

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #218 - Sides A & B

Subject: Ansel & Martina Marshall (With Video)

Place: Marshall Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: July 6, 1989

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and I'm at the home of Ansel and Martina Marshall in Burns, Oregon. I'm on their ranch, at their ranch home. We will be taking some videos and doing a little bit of history as Ansel is the Grand Marshall of the 1989 Parade and Fair this year. The date is July 6th, 1989. Okay Ansel, can you tell us something about your childhood, parents.

ANSEL MARSHALL: My parents were both born in Iowa. And I don't remember my grandparent's name. I actually didn't, wasn't around them very much. I was born in Iowa, and my parents moved to Oklahoma when I was about six months old. So they came to visit us two or three times that I remember. And that was all, so I really don't remember too much about my grandparents.

DOROTHEA: Well then, tell us something about your parents. What all do you remember about, and how long did you live in Iowa?

ANSEL: Well, like I say, I was born in Iowa. And my parents left there when I was about six months old. So I don't remember anything about Iowa, except going back and visiting in the early '30's. And my father was, the first I remember about him he was a cow buyer in Oklahoma at the time. That was when the cow buyers would ride around horseback, instead of in a Cadillac. And they would, if they would buy a few head of cattle from somebody, or they would just take them into town horseback, instead of in a truck.

Because there wasn't any cattle trucks or anything at the time. And he used to, he bought lots of cattle, and he would, at that time, I don't know how it is, but on the railroad at that time if you had thirty-two carloads why you could have a trainload of cattle. They would give them special rates, and rush them straight on through. They would get, otherwise if they just had one car it was on a, when the regular freight train ran into wherever you were shipping the cattle. And he shipped them, most of them to Oklahoma City. And used to ship quite a few trainloads, I remember that. And one of the big, one of my big thrills was when he would come home of an evening, why I would get to ride his saddle horse out to the barn from the house. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: So you have been riding horses all your life?

ANSEL: Yeah. When I was, for the first I remember I was about four years old, riding a horse.

DOROTHEA: What were your parent's names?

ANSEL: My mother was Eva May Vohris, was her maiden name.

DOROTHEA: Can you spell that for us?

ANSEL: V O H R I S.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

ANSEL: And my father was Hiram Edward Marshal.

DOROTHEA: Hiram, H A R A M. (*Corrected to Hiram)

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

ANSEL: And then he --- we moved to Amarillo, Texas. Let's see, I was seven years old when we went to Amarillo. And so he got into the racehorse business in Amarillo. And so we, I remember, let's see I was eight, yeah eight years old, we left Amarillo, Texas, with

two horses and a, two race horses and a Model-T truck. And I don't remember too much about the trip until we got to Ogallala, Nebraska. Lonesome Dove story brought a lot of it back to me.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Lonesome Dove, yeah.

ANSEL: And when he got there, I remember he just unloaded this horse, and he had bandages on him, you know, like for protection.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ANSEL: And this old fellow rode up on a little black horse. He looked like a little Percheron. And he said, he had a long gray beard, and wasn't as old as he looked, but he was pretending to be real old. And he said to my dad, he said, "Sonny, is that a race horse?" He said, "Yes, sure he's a race horse." And he said, "Well what you got those rags on his legs for?" And he, my dad went and explained that they were just protection just while the horse was riding in the truck. And he said, "This is a race horse too." And my dad just laughed at him, you know. So he, they finally matched a race. And this little black Percheron outran my dad's horse.

DOROTHEA: Well he was a racehorse.

ANSEL: Yeah. (Laughter) He was a race horse, because this horse was a, that my father had at the time was --- they had a hundred day meeting at the Tijuana Race Track, was the --- Well there was three places raced, New Orleans, Tijuana, and Cuba was the only place they had races of a wintertime. Each one of them had a hundred day meeting. And this horse of my dads won fourteen races in a hundred days at Tijuana, two years before. So he was, he wasn't a bad kind of a horse, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ANSEL: But he got out ran there.

DOROTHEA: The little Percheron out ran him.

ANSEL: Yeah, he sure did.

DOROTHEA: Well did your father raise horses then in Oklahoma?

ANSEL: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: Did he raise horses in ---

ANSEL: No, he didn't raise --- my father never did raise horses that I remember of.

DOROTHEA: Did he go to racing then though?

ANSEL: Yes. He stayed in the racehorse business all of his life, from then on. He, the last year of his life he was training for Stuart Hamblin's brother-in-law in Mexico City. And the first six months of that year he won more races than anybody else in, on the North American Continent, any trainer.

DOROTHEA: Well that is great, that is a good thing to have down. Can you tell us something more about your childhood, before you came, and why you came, when you came to Harney County?

ANSEL: Well, yes. I came to Harney County, I was --- our son is a hemophiliac, and we were looking for a one-room school, or someplace where he could get a good education. And not --- when I went to school I was very fortunate. I went two years at the same school in Salt Lake City. Otherwise, I was switching schools all the time. And I didn't want my son to have to go through that.

DOROTHEA: How did you meet Martina?

ANSEL: Uh, Martina was working in the Ochoco Inn Hotel in Prineville. And my sister and her husband had bought the, what is now the fairgrounds. Well it was the fairgrounds, and he was, my sister's husband was training for John D. Spreckels the III. And they bought the fairgrounds and turned it into a breeding farm. And my sister was up

there, and she got acquainted with Martina. And so one time when I was up there, why I met Martina, and two years later we were married.

DOROTHEA: And this is, you mentioned a sister, what was her name?

ANSEL: Vivian Walters.

DOROTHEA: And she married who?

ANSEL: Harry Walters.

DOROTHEA: Harry Walters.

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And that's spelled with an S?

ANSEL: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: It's Walters?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: With an S.

ANSEL: W A L T E R S.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And then how long were you married before Terry was born, and your son's name is Terry?

ANSEL: Oh, we were married about, almost two years.

DOROTHEA: Two years. And is that when you decided to come to Harney County?

ANSEL: No, he was born in San Diego. I was still around the racetrack. But the war came on, and we quit. I got away from the racetrack during the war. And so I was, we were in Redmond at the --- actually we raised turkeys there two or three years. I drove dump truck, building airports during the war. And then we raised turkeys a couple of years. And we sold the place that we had bought there, and I was looking --- not I, but we were looking for some place. And I had always wanted a cattle ranch, and the place at

Lawen that we bought first, the old Scott Hayes place, and we bought that and moved to Harney County in 1945.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

ANSEL: And Martina's father moved over here, her family. And they ran the ranch and I went back to Hollywood Park in Santa Anita, and was a racing official there at the two tracks, for three years after we moved up here.

DOROTHEA: And then Terry was born during this time?

ANSEL: No, Terry was going to school at that time.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he was going to school.

ANSEL: Yes. He stayed with her parents two different years, and went to school. We were back and forth all the time, because --- get a break between meetings, and come back up.

DOROTHEA: Well Lawen was a good little community to have a, to raise a child in. It was kind of a quiet, and yet you had, you know, a lot of privacy, and you knew that he couldn't get hurt.

ANSEL: That's right.

DOROTHEA: So this was, this was a ---

ANSEL: It was real good, and they had good teachers. And he got a very good education. He went to school in, he didn't go to Crane, he went to school, high school in Burns.

DOROTHEA: Did he?

ANSEL: And when he took his college exam in Pasadena, he passed in the top three percent of all of California.

DOROTHEA: Well, good.

ANSEL: So he had to get a good education in Burns.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ANSEL: They, a lot of people talk about that they don't get an education here, but if they don't it's their own fault.

DOROTHEA: That's true, that's true. That's the way I believe too.

ANSEL: Because it is certainly here for them if they want it.

BARBARA LOFGREN: What was the grade school that he went to?

ANSEL: Lawen.

BARBARA: Lawen.

ANSEL: Yes. It was ---

BARBARA: How many students did they have in school at that time?

ANSEL: I think there was twelve. He never had a classmate until the last year of grade school.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

ANSEL: Yes.

BARBARA: One teacher then for the whole school?

ANSEL: Yes. That's right.

DOROTHEA: And that one teacher, wasn't that your sister-in-law?

ANSEL: Part of the time.

DOROTHEA: Part of the time.

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And she was Mary Wilkes?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Let's see what we can ---

BARBARA: So you said you went to a lot of different schools as you were growing up, all over the country?

ANSEL: Yes. The first year was Okemah, Oklahoma. Second year was Pawnee, Oklahoma. The next year Amarillo, Texas, next two years Amarillo, Texas, rather. Then Phoenix, Arizona, for two years, but different schools. And then Salt Lake City, for the rest of the time.

BARBARA: You finished high school in Salt Lake City then?

ANSEL: Yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Did you have an opportunity to do any college work?

ANSEL: No, I didn't.

BARBARA: So you ---

ANSEL: I had the opportunity, I shouldn't say I didn't have, but I was riding races when I was still going to high school. I went one year, I didn't finish high school in Salt Lake City, I went one year in San Ysidro, California. I was riding races at Caliente at the time.

BARBARA: You were interested in other things at that time?

ANSEL: Well, yes.

BARBARA: You say you have one sister. Do you have any other brothers or sisters?

ANSEL: I had a brother, one brother that was killed in a racing accident at Salt Lake City, in 1927.

BARBARA: Did your mother like traveling around all the time? Or

ANSEL: Oh, I don't think any woman really enjoys traveling around all the time.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

ANSEL: It --- the racetrack has changed an awful lot since then. There's --- well just for

instance there was at that time there was approximately seventy days racing in the whole state of New York. And today, there is a little over six hundred days of racing in the state of New York, at different tracks, see. And so people in Southern California races the year 'round. So does Northern California. And there was two, Tan Foran was the only track in California at that time. And they would have a thirty-day meeting in the spring, and then thirty days in the fall. So we would usually go to Canada during the summer, and then back to California to Tan Foran, then on to ---

BARBARA: What was the name of that?

ANSEL: Tan Foran.

BARBARA: Tan Foran.

ANSEL: Yes, it's at, it was at San Bruno, California, which is where the International, San Francisco International Airport is. It's supposed to be in San Francisco, but it's actually in San Bruno.

BARBARA: How would you spell that, Tan Foran?

ANSEL: T A N F R A N. (*corrected to Tan Foran)

DOROTHEA: Just like it's ---

BARBARA: It's interesting.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, just like it's pronounced.

ANSEL: Racing wasn't legalized in California at the time. They had what they called; they got by what they called an option system. You would bet on a horse the same as our mutuels is today, but they gave you an option to claim the horse. And so all the, every horse had to run for a claiming price. And the best, a lot of the best horses in the world ran there, under this option system. But they would put a claiming price of two hundred, three hundred thousand, which no horse brought that much money at that time. And so

they got by racing under this option system for four years. And then in 1933, well racing was legalized in California. BARBARA: Did you just rent houses as you moved from state to state? Or did you have a trailer that you lived in?

ANSEL: No, there wasn't any mobile homes at that time. We would rent an apartment usually.

BARBARA: I see.

ANSEL: Or, if it was thirty days or more, well you would look around until you found an apartment. Or else you would have to stay at a hotel.

BARBARA: Were there certain groups of people that kind of followed the same circuit that you did?

ANSEL: Oh, yes.

BARBARA: The friends that you had.

ANSEL: Yes, that's right.

BARBARA: Did they have other children that you kind of got acquainted with, that knew, that you went around with?

ANSEL: That's right. Yes, that's right. Uh huh.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And did your sister and brother then go into racing, and that sort of thing too?

ANSEL: Yes. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Now have you trained any horses?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about how you go about training them?

ANSEL: Well, the basic rule of training a race horse is approximately, you will walk a horse one day, gallop him two days, and breeze him a slow work the third day. However,

or if you're getting him ready to run, why you start out you breeze him about an eighth of a mile, and then the next time maybe three-sixteenth of a mile, and keep stretching him out until you get him to where he is running however far he wants to run. If he wants to run three-quarters of a mile, or a mile and a quarter, or whatever you want. And ---

DOROTHEA: Now you talk about breezing, what is breezing, is that a slow ---

ANSEL: A breeze is a, actually a slow run. It's not as fast as the horse can run. But it's a run. And they call it a breeze.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And how many horses have you trained?

ANSEL: Have I trained? I don't know. I don't remember.

DOROTHEA: You can't count them all.

ANSEL: No, I can't. I don't remember all of them at all.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember any particular horse that you especially liked?

ANSEL: Yes, we had a horse by the name of Mahomet that I liked real well. He was --- when we got him he was a rogue. He was ruled off, that they couldn't get him in the starting gate, or anything. And he hadn't won a race for two years, and everyone was trying to do a little more with him, and all he wanted you to do was to pet him, and try to get along with him instead of trying to make him do something. He was a grandson of Man of War. And the Man of Wars were most all that way. You didn't make them do anything. They ---

DOROTHEA: They had their own minds.

ANSEL: They certainly did. But he was --- after we got him, why he never was on the schooling list. They first put a horse on the schooling list at the starting gate. And then if he keeps on being where they can't get him in the gate, one thing and another, why they put him on what they call the steward's list. And it's up to the stewards to see that he is all

right at the gate before they'll let him run. And we never did have the horse on the schooling list even after we got him. Won quite a few races for us. And finally broke his leg and had to destroy him.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever have a horse have an accident that hurt a jockey, or ---

ANSEL: Yeah. I had a horse by the name of Drako at Caliente, and Earl Dew was leading rider of America at the time. And Earl was on, Earl Dew was on this horse Drako of ours and there was four horses went down. Dew was killed.

DOROTHEA: It's kind of a bad experience in this. But this goes along with racing too. And you know, I mean it's part of racing, to get hurt, and all this. Although you hope it never happens. When you train your horses, do you have your jockeys ride at that time, or ---

ANSEL: You, occasionally if a rider isn't too busy, he'll come out and work a horse maybe once or twice before he rides him. You take a real good horse like Sunday Silence, or something like that, pardon me, Shoemaker would breeze him. But the regular exercise rider rode him most of the time, which happened to be a girl.

BARBARA: So most jockeys then just pretty much get on a horse and ride him without ever having worked with him at all?

ANSEL: That's right.

BARBARA: So they have to be pretty good horsemen in order to get to that category then?

ANSEL: Yes. One year I rode 240 different horses. And so the majority of those horses when I rode them, I had never even seen them before you go in the paddock.

BARBARA: Do the trainers, or owners pretty much tell you what their traits are then, before you ---

ANSEL: Yes, if a horse has any habits, if he bears in, or if he bears out, or if he is a whip horse, or if you don't whip him at all, why the trainer will tell you that. And that's about all.

DOROTHEA: So you really go into a lot of this kind of as a green novice, in order to start, just get on the horse and ride.

ANSEL: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: You just kind of go into it as a green novice, in other words ---

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: --- when you first start.

ANSEL: That's right.

DOROTHEA: That's right.

ANSEL: And it --- where are we now?

DOROTHEA: Well, we've skipped clear down through there where, clear on the back page. Let's talk a little bit about Terry for a little bit. I understand, my father has a book on the Crater Lake, and he did all this photographing. And is he a photographer? Is that his line of business, or --- How would you describe Terry's business? I see he ---

ANSEL: Just a second, this --- I don't know what happened.

DOROTHEA: His photography work?

ANSEL: Well Terry graduated from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, and majored in photography. And he went to work for Bowman's Advertising Agency when he got out of school. And then he was a general manager of Bowman's. And when I had heart surgery, why he came up and --- so he just took a leave of absence from Bowman's and did the book of Crater Lake at that time.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's when he did the book of Crater Lake?

ANSEL: Yes. And then what, he was, he was away from Bowman's what about eight months or a year. And then went back to Bowman's Advertising Agency until last year.

DOROTHEA: And then what's he doing now?

ANSEL: Oh, he is doing carving. He quit Bowman's. And he's making statues out of soapstone and things of that type.

DOROTHEA: Is it sculpturing kind of, or ---

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Well that sounds like he's keeping himself busy. Did he ever marry?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Does he have any children?

ANSEL: No.

DOROTHEA: They don't have any?

ANSEL: No.

BARBARA: You didn't say when you and Martina were married. What year were you married?

ANSEL: 1940.

BARBARA: '40.

ANSEL: Yes.

BARBARA: So you're getting close to 50 then, aren't you?

ANSEL: That's right.

BARBARA: Going to have a big celebration, are you?

ANSEL: I imagine.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, he said something about it at the St. Patrick's luncheon that you

were just about ready to celebrate your 50th wedding anniversary in 1990, so ---

ANSEL: Yes.

BARBARA: What month will that be?

MARTINA MARSHALL: September.

BARBARA: September.

ANSEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That's a long time in these days, 50 years.

ANSEL: Yeah, it is.

BARBARA: September 17th, that's our anniversary too.

MARTINA: Really?

BARBARA: Yes, we'll be 34.

DOROTHEA: You'll have to celebrate together. Holler over.

BARBARA: I should be able to remember that.

ANSEL: Yeah.

MARTINA: I said it would be fun if it was 50 this year. We usually celebrate at fair time.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that would be neat, wouldn't it? Yep.

BARBARA: That will be fun.

DOROTHEA: Well, can you think of anything else? Now I know that you're going to be the grand marshal. What are you doing in preparation for this? Just waiting for the time to come?

ANSEL: That's about it.

DOROTHEA: And what are your duties as a grand marshal? Do you have anything special that they want you to do, or ---

ANSEL: So far I haven't heard of anything special, except riding in the parade. I'm going

to be honored to be the first one to ride that new saddle that Bennett's Saddlery is making.

BARBARA: Oh, for the centennial, uh huh. The centennial saddle.

ANSEL: For the centennial.

DOROTHEA: Oh, the fair court is not riding it? They are not getting to ride it?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: They are.

MARTINA: Not the saddle.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

ANSEL: But as I understand it, I get to ride it first.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you get to ride it first.

MARTINA: I think just the grand marshal.

BARBARA: Just the grand marshal will be riding, using it. I see.

ANSEL: It is a beautiful saddle that he's made.

DOROTHEA: You've seen it?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: I haven't seen it yet. I'm going to have to.

ANSEL: Yes. It isn't quite completed yet. But it is, he's doing a real nice job.

DOROTHEA: We've got a nice bunch of girls to ride with too. They look like a real good bunch of girls. And their colors are the centennial colors. So, it is going to make it real nice.

ANSEL: That's right.

BARBARA: What horse will you be riding?

ANSEL: Oh, the little bay mare out here, Amber.

BARBARA: Amber, huh?

ANSEL: Uh huh. Yeah, I've been working down at the cutting the last, well I was turning back for them in the --- in the practice pen for three days on her, down there. And so I'll be riding her in the parade.

DOROTHEA: Are you selling horses, or breeding horses, or what are you doing now?

ANSEL: Oh, we're just about out of the breeding business.

DOROTHEA: Are you?

ANSEL: Yes. We're selling horses, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Are you thinking of retiring?

ANSEL: Semi.

DOROTHEA: Semi-retiring. Well, that's the way we all want. We don't want to completely retire.

ANSEL: I hope I never retire. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's what I understand. They get up to the age where they say I never want to retire. That's when you turn loose.

ANSEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That's when you give up.

ANSEL: Yeah, that's right.

DOROTHEA: Well tell us more about your horses, and things that you have done since you've moved to this place here. And this place used to belong to ---

ANSEL: Hayes.

DOROTHEA: This belonged to the Hayes too?

ANSEL: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: This house belonged to Ilda Mae?

ANSEL: Yes. It belonged to Ilda Mae. When we bought the Hayes Ranch, why this was part of it. And they reserved forty acres and the house here. And we had first option on it. And when she married John Scheckels, why she wanted to sell it, and we bought it, this forty acres with the rest of it.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: So when was that? How long have you been in this house?

ANSEL: Oh that was, we moved up here in 1962 from Lawen.

BARBARA: From Lawen.

ANSEL: Yes. We bought the rest of the ranch in 1955.

DOROTHEA: And so you've been working horses here for quite awhile, and breeding, and working with horses.

ANSEL: Yes, that's right.

DOROTHEA: On this place for quite awhile.

ANSEL: Yes. We went to Arizona and got quite a few horses in 1970. And got them from a fellow that was, Doc Pardee was like a father to me. And he gave me the first horse I ever owned. And sold me the first thoroughbred horse I ever owned.

DOROTHEA: Now who was this?

ANSEL: Doc Pardee. He was, well he was, well in 1914 he was world champion bronc rider. And he was bucked off twice in his life.

BARBARA: He's pretty good then?

ANSEL: That's right. And he was in Calgary one year, and they had a horse that they thought couldn't be rode, and Doc said, "Well," he said, "I can ride him backwards." And they got to betting, and so he put his saddle on him backwards and rode him. (Laughter) And the, he used to tell me about one of the times that he was bucked off was, he was

doing what they call the Billy McGinty. Billy McGinty was a great bronc rider. And he used, they didn't used to, they used to ride horses at rodeos until they stopped bucking, or else they ran. Wasn't a time, didn't ride them just eight seconds. And so Billy McGinty used to drop down and touch one foot to the ground, and keep the other foot in the stirrup while the horse was bucking, and then raise that other, that foot up that he touched the ground, and kicked the horse in the belly with it.

BARBARA: Oh, my.

ANSEL: And so Doc said I had a real cute little girl up in the grandstand. This horse bucked right over in front of the grandstand, and did a Billy McGinty on him. And he said the next thing I knew I was getting up, and I looked up and my girl was gone. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Shouldn't have been showing off. Oh dear.

DOROTHEA: That will teach him. He probably would have ridden the horse otherwise.

ANSEL: Yeah. And he was the leading breeder of thoroughbred horses in Arizona for --- oh, I don't know, probably twenty years or so. He was a real good friend of William Woodward that had raised thoroughbred horses. William Woodward raised Gallant Fox that won the Triple Crown, and Omaha won the Triple Crown. And he sent two horses out to Pardee, two thoroughbred studs. And sent a groom, he paid all expenses and everything, gave him the two horses.

BARBARA: So what does your day consist of when you're working with horses and training? You get up in the morning, and you work your horses in the morning, or, then in the afternoon, or how does it go?

ANSEL: Well, right now I --- we've got a bunch of young horses that I'm breaking and training for stock horses, and jumping horses. And first thing we get up and feed the horses of course, do your chores, and take care of them, and then start riding the horses.

Or have them on a longe line on the jump, or --- and it goes on about all day.

BARBARA: They don't have to take breaks? I mean you just pretty much just keep working with them all the time?

ANSEL: Different horses, if you work more than half an hour with a horse, he loses his concentration.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

ANSEL: He gets to where he doesn't learn much.

DOROTHEA: Is this in riding too, or just in the longe line, or--- completely?

ANSEL: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: You just work thirty minutes with your horses, a complete workout.

ANSEL: Yes. You can let a horse rest a couple hours, work with him again, he'll start concentrating. It's all right again. He just doesn't seem to keep thinking. Most of them want to goof off, or something.

BARBARA: Like young kids, huh?

ANSEL: Just the same way. Yeah. And so that's about the way it goes.

BARBARA: Have you and Martina traveled around quite a bit with horses?

ANSEL: Quite a bit, yes.

BARBARA: I understand you have a place over in Bend too. Do you have any horses over there?

ANSEL: We don't have any over there now, no. We have had at different times. But, we don't have now.

BARBARA: You say you raised cattle for a while too?

ANSEL: We raised cattle for ---

BARBARA: Was that when you were out in Lawen, or when you were on this place?

ANSEL: Both.

BARBARA: Both places.

ANSEL: Both places, yes. We had cattle up until --- well last year, let's see. I sold all the cattle that we had four years ago, the first time for 45 years that we hadn't had any cattle.

BARBARA: Oh dear. That's a long time.

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: It's a little different when you don't have cattle. But it feels good sometimes too.

ANSEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Don't have to get up and go out in the middle of the night.

ANSEL: Yeah, that's right. You start calving those heifers, and that's a twenty-six hour job.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Twenty-six hours doesn't really describe it.

ANSEL: No. That's right, you know what that is as well as I do.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I've done a little bit of that myself.

ANSEL: Yes, indeed.

BARBARA: Martina was in the Avon business too. Did ---

ANSEL: Yes. She was district manager for Avon for twenty-seven years. She retired in '82.

BARBARA: She mentioned that she had gone on some trips that she had won through that. Did you get to go with her when she went on those trips?

ANSEL: Oh, I went on several trips with her. But she went to Japan, Italy, France, all over, and I didn't go with her.

BARBARA: You had to stay home and keep the ranch working, huh?

ANSEL: Well, I thought I did at the time. (Laughter) Probably could have got away all right.

BARBARA: You weren't that interested in going?

ANSEL: No.

BARBARA: After traveling around all the years when you were growing up, I suppose that it felt kind of good just to stay at home for a while.

ANSEL: That's right. Yeah.

BARBARA: Do you still take horses around to show?

ANSEL: We haven't taken any horses to shows since, well last year we did. Mostly in Central Oregon, Bend and oh, Eugene, around local. So ---

DOROTHEA: Martina's last name before you were married was Wilkes. Did the Wilkes live here before, or did they come after you did?

ANSEL: They came at the same time we did.

DOROTHEA: At the same time.

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And her parent's name was?

ANSEL: Granville and Myrtle Wilkes.

DOROTHEA: Myrtle?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And they lived out on the ranch for quite awhile.

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Taking care of it while you were in San Francisco and doing your racing, parts of it.

ANSEL: Yes, that's right.

DOROTHEA: So that's where Terry stayed and went to school?

ANSEL: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And Martina had one sister?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And one brother?

ANSEL: One --- that's right.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And the brother's name was?

ANSEL: Sonny.

DOROTHEA: Sonny, but he was also Granville?

ANSEL: Yes. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And where does he live now?

ANSEL: He passed away in Roseburg about, let's see, six years ago.

DOROTHEA: Oh, has he been gone that long? I didn't know if he was still alive or not.

ANSEL: No, he's not.

DOROTHEA: And he and his wife had two children. His wife was Mary, and she taught school in Lawen for a while.

ANSEL: Yes, that's right.

DOROTHEA: And they had two children, Hank and Nita.

ANSEL: Nita and Wendal. Wendal went by the name of Hank when he was in this country. And ---

DOROTHEA: Right. What are they doing now?

ANSEL: Hank is at Pittsburgh, California. He is Vice President of the Bank of California. And Nita is an Avon manager at Grants Pass.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she took after Aunt Martina then, didn't she?

ANSEL: Yes, that's right.

DOROTHEA: And she enjoys it, I suppose?

ANSEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: She must, or she wouldn't be in it.

ANSEL: That's right.

DOROTHEA: Well, maybe she will get to do some traveling, or has she done traveling already?

ANSEL: No, she's just been manager about two years. She hasn't

--- oh, traveling around the United States, that's all.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

ANSEL: She hasn't been doing any traveling abroad.

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: Ansel, where were you born, what date, and when did you come to Harney County then?

ANSEL: I was born in a small town in Southeastern Iowa, Troy, Iowa. Just about the same size as Lawen is. Maybe a little bigger, but very little difference. But in, August the 1st, 1914. And we bought the ranch at Lawen in September, no October 1945. Started moving over here right after the ---

DOROTHEA: And that's where Terry went to school in his, in his grade school years?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And your parents moved all around racing horses.

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And you ended up meeting Martina at your sister's home in Prineville?

ANSEL: That's right.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay, that's about --- pretty close to summarizing the whole thing. Can you think of anything else that we ---

BARBARA: When did your parents pass away? How long have they been gone?

ANSEL: Let's see, my father passed away in 1958. And my mother passed away in '63.

BARBARA: You say they never came to Harney County?

ANSEL: My mother lived with us at Lawen for almost two years.

BARBARA: Oh. But your dad never made it here?

ANSEL: No, no.

BARBARA: Were they in California at that time?

ANSEL: My father was in Mexico City.

BARBARA: Mexico City.

ANSEL: Yes.

BARBARA: And then your mom came to stay with you after he passed away?

ANSEL: Yes, yes.

BARBARA: I see. What did she think of Harney County after moving around so much?

ANSEL: Oh, she liked Harney County fine.

BARBARA: Did she?

DOROTHEA: It probably reminded her a little bit of Troy, and the small vicinity that it was.

ANSEL: Yeah. And my mother was married to a --- first, to a man by the name of Blackaby. And she taught school in Jordan Valley in, oh about 1908, or along in there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, before she met your father?

ANSEL: Yes.

BARBARA: Oh, so she knew about this country then, a long time before?

ANSEL: Yes, that's right, a long time before I was born even.

BARBARA: She taught school in Jordan Valley. Well, that's interesting.

ANSEL: Yes. And then her husband died, and she went back to Iowa, and met my father.

BARBARA: I see.

DOROTHEA: Did she teach school back there too?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Well, did she teach school all the way through your childhood?

ANSEL: No.

BARBARA: So she probably told you about this country then?

ANSEL: Yes.

BARBARA: Is that what made you interested in coming to this area?

ANSEL: Well, one thing, and another thing that taught me a little bit about this country ---
(horses whinnying)

DOROTHEA: Got that on tape.

ANSEL: There was a ---

DOROTHEA: We're talking to each other. (Laughter)

ANSEL: A boy by the name of Doug Dodson that lived here, he went to school here, and my brother-in-law had his contract. And I taught him to be a race rider, and he told me quite a bit about Harney County. And Doug went on to be --- well one year he was leading rider of America, as far as money won was concerned. Rode horses like Citation, and some of the best horses that ever lived. And when he passed away, what, four years ago I think it was, and so I took --- they had a two-page obituary in a Blood Horse magazine. And I took it down to the paper here, and we got a little, about three columns,

about four inches long about Doug.

BARBARA: Par for the course, isn't it?

ANSEL: Here a magazine like the Blood Horse, which is one of the best publications of the thoroughbred racing that there is would devote, well there was two full pages and about a half a page. And then the place where he went to school would devote a small column about him; I didn't think it was hardly right.

DOROTHEA: No, no. There is a lot that ---

ANSEL: But they ---

DOROTHEA: They don't understand.

ANSEL: You go again, Kay Smith, Bob Smith's wife's uncle was one of the best race riders that ever lived, Earl Sande. And he was down at Salem with Kay's mother when he passed away. And the only way I knew about it there was a real small column in the back of the sporting section, about Earl Sande.

DOROTHEA: In ---

ANSEL: He won the Triple Crown on Gallant Fox. He rode horses like Man of War, and all those kinds of horses. He was beyond a doubt, one of the greatest race riders of the century.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Well, I don't know. I can't really --- this is on tape, so we can't make too close remarks. But --- I think we all have our opinions.

ANSEL: That's right. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Martina, we're kind of begging for something to talk about. Can you help us a little bit?

MARTINA: Tell them what you told Helen --- how they got the name, how they started calling it bulldogging. I didn't even know that, but he was talking ---

ANSEL: Well they, the first man to ever bulldog a steer was a black man, Bill Pickett. A bunch of cowboys were working for the 101 Ranch in Oklahoma, and they were riding into town, and he bet that he could throw this steer without roping him. So he got running the steer, and he got down on him off of his horse, and he threw him. And then they started making a contest out of it. And they would, after you threw your steer, one when he was laying flat, the time would stop. They would have to grab him by the nose with their mouth, and put both hands in the air, and hold him down.

DOROTHEA: Oh!

ANSEL: And so they called it bulldogging, because they had lots of, used to have lots of catch dogs. They were mostly bulldogs that would catch wild cattle by the nose and hold them until they could, rider could get up there and put a rope on them. So they called it bulldogging.

BARBARA: Oh, for goodness sakes.

DOROTHEA: Well, that's interesting to know. I didn't know that either. I wondered how it got its name, but ---

ANSEL: Now it's mostly called steer wrestling, you know, which it really is now. At that time, it was bulldogging.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it's gone to more or less steer wrestling now. They don't take much time, and they don't do much with the head.

ANSEL: That's right.

DOROTHEA: Just turn it.

ANSEL: Well, they used to call it bulldogging, or bite 'em lip. They would get a hold of them with your mouth, and put both hands in the air.

DOROTHEA: Well maybe they ought to go back to that, that would make the event a little

bit more interesting.

ANSEL: Yeah, it was definitely.

DOROTHEA: Very much so. Did they have very many people try out for it? Did they have many bulldoggers?

MARTINA: Ansel knows lots of stories, because he has been around to all of these --- his brother-in-law --- he probably told you this, the world's champion bronc rider, and trick rider the same year.

DOROTHEA: No, he didn't say anything about trick riding.

MARTINA: Now his brother-in-law was the worlds champion bronc rider and trick rider the same year. And he --- tell them about Harry Walters, your brother-in-law.

ANSEL: Well, trick riding used to be a contest event, the same as your bronc riding. They had the judges, and they would have all rodeos, they had trick riding, and trick roping. And both of them were a contest event. And they were judged on it the same as any judge does, oh like a queen's contest or anything, you know. And so if they weren't one of the best, well you didn't get any money. Now that's all contract. And he was the first man to ever go under a horse's belly when he was running. And the first one to ever go under a horse's neck when he was running. And he was world's champion bronc rider, and world's champion trick rider at the same time.

BARBARA: That's quite a fete.

ANSEL: Yes.

BARBARA: Did you ever do any rodeoing?

ANSEL: Yes, mostly roping. Calf roping, wild cow milking, little team roping. Wasn't much team roping when I was rodeoing.

BARBARA: Was this when you were just growing up, when you were a teenager, or later

on?

ANSEL: No, after I ---

MARTINA: The calves got to be the size of steers ... Ansel.

BARBARA: Oh.

ANSEL: After I got too heavy to ride races, why I started rodeoing.

BARBARA: I see.

MARTINA: The calves used to be little tiny, and Ansel was a terrific roper. And pretty soon the calves got to be as big as Ansel. Rope them, and the rest of the time wrestling them.

DOROTHEA: Well, when you were racing, what was the weight limit then?

ANSEL: The most, horses carried around a 110 pounds at that time. They've raised it now, until most horses carry around 115, between 15 and 18. But if you couldn't do a 110, you didn't ride too many races except the handicaps, stake races.

DOROTHEA: Is there a difference in the size of the horses now, than used to race?

ANSEL: The horses are bigger now than they were. Yes.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ANSEL: Just like rodeo horses, roping horses, and everything. Our horses, saddle horses are much bigger than they used to use. Used to be a 1200-pound horse was a real big saddle horse. And now they're lots of these steer roping horses weigh around 1400 or better, you know.

DOROTHEA: They've bred better breeds into them.

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And added more weight, and build, and muscle, a lot.

ANSEL: Yes, that's right.

DOROTHEA: I kind of think, you know, I remember when I was a kid even, the horses looked a lot smaller that raced than they do now.

ANSEL: That's right, they were. A lot of these quarter horses, they're not so very tall, but they'll weigh 12, 1300.

DOROTHEA: Because of the muscle.

ANSEL: Because of the muscle, they're broader, much heavier muscled horses, and everything.

DOROTHEA: Well Martina, what ---

MARTINA: Did he tell you about his father being the leading trainer at the Hippodrome de las Americas in Mexico?

DOROTHEA: Well he did, but we weren't on tape. But we can go back and talk about that picture now. He was telling us about the horse that the Mexican boy was riding. And we'll have to get some spelling out of that. What's that picture?

ANSEL: That's a picture of the riders at that particular day at Tan Foran.

DOROTHEA: It says in 19 ---

ANSEL: '32.

DOROTHEA: T A N F O R A N.

ANSEL: Yeah. We'll start out up here, is Eddie Hayes; he was in charge of the colors. Red Pollard rode Sea Biscuit and Kayak II. Was one of the real good riders. Who is this?

DOROTHEA: It says Rainey.

ANSEL: I don't, I don't --- oh, Paul Rainey. Yeah. And this Bobby Jones was the leading rider of America the year before. And I don't remember all of these riders.

DOROTHEA: Now where is your dad at?

MARTINA: Just tell her some of the main ones.

ANSEL: Well, Ray Trumaine was the, a state steward after he quit riding. He was a state steward for the racing commission in California.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ANSEL: And this was the starter. Here is Eddie Arcaro, Wainwright, Glen Smith, B. Matt from, he was an Indian boy from Klamath Falls, Marshall, Wainwright --- no, Johnny Gilbert, he won the Preakness Stakes. And Wainwright won the Derby. Johnny Longden, Harry Henson, you might have --- he was, after he quit riding he was, called the races at Hollywood Park for fifteen years. And then he was on TV, like on the Kentucky Derby, and all that for a number of years.

DOROTHEA: Now it says Sieloff down here.

ANSEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Is Ernie Sieloff in here?

ANSEL: Sieloff, yes.

MARTINA: Not Ernie.

DOROTHEA: Not Ernie.

ANSEL: No, he is no relation.

DOROTHEA: No relation.

ANSEL: He came over here about six years ago; I guess it was, to see Ernie. He thought maybe he was some relation. He was working for Morrison-Knudson over in Idaho. Been with him for a number of years.

MARTINA: Tell her all about that race.

ANSEL: About that one. No.

MARTINA: Tell her about the Kentucky Derby of Mexico.

ANSEL: Well, this wasn't it. There is a book ---

MARTINA: Well, just tell her about it.

ANSEL: A little poster. Well my father got twelve head of cast-offs from the King Ranch in Texas and took them to Mexico City and broke them. They were all two year olds at the time. And he set the worlds record with it in their big bracket, a quarter of a mile in the --- what was it, 1945. And the record still stands. And three other colts ran them in the Derby down there. And he was first, second, and fourth with three colts in the Derby.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

ANSEL: And they ---

DOROTHEA: Well you've led an interesting life in horses ---

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: --- and running races, and teaching training, and helping jockeys, and being a jockey yourself. So you've gone through all the ropes, so you know just what to tell.

ANSEL: Yes. And here's a --- the way they used to start races a long time ago. This is me.

DOROTHEA: That's you laying down on the horse. (Laughter)

ANSEL: Yes. And this Hank Mills, he'd been starter --- well he started all the American Futurity for twelve years. And he started rodeoing when he got too heavy to ride. And, he and his brother both. Hank was never world's champion, but he was runner-up in the bulldogging to Homer Pettigew three straight years. And his brother was world champion bareback bronc rider.

DOROTHEA: Now how did they start that? It looks like you've got a rope?

ANSEL: Well, they had what they called a barrier, you can see it here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I can see it coming across.

ANSEL: And they would pull it down here, and it was on springs. It was just a tape, a webbing actually about an inch wide, and a horse hit it, or a rider would get tangled up in it, it would break. And then when they break, come, why it would go up this way, and it wasn't across in front of the horses anymore.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I see.

MARTINA: They didn't have starting gates then.

ANSEL: It was just a line actually, across the racetrack, is what it really amounted to. Because it didn't slow a horse down or anything. But they were all supposed to line up even at that tape.

DOROTHEA: So you've seen a lot of change in starting gates.

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember the first rodeo and racetrack that you attended in Burns?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Where it was?

ANSEL: In Burns?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Was it where it is now?

ANSEL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: It was where it is now.

ANSEL: Yes, yes, definitely. And it was, Jimmy Richardson was the, in charge of racing at the time. And so he came, the starting gate didn't get here, and Jimmy came to me and wanted to know if I would start the races until they got the starting gate here.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ANSEL: And I told him okay. And all I could do, I had a broken arm at the time, in a cast,

and all I could do was get up in front of there with a little flag, and drop the flag and say go. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: You were the starting gate.

ANSEL: We didn't have any barrier, you didn't have anything, and there was a rider by the name of Buffington. I knew Buffington real well. And he was just about; the only way you could talk to Buffington was speak to him by hand. And --- but I had my arm broke, and so I was kind of at a disadvantage. And Buffington would get about as far as from here to that pickup in front of the field. And every time it looked like it would be a start, why he would kick his horse through. So we had quite a time getting them anyways near lined up. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: And then what happened when they did get the starting gate?

ANSEL: Well when the gate got here for the last day, and the starter was with the gate and everything, so everything was fine then the last day.

BARBARA: Did they have betting on the horses when they first started out?

ANSEL: Yes, yes they had betting on the horses at that time.

DOROTHEA: There has always been betting on ---

ANSEL: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: There has always been betting on the races? Did they have a place where they bet their money, or did they just bet amongst themselves?

ANSEL: No, no they had pari-mutuels here at the time.

DOROTHEA: Did they?

ANSEL: Yes. Larry Shelton was in charge of the pari-mutuels.

DOROTHEA: Even then?

ANSEL: Even then, yes.

DOROTHEA: I'll be darned. Because he's still, you know, he's still with it.

ANSEL: Yes. Yeah, he's still in charge.

MARTINA: And Hank Dickerson.

ANSEL: What?

MARTINA: Hank Dickerson.

ANSEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And Hank Dickerson.

ANSEL: That's right.

DOROTHEA: He's gone now, or he'd probably still be there.

ANSEL: Yeah, that's right.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ANSEL: And Morgan Timms was around there all the time helping any way that he could.

He was on the building committee. And oh, I forget --- it was in --- Morgan was in charge of concessions.

DOROTHEA: Did ---

ANSEL: And he got the carnival in here, and all that kind of things at the time.

DOROTHEA: Morgan is the one that started the carnivals?

ANSEL: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: Have they always had a 4-H group, or did that get started later?

ANSEL: Yes, they had a 4-H group at that time.

DOROTHEA: Since you've came?

ANSEL: Yes.

BARBARA: Have you been on the fair board? Have you worked on that?

ANSEL: I was, not on the --- I was on the fair association actually for fourteen years.

DOROTHEA: More with the racing commission part of it?

ANSEL: Yes. I was president one year. And we were, I was on the building committee. We got, the time we got two horse barns built down there. And it was, it was a lot of fun.

DOROTHEA: It's quite an experience, but you don't want it more than one year, do you?

ANSEL: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: Being president is quite an experience, but you don't want it more than one year.

ANSEL: That's right, that's right. Yeah, I --- well I was, I figured that I was, been on it long enough. Let somebody else ---

BARBARA: Have a turn at it.

ANSEL: --- have a turn at it. More young people coming along all the time, and everything, why they have different ideas.

BARBARA: You still go out and partake at fair time though.

ANSEL: Yes.

BARBARA: And watch the races and that sort of thing?

ANSEL: Yes. That's right. Yeah.

BARBARA: Figure out who is going to be the winner?

DOROTHEA: I was just reading a list Martina gave to me. There is a lot of those people that are gone now.

ANSEL: That's right.

DOROTHEA: They are not around. Trux Dalton, and Morgan Timms, and ---

MARTINA: ... Patterson ...

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. A lot of those people are not ---

BARBARA: Morgan Timms, is that Gene Timms ---

DOROTHEA: Dad.

BARBARA: Dad.

ANSEL: Don Hotchkiss, Alan Turner.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ANSEL: There is an awfully lot of them gone.

MARTINA: ...

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARTINA: ...

DOROTHEA: But Larry Shelton is still there. So boy I'll have to make something of that. We'll have to interview him, Barbara. We'll have to go out and get an interview. Well, we'd like to take a few more pictures. But unless you've got more to talk to us about, I think we'll sign off for this.

BARBARA: Well we might get a little bit of Martina in here too.

DOROTHEA: Well, we could get a little bit of Martina's history in this.

BARBARA: Right. Don't look at me like that.

DOROTHEA: We've had her whispering over here.

BARBARA: She was trying to keep out of it, but we want to include her in this too. After all, she's part of the pair here.

DOROTHEA: It takes two to make a crowd, doesn't it?

BARBARA: We can pick her up okay.

MARTINA: Ansel has done so much of these interviews.

DOROTHEA: Right.

MARTINA: He's done it.

BARBARA: Well, when we don't know anything about him ---

MARTINA: He was teaching, there is still 4-H kids come out the other day, little 4-H girl brought two head out, and Ansel just helps them get started.

BARBARA: That's nice.

ANSEL: Then two different ones come out, two girls wanted to learn how to shoe horses.

BARBARA: Oh, my.

MARTINA: Well, one of them was Helen Landers' daughter, and she just took to it like a duck to water.

BARBARA: For goodness sakes.

MARTINA: She could just --- the other little girl, what was her name Dawn, Reason.

DOROTHEA: Reason, uh huh.

MARTINA: I could see right then, she tackled it, but this other one would be --- there are women farriers around the racetrack.

DOROTHEA: Rhonda does her own horse shoeing too. So --- but it's a ---

MARTINA: So, I took a video of Ansel doing this, and he was saying the parts --- you have to pry it out of him. He's just so natural to him what the frog is.

BARBARA: Is that the soft part on the ---

MARTINA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now those girls should know that. Because they were supposed to learn that in 4-H.

MARTINA: And it's function.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARTINA: And the bar, and then he was showing them how they have to be just exactly level, so they each take their --- but --- I'd have to, on my video I heard me more than --- on my camcorder. Say Ansel, tell them what this is. Ansel --- so I had to keep out of it,

otherwise --- So it's just been, like I say, we, it will be fifty years next year.

BARBARA: Okay, where were you born, Martina?

MARTINA: Oh, I was born over in Wheeler County, not too far from Fossil.

BARBARA: Fossil.

MARTINA: My parents were both born over there. And then when I was ten years old, we moved to Central Oregon. I graduated from grade school and high school in a little community just out of Redmond, seventeen miles out of Redmond at, they call it Lone Pine.

BARBARA: Lone Pine.

MARTINA: And graduated from high school in Redmond. And I met Ansel's sister, they were training for --- well they trained for the sugar millionaire Spreckels.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARTINA: And he put in the first airport at Prineville, because he owned what is now, he bought what is now the fairgrounds. And then they got a better offer from Warner Brothers. This is Ansel's same brother-in-law that was the trick rider and the bronc rider. And he was very famous thoroughbred trainer. Trained for John D. Spreckels, who was the sugar millionaire. And he got a better offer from the movie people, Warner Brothers. So in the split-up he bought what is now the rodeo grounds and fairgrounds. And that was their breeding farm. And after I graduated from high school I went to work there at the --- what is burned down, the old Ochoco Inn.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARTINA: And I was real good with typing and shorthand, so I just did a little bit of everything. I worked; they only opened the dining room morning, noon, and night. So I would take cash, I would be a waitress; I would go in the office and do shorthand and the

typing. And then even baby-sit the manager's son. He always wanted to go home with me.

DOROTHEA: Girl Friday.

MARTINA: So a real good friend of mine worked in the drug store, and she met Ansel's sister when she come into town. And she came up to the --- then they bought that breeding farm, and they had their own horses there. And they had some of the Warner Brothers colts. And she came up by herself to stay a month, and they asked my friend, who had become friends of hers, wanted to know if I would go out and stay with her. She wanted somebody. And I didn't want to, because I liked to be with the young people. But I did, I didn't have nerve enough to say no. And we became very good friends. And she wrote to Ansel's mother, and Ansel, and Ansel's mother never showed him the letter. But she says I found Ansel's wife. (Laughter) In fact there was a very wealthy, well it is the Wall Street Dunsters, they had horses, and she had her cap set for Ansel. And I could understand why his mother wouldn't pass that letter along. But she kept working at it, and in about two years we met. And in the meantime I went to Portland, went to Business College, and then graduated from beauty school. Was getting ready to go to Oregon State that fall. And I got married instead.

BARBARA: What business were your parents in?

MARTINA: They were in farming.

BARBARA: Farming. They were farmers.

MARTINA: They were always farmers. They farmed there at Lone Pine, and then when Ansel and I --- my dad came with us when we were looking for a place where you raise cattle and horses and kids. And ---

BARBARA: And so you kind of grew up with horses and cattle too. So it just kind of went

together here then?

MARTINA: Well my dad always had racehorses like for the county fair and everything. I used to ride relay for him.

BARBARA: So you rode horses then too?

MARTINA: Yeah, we had to ride to school.

BARBARA: Oh, I see.

MARTINA: I started when I was five, and we rode horseback to school. And then we, Ansel's sister would just --- if they were going, they were racing at Seattle and --- and so she would pick me up in Portland and take me to Seattle. One time Ansel had just left. She worked --- one time she called and said she was going to be at the ranch, could I come up from Portland. Well that time I got there just one evening, and Ansel was leaving for Vancouver the next day with a horse. And we went to a show, and Ansel and I went to a show, and came back. Then he headed for Vancouver. Well the next day he was back. He stopped at Gresham where they were racing, and sold his horse and come back. So we just decided --- I had met him a couple times before that.

BARBARA: You kind of hit it off then?

MARTINA: I had met him a couple different times, two or three times, and visited with him. He'd come down to the ranch. My folks were at the ranch.

BARBARA: So it was kind of a quick courtship then, wasn't it?

MARTINA: Well actually yeah, because we knew, he saw my brother more than he did me. As Terry, our son, then he, when he went to, started to college he was going to major, he was going to major in psychology. He just lacked a few hours of getting his degree, and he said, "You know, you're sure lucky." All of that psychology that he studied, about knowing --- boy you guys are sure lucky.

BARBARA: It shouldn't have worked out, huh?

MARTINA: That's not the way they do it in the ---

DOROTHEA: In the books.

BARBARA: Well you say you went to Portland to study business. Were you interested in getting away from the farm and ranching?

MARTINA: Oh yeah.

BARBARA: --- and horse.

MARTINA: Oh, definitely.

BARBARA: And you really wanted, you wanted to do something else. But when you met Ansel then, he kind of turned your head.

MARTINA: His dream had been ranching, see.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARTINA: My dream was to get ---

BARBARA: Get off the ranch.

DOROTHEA: Get out. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Get to the town and the city, and get away from it all.

MARTINA: But then after Terry, after we got over here, for no planning of mine, I got away anyway. (Laughter) So that I could take, bring Terry back and forth to school; I didn't want to work in the --- in an office or where I was tied up. And since I had had the training in the cosmetics and everything, I don't know, I just --- We saw that ad, Hazel Otley and I, she was the one that saw it. Says here, they want an Avon lady in Burns, we need an Avon lady. And here I was down there at Lawen. And so I answered the ad, and I forgot about it. And then one evening, Ansel had a broken collarbone, so Becky Armstrong, Craig Cochran and I had to move the cattle to the lake. And you know what,

we come home, just couldn't even see us. And this phone call came, this lady was in Burns, and she wanted to interview me to sell Avon. I said, "Sell what?" She said, "Well I got your letter." Then I remembered. And I said, "Well I can't this evening, I have an appointment." I didn't tell her it was a bathtub. (Laughter) So I thought, well, when she said that, so I always teased everybody about my Los Angeles clothes. I always ran in jeans and everything, then I had my fancy clothes. So I dressed all up and went in. She said it was a shock when I walked in. So I sold Avon here for --- from 1953 to 1957. And then I got this phone call; they were wanting a manager for all of Eastern Oregon. And she didn't even ask me, my manager in Washington, didn't ask me. Just said none better, if available. And I said, "No way." So they kept calling, and wiring. And she says, "Keep after her." So Ansel then said, "Oh, you might as well go try it." So I went to Portland, and I said, "Well I would try it." So I quit four times the first year.

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

MARTINA: I hadn't been, I hadn't been away, if Ansel went some place, I went.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARTINA: And oh, I had an awful time. I put pillows beside me, so if I woke up, and I wouldn't know where I was. I'd pick up the phone and said, "I'm through with this." And here they'd fly out to get me. So I ended up managing for them for twenty-seven and a half years. So I get to go to Paris, Tokyo, Italy, and every place.

BARBARA: That's great.

MARTINA: So here I am back.

DOROTHEA: Ansel was telling us that that's what Nita is doing now. She is managing a little bit. She just started.

MARTINA: Yeah. Yeah, but she is managing more now than I ever did in my twenty-

seven and a half years. The most I ever had was 184 women. I never had less than a 150. And she has all of Medford, Ashland, goes south, Weed, Yreka, all of --- everything, and including Dunsmuir. And she has I think, around 235 women. And she has been at it a year. And they call, what they call circle of excellence, that means if you're one of the very top in production, they send you to some country. And so we're just, she's on the phone, "What'll I do now? Got any ideas?" So we hope she gets, we hope she gets to go the first year as a manager. But when I met Kay Osborne, you know Kay?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARTINA: Her name is Kay Hart now. She said, "What's Nita doing? And I said, "Well, she's an Avon manager." She said, "Well she meant it." When they were seniors, they had to say what they wanted to do. She said, "Just the same as my aunt." So now her daughters are what, 22 and 23.

DOROTHEA: Nita's are?

MARTINA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Oh, well I was wondering how old her children were now. I knew she had daughters.

MARTINA: But they weren't the same ... She's 4-H'd, has been a 4-H leader all these years. Her daughters show, well her daughter, she finally decided that wasn't --- she was, well she was a straight "A" student at, 4.0 student at Cal Poly last year. She just decided, she and her boyfriend she met when she was showing cattle around, that they wanted their own cattle. So she is working for Gills in Medford. And they got their own purebreds. And she says I'm not going, I've had all of that I want. But they, but she got to go to Kansas, everyplace on judging teams. She is fantastic at that, both of them.

DOROTHEA: Well at least they had their chance to decide what they wanted to do, so ---

MARTINA: Uh huh. Yeah, Ansel and I were going to have a big family. We ended up with one, but lots of other peoples. Our nephew, Nita's brother is a vice president with the Bank of America in Concord, in charge of data processing. And my sister's boy, we've had lots of kids live with us.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You've, you can't imagine that some kids from a little vicinity like Lawen can really work themselves into such a big position. This is what makes me so proud that, that our schools are not really what people think they are.

MARTINA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: They really have, we've done well in our training.

MARTINA: Well not just Lawen, but all of the schools. Kids get like tutored, you know. Like there would be Earl Carson, and Nita, Frank Catterson, and ... Terry, that was the school one year. And they had microscopes, they --- and they, everyone had music lessons. And Terry didn't have a classmate. He had the kids in the school, but in his class all through his grade school. There was one in eighth grade. A girl moved in, they worked for Dan Opie for a while. She was there, she was in eighth grade, but she was just there a few months. So when he went into, went to California, he asked to take this test to get in --- his councilor told him to ask for that test. And you won't have to struggle to get to go; he wanted to go to Chapman College there in Orange. And he passed in the upper three percent of all junior college students in the state of California. So that just proves what a one-room school --- if they think it isn't best. And then when he graduated from the Art Center College of Design, after he gave up the psychology and went back into the arts, it's, Weyerhaeuser put out a book on the Arts Center. And they said it's the

toughest to get into, and the toughest to get out of. And he was an honored graduate and then taught there.

DOROTHEA: And tough to get out of.

MARTINA: And the reason it is tough to get into, it doesn't matter how great a portfolio they get ready to present, they'll turn it down. And if they want to go bad enough to come back in six months --- Terry found that out. He was going to help his friend, he wanted to go. He said, "Well I'll help you with the portfolio," he said. And so they really polished him up one. And they turned him down. They want to know that you want to go enough to go back and study some. They tell you something to study in. And so Terry did, and it's a very, very prestigious --- more movie directors are graduated from there. Leslie Caron accepted the diploma for this famous --- I can't say it in French, but it's Jean de Paul, you know, the movie director. And his wife was there, but he wasn't. So it was --- and Terry didn't tell us that he was an honor graduate. So we flew down, and we took these people that Terry lived with so much in California. And she was the one that first noticed it. And she said --- So he ruined our mascara, we weren't prepared for it.

BARBARA: That's easy to do.

DOROTHEA: Well my little light is blinking, and I don't think we brought another tape. So we're going to have to sign this off. And we do appreciate your time, and all your little stories and things. And we'll thank you, but we do want to get a few more little snapshots of your pictures, and things like this. And thank you a lot.

MARTINA: Okay.

(END OF TAPE)

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