

Tape #7

TUALATIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TAPED INTERVIEW

EVELYN CASTEEL ANDREWS
interviewed by Loyce Martinazzi

January 30, 1990

EA (Laughter) Now, Loyce, Evelyn Casteel Andrews.

LM Where were you born, Evelyn?

EA Tualatin, where the Casa Noble apartments are now.

LM I won't ask you when. Were you born at home?

EA Uh huh, at Granny's, my grandparents' home place there.

LM Did you have a doctor? Was there a doctor in attendance?

EA Uh huh, I suppose, Doc. Vincent.

LM Now was he from Tigard?

EA He had his office in Tualatin for awhile, right next to Dr. Schroder's office, (where Village Hair is now). What would have been next to Hannegan's only Hannegan's -- that was an open field then. His was the first office.

LM So your grandmother really was kind of a midwife?

EA Mom had no mother.

LM When did your mother's mother die?

EA When Mom was about eleven.

LM What did she have to say about her mother?

EA Well, she couldn't remember too much. She was the one who told me how hurt she was about that house they were planning on having; a house where they would have plenty of room. And then have it cut up like that, where there was only one tiny bedroom and an open attic and three cut-up rooms downstairs that they didn't need at all.

LM Hmmmm.

Counter 033

EA And they were very cut up, about the size of our bathroom.

LM Really? I know this is a leading question, but I've heard that. Grandma Jurgens was a real hard worker.

EA I don't know how she could have helped but been. (She was from Bohemia.)

LM She had how many kids? Was it ten?

EA Well, the first one died a couple of days after birth, and I suppose for her, they didn't have much of anything to go on, but what they'd raised and dried and farmed.

LM I've always heard she was a hard worker. So did you live in Tualatin all your life?

EA Lived in the logging camps where Daddy was working. We'd come to Tualatin in the summer when it was too hot to work.

LM Oh, you didn't do logging in the summer?

EA No, there was too much danger of fire. We'd either come to Granny's or, one time we went to the little house, near where the park is now, that belonged to the Smiths or Boones or whatever.

LM Oh!

EA Remember those three little houses in a row?

LM Uh huh.

EA We rented them one summer and we moved back to Tualatin. I was about ten years old.

LM And then what did your Dad do?

EA He worked at the Lake Oswego Golf links.

LM Oh, he did?

EA He was greens keeper there, until he retired. Then after he left the golf links, he went in the shipyards for awhile. Uh huh, he was not a mechanic, as a ship fitter or something.

LM Most all the men during the war worked in the shipyards.

Counter at 070

EA Some of the women.

LM A lot of the women did too. Uh huh.

EA I did too, working at Nicolai's making tent poles for the army and then we heard we'd get fantastic wages at the shipyards, so when we went to work there, and the only job open

Counter 070

there, was as a welder. It was the most highest paid job. I made \$1.35 an hour.

LM You did? That's pretty good wages at that time.

EA Yes, it was. We were living high!

LM What were wages like at that time?

EA Well, I had worked at Sherwood, the cannery (the Portland Canning Company). My husband made \$0.33 per hour, and I got \$0.27.

LM Did they differentiate because of work or sexes? You did the same kind of work?

EA By sex, no men did that light work.

LM That's right. The men did the scrubby work! Do you remember when the cannery first started in Sherwood?

EA Been there as long as I can remember. Marian was little when I first started working there, born in '32, I think. I hope you are not taking (down) what I say, I think! (Laughter) She was 56 then.

LM When you went back to Tualatin, what kind of work was there for men?

EA Well, nothing to tell you the truth. We farmed.

LM Were there any sawmills?

EA No.

LM Remember the brick yard in Tualatin?

EA It wasn't working. I remember looking at it and walking through it.

LM Did anybody tell you much about the brick yard, when it was in operation?

EA No, and the dog food plant came in way after that. All I know about is the sawmill, where the park is, on the bank of the Tualatin, where my grand father lost his arm.

LM Tell me about the sawmill and about your grandfather.

Counter 110

EA Whatever it was he was doing, a circular saw cut it off below the elbow. He could have had an artificial arm, but he didn't take it. He had a hook that he'd put on once in a great while, otherwise he used his other hand. And then when the railroad came to Tualatin, he donated the ground behind his place for the railroad to go through, so that's the Oregon

Electric railroad that goes in back of the apartments He was working on the railroad to help them and to make a little extra money and got his hand run over and lost the thumb and finger on the other hand!

LM Hmmmmm.

EA And he went through life like that. He had three acres of ground, raised a garden, planted Black Caps and gooseberries and picked them all.

LM Did he sell the berries?

EA He never had that many. He used some and gave some away to the family. He hooked his arm over the lawn mower and kept the lawn mowed.

LM Is that right!

EA And he pushed a two-wheeled cart to old Tualatin where he'd pick up mail twice a day from the Southern Pacific train. That's where the old depot was. Remember where that was?

LM I remember hearing about it, yeah.

EA It was at the end of the railroad trestle there. Twice a day, him and this big two-wheeled cart, he'd push it along and get the mail and kids all helped him, the boys did. Ten dollars a month and that's what they lived on. When the taxes came due, they'd all chip in more than their ten dollars and pay up the taxes, and then, if the light bills were more than a couple dollars, they'd have to help out on that. They didn't get paid every month.

Counter 147

LM Tell me about when your grandfather lost his arm at the sawmill. What did the owners of the sawmill do? did they offer to pay him any wages?

EA He was under the anesthetic. But I heard my mother say he was hardly able to sign but he made his mark. Unknowingly, he signed the papers releasing them of all responsibility so he got nothing.

LM That's the Smith family! Was that when John L. Smith was still alive?

EA Probably was.

LM Do you know what year it was?

EA No, I'm not too sure. Granny Emma Peters (Mrs. Charles Casteel) had twelve kids to take care of.

LM Granny Casteel had twelve kids?

EA They had six boys and six girls and they raised three boys and three girls, the rest all died early.

LM Is that right? And they all lived there in that house?

EA Ummmmm, no, they lived different places. Daddy was born up in Blue Lake, Dayton.

LM Is there a Dayton, Washington?

EA I think so. They moved into this house(in Tualatin) when he was two years old. There is something about an insurance called Austin Lodge Insurance. That's where he got the house,(they gave it to him). In the back of my mind I have the idea that the house had only one bedroom, a lean to behind and a kitchen. (See p. 130 in Tualatin.....from the Beginning)

LM Was your Grandfather Casteel only a young man when he lost his arm?

EA Well, I don't really know how old he was. I've got these records, someplace here. When he lost his arm, I'm not too sure.

Counter 182

END OF INTERVIEW