

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #471

Subject: Carol Sawyer

Place: Harney County Library, Burns, Oregon

Date: March 9, 2010

Interviewer: Debby Peckham

DEBBY: This is Debby Peckham and today is March 9, 2010 and I'm at the Harney County Library in Burns, Oregon in the Oral History Room with Carol Sawyer who has been one of the stalwarts of music in Harney County for a long time. And I'm delighted to visit with her today. Carol, when did you first come to Harney County? Are you a native Harney Countian?

CAROL: I'm a native. I was born here at the old Valley View Hospital, here in Burns, Oregon.

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, that's wonderful. I did not know that.

CAROL: My parents and families background—they lived down in the Andrews area. And so we... a week or so after I was born then they took me back home, where I lived down there until I was around four, I think. About four years of age, and then we moved up to Burns.

DEBBY: Up to Burns.

CAROL: My father said that he couldn't stay down there and starve to death, he needed to get some place where he could make a decent living.

DEBBY: Which is an understandable thing during....

CAROL: It was during the Depression era. And they had cattle ranches, and ... you know how that thing goes.

DEBBY: Right. Exactly.

CAROL: They had to come here.

DEBBY: And they were probably dry years, too.

CAROL: Yes.

D. That affected a lot of things.

CAROL: That's right.

DEBBY: It did. You started school here in Burns then?

CAROL: Yes, I did.

DEBBY: Wonderful. Did they have music going then, when you started in that school?

CAROL: Oh yes. Oh, yes.

DEBBY: Wow. Tell us about that.

CAROL: Well, actually my—I started to sing when I was four. Down at the Andrews school. I was not a member of that school at the time, I was too young. But I hated to be left out of things. Alice Bennett was the instructor, the teacher, at Andrews school. My older brothers and sisters were attending that school. And so I would sneak off, run away from home...

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh!

CAROL: It was about, oh, imagine a total of about three blocks-- in the sagebrush if you can imagine—down to where the school was from our home. I would go down there and Alice would let me in and she would occupy me, and I would... give me chalk and I would draw on the chalkboard and stuff. And they had programs in the evenings on special occasions. Like I said, I hate to be left out of anything. She asked if someone had anything worthy they would like to add to the program, or if they would like to do anything, and I just spoke right up. I would love to sing.

DEBBY: What kind of song did you sing?

CAROL: So I sang... I'm not sure about the title because it is *climb up my raindrop, slide down my cellar door*. So I sang that...

DEBBY: Oh, how funny, how neat....

CAROL: ...before this group.

DEBBY: So you're a natural musician, aren't you?

CAROL: Well, I would like to hope that I am. My father played the accordion and the piano. And my mother and her brothers and sisters all played the violin. My brothers and sisters-- all of my sisters-- we all took piano lessons.

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh. Who was your teacher then?

CAROL: When we first moved to Burns, and I was about five years of age, I took piano lessons from Mrs. Haibach.

DEBBY: I have not heard of her.

CAROL: This stone house across the street that the Cramer's occupied... That was where she lived. Her brother[-in-law] was Dr. Meyer, and he was a doctor. His practice was in the home.

DEBBY: Really?

CAROL: Yes, half of the home was his practice, then the living quarters was in the other half. She taught piano lessons, and that is all she did... was teach piano lessons. My oldest sister, two brothers—we all took piano lessons from her. Which was a big... well, a big investment in those days.

DEBBY: Yes, it would be.

CAROL: Because that would be four of us taking piano lessons a week.

DEBBY: That's a lot.

CAROL: My mother just insisted, and boy that... You had to. I mean, and it was practice every day, and it was...

DEBBY: Oh, my goodness.

CAROL: Yes.

DEBBY: Now, what was your family's.... What was your maiden name, Carol?

CAROL: My maiden name was Smyth.

DEBBY: Smyth. Oh.

CAROL: S-M-Y-T-H. Yes, so we are family pioneers.

DEBBY: Yes, you are. That's wonderful. Your brother, I believe is....

CAROL: Cactus was, yes. Yes, he has written a couple of books.

DEBBY: Yes, I have read them.

CAROL: My family settled here in the... Harney County. Diamond Valley and... When the settlers first came through here, they were out in Potter Swamp area. My great-aunt, Maggie Donegan—Maggie Smyth Donegan—she was the first white child born here in Harney County.

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh.

CAROL: Yeah, the list goes on and on, but...

DEBBY: Oh, that is wonderful, Carol. Wow. So, all of you did piano?

CAROL: Yes, we all did.

DEBBY: And that would have been expensive, even then.

CAROL: Even then. And we... I remember when Mother bought this piano from... I can't remember the name of the people. But I still have the piano.

DEBBY: Oh, you do? Oh, my gosh, how wonderful.

CAROL: Yes, I've had it restored.

DEBBY: Oh, my goodness. What a treasure that is. Seriously. Oh, that's wonderful.

CAROL: When I was five, I started taking piano lessons from Mrs. Haibach. One day she was playing and I started singing, and so she said, "Carol, I think I'd like to record your voice." So she had this machine, and she got out these little records, and she started recording my voice. I have some of the records.

DEBBY: Oh, Carol, that is wonderful.

CAROL: They are... they are "My Pretty Little Pumpkin" and those kind, all those kind. I get them out occasionally and play for my grandchildren. They get quite a kick out of that.

DEBBY: Oh, that is amazing.

CAROL: Anyway, when my mother found out she was recording my voice all the time, and charging for piano lessons, it didn't set too well.

DEBBY: Uh-oh, oh dear, oh dear.

CAROL: So anyway, we finished with that about... I think I continued taking them from her until I was in the fourth grade.

DEBBY: In fourth grade?

CAROL: Yeah, and then when I was in sixth grade I sang solos most of the time because the music teachers at school at the time wanted me to start singing solos. So I would sing for school programs and for church, and so forth.

DEBBY: Now do you remember who the teachers were back then? Any teachers at school?

CAROL: Yes, we had a Miss Clarcy, and she is the one that kind of promoted my voice at the time. I think, she was only here a couple of years. So, that's kind of hard... that's a long time ago to me.

DEBBY: Yeah. Well what years was she here, do you know?

CAROL: That would have been in the late '40s. 1940s. Something like that. I would sing, and then she... she would accompany me most of the time. She lived with Mrs. Weittenhiller. Mrs.

Weittenhiller, I believe was the superintendent of schools at the time. I would go up to her house and practice. Then there was a band instructor at Crane by the name of Mr. Havlick.

DEBBY: Havlick?

CAROL: He came to the community, and he had studied opera and taken quite a lot of vocal lessons. So I became his student. He would come in from Crane and instruct me in the little old white church that used to be... That's where I first took off on this. So he would... that's why I'm so loud. He would teach me to project my voice.

DEBBY: Right, but he...

CAROL: He would stand in the back of the church—as far away from me as possible—he had a big strong baritone voice and he would sing with me. He'd say "Louder, Carol. Louder. Louder. Come on, come on with that voice." And so we would work, I would work and work and practice with him.

DEBBY: Wow. Carol I think it is so amazing that people like that lived here, that helped you. That is so amazing.

CAROL: There was lots of older talent here that people just didn't know about.

DEBBY: Wow that is just amazing. So, he was an opera singer?

CAROL: He had studied opera.

DEBBY: Had studied opera.

CAROL: I'm not really sure of all the details, because I was a child, and I was mostly wrapped up in myself...I wasn't thinking about him and his victories. Then we had a math teacher at high school, a Mr. Robe, and he was quite a pianist. And so, at about the sixth, seventh grade level... I'm not sure about all the dates....

DEBBY: That's okay.

CAROL: My mother decided I should continue with my piano. So then I took lessons from Mr. Robe. I took lessons from him for probably two or three years.

DEBBY: How wonderful. Do you remember what... did you have a book that you studied in and...?

CAROL: Oh, yes, I still have some of the books.

DEBBY: Oh, do you really? What were they? I'm so curious. Was it like Thompson?

CAROL: Some of those. Thompson, yes. And there was another one, S....

DEBBY: Schwamp.

CAROL: Schwamp, yes. Thompson and Schwamp. I still have some of those series of piano books.

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, how wonderful. I wasn't aware that you played piano. So that is awesome.

CAROL: Well, I don't anymore.

DEBBY: Oh, you don't?

CAROL: I don't at all. I lost that. And then when I was in the Well I'm a member of the Presbyterian Church... And we had a junior choir back then. We had robes, and there were like twelve or fourteen of us in that junior choir of young people. We practiced every week.

DEBBY: Now the young people-- that would be like junior high, high school?

CAROL: Junior high, yes. I sang in that for probably three years or so. Then I became involved then in The director of that choir was Mary Graven. Mary took an interest in my voice, and so I took some lessons from Mary. She had me sing in the adult choir at the church. When I was a freshman in high school I started singing with the adult choir then

DEBBY: How wonderful

CAROL: And then I sang in the adult choir for all of my high school years. Then in my junior and senior year at high school my vocalist instructor was Alice Pettys. Alice was an exceptionally talented musician. She gave me vocal lessons. Because she directed choir, the church choir at the Burns Christian Church, she wanted me to be involved with that, and to help them there. So what I would do on Sunday mornings is I would hit both services. I would go to the Burns Christina Church and sing with their group, and then I would go up to the Presbyterian Church and sing with them.

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, how wonderful. Now, she taught school at Burns High School?

CAROL: She... at Burns High School. She was my chorus director. She also taught at the Burns Grade school

DEBBY: At the Burns Grade School. Now can you clarify for me, my brain here, which one was which? Where was the Burns High School at then? Is that where the....?

CAROL: Lincoln Junior...

DEBBY: At Lincoln Junior High. And then the Burns Grade School was Hines, or....?

CAROL: No, it's where the gymnasium is now. Or that was the Burns Grade School. Yes, and they remodeled it over.

DEBBY: I see.

CAROL: Alice was a wonderful person. In fact, she was alive up until two years ago. I spoke with her. I was a good friend of her daughters. Her daughter passed away. Her son, Gelmer[?] Pettys, when they lived here, he was... played the violin and he was excellent. When they left here they moved to Portland. He played with the Portland... what do you call it?

DEBBY: The Junior Symphony

CAROL: Junior Symphony. When he went there he was so good that when he finished, or actually before he played with them very long... He then played with the Portland Symphony-- Oregon Symphony. He was then awarded scholarships and he went to the Julliard School of Music. He studied there, got his degree and played in Carnegie hall.

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, how exciting.

CAROL: And then he was... he got a job as professor of... I'm not sure, of music or something at the University of Texas. Or, I think, Dallas, whatever, whatever college that is. And he played there. I think he is retired now. I spoke to him on the phone here a couple of years ago.

DEBBY: Oh, for heavens' sake, Carol, that's amazing. Now what kind of choir structure did they have at the school? Did they just have one choir?

CAROL: Yes, we had one large chorus.

DEBBY: Uh-huh. Oh you have pictures. Oh, my gosh, look at all those kids.

CAROL: Yes, there were ninety of us. That was... that picture was taken in '54 and '55

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, and where are you?

CAROL: I'm right... let's see...

DEBBY: Oh, my goodness, let me see.

CAROL: That's Pauline Braymen. Pauline Braymen used to be Ausmus. She was our accompanist

DEBBY: Oh, for heaven's sake.

CAROL: She played quite well, although she is nervous and won't do it anymore. And Mrs. Pettys

DEBBY: Mrs. Pettys.

CAROL: When Mrs. Pettys would leave to go for family emergencies or conferences, I was the assistant choir director.

DEBBY: Oh, how awesome Carol.

CAROL: So I took over her class. I instructed the class then, while I was still a student in the high school.

DEBBY: Oh, that is awesome.

CAROL: I didn't make very many friends, however.

DEBBY: Oh, Carol.

CAROL: You know Brownie? They called me Brownie.

DEBBY: They called you Brownie?

CAROL: Yeah, they did a lot of that kind of... You know how mean they can be.

DEBBY: Yes, I do. Very well, I do

CAROL: Anyway... that was a very special time.

DEBBY: Oh, I bet it was. Oh, that is amazing. Yeah, did your chorus have a name?

CAROL: Was Burns High School

DEBBY: Just the Burns High School?

CAROL: Uh-huh, yes.

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, everybody is standing so beautifully. Oh, goodness sakes. Now are any of these people still here besides Pauline?

CAROL: That's Connie—she's not here. That's Jeanie Foster.

DEBBY: Oh, uh-huh

CAROL: That's Bernita Smith—she lives out in the country. That's Jeanette Garo.

DEBBY: Yes. Oh, my goodness. It's amazing that some are still here.

CAROL: That's Ruby Tiller. That's Joyce Wheeler. They're not here anymore, but that's... was... Dr. Weare's daughter, Margie. Now, I think there are probably a few more there that...

DEBBY: Well that is awesome. Wow, Carol.

CAROL: Anyway—we had, let me see.... I think there was a talent show once, a community talent show that we held at the high school. It was a musical put on, and I'm not sure who it was put on by, but it was something to do with, maybe the American Legion. I'm not sure. Anyway, it was called "Frankie and Johnny." And I was the lead singer in "Frankie and Johnny."

DEBBY: Oh, how wonderful, Carol.

CAROL: I still have the script for it.

DEBBY: Oh, you do? Oh, my gosh, how wonderful.

CAROL: The people that... I can remember some of the men that starred in it. Hank Slater. He was one of the men that starred in the production. Then there were two or three other men that are all gone. Anyway, it was kind of funny.

DEBBY: How wonderful.

CAROL: This was our community—oh, not community—this was our church choir for the Messiah, a cantata that we had.

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, you put on a Messiah then?

CAROL: Yes, we used to. A couple of three times

DEBBY: Oh, how beautiful.

CAROL: And what... it was all those people—those that are in the white robes. They came over from John Day and joined us.

DEBBY: All joined up. Right.

CAROL: Yes, and some of the men....

DEBBY: Special, yeah.

CAROL: The only women that are in there still that you would see, that are still living are Ethel Bossuot, myself... some of these women are still living but I don't know where they are. That's Helen Felt. She used to be here.

DEBBY: Now, who was the pastor of the church then?

CAROL: The pastor was... Rev. Banks at that particular time. Rev. Stanley Banks. He had been an architect—or not an architect, but an interior decorator. So he was always putting these beautiful bouquets and ...

DEBBY: Oh, I was just noticing all these.

CAROL: He just had everything going all the time, anyway

DEBBY: Goodness, it's beautiful.

CAROL: Mabel Taylor was or organist and Ethel Johnson. Do you remember Ethel?

DEBBY: Yes, very well

CAROL: The director was Roy Heskoff. He came from John Day. He would come over and direct our choir. They made these trips back and forth every week. They just didn't think a thing about it. Bud Eshelby-- he is gone now. And of course, some of my relatives are in there. My brother, two of my brothers-in-law. One is still living- Harold Sawyer. Most of them are gone.

DEBBY: Yes, but what an amazing thing. I mean putting on the Messiah is no small feat.

CAROL: Yeah, we did it, I think probably a couple of times that I can remember.

DEBBY: Oh, that is wonderful.

CAROL: These are the soloists for that.

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, Carol, look at that. Wow, that is wonderful. Do you remember any of these people?

CAROL: I know this is you.

DEBBY: Right.

CAROL: Pauline Miller-- she taught at the Burns Grade School. She had a beautiful voice, just beautiful. And of course, that's Ethel Johnson. And Helen Felt. And that was... I can't place her. But it was a McRae. They had the McRae lumber yard here for years.

DEBBY: So is that a relation to Marge, then? Marge McRae?

CAROL: I think different McRae's. And these other people are from John Day.

DEBBY: John Day? How wonderful.

CAROL: And of course, we had... While I was in high school, we had the solo contests—The Oregon Music Educators Association. They were at Redmond.

DEBBY: We just had the very same thing last weekend.

CAROL: Yes, and these are my old certificates. They were all 2's

DEBBY: Oh, look at these.

CAROL: They were all 2's

DEBBY: 2's are a great rating in the senior division. Do you remember what you sang for a song then?

CAROL: Oh, I don't know

DEBBY: Those are wonderful.

CAROL: I still have my programs of... that I sang in church, for solos. And many of them that I sang for solos in the church are the same that they sang there. Then, let's see....

DEBBY: Now, did your school choir tour anywhere, or go to contests or anything?

CAROL: No. Well we did-- I think it was my senior year or junior year. I'm not sure which one. Mrs. Pettys was directing. We went to Prineville and we competed at Prineville. I'm not sure how we did. I can't remember. But it was a wonderful experience.

DEBBY: Yeah, that's awesome. Did you, yourself, go to like All-State choirs? Did they have those then? All-State choirs or All-Northwestern?

CAROL: They had All-Northwest choir.

DEBBY: Oh, did they? Which was such an amazing time.

CAROL: Yes. Oh, this is just a picture of the high school band, and the high school chorus under the direction of Mr. Beaubien, who was our... the band instructor. And Mrs. Leila... Miss Leila Case, who was the choral director of the high school during my freshman and sophomore years.

DEBBY: Oh, uh-huh. Oh, my goodness, look at that. Wow. Looks like you have tartans?

CAROL: Yes, we had the real—we had the original

DEBBY: Scottish stuff. Wow, that's awesome. How wonderful. All of this is so wonderful. I'm looking for that picture.

CAROL: This is the All-Northwest choir

DEBBY: Oh, my goodness, look at that. Now, where did they hold All-Northwest then?

CAROL: That was in Eugene.

DEBBY: In Eugene.

CAROL: I was selected... This was my patch to wear.

DEBBY: Oh, look at that. That's wonderful. Oh, my gosh, that is wonderful—in Eugene. Now that looks like a stadium or something?

CAROL: Yes, I'm sure it was. Yes it was

D; Oh, that is excellent. Wow. Congratulations, Carol that is wonderful.

CAROL: I can't find the other stuff. Anyway, that's in ... I was selected to be in the All-Northwest chorus. And of course, the district contests I told you about.

DEBBY: Yes, that is just excellent.

CAROL: Then while I was in the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and so forth... well, I was the worthy advisor and....

DEBBY: Oh, how lovely. You had a lot of music in that as well, didn't you?

CAROL: Yes, I went... I was a member of the state choir for Rainbow for Girls in '55 or '56-- I can't remember which year. Yeah, I think I still have them. Of course I couldn't get into it anymore. Here is a whole program. I sang a legend then, I guess. That was in church. I don't know why I have that particular one, but I do. This was my year for myself, when I was installed as worthy advisor, and my two sisters... Then, let's see... during my senior year in high school I sang for several weddings in the community. And also made trips to the valley to sing for some friends and weddings down there as well. I auditioned at Willamette University for a music scholarship. I was awarded a music scholarship from Willamette University for my freshman year there. I received that. And there is Mr. Stanley Jobe, who was the principal...this would have been my senior year. He is awarding me this scholarship.

DEBBY: Oh, how awesome, Carol. That is wonderful

CAROL: This is when I was first auditioning. Wow, that... I was telling you about.... Anyway, back in the '50s-- way back in the '50s... see I make that sound like it is a long time ago. But it doesn't seem like it was that long ago. We had a Chamber Music Society here.

DEBBY: You did?

CAROL: Yes,

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, I did not know about it.

CAROL: I was a member of that society. I'm not sure that we really called it that particular name, but it was in many of the People in the community belonged to it. I remember the Corbetts—Mildred Corbett was in. Mary Graven. People like that. What they did... it wasn't so much that we performed, but we brought in talent from out of the area. They would come in and perform. I remember we had pianists, and violinists, and so forth. They had nice receptions at their Corbett home. I don't remember those things. And that was back in the '50s.

DEBBY: Yeah. Oh, that was so wonderful. It has just been a continuous stream of music here in Harney County.

CAROL: Yes. Yes, there really has been. When I received the scholarship from Willamette University, the local PTA organization here in town gave me a scholarship as well. I went to Willamette University. Entered the school of music there in '56 and '57.

DEBBY: Oh, how wonderful. That's an awesome place.

CAROL: It is wonderful. But it was a little too expensive for my blood (laughter).

DEBBY: Yeah, I can imagine.

CAROL: I took chorus there. Sang with Willamette-- what do you call them? ... or whatever. I took piano from Professor Dobbs, who was a funny little guy who parted his hair in the middle. In those days people didn't part their hair, they... like this (laughter). He was very strange. I remember seeing all these... a long time ago we had these Fudgesicles and Popsicles that were in the ... and on them you could... If you saved so many and sent them in you can receive prizes. Professor Dobbs collected those like crazy, and on this big, beautiful baby grand piano that I was taking, there would be stacks of these Popsicles. It was very different. Very different. He was quite a guy. Anyway, I took lessons, piano lessons, from him. Then I studied voice from Clarendia Topping-- Mrs. Topping, at the University. Of course, all my hours of practicing and taking all my other classes of history, Christianity, and all the other things. Then I worked at Burke's Supermarket downtown Salem from 3:00 in the afternoon until 10:00 at night. I had to in order to...

DEBBY: To make it work.

CAROL: To make it work, yeah. I did manage a 3.0 average. But the pace was a little too much. So the next fall then, I transferred to the University of Oregon, where I could afford it. It was just... I couldn't afford that. And there I entered the University of Oregon chorus, and their recreation... because I was kind of a P.E. major/minor, too. Recreation and physical education department, music department. Then I was involved in a serious auto accident.

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, Carol. I did not know.

CAROL: It set me back considerably. There were some friends of mine, and we were coming home for the weekend. I was to take care of my parents' grocery store. They were friends from John Day that were coming home for homecoming. And we were involved in a serious accident. So that really put me back.

DEBBY: Yeah, I can imagine that. Gosh, I never even really even noticed them.

CAROL: Oh, really. Thank you.

DEBBY: No, I'm serious.

CAROL: So, I was out of school then. I had multiple surgeries on my head and on my eyes and so forth for the next several years. I couldn't see. I couldn't see anymore, and I lost... and because... well, I'm not going to say that I... it was a handicap that I had to overcome because

the jaws and the facial bones and so forth were huddled and wired together. And so I can only get my mouth open...

DEBBY: So far...

CAROL:like this. So I didn't think that I could ever sing again. And I lost all my abilities to play the piano. I could do this hand okay, but I can't use this one at all. But I finally tried to sing a year or so later because the church kept after me. It was for their wonderful support, and they begged me to do it. I was very nervous. And very afraid. But I started singing again.

DEBBY: Oh, good.

CAROL: And I started singing for funerals and some weddings and so forth

DEBBY: I have never known you not singing.

CAROL: Right.

DEBBY: So to me, it is kind of a surprise.

CAROL: I didn't think that I could continue with my careers. In fact, I knew I couldn't because in physical education and recreation in those days, those were involved contact sports. I couldn't be involved in any contact sports whatsoever. Because I had been in hospitals for so long... and I had lost... I had limited balance and eyesight and a lot of facial paralysis. Then I returned to the University of Oregon and entered the school of nursing and continued on in college with that at the University of Oregon. When I finished with that I worked in Portland for a year or so. But due to health problems and eyesight problems I was not able to continue my career in nursing. So I worked as a travel agent, sold real estate, and became an office manager for a large business firm in the Portland area. Then I came back here. Now, even while I was down there, I like to sing once in a while. One of my former employers' wife had been a nightclub singer. So, because I was employed by them I accompanied them occasionally to some of their night clubs. Most of them were after-hours clubs. Have you ever heard of those? I would sing at some of those after-hours clubs (laughs).

DEBBY: Oh, how wonderful. But you have explored all the gamuts of music, haven't you?

CAROL: Yes. Yes, and I returned here to Burns in 1965 and started singing in the Presbyterian Church choir again. Then I went across the street to sing in the Episcopal Church choir, and helped them. And sang in some of the musicals that we had. Rev. Boran had been a pianist. A

very good concert pianist. He was a... he was the priest at the Episcopal Church. So we put on some local musicals here in town.

DEBBY: Oh, how wonderful. Do you remember the name of any of those? Are we talking like...?

CAROL: Well, actually, they weren't musicals in a sense, but they were musical presentations from some of the musicals like Sound of Music and some of those, yes. We had quite a large turnout.

DEBBY: I bet you did. People love to watch those.

CAROL: Yes, and it's music that's... I don't know... It's certainly different than it is now days-- excuse me.

DEBBY: No, no it is.... It's those musicals that's really touched the heart of people a lot.

CAROL: Then I began singing again in the Chamber Music Concert Choir probably in the late '80s. 1980s. And I'm still doing it. Or trying. And in 2001 and 2006, I was appointed as the state soloist for the Rebekah Assembly of Oregon. I attended those conventions and sang... was the soloist for them.

DEBBY: How wonderful. Now, at those conventions, would they ask for a certain type of song or did you just....?

CAROL: Yes, oh yes. The Assembly president has special pieces that are hers, and she likes special hymns and special music. I receive those ahead of time.... four, five months ahead of time, so that you can practice and know all of those. Then when you get to the convention they have, of course, a pianist there. You practice with that one and perform. I did that in... well, the last time I did it was four years ago, I think. Then I took over directing the Presbyterian Church choir, where I'm the music director now. I did that in 1990. I'm still doing it, so it has been twenty years. I have between, I would say, between twelve and eighteen that are in my choir now. Very special people.

DEBBY: Yeah. Yeah, so dedicated and they.... Do you rehearse every week?

CAROL: We rehearse every Wednesday evening, then we disperse for the summer months of June, July and August. Then I started directing the community bell choir. In 2002. So I've been doing that for eight years now. We have another concert coming up in April. And let me see.... Then I sang for... in 1992 we attended the Rebekah Lodge, and attended International Order of

Rebekah conventions in Atlanta, Georgia and we had a drill that we put on, and I sang at the International Convention for this drill. In Atlanta, Georgia at that time. When I was in nursing school, when we were doing our capping ceremony they wanted some music. So I directed the... I got a group of all the nursing students together that thought they could sing (laughter) and do it for our capping ceremony. I directed. The piece I did was Prayer Perfect. I had done that before as a solo, so it wasn't very hard. But this was the capping ceremony, and I directed the music for that group.

DEBBY: Oh, Carol, that was special.

CAROL: Then I've sung at a couple of Pioneer Day celebrations here in the county. I think that pretty well sums it up. Oh, this was the night club one (looking at pictures).

DEBBY: Oh, how fun Carol. Well, you've certainly had a wonderful career.

CAROL: That's ... well, that's Gene Timms and I, and I was leading the singing. I was supposed to look real old and awful because it was our 100-year celebration at church. So I do look real old and awful.

DEBBY: Oh, I think that is fun. Oh, my goodness

CAROL: And of course, all my bell ringers and I love them... they're very special. This year I have a bigger group than usual. I have fourteen. I've been down to as many as nine or ten.

DEBBY: Yes, I know. Barely covering the bells. How many can you actually have?

CAROL: Well, because we have three octaves, I couldn't do... handle very many more than fourteen, would be about it. I had to put in an extra table this year. An extra, smaller table. But I've lost some of mine, too, through the years, you know, from death, moving away, job commitments... You know, those things. But it's fun and I enjoy that very much. When I was a freshman at the university-- Willamette University-- we had our annual freshmen glee, they called it. I can't find myself in there. I'm in there someplace. But they had a competition for the classes, one over another and whatever.... This is the paper that I had. It was usually always the juniors that won, but the freshmen won that year. Oh, here is that. Here is the program for on the

....

DEBBY: Oh, my goodness. Oh, my goodness, look at that. Oh, Carol, that's wonderful. So, I'm assuming from having heard you sing with Chamber Music that you are a soprano?

CAROL: Oh, definitely. Yes. Yes, I'm the high squeaky one (laughter).

DEBBY: No. No, I don't think that's true, but I know you have a lovely voice.

CAROL: I usually carry the high tones because... because, well, that's what I was trained to do. The loudness is sometimes hard for people to understand, but in order for yourself to be heard, and for you to lead, it's important that you...

DEBBY: It is very important.

CAROL: These are all just church bulletins and songs that I sang-- in here.... I was looking for that—oh, here it is now. Oh, it doesn't give names. This was good. "Frankie and Johnny"... I can't....

And.... He done her wrong... I don't know why I saved that.

DEBBY: Well, I'm glad you did that. How fun. This is a wonderful....

CAROL: I sang for the graduations-- for my own graduation-- and then for other graduations as... from the class ahead and the class behind, and so forth. This was in '55. I sang for... Our chorus sang for that. Lots of memories.

DEBBY: Yeah, Carol. I can imagine. This had been quite a treat. We would love to have a copy of these pictures if you would like to share them for this... to go with your....

CAROL: Yes, certainly. That's not a problem. And you know, you're more than welcome to ... I also have these annuals—my high school annuals.

DEBBY: Oh, you do? Oh, my gosh, how wonderful.

CAROL: From '50... this is in '54. I would have been a sophomore, and I'm just being silly there. Bonnie Lassie. Yes, I was a member of the Bonnie Lassies. We used to... we did the Highland Fling and...

DEBBY: Oh, my gosh, how wonderful. That's sure changed now, hasn't it?

CAROL: Oh, just.... And that's our chorus again.

DEBBY: Oh, yes. And we even had a little.... Oh, my gosh, how fun. Oh, it's wonderful to see these uniforms, because these hats...

CAROL: I have one of those hats.

DEBBY: And some of these still exist at the high school, and so do these sashes and some pants. Oh, my gosh, how wonderful.

CAROL: And I still have.... And then in my junior year... this one... I was the business... The other girls that got the All-Northwest was from the band. It was Shirley Allen—it would be Bill Allen's sister. I can't remember her last name now; she's moved away from here.

DEBBY: So, two of you went, then?

CAROL: She was from the band and I was from the choir.

DEBBY: Oh, what a tremendous honor. That's wonderful.

CAROL: I was the business manager for the high school annual and the... the paper—school newspaper—so that's why I'm there. There we are again... it was just a small group of us. And Mrs. Pettys directing... and there we are dancing the Highland Fling. Don't ask me to (laughter)... Don't ask me to do that. Of course, I was a letter girl, so that's... band, and there is... it was so wonderful. And then I was on the... I was a song leader for the rally squad, is what I... Then this was my last year of high school. I was the business manager for the annual and the newspaper as well that year. And we are... senior pictures.... And Girls State.

DEBBY: Girls State?

CAROL: I went to Girls State my junior year. Then in my senior year I was asked to come back and be a counselor for Girls State. So I did that two years in succession. David[?] is still there, too. In my eyes, they haven't changed.

DEBBY: Of course not, you know. And then...?

CAROL: Yes, and here we captured the chorus again.

DEBBY: Oh, the violin is playing... That's a bassoonist.

CAROL: Uh-huh. We had a boys group. And then... are girls...

DEBBY: This is wonderful. It's neat to see that music has been so ingrained here.

CAROL: That's the picture I just showed you... Where are we doing here? Oh, I was a charter member of the National Honor Society, yes... I think we started in my senior year. What's this? Oh, I had to go to the newspaper office because I was... my journalism instructor told me I could sell bathing suits to Eskimos (laughter). I guess I could consider it as a compliment. I'm not sure.

DEBBY: I guess. I would think so, yes. And there we are... letter girls again. Yeah.

CAROL: Then when I was in high school I remember coming back here for the summers and trying to find employment. It was very difficult. I worked at Crater Lake one summer, and I got ill while I was over there. I was the cashier at the cafeteria. So, I came back here and... hired me

at the Dalton's distributor—we worked up there. Then the Girl Scouts gave me... employed me for summer camps. Yes. Yes, and I went as their song leader and recreation leader for a few summers.

DEBBY: Oh, how fun. Now, where were those camps held?

CAROL: Those were held at Delintment Lake.

DEBBY: At Delintment? Oh, my gosh.

CAROL: There was another camp, too. It was down from Delintment. Cherry Springs is that... Yes, we had a camp there as well. Of course I was involved with scouting, and still am. For many, many years. All over. It was a wonderful thing. This town doesn't have... I think that pretty much wraps it up.

DEBBY: Thank you so much. It's wonderful. If we get to the actual writing stage, if we have any questions I'm sure you wouldn't mind at all if we....

CAROL: No, sure. Maybe to get some of this straight a little bit. Because I, you know, am not so sure about some of... like dates and all that. That's rather hard to do.

DEBBY: Yeah. Why I think you've done wonderful.

End of recording

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