

Tape Index

Dorothy Anderson (McCroskey)

July 1, 1980

D. Swanson  
WmSt 320

Summary

Home: Rt. #2, Potlatch, ID.

Interviewer: Dorothy Swanson

Side I

000 - 039

Introduction: names, birthdates/places of self, Dorothy Anderson, 1927, Montana; husband, Sherrel, 1926, Potlatch, ID.; daughter, Sue, 1958, Moscow, ID.; marriage 1952, Coeur d'Alene; husband's occupation, farmer.

040 - 106

RURAL VS URBAN

Advantages of Rural Life as Compared to Urban: easier to know people, more neighborliness and helpful attitude; less rush in rural area but yet easy access to entertainment in this particular rural area

Life of Rural Woman: when she was in college she felt after visiting on farms that she never wanted to live on a farm but in this area farms have facilities and a woman is not confined to the home except at harvest time and that is changing rapidly with no longer having hired hands; in early years (1950's) she did can and raise chickens.

Comparison of Family Life: (childhood in a town of 13,000) feels farmer husband has been able to be closer to their daughter than her father, a laborer in a smelter town, was; good play space on farm as compared to play in streets in town

107 - 122

COMING TO IDAHO: came to visit relatives in Lewiston in 1948 and then atayed to take a teaching job in Potlatch; transportation included train to Lewiston, bus or car rides from relatives in local area; had previously taught for one year in Nebraska.

FAMILY LIFE WHILE GROWING UP

123 - 133

Grandparents (Mother's parents): lived in Lewiston where grandfather worked in the mill; had made frequent visits to that area while growing up

134 - 173

Parents: Mother, Florence Wolf, born 1899 in Nebraska, died 1977; Father, Nathan McCroskey, born 1893 in Kentucky, died 1974; bother, Bert, born 1932; sister, Alice, born 1938

174 - 212

Family Life in Parents' Home: lived in smelter town, Anaconda, Montana; Dad's whole life, his work, only vacation at Christmas time; Mother and children took long summer vacations in Lewiston; economic situation - strikes during depression meant bad times but never went without, <sup>th, mcs</sup> smelter boomed during World War II; life style - stayed close to home but Mother active in community and church during the day, never at night; no car; recreation - play in streets; different ages meant little sister-brother play together although she remembers family Friday night games and also Father's bowling that night.



- 213 - 223 Parttime Work in High School: all four years worked afternoons and evenings in a grocery store.
- 224 - 268 Family Life cont'd.: Family gatherings, no relatives around Anaconda and so picnics and family gatherings all occurred in summer in Lewiston; household chores, cleaning own rooms, help with dishes and meal preparation and laundry, used wringer washer; family discipline, usually Mother but Father's authority never questioned.
- 269 - 287 Parents' Attitude Towards Women's Role: Mother quite free for activities; Father helped with household cleaning and cooking.
- 288 - 317 Parents' Attitude Towards Education: Father insistent that children go to college; Mother had had two years at U of Nebraska and taught before marriage.
- ADULTHOOD
- 318 - 349 Education: University of Nebraska, two years; had wanted to leave the union town she grew up in ; as store clerk had experience belonging to union and didn't care for it; earned bachelor's degree at University of Idaho in summers while teaching; Master's degree at U of I.
- 343 - 349 CHILDrearing: teaching interrupted six years when daughter was born and pre-schooler and during that time got Masters.
- 350 - 373 Special Skills: teaching, reading and English
- ~~374~~ - 445 Leisure Time: in college enjoyed sports events, dorm functions and visits to friends' homes; while teaching before marriage lived in house provided for single teachers and social life centered with that group; card games, trips to nearby towns; learned to knit; household responsibilities shared.
- 446 - 488 Courtship: met husband through another teacher; he made frequent visits to house; enjoyed dances and other events; future husband had car; went together four years.  
and  
Side II  
000 - 005  
Side I
- 489 - end Future Expectations: marriage not considered only option in life.  
Side II
- 006 - 037 Early Married Life: lived in Moscow at first and then moved to farm, new friends and husband's family, movies, no TV.
- 038 - 049 Preparation for Puberty and Childbirth: Mother and Aunt explained these experiences to her and her cousin together; had books to read; discussions with Mother always open.
- 050 - 060 Childbirth: full medical facilities in Moscow.
- 061 - 076 Size of Family: factors limiting size; enjoyed freedom of childless years; age at childbirth; now feels daughter would have benefited from a sister or brother.



- 077 - 124 Family Life: centered in home after daughter was born and they were ready for it; as larger family, her parents and sister and brother moved into the area, there were more holiday celebrations; reading and TV, watch some TV but all of family do lots of reading; numerous magazines and newspapers.
- 125 - 157 Craft Skills: knitting, sweaters; ceramics, have own kiln; candles; gardening, mainly for fresh vegetables now; sewing in early years; daughter does macrame and sewing.
- 158 - 217 Canning and Freezing: large garden and lots of canning in early married like Mother-in-law on farm; used locker and then got home freezer; froze beef; picked fruit for canning; her grandmother had done lots of canning, but her Mother never did; food habits changed, now very little canning, watch calories, no desserts, often salads instead of hot meals.
- 218 - 226 Child Care: stayed home when daughter was a pre-schooler; when she went to graduate school, daughter was in kindergarten and could do to grandparents in afternoon.

## ATTITUDES AND ACTIVITIES

- 227 - 251 Attitude Towards Profession: teaching, a family tradition for women; few other occupations for women; always wanted to teach; planned to work after marriage; feels she's more organized when teaching than when doing volunteer work
- 252 - 273 Community Activities When Not Teaching: school board, six years; Eastern Star; church and Sunday School class; rural homemakers' club.
- 274 - 279 Church: important in life, Presbyterian.
- 280 - 338 Activities When Teaching: mainly school functions, some church activities continued; family activities centered in school events with daughter who was active in sports; school social center of community and continues to be; bridge clubs are new activity.
- 339 - 393 Changes in Role of Children: as observed from teaching she see a lack of responsibility especially in town; breakdown in respect; she supported dropping of dress code; some increase in problems with school children.
- 394 - 414 Daughter's Education and Marriage: three years at U of I, married, lives in Olympia, bachelor's degree in accounting from St. Martin's College.
- 415 - 429 Teaching Areas; had taught fifth grade but has speciality in language arts.
- 430 - 474 Family Vacations: extensive travel with camper in western U. S.; vacation time always before harvest in summer.



- 475 - end  
Side III  
000 - 031 Comparison of Life Now with Past: changes in household activities, more cooking, baking, and sewing in part; have so many more appliances than Mother; always had electricity and indoor plumbing in childhood but had ice box for refrigeration until 1938; no car and lots of walking while growing up in contrasts to use of car today; dress, now more casual.
- 032 - 057 Decision-making, Money Management, Woman's Role: joint decision-making, talk things over and husband always around to do that, very little conflict; she writes family checks, husband manages farm finances; husband encouraged teaching and she felt no need to take care of house first.
- 058 - 102 Women's Role: have had career other women seek; always felt need to have adult contact outside of home; enjoys teaching; daughter also wants to work outside of home; has had good family cooperation for her role; sees great demands made by families and husbands on other women who don't work outside of home; servant role of Mother wasn't expected in her childhood home or in her married life.
- 103 - 139 Suggestions for Women on Farms or in Small Towns: must seek out activities and friends; small town can be lonely; daughter feels interests of former school mates in small town too limited and centered in beer drinking; daughter and her husband now enjoy urban area and its entertainment opportunities.
- 140 - 169 Decision to Live in Rural Area: no conscious decision, originally planned to go on to teach in larger school; husband at first left rural area for urban California but consciously made decision to return; young people often interested in change from childhood home.
- 170 - 199 Happiest and Most Fullfilling Times: activities with daughter and pleased with "outcome"; good times together with husband; husband's joining the church; getting master's degree; enjoying beautiful house which her husband built.
- 235 - 246 Moscow Mt.: not acquainted with area except for few drives over it.
- 247 - 335 Changes in Small Town: more working women, some because of economic necessity, slight decrease in population in Pottlatch; school changes, smaller classes, special education helps more students to graduate, less strictness; discussion of effect of nutrition and family patterns on students since she's seen several generations.
- 336 - 387 Differences Between Farm and Small Town Children: 30 yrs. ago country children were noticeable by dress, now little difference in dress; 30 yrs. ago town children were mean to country children when they came in from country schools; now less isolation in country; reversal of conditions, now more advantages for farm children, especially with machinery and animals, more interests on farm, town doesn't have much for children to do.