

DOROTHY PATTERSON
January 28, 1999

Ann Townsend and myself, Anne Andeen, are interviewing Mrs. Dorothy Patterson and George Adams today. May we have your permission to quote you in part or all of our interview?

Mrs. Patterson: Yes.

George Adams: Yes.

Anne Andeen: Thank you very much. Mrs. Patterson, when did you come to Arizona?

Mrs. Patterson: 1945.

Anne Andeen: And what brought you here?

Mrs. Patterson: The cold weather in Cleveland. We bought a business here and started the business which is still going. Bert sold it to the employees and it's still going, a climate control company still here.

Anne Andeen: How did you get into the guest ranching business?

Mrs. Patterson: My husband was an engineer out of Cornell and he had never worked with air conditioning. He did not like it and we got out because he just did not like it from an engineering standpoint, it meant nothing to him. We got out.

George Adams: He worked for a company called Thompson Products in Cleveland and that company formed what was soon to be known TRW.

Mrs. Patterson: He was assistant to the president.

George Adams: Bert moved out here in '45 and bought the Riding Rock Ranch in 1949.

Anne Andeen: Was it already established or did you build it from the ground up?

Mrs. Patterson: No, we didn't build the buildings, we bought them.

George Adams: Was it Warren Serro's home?

Mrs. Patterson: We built guest cabins on it and brought it up to handle 55 people.

Anne Andeen: Did you have any experience prior to coming out here to handle guest ranching, or with bed and breakfast or anything?

Mrs. Patterson: No, except I'm an "Oakie."

Ann Townsend: Where in Oklahoma?

Mrs. Patterson: Oklahoma City.

Ann Townsend: My mother was born in Edmond.

Mrs. Patterson: My brothers went to school in Edmond.

Ann Townsend: Central State Teachers College?

Mrs. Patterson: Yes, and I was raised in a little Town called Joan City, which was about 16 miles out of Oklahoma City. Then we moved into Oklahoma City to send my brothers to high school.

Ann Townsend: Did you meet your husband there or in Cleveland?

Mrs. Patterson: No, I met my husband in Oklahoma but he was from Cleveland. He loved his birthday which was the 22nd of February. He calls me to meet him in Memphis. There weren't any airlines in those days, everything was train in '36. We became engaged in Memphis on his birthday, the 22nd of February. On March 12, he came to Oklahoma City and we were married.

Anne Andeen: Then did you come directly to Arizona?

Mrs. Patterson: No, we went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he lived. He was the assistant to the president of a company which is now TRW. They were all made famous in the war. They were army people.

Anne Andeen: How long did you stay in Cleveland?

Mrs. Patterson: Eleven years and then we moved out here and started the ranch. I became a Christian Science practitioner for 33 years.

Anne Andeen: I think that's how my grandmother became acquainted with their family.

Mrs. Patterson: I paid rent in his building for 25 years then I moved out. He said he had never had anybody who paid the rent on the first of the month in one of his buildings for 25 years.

Anne Andeen: How did you become interested in the incorporation of the Town of Paradise Valley? We understood you were one of the very early members.

Mrs. Patterson: I walked the whole area. I started at Riding Rock Ranch and went all around because there was a great push for another Town called Paradise Valley. I signed up people who wanted to be part of Paradise Valley. They all stayed in the County.

Anne Andeen: But originally you were to have been a part of Paradise Valley?

Mrs. Patterson: No, we were not. I was free in the summer and I could see a need for it.

George Adams: Was Jack Stewart supportive of the Town incorporating or not?

Mrs. Patterson: No, he was not.

Anne Andeen: I have a list of people that we found in District 1. Your name appears as one of the ones, along with Norman Brinker, Ned Curtis, Patrick Downey, Oliver Burnett, Mrs. Joseph Clifford, Donald Stewart, Henry Hops.

Mrs. Patterson: Don Stewart owned that big piece of land right across from the Railroad Park where St. Barnabas is now. The McCormick's owned that but then they sold it to him.

George Adams: Their house was originally on the corner where Guy lived and he had the railroad going around it on the other corner, where the Plaza is now. Peter Wainwright lived there for awhile on the resort side.

Mrs. Patterson: When his mother died and left him all the money. Peter stayed with it. His mother had all the money. He is a great guy.

Ann Andeen: Another name here is Luke Weisboughten. He had a little dress store downtown.

George Adams: His place just sold. He had five acres and another five acres next to it.

Mrs. Patterson: He owned half of Scottsdale.

Ann Andeen: The vonAmmons, Rick Swanson.

George Adams: He was the manager of the Valley Bank.

Ann Andeen: R.O. Stone, Leland Hover, Henry Sturgess.

Mrs. Patterson: He lived in the area.

Ann Andeen: Mrs. T. Thomas Reid.

Mrs. Patterson: That's Avis Reid's house.

Ann Andeen: We interviewed her. She lives off McDonald.

Mrs. Patterson: She bought that and turned it into a guest ranch. That was a private home.

Ann Townsend: She said there were some buildings all around the main building. She had artists stay there while they created their artwork.

Ann Andeen: I noticed there was a committee of residents who were opposing the incorporation of PV. Did you have anything to do with them?

Mrs. Patterson: I had nothing to do with them.

George Adams: Who were some of those?

Ann Andeen: L. Peterson, Paul Feldman, L.J. Carmen, Sydney Wolfe, Paul Hoffman, Mark River, Otto Epinger and Roth Shuback.

Mrs. Patterson: Yes, I know all of them very well.

George Adams: Would that be Shuback Jewelers?

Mrs. Patterson: No. One of them, Paul Feldman, was a shoe manufacturer in Chicago. The Sugar Bowl, when we first came was a mechanic place where they repaired cars. One of the owners of Lulabell's...I sold Sydney Wolfe a couple of acres at the ranch and he built on it.

George Adams: He went by Jack, but he was Sydney Wolfe.

Mrs. Patterson: Yes. His attorney took that house which his wife adored, of course, and he got him to put it in the public property. She could never get it and she wanted it so. It was a beautiful house.

George Adams: It was abandoned and became a hangout for the kids. They would go in and trash it. The Town considered condemning it.

Mrs. Patterson: Because the attorney put it in public custody. I don't know they had that much money so you had two kinds of lawyers. One to put part of what you had in public trust which they could sell and one that you could will to your family. He didn't will it and she wanted the house so badly. His attorney put it in public trust.

Ann Andeen: I wonder what happened to it?

Mrs. Patterson: It's torn down.

George Adams: It was torn down. It was just a couple of acres ended up as an apartment complex.

Ann Andeen: And you get to that off Indian Bend?

George Adams: Yes. It was basically two acres between her place and the road. They both had the same common access road.

Ann Andeen: Was that also what is now the Radisson?

George Adams: No, that's all McCormick Ranch.

Mrs. Patterson: The Radisson's owned McCormick Ranch. But it started on my stables.

Ann Andeen: That's what I thought.

George Adams: They managed it for about five years and walked away, went to Scottsdale Road. It was the Radisson property under management, they didn't own it.

Ann Andeen: When we were interviewing Marshall Trimble, he mentioned someone he thought worked on your ranch by the name of Dobbin Shupe. He said, ask Mrs. Patterson if she remembers him? He was the ranch foreman or wrangler. He couldn't remember exactly.

Mrs. Patterson: I had three wranglers who lived right on the ranch.

Ann Andeen: I asked Jean, your wife. He said his name was Dobbin Shupe.

Mrs. Patterson: You know who that was, Shupe was the girl that married John. Her last name was Shupe, Michelle Shupe. John, the one who raised the three children and educated them. He is now retired as you know.

Ann Andeen: He gave us another name, too. Adobe Pete. Do you or George know him?

Mrs. Patterson: Yes. I can't tell you a thing.

Ann Andeen: That's what everybody says. Everybody knows the name but nobody knows him.

George Adams: Didn't he work for the McCormick's?

Mrs. Patterson: No.

Ann Townsend: What was his real name? Everyone seems to know him as Adobe Pete.

George Adams: He didn't work for the McCormick's at all? He had a house up somewhere around St. Barnabas, back in there, didn't he?

Ann Andeen: I don't know.

George Adams: I think there was a house in there, I presume it's knocked down now. It had signs on it, either "The Cantina" or other advertising on it. It was classic. It was an old adobe. It was all beat up. But that was the Town's. For awhile, I guess it was a store. I remember seeing it when I was riding in there, even since we've been here, 25 years. You could see the adobe with letters painted on it. Did he work with the Stillman's at all?

Mrs. Patterson: No, not that I know of.

Ann Townsend: And he didn't work for you then?

Mrs. Patterson: No, he never worked for me.

Ann Townsend: Maybe he was just a loner and a character.

George Adams: Scottsdale approved this subdivision across from the Embassy Suites, from Silverman's property that was called Cesspool Acres. They were 1/6 or 1/8 acres. There was no sewer, they were septic. As I understand, that was the real impetus of these people saying, "My God, look what's coming. We have to do something."

Mrs. Patterson: That's exactly right. It was Cesspool Acres.

Ann Townsend: That's the northwest corner of Chaparral and Scottsdale Road?

George Adams: Right, where we are now. Most of the original houses are there. They're all waiting to be converted to commercial. They've been waiting for 20 years. Everybody thinks they will and they probably will make a bunch of money. That's what finally made them say we have to do something.

Ann Townsend: Did you know Raymond O. Mitchell?

Mrs. Patterson: Oh, very well. We bought the ranch from him that he lived on. Then they moved over west of the ranch. He was from Chicago.

Ann Townsend: I understand he was the attorney that drew up the incorporation papers for Paradise Valley.

Mrs. Patterson: Could have been because that's where he lived.

Ann Townsend: He was serving on the County Board of Supervisors. He came back to the people that lived in the area and said, "Look at the plans they have for what's

going to happen to us. Let's incorporate and keep a minimum of one acre per house, and keep it residential."

George Adams: Where did he live?

Mrs. Patterson: He was living where we bought this ranch, the Mitchell's.

George Adams: So, you didn't buy it from Serro's, you bought it from Mitchell?
But it was Serro's originally?

Mrs. Patterson: Yes. The whole east side of Scottsdale Road belonged to Serro. And he just kept selling an acre here and an acre there.

Ann Townsend: How many acres did your ranch have?

Mrs. Patterson: 85 acres.

Ann Townsend: Wow!

George Adams: You sold too cheap.

Mrs. Patterson: Yes, I did. We opened 20 acres to the west of us, two-acres lots to build on them.

George Adams: Did your water serve them?

Mrs. Patterson: Yes, we served the whole land when we found it didn't have enough water. That's when we got our own well and water system.

Ann Townsend: How deep did you have to go?

Mrs. Patterson: I think it was already there, we didn't ever drill.

George Adams: It was 440, the static level, which is where they pump water. They used to drink it right out of the ground.

Mrs. Patterson: Absolutely gorgeous, wonderful taste. Burke was so disappointed when that wouldn't serve the land because it was such good water.

George Adams: Most of them are still there. Most caballeros in Wickenburg did a similar thing where the plan was to come out and purchase two acre parcels. Every one of the purchasers was someone who wintered here a fair amount. A couple were pretty heavy hitters. Stanball, Standard Oil of Ohio.

Mrs. Patterson: That guy had lots of money.

George Adams: It was the guy across the way here that got things really rolling. This gentleman with the County, the same thing.

Ann Townsend: He probably put it all together, being with the County Board of Supervisors, he certainly an inside track of information.

Mrs. Patterson: That was Raymond Mitchell.

Ann Andeen: After you collected the names on the petitions, who did you turn those over to?

Mrs. Patterson: A woman who was murdered, you remember?

Ann Andeen: Helen Marston.

Mrs. Patterson: Yes, I turned it all over to Helen Marston. The plan was to go in some night about two o'clock in the morning and establish the city of Paradise Valley. I think they had to do that.

Ann Townsend: At two in the morning?

Mrs. Patterson: At two in the morning. That's as I remember it.

George Adams: Did they try to head something off?

Mrs. Patterson: Yes.

Ann Townsend: Well, Scottsdale wanted the area.

Mrs. Patterson: Scottsdale wanted to incorporate that in Scottsdale. They didn't want Paradise Valley there.

Ann Townsend: There was a section just south of the boundaries that already had houses that withdrew their petitions from Scottsdale in 30 hours after Paradise Valley filed to be a Town. They turned their petitions over to Paradise Valley and Paradise Valley accepted them in and they had their first annexation.

George Adams: And that was on this side.

Ann Townsend: I think it was on the south side because the houses were already there. The people didn't want to be Scottsdale. But that's interesting at two o'clock in the morning.

Mrs. Patterson: A lot of finagling went on about Paradise Valley.

Ann Townsend: Sounds like it.

George Adams: Still does.

Ann Andeen: I noticed that Mark Gruber who owned El Chorro was on the committee of residents in opposition. I wonder why he opposed it?

Mrs. Patterson: He wanted it to stay just like it was and we knew him very well. Just like we did. We didn't want to go into Scottsdale or Paradise Valley.

Ann Townsend: County rules were much freer?

George Adams: There were more restraints on a business.

Ann Townsend: County was much better. I am impressed with your memory. I understand you just had a birthday Monday.

Mrs. Patterson: Ninety-four. Nobody in my family has ever lived past 90, and I didn't mean too.

Ann Townsend: Well, it's just a good attitude as well as taking good care of yourself. Congratulations.

Mrs. Patterson: I was a Christian Science practitioner for 33 years and you have to live pretty straight with that.

Ann Townsend: Well, I think you have.

George Adams: You did that longer than you did the food banks.

Mrs. Patterson: Oh, yes.

George Adams: All the people who came to Paradise Valley, like the Stouffers, their entry was through being guests at her ranch. They bought property and built. The Stouffer family was one. I bet the property is still in the family, near Camelback Inn.

Mrs. Patterson: Yes. They actually fell in love with the valley.

George Adams: Who are some of the others that moved here?

Mrs. Patterson: It's kind of hard for me to go back and think.

Ann Townsend: You're doing extremely well.

George Adams: I remember when Fowler McCormick came over. He had plans under his arms that he wanted to show you.

Mrs. Patterson: You know what he wanted us to do? No, it wasn't for McCormick Ranch. You know there was a guy who homesteaded at the end of their property, way out. He started a guest ranch and they couldn't find water. He was having to haul water. Fowler was trying to help him. Fowler was very kind-hearted. That's what those plans were. They had no plans for McCormick Ranch.

George Adams: That was beyond Pima.

Mrs. Patterson: Yes, back up in the hills.

George Adams: What's now Scottsdale Ranch.

Mrs. Patterson: It could be. The person who picked it up to begin with was Herberger. He got everything else he could get his hands on. They lived right by the ranch. They came about the time we opened the ranch, the Herbergers did. We were all great friends for awhile. They lived just off Scottsdale Road on the west.

George Adams: I know where you mean. It's the single story office building now. It's just beyond McDonald, on the left. That was Herberger's. It was maybe 10 acres, or maybe 20 acres. He had a house in there that was his home.

Ann Andeen: That's the southeast corner of McDonald and Scottsdale.

Mrs. Patterson: He had been with Butler Bros. He came here to make his money, Bob Herberger.

Ann Andeen: Was Butler Bros. a building company?

George Adams: There was a Herberger's back there in Minneapolis or wherever he came from that was a family department store.

Ann Andeen: When did you begin coming out, George?

Mrs. Patterson: When he was 10 years old.

Ann Andeen: You've known him all that time.

Mrs. Patterson: All this time. And if I'd had the money, I would have given him the ranch to run because he could have done it. That's right, isn't it?

George Adams: We would come maybe twice a year, Thanksgiving and spring break.

Mrs. Patterson: He brought me more California people out there at vacation time.

George Adams: I saw Neal Withers at the Barrett Jackson and I told him about you. He says, "My god, it was 40 years ago."

Mrs. Patterson: Exactly, and you know how he loves that French toast. I gave them as many orders as they wanted every morning.

George Adams: He was a guy I went to school with who was a year behind me. He was one of the instigators of the great race, where antique cars go across country. I think he has a health problem and he quit two years ago. He did it for about 10 years and for two years he was how they determined the winner, some kind of point system. He had an old Packard that he drove 100,000 miles.

Mrs. Patterson: And I know the slogan that sold it, "Ask the man who owns one." That was the Packard slogan.