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Barbara Teigen Interview 2015 November 23

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Conducted at the home of Barbara Teigen, Maple Creek, Saskatchewan

BT = Barbara Teigen: Interviewee

AB = Ann Behrman: Interviewer

BS = Betty Stokke: Interviewer

ME = Marianna Eremenko: Barbara's daughter (present as advocate)

JP= Joan Parsonage: Camera

2015 November 23

AB: Okay. We'll start out with your name and your birthday.

BT: September 1st, 1920. Barbara Ann is my name. It used to be, like I say, Schafer at one time, and now it's Teigen. And they used to call me BS all the time. [*Laughter*]

AB: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

BT: Well, there was 10 of us altogether. Yeah. Six girls and four boys.

AB: Who were your brothers and sisters?

BT: Elizabeth, Francis.

ME: Teresa.

BT: Pardon.

ME: Teresa.

BT: Yeah. There was Matt and Johnny and Steve and Adam and Louis. Louis is still living.

AB: Oh, is he?

BT: He lives down in—

ME: Ontario.

AB: Wasn't there two or three Steves?

BT: Well, there was a Steve in mine and a Steve in my cousin and then there was another Steve in Valentine. Steven Schafer had a Steve, and then Valentine Steve had one, and my brother had a Steve. My brother was married to a teacher, Muriel. They lived in Maple Creek for quite a while. The others lived on a farm.

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BT: Well, my brother was tall. He was six foot something. Steve Schafer, that's Eva's, they lived on a farm, and then Valentine Schafer lived on the farm. That's quite a few. *[Laughter]*

AB: Where did you go to school?

BT: I went to Rangeville School and then I went to Eastend and took my Grade 12.

AB: Then where did you go to work?

BT: I stayed at Eastend for quite a while and then after a while I lived at home quite a bit, just at the farm. After that Gordon passed away and we moved to the park [Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park] and I worked at the park for quite a few years. I used to do quite a bit of work there.

AB: When was Gordon in the army?

BT: Yeah. 1941.

AB: He was gone for five years.

BT: Yeah.

BT: He got home in 1945.

AB: When did you get married?

BT: Oh Lordy! It was in Plentywood, Montana. We got married in the States. And I think it was 1945 or '46.

ME: '46.

AB: And how many kids did you have?

BT: Six. One boy.

AB: Five girls. How many grandkids and great-grandkids do you have?

BT: 95. Great and grand.

AB: No great greats yet?

BT: Well, could be. *[Laughter]*

ME: Yeah, you have some great-greats.

BT: There is some. Yeah.

AB: What did you and Gordon do? How did you make a living?

BT: Well, we worked on the farm for quite a while. And then we moved into town here and then Gordon got sick. He wasn't feeling very good, and then I know we had to take him all the way to the Hat. and then he passed away. January 11th.

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ME: 1992.

BT: Can't think of the [year].

AB: How long were you on the farm then?

BT: Oh Lordy! Quite a while. Well, we moved into Maple Creek here in, I think, 1984.

ME: It was before that - early 1980s.

AB: Did you just farm or did you have cattle?

BT: We had cattle, too. We had cattle and we farmed, both. Gordon used to take the cattle all the way down to the lease.

AB: Which did you like the best - the farming or the cattle?

BT: Oh, they're both the same. *[Laughter]*

AB: What are some of the memories you have of living on the farm? Living at Robsart?

BT: I liked living at Robsart; I liked living on the farm.

AB: Can you tell us about Robsart when you were living there, what was in Robsart?

BT: Well, I used to go work for Mrs. Ford, and I used to do all the baking. I used to make butter tarts like you wouldn't believe. They used to come and take my butter tarts and buy them all the time. I couldn't keep up with them hardly.

AB: She ran a cafe?

BT: Yeah.

AB: What about sports? What were some of the sports that you played? I know you played ball.

BT: I loved playing baseball! I used to be first base. I was out at the park one time and my granddaughter was batting. I was on third base and I caught the ball. Her husband was the ump and he laughed. He thought it was a great big deal and she didn't think it was funny. *[Laughter]*

AB: What about curling? Did you curl?

BT: I loved curling. I used to curl with Barbara Olson. She used to be the skip and I was third. We won. We've got our name on one of the rocks some place; I don't know where, if they are in Maple Creek or where they are.

AB: What about things like Christmas concerts?

BT: Oh I just loved that. I used to sing quite a bit. I used to sing with Eva Back quite a bit, or Eva Schafer *[maiden name]* or Eva Back *[married name]*.

AB: And the Christmas concert?

quite a bit, or Eva Schafer [*maiden name*] or Eva Back [*married name*].

AB: At the Christmas concerts?

BT: Yeah. And Lil Siefert used to be looking after that.

AB: Oh.

BT: One time, when Jimmy Frame passed away, I had to get up there and sing a song and it was "Coming In On a Wing and a Prayer." When I was singing everybody was crying down there and I had to look up and sing this song. It was really nice to think about it actually.

BT: We lived about five miles from Robsart, on the road. Mrs. Anderson used to be my neighbor. Sonny and -

ME: Joy.

AB: Who was the gentleman that lived in your yard? I remember going over with Blanche and there was an elderly man lived in a house in the yard. Who was that?

BT: My Dad. Yeah. Mike. Michael Schafer. He used to be a blacksmith. And I used to work in the blacksmith like you wouldn't believe either because I had to hold the sickles when they come in there and he made them and I had to hold them while he fixed them. Made the wheels when wagon wheels come in there. I had to help him. I used to work out in the blacksmith, too.

AB: In Senate?

BT: Yeah.

AB: What else did you do as a young person?

BT: I used to be in sports. I loved sports quite a bit. I can't think of anything else. I used to ride this horse, Billy, and I could ride him without having a bridle, just sat in there and go all the way.

AB: Did you ride horseback to school?

BT: No, I walked. We didn't have too far to walk. Yeah. I can still see the place. Like, Dorothy, she used to live that side of the road and we lived on this side of the road. We used to be neighbours. That was down at Senate.

AB: What about garden? Did you grow a huge garden?

BT: No. Didn't have a garden at all. No, it was kind of a bad time there anyway; I don't think there was too much moisture actually.

AB: What else can you remember about being out there?

BT: I used to pick a lot of rocks; I know that. [*Laughter*]
I loved everything. Whatever I did I loved, so it didn't matter.
I loved dancing too. I just loved dancing. Pete Schafer was a [*good dancer*]. I used to do the hop waltz with him. Oh, he was a wonderful dancer. He used to hop waltz. Whoop de doo!

AB: What is a hop waltz?

AB: What is a hop waltz?

BT: It's just a jump around. [*She gets up to demonstrate*]. I don't know if I can do it now.

AB: Oh. Okay. Polka.

BT: Polka. Yeah. We called it the hop waltz.

AB: Who played the music for dances and stuff?

BT: Mrs. Middleton. She used to play the piano.

ME: Paul Kalmring played.

BT: Paul Kalmring was the orchestra. But another time Jeanie and I had to go up there and sing. I remember standing up there singing, and Mrs. Middleton was playing and she wasn't doing it very well, and I was watching her and I started laughing. I couldn't sing anymore and Jeanie sang alone. I went back there and Jeanie said to me, "What's the matter with you, you didn't even sing?" [*Laughter*] I said, "I know."

AB: Didn't Nick play the drums, too?

BT: Yeah. Nick Schafer played, too.

AB: What did you do after you moved to Maple Creek? Did you work then?

BT: Not really. This is where I lived here now.

AB: You have lived here ever since you moved to Maple Creek?

BT: Yeah.

AB: How do you like living in town?

BT: It's okay. At one time there used to be a lot of things to go to but now you go to bingo once a week—that's on Mondays. But the last while the Indians had three bingos so—I should say the natives instead of Indians—they had three bingos. I didn't bingo but I went anyway. They had it for a person, Matt Cox. I don't know what was wrong with him but he had to go to Regina, and they were doing this for him so I just donated to that because I didn't bingo. It was very nice actually.

AB: Do you win?

BT: I win sometimes—that's when we have bingo—they have these Nevada tickets. I win there once in a while but otherwise I don't.

AB: What else do you do for entertainment?

BT: I go to the hockey games; I like sports, period. I like ball games, too.

AB: And you play cards?

BT: I play cards. I play bridge every Tuesday and I belong at the Seniors. Otherwise sometimes people phone me [to come] to their place. They have a bridge club and they ask me to come. I went the other day to Mrs. Vilness and played at her place.

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BS: Do you still drive yourself?

BT: Yeah. I drive myself.

AB: Can you remember any bad storms or floods that happened when you were on the farm? Like any blizzards?

ME: Remember that bad storm when you had so much rain and it flooded by the barn?

BT: There was fog, too, that was bad there one time.

ME: You lost some pigs that time.

BT: Well anyway, the pigs went down all the way to the track.

ME: To the railroad track, down by Vidora.

AB: What were some of the activities that the kids were in? That you had to take kids to?

ME: Ball. We used to play ball in the summer.

BT: Ball games. I think that is all there was, a lot of ball games. Marianna used to be back catcher; Doreen used to be shortstop.

ME: Second base.

BT: And she pitched, too.

AB: Do you watch a lot of sports on TV?

BT: I do that all the time. I love watching curling. And I love the Blue Jays.

AB: Where are all the kids now?

BT: Jeanie is in Medicine Hat. Blanche is at Webb. Webb, Saskatchewan, not far from Swift Current. Marianna is in Robsart. Bradley is in Cardston, Alberta.

ME: Water Valley.

BT: Water Valley. Well, Cardston, yeah. And Arlene's down in Ottawa.

ME: Doreen?

BT: Doreen is out here at the park [Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park].

AB: Did everybody get home for your birthday? For your 95th birthday?

BT: Yeah. They all got home. Yippee!

AB: Did you do a lot of knitting and sewing and crafts?

BT: I did a lot of sewing and that. I didn't do much crafts, but I did a lot of knitting and that.

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AB: You sewed clothes for the kids?

BT: I used to sew quite a bit. Yeah.

AB: What about technology and that? Do you use a computer?

BT: No. It doesn't matter to me, no. Marianna has got one and Doreen has one and Debbie has one. All the kids have one so if I [want to] find out anything I just phone them. *[Laughter]*

AB: What plans do you have for this winter? Have you got anything exciting to do?

BT: Just keep warm. *[Laughter]*