

Interview Summary: The History of Television in Stevens County

interviewee: Katherine Gausman
interviewers: Stefanie Schrump, Michael Heuer
date: Thursday, 18 May 1995
time: 11:00 am
place: Ms. Gausman's residence

Ms. Gausman was born and raised in Morris. She is approximately 80 years old (b ~1915). She was a house-wife, then after her husband died she worked as a beautician from her home. She lived with her mother and her son who was in high school at the time they won the television. He was 14 years old.

Ms. Gausman got her first television in an unusual way: she won it in a drawing from Willie's Supermarket in the mid-to-late 50s. She said she probably wouldn't have had a television until quite a while later had she not won it in the contest. She owned a radio before she got the television; she said her radio was on "constantly" and only watched television at night. She said she was big fan of game shows and that her brother remarked that he might have to change the time of his wedding to see "Bonanza" that night. She said that everything on television is "exaggerated" and television news is "accurate but is given in such a way as to get you to watch that given television station." She said that being able to see political candidates on television could give her a better picture as to that candidate's moral character; she could instantly like or dislike someone simply by their image on television.