the fellows traveling through don't have --- we buy a lot from dealers who travel through.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AUSTA: Or, they ship it to us. But Nyssa is a good source of supplies for us.

DOROTHEA: Well I think we'd probably ought to call this quits. Maybe we can kind of come back this afternoon and take a few pictures and go around and you can show us some of your rocks, and some of your flowers. And we're going to start with this cam cording and see what we can do on this. Would you be willing to show us some of your equipment that you polish your rocks with, and you can even show us your certificate that you got last --- wasn't that in October?

AUSTA: In October, yeah. Sure I'd be willing to do anything to help you.

DOROTHEA: We'll kind of practice, and see what we can get on this.

AUSTA: Good. I think among us we ought to do all right.

DOROTHEA: All right, all right. Sounds good, and we'd like to thank you for your time ---

AUSTA: Well I'd like to thank you ---

DOROTHEA: --- and for letting us come out and talk and visit with you, and ---

AUSTA: I'd like to thank you for thinking of me, and asking me.

DOROTHEA: It's been real interesting. So ---

AUSTA: Thank you.

DOROTHEA: We'll see you this afternoon then.

(END OF TAPE)

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