This transcript represents the nearly verbatim record of an unrehearsed interview. Please bear in mind that you are reading the spoken word rather than the written word.
Emma Kuhl: [inaudible]…where they have all the old things, what you call out at...

Rebecca Markussen: Archives? At the University?

EK: No, out at the Fort...

RM: Oh. The Museum of Nat—

EK: The Museum. The big museum...but this girl said she thought that it would get more benefit at the University. It was an old doctor’s book, but it had all kinds of ideas of what to do and what not to do...

RM: For medical...

EK: And for if you were out in the country, you know, and things like that. [inaudible] and she always takes my garbage for me. So, I just barely got ready because she comes at three o’clock and I’m not going to have it ready, but she can’t come today. She works out at, what is it, that Sunshine factory or what? That big factory that’s way out by the, that makes golf bags and...

RM: Stone. Is it Stone...


RM: I don’t know.

EK: Yeah, they just moved out there. It’s just right out down from the airport.

RM: Oh, okay. So, she works out there? Okay.

EK: Yeah.

RM: Well, yeah, generally, as you were starting to tell me, I was just interested in a couple of things. First, what was it like to grow up in, I mean, what was Orchard Homes like when you were kid? What was going on in this district with the people here or...

EK: Well, it, there were all kind of small farms and some big acreages. When it first started out here all, like all this land where I am belonged to one...
RM: One person?

EK: Yeah. And one of the big families was the Millers. They owned quite a bit of land and then the Spurgins and Miss Spurgin was my first grade school teacher. Then, gradually the miners over in Butte heard about that and boy, they come and started buying land because they made a lot of orchards because they, well they wanted to have some place to retire on top of the ground instead of working under it and so, at first, it wasn’t that busy of a community. We used to have sleigh rides out on the streets. Of course, now you know, there’s not enough snow left. And we had quite a ways to walk to school.

When I first moved out here, I was going to be six in November, but they let me start the school. And when we first came out, we lived down here, right here, just a couple of houses below me on Third Street and we had to walk to school and then we moved out over to Eleventh Street and that was quite a ways over there to school. Why, we used to go through fields of snow. Eleventh Street is a couple of streets over.

RM: So, you were going to Hawthorn School?

EK: Yeah. Yeah. We always had to have older girls or brothers with us, you know. Most of my brothers were younger than I, but they had to, because in the snow it was deep and that time we used to have. The Club House was the main, you might say the main attraction. They had meetings. They had dances. They had all the school parties were there because the school didn’t have any stage. They had any, you might say any interest in the community, well then, the Club House was there for their use.

When the Club first started, it was built...and I tried to find out the date, but I couldn’t find when it was, but it was in about 19, oh I’d maybe say ’06 or ’07 and it was built and it was supposed to be for churches and any denomination and they’d take turns. Well, then that kind of fell through. It apparently didn’t work out. I couldn’t find any definite reason why. Then, a Mister Irving was an old-timer out here and his daughter was my teacher at school. And he went to the county commissioners and he said that out in our community, we didn’t have a Community Hall for the youth to meet. They were meeting at what they used to call the old Onion House. There’s a picture of it in there...

RM: Yeahm I saw that.

EK: And he asked for the building for that purpose. Well, so then they granted it and for awhile it was just for meetings and (?) meetings and any problem. And then they finally, under Teddy Roosevelt, they organized, it was called Orchard Homes anyway, but then when he started that Country Life Club movement, then it was Orchard Homes Country Life Club, where, as far as we know, we’re the only one left. Now, they started all over the United States and one year, many years ago, our president inquired, and we were the only one. There was other Country Life
Clubs, but they were combined, you know, with like I think I said, with other organizations, but ours always just stayed the same.

RM: Okay, so the people that were in Orchard Homes, were they mainly farmers or horticulturalists?

EK: Not always. A lot of them were businessmen uptown like my father. He had a saloon and then when they changed, he had a pool hall. And the others were lawyers and doctors and some, there were some that had orchards. That’s when the miners started their land, they’d had orchards. So, naturally they had to have people to maintain them. So, it was...

RM: So originally what was called Orchard Homes, I mean was it always called Orchard Homes, this area? But...

EK: Yeah. As far as I know, I don’t remember it, I know up there and out on where we have Third Street and Reserve, which is real busy, that was called the Bitterroot Bend and that went, and it didn’t go in further that way. It just come down to Third Street and went out to Bitterroot and they called it the Bitterroot Bend because of that. But we were still all, pretty near everybody had five or six acres, very seldom any, if I can remember right. I was talking to Otto Benson, they just had their hundreds, you know, and Otto and I was talking because Mr. Benson was real active in the cClub, in fact he was one of the first ones in the offices and everything in organizing our Club. Most of the places were five or ten acres because people would raise their own gardens and have their own fruit trees and the roads were terrible.

In the wintertime, we used to have to go up here. We’d go up here to what they call Tower Street, and we’d go up and you’d have to go up on the hill. Down Third Street, it would be so terrible that you couldn’t hardly get through it with a car. You could with a wagon, but not a car. And they were starting to have quite a few cars. I know we had a car. It was still lots of wagons and buggies, but it was mostly people. But there were lawyers and I just can’t remember all of them now. Doctors and real estate men and, oh, let’s see I can’t remember, lawyers. There was all, it wasn’t all just army, but there was a lot of them that did and a lot of them that came retired out here even then, you know. And then, they had their gardens and their fruit trees and things like that.

RM: Okay. Well, when I was reading in newspaper articles about Orchard Homes, I didn’t even really realize that Orchard Homes was actually a subdivision to Missoula. What would you say, I mean like, throughout the years or in that early part, was there a strong segregation between Orchard...I mean, did they distinguish themselves strongly between themselves...

EK: Well, not too much because we had so many businessmen and people that lived out here see and I don’t think we had any [inaudible] that I remember right. I know that even yet they would like to increase it (?) and take us in, but we have fought that. We never have been taken in to the city.
RM: What was that? Do you know why, why were people against the uniformity?

EK: I don’t think, accept that their rules and regulations would make a difference in the places where we lived in our homes, in our sewer sys—not sewer—but we have septic tanks and there are regulations, but I really wasn’t in on that too much. I was really too young. By the time they got up to where they were really, you might say, out against it, I was too young to be into that. See, I was born in 1907 and this all was going on in 1910. I don’t think we ever had any really, oh some I suppose, some but I can’t remember all it was.

RM: Sure. Now, at the club, I know you mentioned and I had read about that they had, like you said, meetings. Well, what kind of meetings were held there? I mean, what...

EK: Well, it was, a dish(?) meeting, or there was something in the community that needed a meeting place to discuss over the items and school problems and anything pertaining to the benefit of the people that lived in the district. And the club, at that time, tried to always have the building available for them and I didn’t ever find out, but I don’t think they ever paid anything, but they asked for their support.

They used to have dances and then we used to have, the school used to have a big, where the children raised their own gardens, you know, and then we had the club open and they’d come and display their things and we had a lot to do with the school because they didn’t have any stage. So, all their, any of their programs or anything was all...my first time I was at the, I was in the first grade. And we had, Miss Spurgin was our teacher. And so we were having a program at the Club House and we had little rocking chairs. I can’t just remember, of course now what, anyway I was just a rocking and rocking. Miss Spurgin finally come over and “Come on, you’re going to rock the house.” I said I had to go to the toilet. Right out. Well, of course, Miss Spurgin had a fit, but then the old toilet was outside, you know, that meant getting all bundled up, you know. Oh, but we had a lot and parent/teachers...a lot. And their main thing, whenever they had programs or whenever they had any big doings, lots of times, they’d have it at the club.

RM: When you first started school at the Hawthorne School, was it at that time all one, like all ages together or did they segregate by your ages?

EK: No, no, we were all eight grades in. See, it was fairly, my husband for a fact helped landscape the ground. He had horses and he...to get the ground ready for it, but that was before I, before we came out here, you see. It was a really fairly new school when I started and then that burnt down, you know, and that was...

RM: When did it burn down?
EK: Boy, what was that year? Yeah, they had a big fire and I don’t know if they had any of the old building, I couldn’t say now if they have any of the old building there or not. I’m not sure. But, it’s been several years.

RM: Yeah, sure. What was I going to say? Well, okay. Speaking of, you know, as far as when the Club, from what I read, people seemed to have a real desire to have a social club where they could meet and have entertainment activities and stuff. And then, about that time they decided to use the Club House as that kind of, for that use, then the Country Life Movement started and they decided to go ahead and have their club be an official Country Life Club. Do you have any idea, as far as like, now I read in an article, it said a representative from the Country Life Movement came and explained what the movement was about. Like the ideas that it represented and then people decided to go ahead and do it. I was curious, if you have any idea, like what appealed to, because the club, I mean, the Country Life Club...

EK: Well, they called it...well, keeping, the old saying, keeping the kids down on the farm, it was, that was the attitude. It was to make, to make what you call Country Life Club Area, but still, we were, you might say, modernizing to go into the city, because it...Really, in particular, when Mr. Irving got the building, it was to kind of have what you might call a Community Center and that’s what it was and lots of things did happen when they were having, when they were going to have a Fire Department out here, you know, then they had the meetings that started the Club. And anything that pertained to the benefit of this Orchard Homes District was at the Club because it was the only big building, you might say, and at that time it was just, if I remember right, it was the one big hall. And now, it has the smaller dining room hall. Have you ever been to the club?

RM: I have.

EK: And in the kitchen, in the, but they have the stage because we, and then, of course, when they got modernized they had the bathrooms, they put the bathrooms in the basement and then what used to be a cloak, excuse me, a cloak room is now also a kind of small meeting room when people wanted it. And then they built on kind of a big porch that was kind of for the tables and chairs and things like that.

RM: Well, I was really interested in what you were saying about keeping the kids on the farm and that is what I...

EK: Well, we had 4-Hs and Boy Scouts and all that meet. They met at the club.

RM: Were there any people that in a community that didn’t, well because, in order to, like you were saying, do things to modernize...you know, like, get cars, maybe have more machines...

EK: Modernizing the economy?
RM: Yeah, how did people—how was that something that people really wanted was to change the [inaudible]...

EK: Well, I think because we had so many, you might say, business people and everything out here, naturally they’re interest would be that too. Now, we had a lot of people that were just, I know a couple that lived there next to the Club House for years. People that didn’t have any children, but still they liked the area out here. Mr. Erbert…Mr. Erbert(?), yeah, was his name. He lives in, I think he was a lawyer but I wouldn’t say for sure. Now, like Otto’s family, they lived right across from the Club House.

Benson, they had a dairy and cattle. And then there was, oh let’s see now, then there was, used to be a grocery store down on Grove Street. Just a little small grocery store and that was before they had the store that’s next door now. And that was a grocery store where she has those antiques kind of like now, well, that was a grocery store too for years and years. And I don’t know, I think because, because people came out from the city to buy because they liked the acreage; they liked the privacy and everything.

RM: Okay. Let’s see. Are you familiar with the Agricultural Extension Program through the government? What, do you know what I am talking about?

EK: I don’t think we had, that I know of. We had the 4-H group and the Boy Scout group and…but as far as the Club, it’s never had anything to do with government loans or anything.

RM: Not loans, but extension agents, like someone coming out saying, teaching people how to farm, maybe using more science and technology. Do you know what I am talking about?

EK: No, we didn’t, I don’t think we had, I don’t remember of anything. We had speakers come and of course, lots of times, there was all kinds of speakers that would come and would tell us, well, they would tell us what some of maybe the modern things in gardening and in the trees. We grew trees. But, we never had any, you might say, connection with them. They always came as speakers. I don’t remember in my, maybe they did when I was younger, but in my years in the Club, I, and now see I belong, my folks joined when I was, must’ve been six or seven and more or less I’ve kept in contact with it. There was a few years when I was married that I didn’t. I’ve always been in [inaudible]. But I don’t remember of any of them trying to organize anything out here that would pertain to any of, what you might say, government supervision. Never. That I never knew of. They were, maybe they came as guests, but...

EK: Well, they came as speakers.

RM: There was not like a steady staff...

EK: No. They came as speakers and we would, we had county commissioners come out and tell us about some of their rules and regulations were in, I suppose, in other places and what
pertained to us. I suppose we had to abide by them, but I don’t remember of any special group that came and talked to us. No.

RM: Okay. Well, did, so the people here that did farm or maybe the suggestions they heard about how to modernize their homes and such. I mean, people were open to those ideas?

EK: Oh yeah. They were. I don’t think I would classify us by what you’d call a wealthy group. People of modest means, like Miss Spurgin. Her folks now, they owned just a big part of this. And I don’t know what her father did other than farm. I don’t know. I know she was my teacher and then they moved up onto, they sold individual places and then they moved up on Eleventh Street and then I think after her folks all passed away, she went out in California or something.

RM: So, people here, would you say that they, as far as how they attained the things that they needed, did they make most of the things here at their home—I mean like were they self-sufficient or did they buy things like the goods they needed from town or did they aid each other?

EK: Oh yeah, they, none of them I don’t think were people that I remember that would be of that caliber. They were people that would trade uptown. We had a small grocery store, but they would go to the larger grocery stores and I don’t think that they tried maintaining their own things.

RM: Not self-sufficient?

EK: Oh no. Not self-sufficient because like I said there was businessmen and lawyers and doctors and Mr. Barnett down there. They had eyeglasses and things like that, so they were people, you might say, by that time, you might say more modernized and then...

RM: When you say that, what time are you referring to...are you talking about...like what area are you talking about generally? Are you speaking about nineteen—I was thinking more like 1930s, 40s, something in there. Was this the same time period that you are referring to?

EK: Yeah, more or less. More or less.

RM: Okay. So, from what I hear you saying is that the club really, is it true that it was social in nature primarily? And then...

EK: Quite was, in there, to belong to the club usually somebody had to have a club member sign their petitions and like that, but it was pretty much open. They did have an area, they had an Orchard Homes area and it was bound by a river and to the west, it was the McClay Bridge and uptown, towards town, it was, oh, I can’t remember if it went up to where Buy-Lo [Supermarket] is now or not. It was up that way and then to the south, it was, it used to be, oh
what’s that Creek that goes through by Rosauers, and then they extended it over to [Highway] 93. So we did have an area that you had to belong in that area to join the club.

RM: Yes, and that’s, so, okay. Why, as far as, is it that people distinguish themselves from Missoula, is that why you had to live, I mean, people from Missoula that are residents can’t belong to the club?

EK: Well, I don’t what their stipulations were. I, uh, why…they made that district and why, I’m not sure. That was pretty early in my time, but they apparently wanted to have a boundary so that it would have to be interested in our, you might say, style of life. They either had to like to be gardeners or like to have horses and have cows and have pigs, you know, and big gardens. I don’t know why. I don’t know what their stipulation was. I suppose in some place there is why, but I never have found it. I don’t know why they’re...

RM: Right. That’s fine. So, what, do you think that, what did the club... how do you think people’s lives or how did the club’s origination come, that it existed, the fact people only did it to bring them, did it change something within their community, like did people, allow people, I mean, were people closer as a community because of the things that went on in the club...You know what I’m saying? What effect did it have?

EK: Well, I think it made the community spirit. Yes, I do. I think that having the, of course, the kind of rules and regulations of the Country Life Club Movement, which might be maybe their stable rules. And so you would want people that were interested in rural life and in the freedom of horses and cows and like that. And if you lived in this district, you kind of would know that. That, well I can’t belong to that club because I don’t believe in having horses and cows around and dogs and [inaudible]. So I think that might, you might say, would stipulate what our feelings were, but the Club’s rules were that they would have to have a feeling for that. Because you know, not everyone likes to have dogs and cats and all that stuff and cows and horses. And in that time, most of the places were people with small acreages. They’d be five, maybe ten acres, or maybe three or four, but most of them, I think, were five acre tracts, if I remember correctly.

RM: So, the different homes, they had, like you said, they had animals as well as gardens.

EK: And trees and...

RM: Any fruit trees?

EK: Yeah, fruit. Mostly fruit trees—apples and cherries and different kinds of apple trees and big gardens. Most every place had a pretty good size garden. Even now a lot of people out here still have gardens. There’s hardly any place around here that you go that doesn’t have, [inaudible] I don’t know if you remember Zane Sullivan. He’s a lawyer. They bought my son’s place. Well, they made big mounds out in the fields, and they raised dogs. And they have show dogs. Beautiful show dogs.
Now they don’t have any garden, but they keep that just beautiful. Flowers and big rocks and trees and they have a big pond in the back, but the back pond is kind of sub-irrigated(?) and hasn’t turned out to be too good, but they, most of them have like, like the Mary said, reason she wanted, because everybody come. You hear everybody’s dog is barking or something. They wanted to get out and she used to live next door to the Bishop’s place. See, they have a bunch of horses. Pretty near everybody that you can think of, now that lady that lives up on the corner in the big house on that side, I don’t know if she...yeah, I guess she has a big garden out there. Some of them have sold their acreages, I don’t, maybe, they don’t have a garden any more.

RM: Okay. Let’s see. Was the club ever political and it like...No.

EK: That’s one thing we never did. We had some speakers; men running for office...

RM: Locally?

EK: Yeah. We never did have any, that I know of, any like somebody running for president, say. We never had any meetings that patronized that. We, that I remember, I know different kinds of people would tell about, you know, get up and tell about so and so and this one and that one running for the legislature or something like that. We even had them come out and speak, but not any, no permanent, you might say that they didn’t establish in their speech a real strong political area.

RM: What about farmers, well...So now that I understand that this area wasn’t primarily farmers, it had a mix of people, but I read somewhere that they did offer the Club House for like farmer’s meetings. I mean, do you think that, like, was there any, did people, did farmers meet there to discuss, I mean like political in the sense that maybe they felt that they needed to talk about the issues that pertained to farming and you know, because there’s a lot of time periods where those problems...you know, like farmer’s survival?

EK: They did it before my time I belonged. Different things have been brought to the Club...attention of the Club of different things, but not...I don’t think there was any strong representation of any, you might say, legal part. I’m not...not really. They would maybe ask someone to come out and speak or something like that or they’d ask to come and we’d listen and they’d just [inaudible], permissible, but not that I remember. It was a Community Hall and it was for community benefits. Yes. And now, not so much now, because I think that we got away from it, but if, when there’s somebody running for County Commissioner or somebody’s running for Governor or something, why I think if they’re asking or if somebody will ask if they can have them and [inaudible] then I’m sure, but not so much as it used to be. Not so much. It’s more or less social.

RM: Okay. Was there a church or several churches in Orchard Homes that people went to?

EK: No.
RM: Oh, so there was no church at all.

EK: The only church that was closest and I went to it, was up in the Daly Addition. That’s, you know, over in that way. There was no church out...when they started this here, non-denominational church building, it was for all the varieties, but one weekend it would be one new one and another. I know we had the church, asked to have the meetings because they didn’t have a place, but the upkeep of the club is the rentals.

If we hardly ever have a time where we could have it ready for them to have their service early Sunday morning because we maybe would have a big rental the night before and they have a lot of parties. Lots of parties and if there’s a big wedding party you couldn’t have it ready. So, we haven’t had. We haven’t really, you might say, patronized having a church meeting because of our schedule and rentals and the club itself. And if, it just didn’t, because they’d want to have it not just this Sunday, every Sunday. Well, you see you just couldn’t do it.

RM: Well, so, people that wanted to go to church that lived in this area tended to go into Missoula?

EK: Oh yeah, they always have. The Methodist and the Presbyterians and the Catholic Church and all denominations.

RM: Okay. I was curious, from your prospective as homes sort of modernizing, I mean, I was thinking specifically along the lines of women and women in families and the role that they had. As like, using more machines and stuff in the kitchen and improving the kitchen, can you, what do you, from your memory did you notice a significant difference in the way that women, you know like, how they lived and what their responsibilities were changed?

EK: No, because then I, when I was about, we moved when my mother passed away and then we moved uptown. Well, I had connections with the club then for a while, but I didn’t...My sister lived out here and we moved back and forth and I moved over here, I’ve lived here for 57 years, but I never noticed that. Like I say, I was away for a while and I don’t think in the club, I don’t think it made any difference.

RM: Well not, no, well, okay, outside of the club, I’m just, in general...

EK: Well, we did a lot of modernizing. A lot of people afterwards, especially after the break-up of the places and people building homes, well, they built quite modern homes when they did, of course. So that made no difference in the effect of the club.

RM: So, it really, from the early times, like when people first built their houses here they included a lot of maybe like indoor plumbing and running water.
EK: Yeah, instead of having wells they had wells, but they would have pumps and you know, like, and a lot of us have that yet, you know. A lot of us because there is no water system from the city out here at all.

RM: Yeah, I saw a couple of articles that dealt with irrigation and that was something that seemed to be an important thing in that if you’re saying there is no water source, except for... is it the same...what is the...

EK: Well, the irrigation is the same because there’s two, there’s a Missoula irrigation district and there’s an Orchard Homes district and one services, you might say, this side of Third Street. See, Third Street goes all the way down to the end and then the other side services on the other side. We still depend on that for a lot of people. They have pumps and stuff in the ditch, you know, but they still depend on those irrigation places. They still depend on them.

RM: I know I’m kind of switching this around...

EK: That’s all right. I’m not keeping track of this. I’m too eager.

RM: Thinking about the kids. Now, I’m talking about trying to keep the kids onto the farm. Do you think that it was successful at trying to do that...do you think that, well, first of all, was there a perceived problem with kids leaving the farm? Is that why they wanted to try...I’m assuming that’s why.

EK: I don’t know. I know, now, we used to have to walk all the way to high school.

RM: How far was that?

EK: Well from Pardee up to the old County High School. It’s way out there on Higgins where the...That’s where we used to go, but of course, we had our own school and then they built the Willard School and then the Franklin School, which kind of helped. You see, but I don’t know that I can say that it got modernized. The roads got better, and people had more cars. Because I know we went with, we used to always have an old black horse. And we had a buggy. My two older sisters, not too much older than I, but I and then my two younger brothers, when we went to town, we would go in it. Well, this old black stallion. We called him, I think it was Bud. When we’d get up there to the, it used to be the flour mill up here. That rascal would not go out of the walk. He just seemed to know and my sister would pound him on the tail. She had to. That Bud would not move. So, my sister Margaret said “I’ll fix him next time we go.” Well, they were older and Papa would let them drive the horse and we had a buggy and so she takes a long pole and she put a nail in the end of it.

When we got out to the farm, you couldn’t believe but that horse went absolutely (?). I can just remember the girls tuggin’ him and cussin’ him. Well, she poked him with that thing, well, holy boly, he took off, went right up the strip to Higgins Avenue, right down across Higgins Avenue...
Bridge. She couldn’t hold him. Well, Papa had a, I think Papa had the, I don’t know if he still had the saloon then or if he had moved to the pool hall, anyway, somebody knew him and then they [inaudible] and he went out and grabbed the horse. Well, didn’t we get a spanking. Oh boy! [inaudible] he was running away and she couldn’t hold him, but she let him go. [inaudible]

Oh, he was an ornery horse! When you tried to ride him, he wouldn’t go out of the walk and I don’t care how you thumped on him. He was the only really horse we had. We cultivated with him and plowed and like that you know, but he was a, he was not going and it was a funny thing when you got to that point, up to that flour mill and then he knew he was in the city limits, so he wouldn’t go. And he walked. He absolutely walked. She’d thump him and she’d whip him with a whip and everything. He would not [inaudible]. I could still her, oh she’d say “I’ll pick him up.” She’d pick him up. Oh we had a time.

RM: So, at what point did most of the people in this area start having cars? When did really people start [inaudible]?

EK: Well, we had a car. Mr. Erbert had a car. He was the one that lived there next to the Club House. Let’s see, when I was about, when I really it much was when I don’t think we had a car until we moved out in Orchard Homes. That’s when I was six. And I, during that time, around that time, after that, I think when Papa got our first car. Otherwise, we had the buggy and we’d go up to Lolo Hot Springs and Papa would hook up the buggy and put all our supplies in that and my sister Dora and you’d need a hired man or something would go up ahead of us and then we’d come in the car. But now that, I would say, I was, it was after we moved out here and I was six and I would say that when I first remember too much about when I was six or seven or along there when Papa had a turn car(?).

RM: Sure. So, when, did people use the cars mainly, I mean, did they just to go within this region or did they take...

EK: Well, I think they still had a lot of horses and buggies. Lots of them, but when it was trips to go to town or like I said when we used to go to Lolo Hot Springs and like that, then I think they tried to have cars, because it took too long to go with a buggy.

RM: Well, as far as kids going to, starting to go to school, a formal high school, I know this probably happened more towards the 1900s or something like that where they started asking all kids to not just be educated on the farm, but to go to school. Do you recall, when you were in school, did kids want to be there or did they find...or what was the general sentiment about the education?

EK: Well, I think, no, I don’t remember resentment in any of the kids from going to school. In fact it was kind of like a social thing. It was kind of fun. We had to learn, sure, but in most of the times, I think that I don’t remember any resentment. It may be some kids, maybe some of the older boys didn’t like to have to go to school. They’d rather stayed home and work or go and
work, but in my memory. See, I left Hawthorne School when I was about in the (?), I went and lived with my sister Dora up in Hamilton, that was after my mother passed away and I don’t remember of any of the kids resenting going to school or fighting about it. I don’t remember.

RM: Since they were receiving a different type of education by going to this school, rather than being on the farm, where you’d be kind of learning what your parents did and then and continuing on that.

EK: Some people did teach their own kids. I know, people did still teach their own children at home.

RM: Did a lot of the kids end up leaving to go, since they were more trained, you know in a way that was dealt with, you know like cities, something in the cities, like more of a job that’s not hard physical labor. Do you think - was the case that a lot of the kids end up leaving to go to get those types of jobs? Is that something that kids wanted to do or did they feel like they wanted to stay on the farm more?

EK: I don’t…See, by the time I was in my teens, see that would be when kids of that nature would be doing that. I don’t remember. Most of them did work other places. Sometimes in larger farms like over in Grass Valley there was big farms and a lot of them would go and work on farms. A lot of the kids haying like that, but a lot of the kids did leave, yes I would say, but not…I don’t remember that it was a tremendous amount. But they – I don’t remember that they did. I know my husband used to, when they first, they lived out right across from the school and when he was a youngster, he used to work for different farmers and one thing or another and would go to school. Turn your thing off and I’ll tell you a story about it.

Well, we reminisce all the time and we’d go through all these books and all these pictures and this old minute book, it’s been…I haven’t kept up with that, I just kept a lot of the pictures.

RM: But these things, all of these too? Oh my!

EK: They were all just kind of pictures, you know. And of the kind of things of the club and different art. I have never…I tried to find a kind of a big folder like thing that would be encased and yet to have found it. But I haven’t found anything that is just right yet.

RM: Like a book?

EK: Kind of like, yeah, because I got...

RM: Like a scrapbook?

EK: Instead of putting them in like this here like that, I could put them in. Like see now that, that’s the Old Miller Place. That was the first, that, right across from the school and not, kind of
kiddy cornered is the Old Miller Place and this is some of the Old Miller things. Well, if I had that kind of a thing, I could put it instead of having it like this. As it is now, I keep them in these kind of folders and I haven’t kept up on them because of one thing or another in a long time. I just haven’t—

RM: I understand. That, the Onion House, you know...is that still?

EK: No, that’s gone. I remember I used to tell them that all them tears that was at that Club House in the kids, I mean at the Onion House wasn’t all just from the tears, it was from the onions.

RM: Still making your eyes water, you know. That’s funny. Yeah, that’s very interesting. Yeah, I tried to find, I found actually some clips that were in the public library that were old, unfortunately some didn’t even [inaudible]. They just sort of put them in there, like in a folder.

[Break in audio]

EK: He was a butcher over at the slaughter house. Then, we moved back in the district so we could join the Club again. And, uh, that was when my son was, let’s see, he was about two, I think, or something like that. No, it was before that when we moved and we joined the Club again. So, I was out of the Club for...we came to doings, you know, dances and, but I was out of actually being in the Club for awhile.

RM: Were you ever a member of the, well, I can’t remember, you know like they have secretary and president.

EK: Oh. I was the secretary of the cub.

RM: For how long? It was for a long time, wasn’t it?

EK: My brother-in-law was the president, and I was the secretary, oh, for a couple of years.

RM: Oh, your brother-in-law or your brother?


RM: Your brother-in-law?

EK: My brothers were too young, and they weren’t, they didn’t, weren’t in the club as much as we were because my mother had passed away and my youngest brother was only three. So.
RM: So, you were pretty...So as, just to make sure I understand what you said, you guys, you moved here with your parents and your siblings and then your mother passed away and you were still pretty young. You were...

EK: I was ten.

RM: You were ten and you moved with your sister...for awhile.

EK: Yeah, we officially moved uptown from Orchard Homes up on Fourth Street and we lived there for a while and then my dad married again and then us kids, kind of the older girls getting married and I stayed with one sister for awhile and I stayed with another sister for a while. Then, Papa took the two boys and he finally left Missoula and he took the two boys out to his aunt out in Portland. We kind of got separated.

RM: And then you came back when you got married?

EK: Yeah, after we got married, we moved over to the slaughter house and then we bought a place on Short Street. I've lived in Orchard Homes ever since. That was when my son was, let’s see, he was about two or three, I think, and he’s 63 now.

RM: Is he?

EK: I don’t, see when I say that I think, ‘Oh my God, it can’t be!’

RM: Well, if it’s okay with you, I would love to take a look at this and then I...I think that what I’m going to do is, you know, listen again to what you said and then still continue to read more and then if it’s alright with you then maybe check back with you because there’s probably going to be something more, more specific and try to understand that and at this time I don’t know what it is. So, if that’s...

EK: That’s fine with me, I don’t mind because I’m home a lot. I mean, I don’t go a lot. I do go, but then, but there’s a lot of interesting things and there’s a lot of tidbits in there [inaudible].

RM: Who, now is this, you wrote these things?

EK: No, I didn’t.

RM: No. This is the...[inaudible]

EK: This is when I...

RM: Is this Mrs. Shannon’s?
EK: Yeah. That, you see, was when I was real young. That was 1911, I think it is or something like that. And you see I was only born in 1907.

RM: Wow. I know that the book that you mentioned that you gave to the woman out in the Fort, you remember, with the museum. The medical book?

EK: I gave it to the University.

RM: It’s at the University?

EK: It’s at the University. It was an old doctor’s, what would you call it? Literature. It was a different, old fashioned cures and I’ve really kind of forgotten now, it’s been so many years, but it’s really. If I’m…it would be listed kind of like under a doctor’s book.

RM: Was that a doctor that was here locally that had had it at one time?

EK: I don’t remember for sure. I really don’t remember. It wasn’t a doctor that was familiar to me. My husband’s uncle was a veterinarian and I kind of have a feeling that that it was through him that this book was, but I can’t...It had some old-fashioned cough syrups and old-fashioned medicines of treating this and that kind of thing.

RM: Now you mentioned that one man, the, what was his name? I don’t remember his name. Benson or something?

EK: Otto Benson. No. He’s been dead many years, but Benson’s farm up here on Reserve and 7th. As you turn off of 3rd—

RM: Do you mind if I borrow your pen, pencil or something? I’ve somehow...

EK: They just entered, they just had their hundredth anniversary as farmers in Orchard Homes.

RM: Really?

EK: Uh-huh. Oh, that was quite, I had his thing here, but I don’t know what I did with it now, I put it away.

RM: Is it his children running the farm now?

EK: Well, uh, his first wife, Mr. Benson’s first wife, they lived up, they lived in the house right across from the Club and he had a farm and a dairy farm. And then his first wife died and with his first wife he had a boy named Carl and a daughter named [inaudible] and they were my age. Then, when after she died he went to Switzerland for another wife and then he had this Otto...
and Otto’s son is the one, they have a big…oh, they have wonderful vegetables. Oh, man, he had the best…

RM: Did they have like a celebration?

EK: Yeah, they had a hundredth year celebration? Yeah, and they sent out, I wish I could find it. They sent out the cutest invitations and it was a big milk bottle. Pinned to the side of an old-fashioned milk bottle that said something about this belonged to the Bensons. Oh, it was…oh, they had a wonderful party. You might contact him because his dad was a lot in the beginning of the club. You’ll find Mr. Benson’s name was a lot in…but that Otto Benson…and their son Brucie now has this vegetable and flowers. They had…it’s right on the corner of Reserve and Seventh.

RM: Do you know…do you have their phone number by any chance or should I just stop by that intersection and see if I can?

EK: Well…

RM: Otto Benson’s in the phone book. I don’t have their number. Otto Benson. B-e-n-s-o-n.

EK: Okay. All right. Is there anyone else you can think of that would know or have been involved with the club or is their kids of the parents that used to be really involved with the club?

EK: Well, let’s see. There’s Highers (?), but he’s in a wheelchair and not in very good shape, but he’s married to one of the Benson girls. And then…

RM: So, would you…do you think that it would be appropriate…

EK: I don’t think so. He’s not well. Esther would know. Otto could give you, because he’s just had all this and went through all this survey and everything about Orchard Homes and…

RM: He did?

EK: Yeah and he would have a lot up to date because he’s…

RM: He was just with…for the 100th…

EK: He just went through it for his 100th…for their 100th. So, if you can get in contact with him, why, he could give you really maybe more information than I except that I’ve been out here longer. He’s younger than I. He’s about my kids’ age, but he could give you, because they just had this big hundredth and he did a lot. He had, oh, they had all kinds of old kind of fashioned tools and everything and all kinds of pictures. They were just wonderful!
RM: I missed the best...

EK: Yeah, and then they had this big roast pig and they had a big covered, a big salad, you know, service. Oh, it was wonderful. Well, he would later stuff because he’s looked it up. I know that he’d have a lot of data that I can’t even remember.

RM: Okay. Well, I’m sure of it.

EK: And they have stayed out in Orchard Homes all their life. Now, you see, I moved away, but Otto. They’ve always stayed. They lived in Orchard homes. They lived on there on that corner and then they moved up to where, on the corner of Reserve and 7th and when you go up Reserve, they have great big flower gardens right there on the hill. Just as you go up the hill. Before you get to 7th.

RM: He’s a member of the club right now?

EK: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. And his wife was Anne Stigler(?) and I used to...she used to stay with me when she was a girl. We lived over at the slaughter house at that time and they wanted Anne to go to city schools. She was going to the country school and they wanted her to, I can’t remember where or what grade she was in. Anyway, she stayed with me. And then her mother and dad...No, no. She...

RM: Was Hawthorne considered a country school or a city school?

EK: Well, a combination. They had a lot of country, you might say, regulations that maybe they didn’t have in the city, but they didn’t have some of the strict things that. Now, we used to have a, oh boy what was that...her name now...a great big lady that was our principal. Lolo school was known for really tough kids. Really rough kids. They used to send some of their kids out here to school to her. She would straighten them out and they didn’t want to leave the school. That’s how good she was with them, but she was a big, strong lady and she didn’t hesitate to grab you. You know what I mean? If you, if you weren’t watching, she’d grab you by the ear or if she came down and she was called for misbehaving in the room, she didn’t hesitate to come and grab ahold and nobody ever said anything. Never. Nobody, but that’s how well she was.

RM: Did they bring kids in, I mean, was Hawthorne just for kids in Orchard Homes or did they bring kids in from more rural areas?

EK: No. I don’t think so. I can’t remember. The furthest I remember kids would be out by Mcclay Bridge, but still be in our district and I think going up towards town. I can’t just remember. There was a boundary. It was a boundary line.

RM: Okay. As far as who goes where...
EK: See, then they had Franklin and then they had the Willard Schools, you see. Now, they have the Emma Dickinson at that...

RM: And those are all in Orchard Homes or were they in Missoula?

EK: No. They aren’t. I don’t know if Emma Dickinson is considered to be in Orchard Homes or not, but they don’t have that school anymore. No, it’s changed into a...what was kind of a nursery school or something for a while.

RM: Okay. Alright well, then let me know...is there anything else that you’d like...

EK: Oh, I can’t think...

RM: Yes, you fooled me—

[End of audio]