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Oral History Collection

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Hartbauer, Arno

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Interviewed by Irene Francis

IF: This tape is part of an oral history taping series made for the Old Westcliffe Schoolhouse Museum. The subject of this tape is Arno Hartbauer.

IF: And they worked longer and harder in those days too.

AH: You know, people in this day and age could not survive what our folks, grandfolks did.

IF: No.

AH: Building a log house, this in the summer, get ready for the winter, put in a crop, get wood in, snow, blizzard come in [unintelligible]-

UIF: When did you move in town?

AH: My folks [unintelligible] we moved in town in 1960, didn't we, Joanne?

JH: '69.

AH: '69.

JH: You and I.

AH: That's what I'm talking about.

JH: We lived in town a couple of years when we were first married though.

AH: My dad was still living and we lived with him.

JH: '55-57, 58.

AH: My dad had the hiccups for 21 days. 21 days, got so weak, he couldn't lift his head. Two days later, he had leukemia. Three weeks later, he was dead.

IF: Oh my goodness!

AH: [unintelligible] 29 days, it was something else.

IF: I forget how long my father had them but he-

AH: He got weakened, didn't he?

IF: Yes, he just gave up and just threw himself across the bed and went down sleeping and when he woke,

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he didn't have them anymore.

AH: They done everything in the hospital to try and stop it. Everything, and they could not stop those hiccups. And three days later, took a blood test and leukemia.

IF: Wow.

UIM: Just too fast for them to realize that it might be something serious like that and didn't take a blood test beforehand?

AH: I can't tell you.

UIM: Maybe the hiccups were so bad-

AH: He had two doctors with him all the time and finally the doctor told me one day, says we could maybe cut one nerve to stop it but that's the only thing I know what to do. He got so weak, he couldn't lift his head. 24 hours a day.

UIF: He sold the ranch or is it still in the family?

JH: Sold the ranch. We sold it before we moved to town in '69, when we sold it.

AH: Mm hmm.

UIF: When did you buy the [unintelligible] station?

AH: What?

JH: That's our son.

UIF: That is your son?

AH & JH: Uh huh.

JH: '77 I think he bought that.

AH: Bought the station?

JH: Yeah.

AH: That's not when he bought it. That's when he rented it.

JH: That's when he leased it.

AH: Yeah.

JH: That's when he took it over.

AH: Yeah. I don't know what year he bought it.

JH: I don't either. Leased it '77, he's married in '78, that's 12 years.

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AH: He's a technician for soil conservation.

JH: He was in the Navy and that's where he got his education. Then he went into soil conservation when he got out.

UIF: Mm hmm.

JH: He went in the Navy in '50-

AH: '75-

JH: '70, wait a minute-

AH: '74-

JH: Graduated in '74. He went in the Navy that year. Yeah, '74.

UIM: Did he have to have further schooling?

JH: Yeah, little bit. He started in college in Trinidad and then he got this job in soil conservation so he quit college and went into it because they said he didn't need any more really. He didn't want college. He wanted to get out in the field, you know.

AH: N7 now.

JH: M, isn't it, M7?

AH: N, M, I don't know.

JH: I think it's M. Is it M or is it?

AH: I think so.

JH: Could be. I thought it was M, M3, when he was an M3, but it could be N.

UIM: M sounds right, talking about Navy-

JH: Navy, uh huh.

UIF: What's that stand for, machinist?

AH: Yeah.

JH: The M, no the N wouldn't-

UIF: Oh that would be N-

AH: This is in soil conservation.

JH: Yeah, but we're talking about what rating he is. He's in soil conservation N3?

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AH: N7!

JH: N7, I mean N7 in soil conservation?

AH: Yeah, yes.

JH: Oh, ok. I thought you meant that was his Navy-

AH: No.

[unintelligible]

JH: Now, this is Louis.

All: Uh huh, yeah.

UIF: And what does Bradford do?

AH: He's worked for 7Up right now.

JH: Brad is just kind of a kid that never wanted to go to college and-

AH: He's hurt.

JH: Sports catch him in high school and (laughing) He was a smart kid, no he didn't want college. Our daughter went to college. She's going for her, she's got her bachelor's. She's going for her master's.

AH: And she's working for Timber Technical College right now.

JH: She's perked. She don't want me to tell it, but she's assistant dean of students at Denver Tech. She don't like anybody to know it. She just likes to be said she's a placement specialist but that's what she was before. But she's assistant dean of students.

UIM: I was thinked more technical school personally instead of these colleges.

JH: I do, too. I do, too.

[unintelligible]

JH: He went to North Carolina and worked for Pepsi.

AH: At Christmas, we didn't know nothing about it yet and he, they would just go, he didn't know until, she just, I guess just told him that, got another man.

JH: You hear that a lot nowadays, don't you?

UIF: Oh yes.

JH: Isn't that awful?

UIF: Kids don't stay together.

JH: No, they don't.

AH: Well, who do you blame?

AH:

JH: It takes two.

AH: But I think we could just, this apartment more than anybody else.

JH: Making it too easy?

AH: Yeah, I mean. Now, is this off now?

JH: I don't know. Is it off? Are we off or are we on?

AH: Probably don't have to work. They get T bone steaks. They got the lights coming in.

JH: The thing about it is, if they work and put them out, they're more apt to escape, aren't they?
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AH: That's alright. Escape but they go around the gray mare maybe three times when they got back.

JH: I don't know. I kind of remember Morgan in Canon City.

UIF: Well, I remember them too.

[Long discussion about crime and punishment, nothing in particular]

AH: Matter of fact, even when we got married, my dad and I, we still had cows together, and after he died, that's when we separated all the cows.

JH: Then you had a man worked for you a lot, too.

AH: Well, you have to-

JH: That Ernest Yesky that's, that Ernest Yesky that's in the home. He worked for us a long time.

UIM: Did you always just hand milk the cows?

AH: No, we was the first ones in the Valley to have a milk machine, and that was in '44, I think. We had a dual valve milk machine.

JH: I think twice our kids let the milk out (laughing)

AH: Out of the tank.

JH: Out of the tank when they were little. Once completely, and once, you caught it or something, I remember.

UIF: What year did you say it was?

AH: I think in '44 or '43. It was 1940 when we got the milker.

UIF: Ok.

AH: 1940. Our hands got so we couldn't squeeze like this. Three of us milked 32 cows twice a day.

JH: I got a brother in Missouri that still milks cows and sells the milk. He's on a farm in Missouri. He milks 24 now, he said, but they got milk machines too.

UIF: Were you raised in Missouri?

JH: Yes, uh huh.

UIM: We have a friend back in Ohio that has 160.

JH: Oh really.

UIM: But he has-

AH: You know any more dairies, I seen a dairy here last winter or last summer, them cows gave 18 gallons of milk a day, 4 times a day. I cannot hardly believe it.

JH: Do you have the ones, hope I gave you all the ones that she wanted.

UIF: Yeah.

JH: Ok.

UIM: Well, I know he only milks his twice a day.

AH: That's what we did.

JH: Yeah, that's what my brother did too.

UIM: He inherited from his father but-

AH: But that's the way it goes, you got to get big, and better and better.

UIM: To make money, that's for sure, to stay in business, that's what I should-

AH: That's right. Our son right now, Russell, been over two weeks since they had a fire, can't do nothing yet