

Interview with Mrs. George Pocaterra (nee Norma Piper)
by Gerry Dunsmore, Glenbow Archives, 3003-25 St. S.W.,
Calgary, May 22, 1973.

Tape: RCT-132
Speed: 3 3/4
Footage: 0-1025

Topic of Interview
Reminiscences re singing career
husband George Pocaterra.

<u>Footage</u>	<u>Subject</u>
0	Introduction
011	Born in Leamington, Ont.
017	Family came to Calgary, 1918
023	Voice lessons, 1927 -under opera singer Rudolph Brandli de Bevec
052	University of British Columbia -continued studying voice -debut as singer, Vancouver, 1930
057	Concert in Calgary, 1931
073	C.B.C., 1932-1933 -official broadcasting artist -gave many concerts in Western Canada
079	Study of opera, Milan, 1934
124	Met George Pocaterra, 1934
164	Pocaterra arranged soiree to see if she had a voice -successful
184	Studied with Richardo Petzimenda -debut singing "Lucia"
202	Married, June 18, 1936
208	Italian government singing concert -chosen to sing in Royal Conservatory, Milan
223	Sang lead role in "Rigoletto", Turin
276	Sang with Sergi Strechari in "Barber of Seville", 1937
308	World War II -advised to leave Italy -went to Switzerland

<u>Footage</u>	<u>Subject</u>
349	Returned to Calgary
370	No opportunities in opera in New York due to war.
378	Lived in cabin on the Highwood River
401	Concerts, 1939-1940 -in Eastern Canada, Vancouver and for soldiers in Calgary.
437	Vocal teacher Mount Royal College, 1942-1955 -bought home in Calgary, 1955 and moved studio to home. -still teaching. Re George Pocatererra
468	-came to Canada at age 19 in 1903 -early adventures in Manitoba
614	Came to High River, 1903. -worked on ranches and learned ranching business
644	Homestead, Buffalo Head Ranch, on Highwood River -built cabin.
665	First meeting with nearby Indians
700	Lived and hunted with Indians -learned Stony language
715	Explored in mountains with Indian guides -sent reports to Ottawa
722	Many places named after him. Mrs. Pocatererra
730	First sang in Italy as Norma Piper -hostility towards British singers at time of Ethiopian War (1935-1936).
765	Reminiscences re singing career in Italy.
822	Few concerts in Calgary -Calgary Women's Musical Club active.
937	Symphony orchestra in Calgary -early concerts in Palace Theatre

975

Gave concerts in Central United Church,
1940's.

1025

End.