

Darla Poiron Interview
Tuesday, September 5th, 2017
by Kay Krans and Janelle Kohl.

Darla: My name is Darla Poiron, and my parents were Eugene and Lela Poiron. Back in 1950 or '51, I don't recall the year, I was pretty young then, we were travelling across country and they stopped to visit some people they know from California who were from Medford, and the brother of the people that they knew in Medford talked my father into coming up and seeing his hunting and fishing country. My father fell in love with it, and they ended up purchasing property from Jim Bart.

The first year we were up here we lived in a one room shack actually. I was young enough that I slept in a shelf above their bed. We had enough room for a table, a double bed, and a wood stove. During that year my father built another building which is known as the shed now, which was still one room but it was a lot better built and water tight, but still one room. I slept on a shelf, being probably four at the time.

The next year, that year, I think, the town fathers came and talked to my parents about running the stables. There had been a riding stables on the property before we bought it, and because there was such a lack of things for a family to do other than fishing up here at the time, the town fathers, as my mother explained to me that...

Kay: Did you ever hear any names? Was it Palmer?

Darla: It would have had to have been Palmer. My mother said that the town felt that they needed more attractions for the area for families instead of just fishing. My parents, well my mother, was raised on a ranch in Texas so she was familiar with horses. My father was raised on a flower farm in Pennsylvania. He knew nothing about horses. So we bought some horses, and we were in the riding stables business. The first year, before we moved into the one room shack, was spent actually living in the hangar at the airport. The hangar at the time, the only hangar at the airport at the time, was two story and there were only a couple of planes that flew in and out of here, but my dad had spent most of his youth and working life working around airplanes, so he was very familiar with airplanes. I can remember looking out the window in the evening and the whole runway was just covered with deer. There were no planes but between the airport and Bart's pasture, which has now grown back up to trees, there were no other empty spaces, field type things, where deer could graze in the evening.

Kay: Tell a little bit about... your parents were living in California at the time that they discovered this place. Tell a little about that.

Darla: Living in California?

Kay: Yeah, or even how your parents meet. Maybe go back there and how they end up in California if they're from Texas and Pennsylvania.

Darla: Well, my father was an adventurer or thought he was. He completed eighth grade. That was as far as he went in school, and he decided he was going to go to Cuba. This had to be 1920's or 30's. I'm not sure when that was. He was out of school, and it wasn't Teddy Roosevelt, Spanish American War. I don't know what civil war was going on down there at the time, but he was going to go to Cuba and he thought he'd go in through Mexico. So he was riding his Indian motorcycle west. The motorcycle didn't make it past, I think it was Arkansas or Missouri before it broke down. He sold it for enough money that he got a bus ticket to San Diego. He figured he could go into Mexico through San Diego through Tijuana. So that's how my father got to San Diego. He got a job flying for Con's Airway. At the time...

Kay: So he already had a pilot's license?

Darla: Oh, yes. His first job was during the Great Depression greasing airplane engines in Lindenhurst, New Jersey. That was where the Hindenburg went down. I have pictures of...

Kay: Lindenhurst?

Darla: It was either Lakehurst or Lindenhurst. I'm not sure which one. It could be Lakehurst. It's very well known. Just look up Hindenburg and it will tell you where it was. When he was a boy, he and a friend of his flew into LaGuardia on a biplane that they had, and it only had two wheels and what they called a tail dragger, which was a piece of metal in the tail, and they got chewed out by the airport manager because they had just poured concrete on LaGuardia; on the runway, and the airport manager was afraid that the tail dragger was going to mess up his runway. That was my dad!

Kay: Now when you say Cons Airway do you remember how it was spelled?

Darla: C O N S. They flew freight out of the west coast to the Pacific Islands. This was World War II. He only had sight in one eye due to a childhood accident, so they wouldn't take him in the draft.

Kay: But he was allowed to fly with one eye?

Darla: They were a lot less strict. He didn't fly for Cons Airway. He was the navigator.

Kay: So they were probably helping the war effort?

Darla: Yeah, they were in the war effort. They were flying supplies to the Pacific during the war. At that point my mother was from Texas, and she went off to school in San Antone and got her beautician's

license. The war came along and she found that she hated being a beautician, so she went to work at one of the...I forgot who she was working for, but it was at the airport where they were building...

Kay: In San Diego?

Darla: No, this is in San Antone. They were building planes for the war effort. My dad told me that she was the first licensed woman inspector in the country. I don't know if that was true or not, but she liked being an inspector much better than she liked being a beautician. She was much more mechanically oriented. She used to hop flights when they used to deliver the planes from San Antone to San Diego, and that is how she met my dad; through mutual friends out there.

Kay: This would be in the 1940's?

Darla: Yes, early 40's. Well, no, it had to be later because the war was on. We were already in the war.

Kay: So they set up house in San Diego?

Darla: Yes, in San Diego. They built an airport in Spring Valley called La Presa, which is now a housing development. Now I was born in '47.

Kay: What's your birthday, Darla?

Darla: February 23, 1947.

Kay: How about Toni?

Darla: Tony was the first girl born in what is now the Howard Young Hospital.

Kay: Oh, she was born up here?

Darla: Yes. At the time it was Dr. Kate's Hospital. There was no hospital here in the area, and Dr. Kate had her Penny Parade and she got contributions from all over the country in pennies.

Kay: Yep, I remember that. So is Toni T O N I?

Darla: T O N I. It was short for Antoinette which I preferred to Tweetie Pie, which is what my parents called her.

Kay: What year was she born?

Darla: 1956, I believe.

Kay: Oh, there was quite a difference!

Darla: She is almost eight years younger than I am.

Kay: What was her birthday?

Darla: August 16th.

Kay: So I'm thinking you came up here in the early fifties?

Darla: Yeah, early 50's - '51, '52 because I was still a toddler when we came up here. I would have been at least three, but no more than five. I was trying to figure it out.

Kay: Yeah, plus 3 would have been '50, plus 5 would have been '52.

Darla: Right, so it's '50-'51 they sold the airport out in San Diego at the time, and then were taking a trip across the country to visit my dad's relatives in Pennsylvania and for my mom to meet them.

Kay: So, now if we go back, we are at the point where they bought horses.

Darla: Yeah, they bought horses, and my cousins came up here.

Kay: Cousins on your dad's side?

Darla: Mom's side. Two cousins from Texas.

Kay: What were their names?

Darla: Delmar and Olan Jr., and their last names were Bowman. They were my Mother's nephews. They were 12 and 14. Got them out of Texas and gave them some spending money. Delmar was 14 and Olan was 12.

Kay: Did they come to help with the ranch?

Darla: Yep, help with the horses.

Kay: And they were horse people.

Darla: Well, not really, but my grandfather had a ranch so they were familiar with horses, but they were not horse people. Their dad had grown up on a ranch so they knew a lot about it. They came up, and they lived in the original shack.

Kay: Do you remember how many horses they started out with?

Darla: Probably 10. I don't really remember. I was pretty young.

Kay: So this is the property across 51.

Darla: Right.

Kay: How many acres? Do you remember?

Darla: My dad told me once we have 12 acres. We still have all of it except one 100-foot lot on the lake.

Kay: What are your memories of...

Darla: Well, I can remember traveling when we traveled in the truck. Yeah, we drove a truck, a pick-up.

Kay: But every summer from then on you...

Darla: Every summer from then on we came up here and ran the stables. We'd open by the 4th of July, sometime in the middle of June. We would close Labor Day. When I was 10 my parents bought the Campbell's Resort on Highway W. It was renamed "The Flying P" after our stables, "The Flying P Riding Academy" and "The Flying P Guest Ranch." I was 10 so it must have been in '57 when they bought it.

Kay: And that was not on water?

Darla: It was on the water.

Kay: I thought it was.

Darla: It's on the north side of Rest Lake or Highway W.

Kay: I thought so. Why do I keep thinking it was Red Feather?

Darla: Red Feather is a different part of the lake.

Kay: Okay, so it is on Rest Lake.

Darla: Yes. Do you know Papoose Creek?

Kay: Yep.

Darla: Okay. Papoose Creek ran almost in front of our place. That's how far north we were. The Cella house was the view from our dock.

Now what was I going to say...Oh, about the stables. At one point in there our father ran the airport for the town. He was the airport manager. I can remember when a plane would fly in, if he didn't have the car he'd get on a horse and ride over to the airport to take care of the passengers and fueling the plane. That was pretty interesting. I still, to this day, can see my father getting on a horse with a gas can. (laughter)

Kay: And riding across the highway!

Darla: Yes! (laughter)

Kay: That's pretty cool!

Darla: My father didn't know how to ride really because he never really ridden horses. He was raised in a suburb of Philadelphia. That was pretty funny. But there is where he got his canoe. He loved to canoe, and we still have that canoe. I still have that canoe.

Kay: It's a wooden canoe?

Darla: No, it's not. It's one of the first Alumacrafts. It's much better. Years later my sister and I took a canoe trip up the Manitowish River. We both fought over who was going to use our canoe and who was going to use the rented canoe because the rented canoe was the dog! It was so hard to paddle and our Alumacraft just fabulous. It cut through the water. It was much better built than the newer canoes of the day in the 60's.

Kay: Well, tell us about his airport managing. Is that why you lived in the hanger?

Darla: No, we lived in the hanger because it was the only place there was to stay that we could find. I think we were living there, or we stayed there, when we first came up to buy the property from Bart.

Kay: Okay. So you stayed in the hanger.

Darla: But we stayed in the hanger. We weren't there for very long, like a couple of weeks maybe at the most. At home during the winters I remember my dad always had somebody's airplane in the garage that he was rebuilding for them.

Kay: In California?

Darla: In California.

Kay: So he was a real mechanic. He really knew how to put them...

Darla: Yeah, and his preference were antiques, the fabric planes. My first money making job was for my dad because I must have been about 12, and I was small enough to fit in the tail section of a Piper Cub. And I bucked rivets for him. That's probably why I'm a little hard of hearing! (laughter)

Kay: So when you say "bucked rivets", what does that mean?

Darla: It means that he's got the rivet gun on the outside of the skins, and I had a metal bar on the inside so that they would pound into that metal bar and form a seal. You know, they widened out just like rivets in your belt...the same theory.

Kay: How many years do you think he was the manager at the Manitowish Waters airport?

Darla: It was only summers, and it would have been maybe 3 or 4 because at that time they'd built a cabin that had a bedroom and a bathroom. It was where the stables are. It was built on a cement slab. It wasn't winterized. It was only half log. The only heat we had was the fireplace so we couldn't stay in during the winters. We actually would go home, but I would start school up here.

Kay: Oh, that's neat! Well, tell us about that. Which schools did you go to?

Darla: Well, I only went to the two room school, Manitowish Waters grade school. I started out in the little or lower room which was 1st through 4th grade. Then I moved to the upper room which was 5th through 8th.

Kay: Did you do that every year?

Darla: Almost every year until I think 7th grade. I don't think I did it after 7th grade. But that was a big thing was they would let me ride my horse to school one day. So I'd have all the kids around me. I was really popular then because I had a horse.

Kay: Was that every year that you rode your horse to school?

Darla: Yeah, one day.

Kay: One day every year.

Darla: Yes.

Kay: That's cool.

Darla: I can remember when I was about 10 or 12 I would ride my horse into town and tie her up at the telephone pole outside by the telephone booth and go in and get an ice cream cone. My one claim to

fame was I could lick an ice cream cone at a full gallop and not get it all over my face. (laughter) Oh, yes! Toni Dalle Ave to get so mad at me if the horse would leave any fertilizer because it was in front of the soda grill. I thought, "What are you complaining about? It's free fertilizer for your flowers!"

Kay: So when you would go to start school, how long maybe?

Darla: Usually two or three weeks.

Kay: That was kind of fun I bet!

Darla: It was fun. I've always remembered that. Mrs. Elz was the teacher for the lower room. The only male teacher I remember was I think his name was Hodges or Hodge. Buzz Maletzke could probably tell you, and I do have a phone number for Buzz if you need to get ahold of him.

Kay: He'd probably be a good one too.

Darla: Let's see.... who else. Well, that was some of the things that we did.

Kay: How was school different here than going back to San Diego?

Darla: Well, you have 4 grades in one classroom, so if you are in a younger or lower grade, by the time you got to upper grades or the grades ahead of you, you already knew half the stuff that you were supposed to learn because you heard it through the students ahead of you. So if you were in 1st grade and they were studying something in 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grade, and they were making reports on it in front of the class, you learned it. So you actually learned a lot better because you had repetition and you had more attention.

Kay: The older kids were paying attention to you as well as the teacher.

Darla: The teacher, yes because we had maybe 4 kids in each grade. So you figure 4 grades, that's only 16 kids or children. They're not goats, they're children. So that's about all there was. I have several school pictures. My cousin Delmar married Nancy Elz, and moved.

Kay: So he ended up being a Wisconsin person.

Darla: No, Art Elz had the Standard Station in town.

Kay: Oh, so this is before Dietz.

Darla: Yes. Art sold it to Dietz, and Art always wanted to go to Oregon. After Nancy married Delmar and moved into having her own family, then Art and Ebba sold the gas station and moved to Grant's Pass. Then Delmar and Nancy moved to Grant's Pass.

Kay: Grant's Pass Oregon?

Darla: Yes. It's between Medford and Portland.

Kay: Nancy was a lot older than you then because Delmar was older.

Darla: Yeah. Delmar was a lot older than I was. Nancy had finished college and so she ended up in Grant's Pass as a Vice President of a Savings and Loan. I don't know which one. She retired from there.

Kay: So Nancy's mother was Mrs. Elz the teacher.

Darla: Yes.

Kay: And what was her first name?

Darla: Ebba. E B B A.

Kay: And then her daughter went on to get college educated in savings and loan. Cool!

Darla: And my cousin, he and Art had a business together...another station, a filling station. Then they sold that, and my cousin Delmar worked for 3M out in Portland. Ebba just died here, maybe 4 or 5 years ago. She was in her 90's.

Kay: Wow! Do you remember where she moved here from?

Darla: Well, she had family over in Winchester. She had some sisters, I believe... or Milwaukee, but I do know that relatives.

Kay: They had Winchester connections?

Darla: Yes, and I don't know what their names were. I remember where they lived, but I don't remember what their names were. I was much more interested in their Manx cats. (laughter) I liked animals.

Kay: Yeah, I know you did. When I was growing up, the ski show was the center of our lives, and also the stables, as kids. We would go and ride, and I remember all those rides along the paths by Deer Park. Wasn't it Deer Park?

Darla: No, it wasn't Deer Park. It was behind Little Bohemia along the channel.

Kay: Okay, behind Little Bohemia along the channel. Oh, those were pretty rides in the woods!

Darla: Yep! That used to be state land, and the state traded that land for I don't know what, but they sold a lot of that land on the channel. When I was growing up it was all state land on the west side of the channel between Rest Lake and Stone Lake.

Janelle: Did you lead the trail rides?

Darla: Oh, yes. I was leading trail rides by the time I was 5.

Janelle: Do you remember the names of your horses?

Darla: Oh, I remember the names of almost every one of them!

Janelle: Was there a favorite that you recall?

Darla: Well, I had my own. I had Penny. Of course, if I wasn't riding them and we needed them, the customers got to ride them, but I always had my own. Penny was the first one. We used to buy our horses from the Medford Mink Farm, the killers.

Kay: They're named "The Killers?"

Darla: They're referred to as... it's a slaughter house. Killers; the slaughter house.

Kay: The Medford Mink Farm.

Darla: Mink farm because they slaughtered horses for mink food. Mink was the big thing to raise at the time. Mink could not eat beef. It made them sick. It wasn't rich enough, but they could live on horse meat. So the mink farm was right in the middle of Mennonite country, lots of horses.

Kay: So when the horses got old or sick...

Darla: ... or people didn't want them anymore, they'd sell them to the mink farm. They bought them by the pound, or they sold them by the pound. For the first 10 years, I think we got most of our horses from the mink farm. They were good riding horses. We'd try them.

Kay: So you got them so they didn't get slaughtered.

Darla: Right.

Kay: So they'd sell them as well as kill them.

Darla: Right. They'd sell them by the pound, so you found a horse that you'd like, that you thought would work for you and work out, and you'd ride them to make sure they were rideable and that they didn't have any bad habits. And then put them on a scale and pay for them.

Kay: What did you do with them at the end of the year?

Darla: We kept them. We kept our horses all year round.

Kay: You kept them up here even though you were in San Diego?

Darla: Right. We use to keep them down at Kassien's. You know where Kassien's is.

Kay: Down off of Island Lake Road.

Darla: Yep.

Kay: And that's Bob Kassien?

Darla: No, it was Hank I think. That would probably be his father or his grandfather, because at the time I can remember that I was... I wasn't all that amazed, and I found out later why. But they had no indoor plumbing. They had a big old barn. We used to buy hay from them too. I remember that they pump well, hand pump in the kitchen. It didn't surprise me because I think my mother's sister also had a hand pump in the kitchen, in Texas. I found out when I was going to college that after world war II less than 50% of the homes in this country, in the United States, had indoor plumbing.

Kay: I know. We were kind of like, didn't know we were really fortunate.

Darla: I know! We didn't because we lived in newer homes. Everybody else, you know, if you lived out in the ranch, if you lived on the farm...

Kay: ... if you lived in Mississippi or Tennessee or where ever...

Darla: If you lived in the older parts of town or of the country, older settled parts, their houses were built 100 years before, 200 years before. They didn't have any indoor plumbing. They'd been updated as the population grew because of the sanitation issues. When we were younger it wasn't a big deal because we knew too many people that didn't have indoor plumbing.

Kay: Right. So tell me about the Kassiens. Did they take good care of your horses?

Darla: They took good care. Toward the later years it was a little scary because hunters would go in and they would spot. We were scared to death that they were going to kill one of our horses. They didn't get one of our horses, but bow hunters shot one of the Kassien's work horses. If you can imagine spotting at night. They had to have been drinking.

Kay: So they were spot lighting at night.

Darla: Spot lighting, yes. Whether with spot lights on their cars, and then they were hunting by spot light.

Kay: Illegally.

Darla: Definitely, because it was private property also. They shot one of Kassien's horses, work horses, draft horses. And they're huge. They were bigger than our horses. Our horses looked more like deer than Kassien's draft horses. And then we started keeping them up in Butternut.

Kay: Well, that's a long ways away.

Darla: 45 miles. We would have a ride. After Labor Day we would take all the horses, and we would ride them up. That was fine for all of us kids that hung around the stables because we were used to riding. One year Harry Kaczmarek and his... I don't think they were married yet. I think they were dating. They decided they were going to go. He said, "You sit in town. How hard can this be?" (laughter) Well, he actually discovered that there was a lot more to riding than he knew, and his muscles told him the day after riding 45 miles on a horse.

Kay: He was a little sore, huh? (laughter) Well, you know I interviewed Harry, and he had really fond memories of going over to Kassien's on a Sunday and renting horses and riding up here in the winter. They must have been your horses!

Darla: They were our horses, yes and we didn't know that he was doing that! (laughter) That's fine as long as the horses were treated well and fed well.

Kay: He talked about himself and Skip and I think it was Ricky Bakken.

Darla: It could be Ricky.

Kay: And they would ride. And he said there was absolutely nobody on the highways at that time of year.

Darla: Oh yeah. I remember one year my cousin Delmar was driving a team, or one horse with our buck board, and he had two horses tied on the back going down the road. (laughter) At that time we all had mailboxes on the highway. One horse went the opposite around the mail box. He looked back and it was just like somebody was sawing them off. These mailboxes flying up in the air as the horse's lead went right underneath the mailbox. We had to go back and replace mailboxes!

Kay: Oh, that's funny!

Darla: We did a lot of things. When I was a teenager I had this old blue '54 Ford pick-up. I think top speed was like 45 miles per hour. You probably remember that one. I only drove it in town around the township because my mother wouldn't let me drive it any place else. It was just transportation and used for hauling sawdust or hay or whatever. We see kids on the truck. We called it the mustang because the key that came with it had a mustang insignia on it, the key chain. By that point my cousins

were no longer coming up, but we had Jack Feiereisen. Jackie worked for us for several years. I did skip around.

Kay: He would do the tourists?

Darla: Yeah. He would work at the stables. When your brother Roger (Christensen)... they told a story about Jack and Henry Voss and Jim Osborne. They all went to Kassien's to get hay. It's summer and there's nothing more miserable than handling hay in the middle of summer because it is so hot and so prickly, and you're in a hot barn. They couldn't find Henry. After about 15 minutes Henry had disappeared and it was just Jackie and Jim Osborne loading the truck to bring the hay back to the stables. Henry decided that was too much work and he wasn't going to do that! (laughter)

Kay: He disappeared!

Darla: Yes! Oh, and then there was the day that my father had borrowed a flatbed from McFarland's. It was an early 50's one-ton truck that had a flatbed on it. My dad was going to haul hay, and he and I loaded hay from Wysocki's.

Kay: Where was Wysocki's?

Darla: This was on Highway W just past The Oasis. It's now Smokey's.

Kay: Okay, on Highway W and it was a farm?

Darla: Yes.

Kay: I wonder if that wasn't one of those potato farms.

Darla: It was. My father said those potatoes were the best potatoes he ever ate. He swore that Wysocki poured sugar in the soil. They were so sweet. Mr. Wysocki was the only person I've ever seen eating peas with a knife. I still remember that. My eyes must have been as big as saucers when I saw him eating peas with a knife! I was a teenager then so I must have been 16 or 17 driving that truck of McFarland's full of hay back to the stables. We got to the stables and my dad said, "Okay, back me in." And I hopped out of the truck and I looked and there was no hay on the truck! The bed had lifted and we had dumped probably a ton of hay on the highway someplace. So we turned around. He's going, "What are you laughing at!" I said, "We don't have any hay!" And he goes, "It's not so damn funny!" (laughter) We got in the truck. We headed back up 51 towards town and got right to the feather factory, and all of our hay was stacked on both sides of the highway. Somebody at the feather factory

had seen what had happened, and there was hay all over 51, bailed hay. They all came out, and they moved it and stacked it on both sides of the highway.

Kay: Oh my gosh! So you got it all back?

Darla: We got it all back, but we had to load it twice! It could have been very serious.

Kay: Oh yeah!

Darla: But that's when Manitowish Waters was a small town and everybody knew everybody.

Kay: Yeah, that was nice of them.

Darla: Yes!

Kay: So did your horses ever get out on you?

Darla: Oh yes! Yes, yes, yes! Mrs. Tennies, (TEN-EES) and the Tennies are no longer here, they have passed on.

Kay: Where did they live?

Darla: They lived on the opposite side of Bart's fields. Mrs. Bart's house is right across from the library, and Tennies' house was the next one south of it. So it's like right there!

Kay: Was it T E N...

Darla: T E N N I S I believe.

Kay: Like tennis (the game).

Darla: Yeah. We would get calls saying that the horses were out and come get them. Sometimes they would be on the airport and sometimes not. Our first trail that we had was around the airport runways. It just got to be too dangerous taking the horses across 51 as time went and more people were driving

up here and there were less means of transportation other than cars. So we made another trail that ran along the channel behind Little Bohemia and the Tackle Box.

Kay: How did you get to Little Bohemia? That's across the highway.

Darla: No, opposite side of the highway, because Little Bohemia, Emil owned that property. Emil Wanatka Sr. used to come over and pick up horse manure. He'd load his pick-up up with our manure pile and fertilize his lawns with the horse manure from the stables. He said it was the best fertilizer there was. That's why their grass always looks so good out there. (laughter)

Kay: It was from the Flying P!

Darla: Flying P, yes! (laughter)

Kay: Okay, so you changed your route to behind, but what about the horses? They didn't cross the highway, they'd ...

Darla: No, they didn't cross the highway after that because most of the horses that we had, when we were using the airport trails, we no longer had.

Kay: They didn't remember that trail.

Darla: Well no, they'd passed on. Horses don't live as long as people.

Kay: When they passed on did you take them back to the mink farm?

Darla: No.

Kay: You buried them?

Darla: Yeah, they didn't take dead animals, dead horses. They'd get buried.

Kay: Did the county bury them for you?

Darla: No! The farmers buried them, or they got left out. I really don't know because we only lost one...two that I remember during the summer. One broke her leg and John McFarland came with equipment and dug a hole. Actually for both the horses. The other one got pneumonia and died.

Janelle: That has to be rough memories.

Darla: Yes! Well, the memories of the one that died, we buried him in the ring because it was sandy and it was clear. We really didn't bury him deep enough.

Kay and Janelle: Oh no!!!

Darla: I think I must have been about 19 so I was running the stables at the time. I had my sister and her girlfriend Cindy from San Diego were up. They went out and John had just dug a trench and then pulled the body of the horse in and it landed on its back with his feet up and it wasn't deep enough. Some animal had gotten to the carcass during the night and dug up one foot so there was one foot sticking out. Cindy saw it. These girls were like 14 or 13 I guess. Oh the screams! "OHHH BLAZE!!! OHHH IT'S BLAZE!!!" (laughter) Oh yes, but we always had kids at the stables.

Kay: Well, I know my sister Candy was really into the stables.

Darla: Candy was a big help. My mother's philosophy was, "If they want to hang around, they have to work." There were a lot of kids that grew up at our stables with a work ethic that they wouldn't have gotten any place else. When you have livestock you have to work 7 days a week. Back to horses getting out. I remember one time when some people called about us riding on their driveway. It was a trail that we had had along the channel. They built houses there, and one particular person didn't like the horses, except that his driveway had been a logging trail that had been our trail first. The state had given us permission to ride on because it was state land. Without an easement he had made a driveway across state land. But he called Musatti tie to come and throw us in jail.

Kay: Tell us about Musatti.

Darla: Oh, Musatti was the town policeman.

Kay: M...

Darla: I don't know how to spell Musatti's name.

Kay: He was the town police. Who was this other gentleman?

Darla: I don't remember his name, and I don't really care to remember his name! (laughter) It wasn't Helds. Helds were there first. It wasn't them because Helds were related to somebody that we had working for us one summer, and I don't remember who that was. But I remember that they were related so that was sort of family.

Kay: So they complained about the horses. What did Musatti do?

Darla: He laughed a lot. He told him that we were there before they were.

Kay: Good.

Darla: But he came and picked me up and I went and I showed him where they were complaining about and I told him it was state land. It wasn't a paved road. It was just sand.

Kay: So they're not hurting anything.

Darla: No, and it wasn't his personal one. Everybody that had moved down there had use of that road.

Kay: Did wild animals ever bother the stable?

Darla: Only once when I was very young. We had a horse die underneath a big, huge white pine that we had. I don't remember it, but my dad told the story about a bobcat sat over in that tree, over the horse and howled all night, or whatever bobcats do. But they never bothered them. I used to ride down back behind the airport, the community church, that road; Marathon Road. I saw bear when I was riding. We used to see deer a lot. We were the equestrian part of Camp Jorn's program. Camp Jorn is from Waukegan so they had all these city kids that had never seen any wild life. So we'd take them on the trail. They had never seen deer. Because we had horses, the horses smell sort of covered the human smell. The deer were used to seeing us and they would just stand and watch us most of the time as we'd ride by until the kids would go, "What's that?! What's that?!" "It's a deer. It's a deer." (laughter) They hadn't a clue. I can still sing the Camp Jorn song.

Kay: So how many days a week did Camp Jorn ride?

Darla: I don't remember how they had it set up. A lot of times it was about 3 times a week. They would get enough kids to go that would take all the horses. So I usually had to take them out because my horse wasn't, at that point, suitable for non-riders. You needed to be a more experienced rider to ride him.

Kay: So did you take the horses to camp, or did camp come to you?

Darla: No, the camp came to us. It was much easier than hauling 14 horses or 17 horses. So we had Camp Jorn that would come during the summer, every summer.

Janelle: Do you know what years that might have been?

Darla: That would have been in the 60's, the late 50's and the 60's. I know it was in the 60's. What else...so many anecdotes. I remember one time, running into Cal LaPorte, and he was talking about me being a native. I said, "I'm not a native." And he looks at me and he says, "No, but you've been here longer than most of the people that live here, so you're a native." (laughter)

Kay: That was a compliment.

Darla: Yes! Well, we had. When we first moved here there was only like a 300 population. It was small.

Kay: Did your parents ever think about living here permanently?

Darla: My dad always wanted to but my mother didn't. She didn't like cold weather. I was just thinking about it yesterday, that my parents must have been in their 30's when they moved here. I never thought of my parents as being 30.

Kay: So as far as the airport, so you think your dad ran the airport?

Darla: Yeah, he ran the airport. I can remember him telling stories. There was a woman who flew up here from Texas. She had I think it's Ahern's place now. I think it was Mrs. Gibson. The prop on her plane was bent. My father didn't have any way or tools that could fix it or any replacement parts for it, so he actually straightened the prop for her plane between two birch trees, the birch trees. My father was resourceful. He came from a place where you had to fix your own things. You didn't have stores to go buy them, or you didn't have the resources to buy them.

Kay: Yeah, that's sometimes the best thing. Other stories about the airport?

Darla: One time we had a couple of horses we just bought new. They got away from us. They got out and they crossed the road and they ended up in the swamp over on the south side of the airport

between Powell Road and the runway. There's a big swamp back there. We looked and we looked. We found one of them right away. The other one, she was stuck in the swamp. We had 2 cowboys working for us at the time. I think it was when the cowboys were there. They roped her and pulled her out.

Kay: So she was up to how far in there? She was in the muck?

Darla: She was in the muck and couldn't get out. They hauled her out with a couple of other horses. That year I think I was 10 so it must have been '57- '58 we lived in San Antone that year in the winter. We hired 2 cowboys, Red and Rock.

Kay: Do you know their last names?

Darla: I don't remember what Rock's last name was, but Red's was Yancy.

Kay: And they were cowboys?

Darla: Yes. Rock had been a rodeo cowboy, had been injured and ex-marine in the war.

Kay: World War II?

Darla: Yes. I learned an awful lot, but my father still didn't know horse flesh very well. He went down to the auction in... I forgot where. He went to a horse auction. We ended up with, I think they bought 22 head of horses. Half of them weren't broke and these guys convinced my dad that they were rideable. My father didn't know. My mother had purchased property, a farm, at the end of Powell Road. The old Sherman farm.

Kay: The end of Powell Road, all the way out to 47?

Darla: Yep. It was on 47 and Powell Road.

Kay: And there's a big pasture there, yeah? The Sherman farm.

Darla: Yeah. It was first beef ranch in the North Woods. They had a barn that had been built. I remember that barn. It was made of huge, huge timbers and it was all hand hewn, and it was all put together with pegs. It was starting to fall down. My mother bought it for back taxes in Iron County. She

was wise enough to log off enough timber to pay for it. She eventually sold it back to the state. You know the bridge were 182 comes into 47? That swamp that's across 47 and south to Powell Road, that was the area. It's about 80 acres I think. For some reason I think that. I don't have any idea why.

Kay: That's where you kept the horses?

Darla: That's where we kept all of the horses when he bought them at the auction because we didn't want to bring horses that had been shipped. We wanted to quarantine them before we mixed them in with the rest of our herd which was healthy.

Kay: So what ever happened to the young, unbroken horses?

Darla: Well, some of them never did get broken. I can remember we had one that never did get broken.

Kay: What was her name?

Darla: Cherry, and Rock loved that horse. He tried and he tried to make a riding horse out of her. She must have come out of a bucking string some place because you never could ride her. I think she probably got sold back to the mink farm.

Kay: So did he buy these 22 to kind of keep...

Darla: Yeah. Well, we thought we needed them. So our string was up to about 25 horses. That was the most horses we ever had. We usually ran anywhere from 15 to 18. Of course, two of the horses that they bought were stallions so the next year we had a lot of babies! (laughter) My mother was so mad at those cowboys! That brings up our vet. Our vet was from Ironwood. His name was Doc Eddy. Doc Eddy had put himself through veterinary school as a sparring partner for Gorgeous George, the wrestler. (laughter) I'm serious! He was!

Kay: Was Eddy his last name?

Darla: Eddy, yes. E D D Y, Eddy. That's how he paid for his vet school. He was the nicest man. Every time he'd come he'd bring my sister and I each a bag of licorice candy, and we hated licorice! (laughter) My mother had a 4 drawer file cabinet and one whole drawer was filled with bags of licorice candy.

Kay: And she didn't want you to be rude and say, "Could you bring something else?" (laughter)

Darla: “Quit bringing it! We got plenty!” He was quite the character.

Kay: And he was a good vet?

Darla: He was a good vet, yes. He was about as wide as he was tall at that point. He couldn't do a lot of bending over anymore because he was a little rotund and it would cut off his breath. So he would have all of us kids, or whoever we had working for us, holding the horses when he did procedures on them. I won't go into when we gilded some colts. That's a whole different story which is probably not appropriate for this venue. (laughter) But he would drive into our driveway and he would hit a tree and he'd laugh and he'd backup and try to turn his car around he'd hit another tree and he'd laugh and move his car around! He was a character! But he was the nicest man. My mother had psoriasis on one of her hands and her arm. He brought her some stuff down that took care of it immediately. It worked within a week. She had no problems at all. A couple of years later there was something on the market that was really big at the time. It was the same stuff! It smelled exactly the same as what Doc Eddy had mixed up!

Kay: From the animal stuff?

Darla: Yeah!

Kay: Cool!

Darla: So I don't know of anything else. I mean there are tons of things. I just don't remember them off the top of my head.

Kay: But you had lots of...

Darla: We had a lot of kids. We had groups. They would come in age groups so you'd get a whole group of 15-16 year olds. Actually, they were usually before they could drive, so they would be 14, 15 or even 13, 14, and 15 year olds.

Kay: That would meet at the...

Darla: That would be at the stables and hang out at the stables. Because there were girls there, my sister and her girlfriends from California, we had a lot of boys. (laughter)

Kay: So it was kind of real social thing for teenagers.

Darla: It was a social thing, yes. My mom always made sure we had stuff to eat for lunch. We had a coke machine which I have never ever seen another one like it. It was a little bit smaller than this table and it was round like this table. You had to look down into the window and you would turn a knob on the top of it. I don't know where my dad got it, but I've never seen another coke machine like it.

Kay: Where is it?

Darla: I don't know. I don't know what happened to it. I think when we sold the horses... I don't know what happened to it to tell the truth.

Kay: What year did you stop doing the horses?

Darla: Let me think... I had left home and wasn't coming up here anymore. My sister had no interest and my mother just couldn't do it by herself. So it must have been when I was 21. That would have been '69 or '70.

Janelle: You know, it sounds like the horse ranch made quite an impact on the community.

Darla: It did. Especially the summer kids, because the winter kids had jobs all year round. But the summer kids, that was back in the day when the summer kids, even though their parents had summer homes up here, and they were fairly well to do, they still wanted to have jobs, or their parents encouraged them to work. So we hired kids later on, teenagers.

Kay: Who were some of the other people that worked for you?

Darla: Jackie Feiereisen and Jeff Stonecipher. Carl Stonecipher, "Stoney". I think his name was Carl. We only called him "Stoney". He worked for us for a couple of years.

Kay: He was from Wauwatosa too.

Darla: Yes. Ruthann Paylon. She worked for us. There was somebody from north of Milwaukee. He was from a farm. His name was Dick... I don't know his last name.

Kay: Was he in the ski show?

Darla: No. That was original Skeeters. The Tom Feiereisen era, before your brother's era. No, he didn't. He was a farm boy. It was just continually...

Kay: What about your dad? Did he come every summer? Because I don't remember your dad much.

Darla: No, he didn't. What happened was that the company he worked for, it was a factory, and he would quit every June so he could spend the summer up here. Then he would go back and they would rehire him every fall or every winter. Finally, they said, "Enough of this. You stay or don't come back at all." So he would come up on his vacation days and then fly home leaving my mother and I and my sister up here to run everything. My mother ran the resort and I ran the stables from the time I was probably 15.

Kay: How about the resort? Was that a real productive...

Darla: Not too much. We only had two cabins, but we had a 10-bedroom lodge. She sold the two cabins one at a time, and then she sold the lodge. I think Willy Byram rented it one year.

Kay: I remember Willy saying that he and Joanie lived there one year.

Darla: Yes. They were going to have like a bed and breakfast, but it didn't work out.

Janelle: And what was the name of your lodge again?

Darla: Flying P. I do remember, I found some old calendars that my parents kept when we first started the stables. They would write down what they took in for income for the day and what the weather was like. It rained one of the first summers we were up here, it rained almost every day. When people talk about how much rain we've had this year, back then we had a lot of rain. That was 65 years ago.

Kay: I remember my mom and your mom.

Darla: Oh, your mom and my mom were good buddies. I remember a story about your mom. (laughter)

Kay: She went to Woodruff, this is Betty Christensen.

Darla: Yes this is Betty Christensen. She took her car down to, I don't know if it was Woodruff or Minocqua, to get serviced. I don't know if it was a Buick, did you have Buicks?

Kay: We did, yeah.

Darla: I think it was the dealership. When she was down there this guy came in and brought his car in, dropped it off and left. Well, your mother was very impressed. I was with my mom when your mother came in said, "You will never guess who I saw at the car dealership! Oh! Oh!" She was going on and on and it was a very famous actor. And I cannot for the life of me remember who it was, but they were like two 16-year-old school girls with crushes! Both of them! "OH! OH!" Of course I must have been maybe 14-15, and I just cracking up because they looked so silly and they were just "OH YES!" I want to say Robert somebody or another. If I saw him on TV I would know which one it was. He was an "A-lister" and he had a cabin or a house around Minocqua. I will never forget that. Your mom was so great!

Kay: And you lived with my mom for a year. I must have been in college.

Darla: I was 21.

Kay: I was at Stevens Point then.

Darla: Yes, I lived with your mother and your sister.

Kay: And you worked at...

Darla: Chappy's. I was the only female employee in 3 sporting good stores. I worked in the office and when they needed somebody out front I worked out front. I knew nothing about guns or golf. If people bought golf clubs, they should have checked because a lot of them had little nicks on the bottom where I was practicing and hitting the tile floor. (laughter) And it was so cold because it wasn't heated in the office. It was just a cement block. And this is in Milwaukee. It was interesting.

Janelle: And how old were you?

Darla: I was 21. I turned 21 the year I moved out of the house. I left home.

Kay: Then you ended up in Minnesota from a career?

Darla: Yes, in 1980. I worked for a company called "Controlled Data" in La Jolla, California. Controlled Data was closing the La Jolla facility. Controlled Data sold the property. Property in La Jolla is very expensive. Controlled Data two softball fields that they rented to the girls' softball team for \$20 a year. Right now there is a huge shopping center on those two softball fields. But they closed the facility, and they gave many of us a chance to transfer to the home offices which were in Minneapolis. That's how I got back to Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Kay: I remember your town was a different name.

Darla: I lived in Arden Hills which is a suburb...

Kay: Arden Hills California?

Darla: No, where I live?

Kay: No, I mean when you lived in California.

Darla: Chula Vista.

Kay: Oh, Chula Vista. I always remember that address for some reason.

Darla: Beautiful View. There's a Chula Vista Resort someplace off of Highway 94 going south. Every time I see it I go, "You're in the wrong place." (laughter) "Why do you have a Spanish name for your place?"

Kay: Now, have you sold all your parent's things?

Darla: No, their property was left between my sister and myself, except my sister had predeceased her daughter so it went to my niece and myself. My niece was too young to be able to put her name on property. It's an LLC and the property is in there, everything. I have a duplex out there in the LLC, and I've got a place up here.

Kay: So you still have a little bit of California.

Darla: Oh, yes. I still go out there. I have friends that I graduated from high school with. We get together. We haven't because their husbands have been ill, so they haven't been able to travel any lately. But we used to get together every year. And I make all of the high school functions which is fun because I worked for the Northwest Airlines before it became Delta. I could fly home. That was one reason I went to work for Northwest was because of the flying privileges. That way I could fly out to see my mother.

Kay: Now when did your mother pass away?

Darla: I want to say '98.

Kay: Okay, 1998. When did she stop coming up north?

Darla: '95. Before my dad died. When my dad died she didn't come back.

Kay: So your dad died in '95?

Darla: He died in '96.

Kay: So they were still living when Toni passed away?

Darla: Yes.

Kay: That must have been hard.

Darla: Oh, it was very hard. When my sister passed away, it was Christmas time. We didn't know at the time, but they don't bury people in the ground up here in the winter. My sister passed away from breast cancer and she was 34. Her friends got together and they built a fire over where we were going to bury her, where our plots were. They built a fire, thawed the ground, and we buried her the day before Christmas Eve in 1990.

Kay: So did Toni end up living here?

Darla: Toni lived her from the time she was 18. She lived in that cabin that they built.

Kay: That little cabin by the road?

Darla: Yep. It's tongue and groove, cedar, no insulation. It's just tongue and groove cedar on a cement slab.

Kay: Oh, that floor was cold.

Darla: They did put a rug in there, carpet. She lived there for most of her adult life. She was in a very serious car accident in Ironwood. She almost died. She was going home. A guy was driving and he was too drunk to be on the road. She was his passenger. He hit a tree. He was not killed. She was thrown out of the vehicle, and they found her behind the back wheels of the truck. They don't know how she got there. She had head injuries and she had some other injuries and they weren't sure if she was going to live or not. She did. She had met her husband to be before then and they got married after that. She lived out by Holy Hill. That's where she lived until she passed on.

Kay: Having a sister that much younger was probably like almost being two single children.

Darla: Oh, yeah. No, I got to be the baby sitter growing up. We had nothing in common personality wise or friends or anything because we were so different in ages. Now her age group were pretty wild and wooly. They used to short out the fences at night after we turned the horses out and go in and ride the horses. That was one reason why our horses got out because they'd get to running them at night and run the horses through the fences. My mother caught them one evening. I don't know if somebody called or what happened, but caught them trying to short the fence out. She got one of them, and I don't remember...

Kay: I always remember her wearing the cowboy outfit.

Darla: Yeah, she had a western shirt.

Kay: Yeah, a western shirt. She wore a hat. She had a big belt, I remember, and jeans. Yeah, she always looked the part. Very nice lady!

Darla: I still have a couple of her pieces of clothing. I've got a pair of real gold lame wedgie sandals from the 1940's. My feet are too big. I'm bigger than my mother. But I still got that and a rayon blouse that was back when rayon was brand new. I got a couple of her western shirts too, and a suede vest which I will never get into again.

Kay: Do you ride anymore?

Darla: No. The last time I went riding I didn't have a problem getting on because I was at a friend's house and she had problems getting on so her husband had built her like little bleacher steps that she could get her horse next to and get on. So I got on but after we rode for an hour I had trouble getting off. I couldn't swing my leg over the back of the horse. So I haven't been riding. I have friends in carriage driving sport. In fact, next weekend is one of the biggest carriage driving events in the Midwest and it's at Villa Louis.

Kay: Oh, that would be beautiful!

Darla: It is gorgeous! They get teams from all over the country that come in there. Anything from single horses to 4-horse teams.

Kay: Now, did you keep a horse?

Darla: In California? No, I didn't have horses in California.

Kay: Just up here in the summer?

Darla: Just up here in the summer.

Kay: What about as an adult? Did you keep a horse once you left the stables?

Darla: No. Yes, I did. I take that back. When I moved to Minnesota I could afford it. I couldn't afford to have a horse in California.

Kay: We had horses. Jeff grew up with horses. He always said, "If you want a money hole, have horses because they're so expensive to keep." They need a lot of attention and good food.

Darla: They do. If you have horses it's because you love horses. They aren't resilient like cattle or goats or sheep. They've got a very touchy digestive track and they don't have multiple stomachs so they get what's called colic. And just like that, they're gone. They can twist a gut just rolling. I started out with a roommate, or I was sharing a place with a gal. It was her place. She had horses. She didn't know much about them. I did save her from making some really bad buys. "You don't want to buy that horse." "But she's so sweet!" "Yes, but she's lame." (laughter) "You don't want to buy a lame horse!"

Kay: So if you had to wrap it up, what would you say about that childhood in Manitowish Waters and the experience?

Darla: We were talking last night, Barb Sileski-Cartland and Mary Beth Kolarchek and I. All of us grew up here summers. Barb Saleski was the only person that I have ever known that could come to the stables wearing white tennis shoes and a white blouse and go home with white tennis shoes and a white blouse. I was filthy by the time I was there for a half an hour! (laughter) Everybody else was too, and we smelled like horses. But not Barb, and she worked but she never got dirty! (laughter) All of us agreed. We would not trade our childhoods for anything. We had the best childhood you could imagine.

Kay: And tell us that. Tell us why, what the combination was.

Darla: Well, we had horses and we had trees and our parents gave us responsibilities and expected from us a lot. We lived up to that or we tried to. And we had freedom. We could run. We could swim. We could ski. I was in the skiing Skeeters. I didn't do much because I was always working, but I was one of the first junior members. I was a non-skiing member. I skied in one show.

Kay: But that was an important part of the show. Just the chance to learn to ski better with other skiers and just the comradery.

Darla: You might have been in that same show with the ballet. It was you, I think it was you, and me and Ricky, maybe. And Linda Miller.

Kay: Laurie Nerby?

Darla: It could have been Laurie. Like 4 of us fell. (laughter) But we had a good time, and our parents always came. There was much more a sense of community then. We didn't have electronics. We didn't stay inside. TV was nonexistent up here at the time. Reception was zip.

Kay: The only radio station you got was Ironwood, and at night, WLS in Chicago so you could hear the Rock and Roll at night.

Darla: Well, we had an old Philco radio. I still have it, but my brother-in-law's significant other poured water all over it watering her plants so all the veneer stripped off of it. But that radio was in the lodge and we could pull in really weird stations at night, like Pennsylvania and Canada. We'd get a lot of Canadian stations, but you never knew where they were coming from. A lot of that had to do the iron ore. It effected the radio waves. That's what my dad said, anyway.

Kay: Yeah, I heard that there is some sort of magnetic situation going on up further north.

Darla: When we had the lodge, and we'd all go out at night, and my mom would come home. She'd come up the next morning when I was still asleep to go, "Darla. Who's on the couch?" And I'd go, "Blonde or brunette? Male or female? Oh, it must be so-in-so!" (laughter) Because if somebody didn't have a place to stay, we'd put them up. My mother went through, I don't know how many generations, at her memorial service here, there was 3 generations of adults that had grown up at the stables.

Kay: That is so cool!

Darla: Yep! I remember Johnny Gibson. His parents owned the Circle Lily cabins over on Circle Lily. They were the only ones on Circle Lily at the time. He had shot a bear that was on one of the cabin's doorsteps, and so the guests couldn't get in so Johnny shot it. He skinned it and he dried the skin on the side of our shed over there, the place we were living in. I can remember looking at that bear meat. It looked like it was a steak was this big, but I was little then so it was probably only this big. It was round. It looked like a log actually, you know, a piece of wood because it was so red and it had rings.

Kay: Rings of fat maybe?

Darla: No. I don't know what it was, but that's all I remember because I couldn't have been more than 5 so I don't remember a whole lot. But I do remember that and fishing for sun fish down at Bart's when I was little. Oh, Judy Nisty and I. That was their granddaughter's; Judy and Linda Nisty. Judy and I burnt down one of her grandfather's outhouses at the cabins playing with matches. (laughter) He never did know who did it. We were lighting matches and throwing them down the back of the outhouses. We thought they were out. You know, we'd throw them down and apparently one of them wasn't! And all that methane gas just "BOOM!" (laughter)

Kay: A little science lesson, huh?

Darla: Well, yes! My mother knew. I could never lie so I told my mother and I don't know if she told Jim Bart or not. I remember Mrs. Bart cooking at the school.

Kay: And the Barts had the property you bought plus...

Darla: They owned everything from this road here that goes down to Joseph's all the way over, this whole bay. The two fields out here. Mitchell road, that was their driveway, and the cabins.

Kay: I don't remember this.

Darla: No, you probably wouldn't. Jim was Mary Beth Kolarchek's uncle.

Kay: Oh! Okay.

Darla: I have a menu from Little Bohemia from 1950 something.

Kay: Oh, that would be neat to get a copy of for the historical society.

Darla: I've got it mounted. Emil senior wrote on it. It was to my mom. "Best wishes" or something else. Steak and lobster was \$3.50. Everybody is just amazed when they look at the prices! And that was pretty pricey then!

Janelle: Do you have other pictures? Do you have any pictures that we can scan? We wouldn't keep originals, but anything of you and your horses or anything?

Darla: I have very little. If anything, it's out in California in a storage out there. I don't have any of that here. I might have a picture of myself and a horse, but as far as the other horses... I was telling Kay Krans that my dad had an 8mm camera. But he really wasn't good at taking pictures because he would sit holding the camera, and the motion of the horse meant the camera was moving too so it's very choppy looking! (laughter) Oh, I didn't tell you about the moonlight rides! We used to have moonlight rides!

Kay: Oh yeah! I remember those!

Darla: And we would go to Little Star Beach. Well, first of all, we used to have them over at a sand pit that's between Benji Reimer's house and the airport. You know, he had his own little landing strip. Well, right off of that is like a sand pit. We used to have them there, our first ones. When we stopped riding across the street around the airport, then we started going to Little Star. We would ride. We didn't have to have a moon but we would ride in the pitch dark in the woods. Thank God the horses knew where they were going! We would stop and we would roast marshmallows and hot dogs and sit around and sing songs and then get on the horses and ride back. So some days you started we started at 7:00 in the morning and you got through at midnight.

Kay: That's really cool. When I talked to Jody and she said about the airport, I thought, "Well, the stables! My gosh!"

Darla: The stables. Not too many people go back as far as airport anymore, because my father would be...

Kay: Any other airport stories that you remember?

Darla: No.

Kay: How old would your father be now? Your mother must have been...

Darla: My dad would have been in his 90's. My mother was born in 1920.

Kay: Oh, so she was a year younger than my mom.

Darla: My dad was born in... Oh, I'm so bad with dates. I want to say 1918, but I don't think so. I think it was 1914. Somewhere between '14 and '18. He would have been over 100.

Kay: 103 Well, this has really been great! I wonder, the next time you go to California, if you could look for some pictures, because this would be a great place to...

Darla: Well, every time I go I go through the storage units and go "Why am I keeping this? Get rid of this!". I've probably paid \$20,000 in storage unit costs because I can't bear to get rid of stuff. Thinking that, "Oh, maybe I'll move back out here and move into one of the places." Or "I don't have enough place to put anything." What I want to do is try and finish the basement off and then move it because it's mostly furniture. Furniture we've had a long time.

Kay: Are you staying up here a lot more?

Darla: I did this summer because I didn't have anything rented. I didn't have it rented so I got to stay up here most of the summer. But I volunteered over at the Bluegrass Festival.

Kay: Oh, was that fun?

Darla: It was fun! It really was! I met a woman and we got to talking, and she and her husband are from Milwaukee area. They're renting one of Beaumont's places. She had friends who were looking for places to stay and I said, "I rent. I've got a house that I'll rent." She brought two of her friends over. I have it rented for 4 months next summer to one of them. And then Brian and Denise Forrest from the hardware store are taking it again this winter.

Kay: Oh, they rented last winter?

Darla: Yes, and the winter before because Tomahawk's a long ways to drive in the winter up here. We're what, a mile away?

Kay: Janelle?

Darla: She's outside. Oh no, here she is. So it's rented for next year. I've got to find a place to stay next year.

Kay: Stay with me!

Darla: Ok! Don't offer if you don't mean it! But I've got a dog! I've got that real fierce little one! I had some guy come over today and...

(END OF RECORDING)

