

Citrus Hall of Fame Oral History Interview

Florida Southern College

Interviewee:	Barbara Carlton
Interviewer:	Jacob Crouch
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Camera Tech:	James M. Denham
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Transcription:	

Crouch: *Alright, this is April 26, 2013, and we're talking with Dr. Barbara Carlton. I'm Jacob Crouch and also in attendance is Dr. Denham. Okay, Dr. Carlton, could you tell us about some of your early life leading up to medical school?*

Carlton: I was born in Lumpkin, Georgia, this is in Stewart County. Back in 1932, telling you my age from the get-go. Raised on a farm, went to school at Stewart County public school and then went to Mercer University later on; graduated with a science degree and applied to medical school and was accepted to the Medical College of Georgia, and from there I set a course to become a doctor, a country doctor, I wanted to do that.

After graduating from medical school, I stayed two years in a straight internal medicine residency program, and you wonder how I got to Wauchula from Augusta, Georgia; well it was pretty simple. Our department of medicine would cover for doctors in various places, and Wauchula was one of the places that our department covered. Dr. Miles Collier, he was a practicing physician here in Wauchula, became very ill and I was the only one that could get away from the residency program to come and cover for him; we called it a local tenant.

So I came to Wauchula as a woman doctor, one of those, I guess, suspicious people because there were very few woman doctors then; there were only four women in my medical school class of 78. And the second night in Wauchula I was introduced to my husband-to-be, Albert Carlton. He was most eligible bachelor in Florida according to the local people. And that night I was invited to have dinner with friends. During the topic of conversation, which was very boring to me, because I was tired I fell asleep on Albert's shoulder.

Well apparently that did it for him and the start of a romance that began in September of '58 and we got married in June of 1959. After I married him I had to come to Wauchula to practice medicine. One of the sidelights of this whole practice in medicine: when I was interviewed for medical school, the registrar, her name was Miss Mary Cumbers, looked at me dead in the eye and said, "Why are you applying for medical school? Don't you know that you'll just get married and you'll displace a male student from being admitted to the medical school?"

And I said, "Well Miss Cumbers that's not what I came here to do. I want to be a doctor and take care of people. And I may get married, may not. But medicine is my objective, my passion to do for other people." So anyway, I did get accepted. And after we got married, we of course moved to Wauchula, lived in a little house in town.

Later we built this place, which is the home place for Albert's father, and raised four children here, practiced in my home for 10 years. And then built an office in town and practiced there when our new Hardee Memorial Hospital was opened in 1970. So that gives you a little about my background, where I came from and who I am.

And I was very fortunate to have come from an agricultural background and married into an agribusiness, citrus and cattle, which Albert was very much a part of. As time went on, at age 42 Albert had his first coronary. And I retired in 1977 from the practice of medicine; Albert had another serious coronary. And following that episode he was told by his doctor he could no longer be engaged in business, that it was too stressful for him. So I had to do a one-on-one citrus and cattle crash course to be able to start running the family business.

And then in 1992, Albert had a coronary; died in his sleep. So all at once I had the whole shebang to worry about, not having him as a consultant anymore. That year, the next year in 1993, I was asked to serve on the Citrus Hall of Fame selection committee; Albert was induced that year. And I served on that committee until this year, 2013. I felt like 20 years was long enough to be on a committee, and I really enjoyed it.

I was one woman among a bunch of men, but that's been my life; in medical school it was four women among a bunch of men, and in cattle I again was saddled with being with a male counterpart a lot more than a female. As time has gone on, I reflect on my life in the citrus industry, Albert's primary focus was citrus and my primary focus at that time was cattle. We had pure bred Brangus herd of cattle.

But he served on the Citrus Commission, he was on the board of Mutual, he was president of Mutual two years, very, very active in the citrus industry. And I'm sure this was instrumental in his being induced in the Citrus Hall of Fame in 1993. But Albert loved the citrus industry; he loved the paparazzi of it, the Bob Rutledge Shows, all of the fun that went with Anita Bryant and the spokesperson for the citrus industry over the years. He also was interested in growing citrus; he got his degree from the University of Florida in ag science and was well-prepared for a vocation in applied citrus science.

Our family over the years used our children to hoe orange trees, hoe thistles, work cattle, worked in the cow pens. So they were brought up in this wonderful agrarian environment. We did do some experiments. We planted an Ever Sweet grove which was a travesty; I think we got \$2.00 a box one year but we finally pushed up that grove about 20 years ago and now have a Valencia grove.

The 2x4 Ranch planted Sunburst tangerines, it was the darling of the fresh fruit industry and we got something like \$28.00 a box that first year that they were productive. And we thought we really hit a home run. But all fruit, all citrus goes through peaks and valleys, and we finally got out of the fresh fruit business, that was not what we were born to do I guess. We stuck with Hammonds and Valencia oranges and since that time have been able to show that you could produce a lot of boxes of fruit on an acre orange grove. It was one grove here at the home place that produced almost a thousand boxes to the acre; this was a Hammond grove.

Then when the canker struck we had to push that grove up, the Smith grove we called it. So I'm going through the agonies of citrus, and in a very unique way not having any schooling in varieties, knowing what to plant and what to push up, and I guess Mother Nature is going to solve my lack of knowledge with this greening which in my estimation as a physician, as a citrus grower, it will impact the citrus industry adversely and if something is not done in the next five years we will not have citrus as we know it in the next 20.

So I've applauded being a part of the citrus industry, hope I've learned something. And my children are unfortunately not here so the legacy of the Carlton family is going to have to appear in books. I think we'll stop there; was that answering that question?

Crouch: *No that was great. Could you talk more ... there's a few questions I've pulled from all that you talked about there. Could you talk more about your experience with the Carlton family as a whole? The members of it.*

Carlton: There were nine brothers and one sister in Albert's father's family. All of these brothers were pretty much local here in Wauchula. They all acquired land holdings and Albert's uncle Doyle became governor of Florida in 1929, he served during the Depression. And he visited Wauchula quite often, he acquired back land holdings.

His son, Doyle, Jr., ran for governor back in 1960 and my husband, Albert, actually carried the little black bag to raise money so he could run for governor. He'd fly all over the country and here I was a newlywed bride with my husband gone all the time. But of course Doyle lost to Farris Bryant in an election I felt like was touted adversely for Doyle because he was a purist, he was homespun, he was not interested in politics. He wanted to be above and beyond politics as was his father.

His father was, as governor, was pressured to vote for gambling, casino gambling, horse race gambling it was then. And he was even, as Honest Abe, bribed to vote or to endorse it and he was told his signature would be worth whatever amount of money it was, one-thousand or ten-thousand or a hundred-thousand. And Governor Carlton told him he valued his signature worth more than that and he was against it.

Of course it did pass later on, but he was a statesman as was his son, Doyle, Jr. Albert served with Doyle, Jr. in the legislature up in Tallahassee, he was his attaché. So I got a little taste of that when I first got married. Well Doyle jumped right into running for governor and I guess if a bride, a new bride can smell politics I guess that says something about the marriage.

Crouch: *You talked a little bit about ... you talked more about the challenges, you know, different problems with different breeds. Are there any other challenges that you faced either initially coming in fairly inexperienced or that you face continually running the groves?*

Carlton: I think my biggest challenge was trying to catch up with what was going on, what was current, particularly after Albert was gone, no advisor, no guidance. And I would just read, I would just read every article I could find. And we do have a manager who was up on what was happening in the citrus industry. Our foreman and his wife, over the 2x4 where we had a lot of ... the majority of our plantings, they were very much up on citrus and cattle.

So I was able to farm out a lot of what I needed to know resource wise to these people and they would gather up the knowledge we would, I would make the decisions on whether we should plant this or whether we ought to bulldoze it up. But they were, like right now, what do you do about replanting your groves with greening? And my decision, and I've shared it with my children, that I'm not replanting because I don't see any future in setting a tree in the ground and letting it go and then we have the greening and it is just, I guess, financial suicide to embark on something that you know is not going to work in today's environment.

Research may find the magic bullet but pathology of greening is so severe I feel like there's no reverse in the groves that are affected. Under the current management program we may be able to stymie it, slow it down. But we're dead meat. We are, the citrus industry is at a tipping point that maybe we'll be growing peaches and blueberries, planting more grass for cattle, but the citrus industry is at a critical point. Worse than any freeze, worse than any hurricane, worse than canker, worse than drought.

All the ravages of Mother Nature is nothing over this greening, it is so severe. I feel like I'm in the backroom of knowledge, and knowing what to do. I continue to read and all I hear is bad news, so, I hope that we have Citrus Hall of Famers down the tube that can figure this greening out and they will certainly be in the Hall of Fame.

Crouch: *Do you know anyone who's working on the greening projects? Are you involved in it at all?*

Carlton: No, I'm not. I've not attended any of the symposiums. Stan, my manager goes, and he just wrings his hands. But he agrees with me that we don't reset, so, as my groves go out, then so be it. I'll just move cows on top of that old orange tree.

Crouch: *You also talked a little bit about your perspective as a woman in the industry which is you know dominated mostly by men. Could you shed some more light on that particularly?*

Carlton: Well in the Citrus Hall of Fame selection committee, I was one woman among men. I was treated professionally, as a peer. I've never felt any discrimination in practice of medicine, in citrus, cattle, there's never been an issue with me personally. And it may be that they look at me and say, "She's kind of ..."—but then I open my mouth. I'm a turkey hunter, a quail hunter, and outdoors person. I guess my frank persona precludes them from an overreach.

Crouch: *We're going to take a five minute break and we'll be back.*

[pause in taping]

Crouch: *And we're back with the rest of our interview. To start off we'll have a follow up question. What are some strong memories that you have of the election ... during the election of Doyle, Jr.?*

Carlton: Doyle Carlton, Jr. was Albert's first cousin; they were very close. We lived across the street from each other out here on our grove. And Albert would carry, was the treasurer for Doyle, raising money. And I can remember they were over at Vero Beach and, no excuse me, Cape Canaveral, they landed at Cape Canaveral; our first cousin had an airplane and would fly them all over the state. Albert called and said, "Barbara, I'm very ill." And I said, "Well what's wrong?" He said, "Well, I started having dizziness and throwing up."

And of course the thing I thought about he had a brain tumor or something to come on like that. But anyway, he got back home, had to come home, and it turned out to be a benign acute labyrinthitis which as a physician I just proceeded the worst but it didn't interrupt his campaign very much because the next day he was back with Doyle, Jr. and they were, like I said, traveling all over the state, going to speaking engagements. And Doyle's campaign slogan at that time was "Carlton Cares." They had a little jingle they would sing over the radio.

Of course that was the day before TV and so it was all word of mouth and they would have these appearances, personal appearances, in different towns and communities. Doyle, Jr. was well, well received, he was a great, eloquent speaker and he wrote and spoke his own words; he did not let Albert write what he was going to speak because Albert spoke another language. But it was pretty painful when we heard that Farris Bryant was the governor and he beat Doyle.

But Doyle took it good strides and so did Albert. And thank goodness it carried them from politics. Albert never got involved anymore, nor did Doyle, Jr. So, as a bride I was glad I didn't have to share Albert with a little one engine airplane, flying all over the state of Florida to raise money for a potential gubernatorial candidate.

Crouch: *What are some enjoyable memories or fond memories that you have of your time working on the ranch?*

Carlton: I guess one of the fondest things was when Albert was involved with the cow industry. He and Doyle, Jr. and Governor Carlton had friends in Washington and they were instrumental in heading up the program to eradicate the screwworm which was devastating the cattle industry. The screwworm would attack the naval of a fresh born calf and actually kill the calf. Albert received a little plaque with a screwworm, I got it over there in his office, a little screwworm embedded in this medium.

And that was one of the grandest achievements of his and Doyle, Jr.'s and his father's involvement in the cattle industry, very significant. If we could find somebody like that for greening in the citrus industry it would be a boon to our industry. So, the other achievements would be seeing that Smith grove produce 995 boxes to the acre, that was a crowning achievement.

We were written up in *Citrus Magazine* at that time about that. That grove was pushed up as I said a while ago because of canker. Those big producing groves are probably a thing of the past because of our various disease problems. I guess another wonderful remembrance would be my children, and had only three grandchildren, how they have surrounded the family with love even though they're not involved in the citrus or cow industry; they have their own careers, all graduated from the University of Florida. But they've flown the coop and the challenge of a legacy, passing it down to children and grandchildren who are not here; this is a sad commentary on the industry in that we don't have those pioneer families to carry on.

Doyle Carlton III is very uniquely blessed in position in that he does have children and grandchildren who are destined to carry on. But in some other ways we'll be able to be a part of some legacy, it may conservation and restoration The phosphate industry has completely destroyed our county; digging up their minerals and leaving us with a big mess that will be a blight on this community forever. So that is a challenge that I see that I might make a difference in the future.

Crouch: *How much have you interacted with the phosphate industry? Have you ever interacted with them at all, ever had a conflict with them at all?*

Carlton: Our first land sale was with Gardiner back in 1977. And we had a very warm relationship with the Gardiner family. And I was promised, or we were promised, that they would respect the watersheds of Wash Creek, Peace River, Bushy Creek. Of course they went into bankruptcy, another company bought them out; we don't have that same promise from them. So, I have interacted; I have stood before our county commissioners on probably eight or 10 occasions, citing what is happening to the county and to the community, to our watersheds.

The interaction with the phosphate company is they have ... it's a bottom line with them. They bought the land and they feel like they have a right to buy the minerals and I have no qualm with that. But they are not endowed with the right to completely destroy the land and not restore it and reclaim it. So that is my gripe with them.

Crouch: *What are some responsibilities today that you're still involved with, with either the cattle or the citrus portion of your ranch?*

Carlton: Well I have about 100 cattle here on the home place and I manage those pretty much, I can look right out the window here and see them. I don't know whether they're here today. And the grove is right here, everything is right here on the home place. So I have a bird's eye view everyday of what's going on. We have downsized the family in the last six years. We own a ranch in DeSoto County, the 2x4 Ranch, we sold that back six years ago to a developer, but that was when the bubble, real estate bubble, at the very end of that bubble we closed on that property. Since that time it's been in foreclosure.

As I understand now it's back in agriculture. So maybe that wasn't too bad after all. Wasn't fond of selling to a developer but he gave this family an opportunity to sort out some estate problems; that is a

big, big negative for any family in agribusiness is being able to pass it down if you have the family here to pass it down to. The estate tax problem is the big negative and it is going to fractionate farms and ranches. And until that is changed there is no way that you can accumulate land and then when you die you have to pay half of it to Uncle Sam in estate taxes.

You'd have to break up the land to generate enough cash to pay the estate tax. So it is, I guess it's that equalizer that certain parts of the government want to see happen. It just makes all peasants who work for the government and maybe that's what my grandchildren will be faced with; I hope not.

Crouch: *So the 2x4 Ranch; was that, you guys sold that just because of the problems with the estate tax or were there other things involved in selling that ranch?*

Carlton: Well, it was not because of the estate tax. It gave us an opportunity to sell that property and really farm out some of the profits to the children since they were not coming back to be a part of the 2x4 Ranch. I just came to the conclusion that I needed to downsize and it was more of that than the estate tax situation.

Crouch: *Okay. How much did you interact with either grove workers or workers with the cattle?*

Carlton: A lot of the time when; the glorious times of growing up here or identifying with the cattle industry was getting up early in the morning and taking the children to the cow pens to work the cattle and brand the cattle and castrate the calves and take them out and let them hoe the thistles out of the pastures. And down in Myakka we planted oak trees when Al was in the hospital with one of the coronaries. They had been taught about the land and loving the land.

The citrus people; we have a Hispanic family who have been with us for years and I interact with them almost on a daily basis. We had a yard man who was African-American, he was a hunchback and he did our yard work for years and his name was Warren. One day Albert told him to ... Albert planted roses, his roses was one of this hobbies. So he asked Warren to go and dig a new rose bed, so he goes out and Albert stakes out how big he wants it. So when he comes back Warren was only about five feet, he was a hunchback, he had dug that thing so deep, it was like a foxhole, a deep foxhole. He misunderstood how wide, he thought the width should be the depth, so he was digging it deep. But Warren, we'd pick him up every morning down at Ona, it's about five miles away. Albert would take him to town for his Social Security check every once in a while.

So we believed in being a part of our working group, I mean they were part of our family. And that will always be a memory, seeing Warren out in the yard and seeing Ramon and his kids out in the grove. The immigration issue is so mixed up and so political, it does not make sense. Someone who has come to this country, freely come to this country, who wants to work and who wants to stay and work and raise a family should be no different from anybody coming from Europe like we all came, our forbearers came and this country was founded.

They're being denied an avenue from oppression from the government because they want to be citizens here, law abiding citizens. And it's been so politicized it may never happen, but they should be given that opportunity. If they really want to be a part of this country, they should ... like I said, our forbearers were given that opportunity and I would not be here, you or none of us would be here.

Crouch: *Are there any other instances, I mean beyond immigration specifically, that you have come across, either with workers or with operation of the groves, difficulty dealing with either, whether it's local government, state government, or federal government? Are there any instances where you've had some obstacles to overcome when dealing with the government?*

Carlton: Well I can remember about all the regulations regarding fuel back starting in the '70s when we had the embargo. And fuel, diesel went way up so we decided we'd put in our own fuel tanks. So we got fuel tanks and put them in. And then came a time you had to dig them up, get rid of them. And the bureaucratic nonsense over getting those fuel tanks, either want them to stay in the ground and leak or they want to pump them out and pull them out and get any residue, it just never made any sense to me.

And it was the biggest war I ever tried to ... it was worse than trying to go through physiology in medical school, it was terrible. But we finally got it settled. But when the government puts their mind in enforcing some quirky regulation they'll go to all extremes to make their case, right or wrong. And there should be some arbitration, some way that if one of my kids is filling up the tractor and diesel spilled over, there should be a way to address that without having to have OSHA and all the other federal agencies and state agencies come swarming on you and trying to put you in jail, that's what they want to do.

Crouch: *Okay. There are several big names in the citrus industry, throughout the history of the industry. Aside from the Carlton family, what are some other of these big names that you might have worked with in your time in the citrus industry?*

Carlton: Well we have very close relationship with Bob Paul, Bob and Margaret Paul. Bob and Albert were very good friends. We visited with each other in Winter Haven, we had a beach house, and we would go down and go fishing. I can remember Bob coming down to fish and he had this speech impediment but he decided to go fishing and got out on the beach and had his chair and had his bait and had his rod and reel. He was so fat and happy. And he was casting out, all of a sudden this big wave comes in and washes everything out, his chair and everything. Poor Bob stands up and that was the end of his fishing. But, he was just a great guy.

Ben Hill [Griffin], Sr., he was a family friend, and we bought fertilizer and sold fruit to them. Albert and Ben Hill were friends also. But after Albert died, Ben Hill asked me to go quail hunting with him down at his place at Blue Head, they just bought Blue Head. And had a double-wide down there, he was so proud of that. So he asked me to come down and go quail hunting, but this was the time the quail, the demise of the wild quail. We sat in his old Jeep and it was bumpy and no quail, the dogs were running, and Ben Hill was in the middle and I was on the outside, and I looked over and Ben Hill was sound asleep.

So that was ... he died maybe three or four years later. But, just great people. They loved not only citrus, they loved giving back to the communities they loved. They love their friends, and we're fortunate to have had people of that stature to be a part of Florida and part of this nation.

Crouch: *Looking back are there any ... is there anything you can say or any advice you think you could give to someone who's trying to get into the industry or trying to start their own, make their own name for themselves in the citrus industry or someone who's new to it? Is there anything you would say to them I guess having your experience in the citrus industry in your life?*

Carlton: I think I'd probably ask them to go to a fortune teller and ask them if it was a good thing to go in the citrus industry now. That's an iffy, iffy vocation I guess. The cattle industry is just hip-hip hooray, but those times have come and gone. I mean I've seen the cattle industry, we would sell steers for 27 cents, and today that same steer may bring \$2.00. So the glory days of the cattle industry are now, but who knows. The numbers are down. I sold one steer calf last year that brought me \$999.00, one steer calf. I wish I had a thousand of those, but I only have about 35 to sell this year.

But giving someone advice on agribusiness, they'd be better going to Las Vegas and gambling. But it has its plusses in that it's a way of life that I wouldn't swap for anything. We're land rich and cash poor,

that's the motto. But the way of life certainly outpaces the dollar value. And the financial incentives is outweighed by the joy and the peace you get being in the cattle and orange business.

Crouch: *Okay, and do you see any other difficulties that the citrus industry needs to overcome besides greening?*

Carlton: Well, the immigration issue needs to be overcome. We don't have as many oranges to pick, don't need as many pickers, but you know, until they really hammer out the immigration issue harvesting not only for oranges but strawberries, cucumbers, watermelons, all of that is and will be a problem.

Crouch: *Okay, is there anything that you feel that we should talk about a little bit more?*

Carlton: I thought I talked enough!

Crouch: *Alright, well we certainly thank you for having us out at your beautiful ranch, and, thank you.*

[pause in taping]

Carlton: We talked about turkeys! Wow!

Crouch: *And we're back, we're going to talk a little bit more about some other things. You wanted to talk more about the difficulties or the problems with quail, wild quail.*

Carlton: I've been a quail hunter since my youth in Georgia, I grew up on a farm. Killed my first quail with a .22 rifle. Had a brother-in-law who would quail hunt and he'd bring bird dogs down and we had the land and we'd have fun with the Jeep and we get up six or seven coveys. Then I went off to college and medical school and that was the end of that era. But when I came to Florida, got married in 1959, quail were just abundant, they were everywhere. And the first thing I needed to do was get me a bird dog, because I loved quail hunting.

So, over the years we would hunt on our ranch, 8,000 acre ranch at 2x4 and it'd be nothing to get up 25 coveys in one day, kill 50, 60 birds. We usually would shoot the covey rise, if you got two that would be 50 birds right there but you would not always get one on the covey rise. We would limit our single shooting cause that was, you know, you'd get plenty of birds for a day's hunt. But that was in the early '60s and then the '70s came and the quail were still pretty plentiful.

And then in the '80s they began to drop off. And we bought the 2x4 Ranch in '77, we had quail there, abundant quail at the 2x4 and it was improved pasture. We embarked on a program at the 2x4 Ranch 'cause we had sold our ranch at [inaudible] and we put out feeders and managed the quail.

Then in the early '80s, mid-'80s, the numbers began to drop. And even with meticulous management there just seemed to be no uptick in the numbers. Our ranch contacted the group in Tallahassee who has been doing quail research for years, Tall Timbers it's called. They sent a consultant down and we embarked on a research project at the 2x4 Ranch. They put radio collars on some of the quail and did studies on them for about four years down there. And at the same time while all this research was going on at the 2x4 the numbers continued to drop.

Today, in 2013, I do not hear any of my 'whites here. Maybe three years ago I would hear one, 20 years ago there would be 20. So in my opinion the quail population is borderline, the native northern bobwhite quail, is borderline extinct in this region. There's never been any answers that I could see would really cover all the bases. There would be fire ants, there would be the ground predators like skunks, and 'possums, and 'coons, and foxes, and bobcats, and coyotes as nesting and ground predators and then the hawks, the aerial predators.

The fire ant, which is a nesting predator. All these had not happened all at once, but it's been cumulative. But there's been one common factor and that's been air pollution. And the bobwhite, they do not go to water to get their water. They feed, they get their water off the dew of the grass. And I think it's interfered with the phospholipid transfer and their fertility and they're out of here, they're the epitome of I guess greening or analogous to greening.

So that is a sad commentary and I had hoped that in the time at the 2x4 we'd figure it out but we didn't figure it out. And the quail is, she's going out the door. The way we quail hunt now is get pen-raised birds and go out and toss them out and shoot them and keep the dogs sharp and keep our guns sharp. And sometimes you can hit them and sometimes you can't but it's still a wonderful sport. But it's a passing sport.

Crouch: *And you mentioned that you wanted to talk about turkeys.*

Carlton: Well I didn't know a turkey 'til I came to Florida, we had no turkeys in Georgia. But when I came and married Albert, and he would have, before I got married, they would have what they called turkey hunt. And you'd go out the day before, the night before and roost the turkeys. And then you'd sneak in under them the next morning and shoot them. And it'd be nothing for us to, those days, bring in eight or nine turkeys off the roost. It didn't matter, you'd shoot hens, gobblers, didn't matter. And those were the glory days, fun. Then they outlawed the shooting them off the roost and shooting hens.

We had a disease that infiltrated the turkeys back in about the '80s I guess, early '80s. And the numbers just went way out, way down. We had Fish and Game come out and check our property and restocked our turkey population. So we didn't hunt them about three or four years. Since that time we've just had an abundance and rebound of the turkeys. It's a passion, it's an addiction, and I claim it, and I'm proud of it. It keeps me in the woods and keeps me out of my children's hair, grandchildren's hair.

I don't know whether I have to put on a LifeAlert when I go out there but I'm still stalking them and loving it. I got Lady Gaga—name all my gobblers—one year. I have Phantom of the Opera this year and Georgie Boy this year. So it's more than just a little hunt it is a quest, it is a ... seeing that gobbler and looking at his beard and naming him and then stalking him for weeks or months, the Phantom I stalked for a year before I got him this year. So it's an adventure, for me.

And I've got most of my grandchildren hooked now, and it's nothing for them to, "Grandma we're coming!" So we'll, and I've given them all guns, so they don't have an excuse not to have a good turkey gun, and given them calls, they know how to call. But I won't let them call, no.

I tell them there's 10 rules of turkey hunting, they all have to learn the 10 rules. The first is don't move, the second is don't move, three is don't move, four is don't move, five is don't move, six is don't move, seven is don't move, eight is don't move, nine is don't move, and 10 is, guess what, don't move! And they know the rules. And I have little house built named after each grandchildren that they can sit in their own little turkey house and observe them. They don't all shoot, but they know how to "don't move." And they love it.

Crouch: *Was there any of these other quests that you have?*

Carlton: Well I used to play golf, like those birdies, but my days of golfing are about over. I had a neck injury, so I've given it up for the turkey birdies. But I love the game of golf, it's just wonderful. Wonderful sport.

Crouch: *Was there anything else you'd like to talk about here at the end?*

Carlton: How could anyone, in America, not look out his window and see the grand creation: the wind blowing, the moss, the resurrection fern, the creek, little fish, otters, the kites in flight, the sandhill

cranes' necks. How could we not just know that we're in paradise already. That's what I see. That's what I see every day.

Crouch: *Well I agree with you. Again, thank you for having us at your beautiful ranch and thank you for sitting and talking with us.*

[END]