

Maureen and Mike

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**Oral History Number: 049-001**

**Interviewee: Emma Allen**

**Interviewer: Mary Melcher**

**Date of Interview: May 26, 1980**

**Project: Montana Women's Oral History Project**

Mary Melcher: I'm Mary Melcher and I'm interviewing Emma Allen. It's May 26 [1980], and we're in Portland, Oregon. Okay, Emma, you came from West Virginia, right?

Emma Allen: Yes.

MM: When you were seven?

EA: That's right.

MM: How many in your family? How many were in your family when you came here?

EA: Ten all together, but they didn't...My sister didn't come—the oldest. She was working back then. She stayed.

MM: So there was seven kids that came?

EA: Yes.

MM: And you came on the train? Is that right?

EA: Yes.

MM: What do you remember about that trip?

EA: Snowbanks in Chicago. The horse fell down in a snowbank that was taking us from one railroad to the other.

MM: And then you had to wait in the snow until somebody dug you out?

EA: No, we had to get out and go to the depot, see? Then going to the depot, I hit my shin on the curb, of course, I had to fall down. I can remember that, anything to get hurt, or, my mother was worried that the Reverend must have been drunk to go into the snowbank. So, we didn't know that. Yes, really we did.

MM: So how old were your brothers and sisters when you came? Were they younger or older?

EA: I'm going to say the youngest one, me, was seven.

MM: So they were a big help to your mother probably.

EA: Yes. No, I wasn't the youngest. George was the youngest, and he was a baby—a year old, see?

MM: So everybody kind of helped take care of the baby, probably.

EA: Everybody helped everybody. My sister, 15, she was mixed up with a boy on the train.

MM: Oh, so she had a crush on a—

EA: She had his seat and he had one of hers, and they had to go around and see who's got each other's seat. She had to go find hers, and anyway.

MM: She kind of liked that boy?

EA: Oh, no. We were strangers, see. Met on the train coming out here. We didn't even know him, but we didn't have the first rates. We just kind of sit up and sit in seats.

MM: Kind of like a bench.

EA: Yes.

MM: Did your mother want to come out here, do you remember?

EA: Well, she wanted to go wherever Dad wanted to go, whatever he said. He was earning the living so...I guess she did, but she always got homesick. She never got to go back and see her mother.

MM: She didn't.

EA: No, it was hard for three months, but she got over it.

MM: So, your dad would make most of the decisions in the family.

EA: Well, I think so. Of course, she thought Dad was perfect.

MM: They had a pretty good marriage?

EA: Yes. Never did hear much of a fuss.

MM: That's great.

EA: Unless they had to correct the kids. Ma said, "Now, George had done something and he needs to be punished." Dad would get in and start whipping him, you know, and Mother'd say, "Well, I didn't say kill him." She'd stop him then.

MM: She just wanted him to punish him.

EA: Yes, just correct him, but not kill him. He was hitting too hard there, and she stopped it.

MM: So, that's how you were disciplined, you got spanked and whippings?

EA: Well, yes, more or less. I stole an apple once and got a good whipping. Another time I got a whipping because, well, I didn't know why, so I asked my sister just a few years ago, "What did Dad whip us for that time, with the hat?" She said we was playing in the creek and we weren't allowed to do that. He came right home from work and he caught us, so he took off his hat and come at us. We run to the outhouse, see, and my dad caught us. I never forgot getting the licking, but I now I didn't know what we'd done, see. See, you get whippings when you disobeyed, and wasn't supposed to go down to the creek because you might get drowned. He didn't want to lose us kids, see.

MM: Were you born with a midwife? Did a midwife come in when you were born?

EA: My grandmother.

MM: Your grandmother.

EA: My mother's mother.

MM: She lived nearby, and she was able to come.

EA: She was able.

MM: Did she, was she also a granny for the neighborhood?

EA: No, just her own kids.

MM: What did you think about coming out here? Do you remember when you were that young?

EA: Oh, it didn't matter to me. You know, kids go where their dad and mommy goes; I didn't argue.

MM: Were you in school before you came here?

EA: No, I hadn't been through the snowdrifts in Virginia. I was a little skinny, scrawny little thing. I couldn't get to school. My older sister, she was in school, not working yet. She tried to get me to school. She was a weakling too. She couldn't drag me through the snowdrifts, and so I just couldn't go to school until I come to Oregon. I started in at eight years old, see.

MM: Let's see, you're 82 now, so you were born in about 1898, right?

EA: Yes.

MM: Then you came out here in 1905?

EA: Yes, I think that's right.

MM: Okay.

EA: It could have been six, but I don't remember. 1905 or 6.

MM: Okay.

EA: March, it was in March.

MM: So how did you feel about starting school? Were the other kids younger than you when you went to first grade?

EA: Yes, sure. Of course, then I was about the best in grade school because I was older, see.

MM: It came easy to you.

EA: Sure, I was eight, and they was six, you see.

MM: Did you play with the older kids at school, at recess or something?

EA: Yes, they were all older. School, two divisions, two parts. First four grades and then the next four, it was. We all played together.

MM: Did, how many brothers did you have and how many sisters?

EA: Let's see, all together, five brothers and four sisters. Five of each, I think.

MM: Did the boys do more outdoor chores than you girls or did...?

EA: I think so, we had to help with the housework. Dad was a blacksmith, and they had to help

him in the shop—the boys—shoe horses, or whatever they do.

MM: Was the shop close to home?

EA: It was right in the town. He'd come home from lunch every day, see, so it wasn't too far away.

MM: Did you raise a garden?

EA: Yes.

MM: And you probably helped in that.

EA: No, I don't think so. I just waited for the hens to lay the eggs so I could eat breakfast.

MM: You didn't work too hard?

EA: Well, at seven you can't do very much.

MM: What about when you got a little older?

EA: Oh, then I worked and picked wild blackberries and sold them and everything like that. I walked miles, and I could pick about four buckets in the forenoon. Then I come home and sell them at the cafeteria, and she would make wild blackberry pies with them. I got two bits a bucket and made a dollar.

MM: Just working in the morning you'd make a dollar.

EA: If I walked all those miles without doing nothing, I used to eat them, see. By the time I walked four miles, they'd be settled down, and they'd claim they weren't full. I'd say, "They were full when I started!" She didn't think I could. I don't remember if I had to take one bucket and fill up the rest, but I don't think so.

MM: Do you remember how old you were when you did that?

EA: Oh, let's see now. I must have been 13 or something.

MM: So, your parents let you wander around?

EA: Yes.

MM: What part of Portland did you live in?

EA: I lived in Estacada.

MM: You lived in Estacada?

EA: Yes.

MM: It must have been really pretty up there.

EA: A little town in the Bowling Hills.

MM: Your father was the only blacksmith?

EA: No, there was another.

MM: There was another. Did your mom make all your clothes and everything?

EA: Oh, yes, we never bought anything.

MM: Then you canned a lot too?

EA: Oh, yes.

MM: So you learned how to do those things too.

EA: Sure.

MM: Okay, when you were a child, did you and your family go to dances or church affairs or anything?

EA: We went to church. They belonged. Two families, the kids fussing back and forth, they finally just quit. Too much for me. Still Christian, but we just didn't go to church. She wouldn't allow any swearing or nothing, and the kids would get out and do something and get to fussing and we couldn't watch them work, you see. Mother could be there with so many.

You see, when you got lots of kids, you can't watch them and they get in shoving. The boys weren't allowed to swim, but they all learned how to swim, see. They didn't listen to Dad. I did. I didn't try to swim. I never did learn. Scared me out of playing in the creek, I guess. Wasn't going to disobey again. None of us ever did get drowned, so it payed off, I guess.

MM: So the creek ran right near your house?

EA: Yes, right on our land where we were living. Farming—he raised turkeys. So there was always turkeys. So with all his turkeys he went to Charleston, the capital in West Virginia. So

with his turkeys and a big basket of fried chicken he'd get on the train and all kind of stuff to eat and travel with us. I don't suppose he made a fortune selling turkeys, had a fare to pay.

MM: He just wanted to go West. He had a dream?

EA: His sister came out here. She kept writing, "Why don't you come to Oregon. It don't snow like that. It's just pretty all the time. It hardly ever snows." So Dad just got up and left. Decided we'd just go and see. She'd been writing for years, why don't you visit Oregon, we don't have all that stuff. So, I guess we...

MM: Did Estacada ever have community dances or anything?

EA: Well, everybody had dances back then. I went to church, and I didn't think if you're going to go to church you had to go all out and mess around with the dances.

MM: Is that right? It was considered improper?

EA: Well, I considered it. If you want to go all out for Christ, you go all out. You're in this world, but you're not of it, see, not worldly. Buddy, he was a great dancer. He didn't pay no attention, but my other brother, he was against it. He didn't dance. Two boys, one wanted to dance and the other wanted to not dance. He didn't want to get mixed up with that dancing crowd.

I asked my mother, "Now, Mother, what should I do? Should I go dance or should I not dance."

She said, "Go and have a good time if you want to."

But I didn't do it. It's put me back on my own, didn't want to get the brothers fussing. I had enough with the boys, anyhow, carrying on. So, I didn't make any trouble for anybody. If you can't be helpful, stay out of it.

MM: So, what other kinds of social events did you go to when you were a teenager?

EA: Oh, we had box socials and pie socials; it was all church socials then, see, or school.

MM: So you would bring a pie and it would be auctioned off?

EA: Yes.

MM: Did you have any special boyfriends?

EA: Oh, yes, a different one or two, none of them were serious.

MM: Did you go on dates as a group, with a group of people, or ...



EA: Hay rides, sometimes, picnics, school, we went to the park. They've still got them now. All kinds of socials, different ones. Dances, we didn't have any dances. I wish we had square dancing, I'm good at that.

MM: I'm surprised you didn't.

EA: No, they didn't have that then, I guess.

MM: How about in Estacada?

EA: I guess not, that's about 60 years ago, no...Yes, 60. I've been graduated about 60 years. Been out of high school 60 years.

MM: So you graduated high school when you were 20?

EA: Yes.

MM: Then did you go to norm school?

EA: No, I was out of school and started teaching.

MM: You got out of school right then.

EA: Up at Spring Water.

MM: Where's Spring Water?

EA: Well, it's up on the hill from Estacada.

MM: It was a little country school?

EA: Yes, first four grades, I had. The fellow didn't come to tell me that I...In the meantime I'd been in Portland working, see, and come to town pretty much and got a job—working. I worked in the Yamhill Market, and one girl worked in the elevator and the other one in the cafeteria is all for the summer. Then I worked at home, and here comes chairman of the school board in Spring Water and said, “Now, we want you to teach our school this fall.”

I said, “I can't teach now because I should have gone to summer school if I had a school.”

He went forward and said, “I'll fix it up.”

MM: That's what he did.

EA: It was regardless if I went to summer school or not.

MM: You'd been working that summer in Portland.

EA: Yes.

MM: Was that the first summer you ever came to Portland to work?

EA: No, I came before that when I was 16. I stayed with my sister.

MM: And worked here?

EA: For Steader's Shirt Factory, sewing buttons up the front of men's pants. Now they have zippers. Button sewing. Just stuck them on, make sure the button isn't trued, you know. Break the needle and break the button, you know.

MM: Was that hard work?

EA: No, it's not. You just put your thread in, put the button on there and put your foot on, right on the pants. They got it marked right where the button goes, you see, right on there.

MM: So were there pretty many jobs for young women then? If you wanted to work?

EA: Well, I don't know. My sister lived right near the boss, and he got me the job.

MM: Was your sister working?

EA: No, she was married.

MM: She was married. Do you remember any of your high school friends? Did any of the girls go away to college or have certain careers or anything, or did most of them get married, or what did they do?

EA: I don't know. I got the first scholarship in my class, I got out of school and went right to teach. Well, during the summer I come to Portland, see, and the girls sure had to have a date. They got me a blind date. It was Fred Herman. You know the rest. Never could get rid of him.

MM: That's your husband. It was a blind date?

EA: "I don't need a boyfriend," I said. "I'm going to be a spinster school teacher, now." I kept talking and talking, and her friend was going to be his friend.

MM: You wanted to not marry for a while?

EA: Yes, I wanted to teach school. I liked teaching and wanted to do something. But he kept talking married, married, then I signed a contract, see, teaching see. It'll be nine months.

MM: You knew he'd have to wait that long.

EA: I'm not getting married for nine months, anyhow, from the Deans.

MM: Well, how did he talk you into it? You fell in love?

EA: Well, he just come every weekend and my dad said, "That fellow sure means business." He decided he was going to get married, and I was the one. That's what men do sometimes. I guess it's love. I don't know. We got along.

MM: You got along pretty well?

EA: Yes, we got along.

MM: Did you feel bad when you gave up teaching?

EA: Well, I didn't want to quit, but he was working in town and I was teaching in the country, so what kind of wedding...or marriage is that? See, you got to kind of live together, so I just stopped teaching. Men can't quit work.

MM: It happens now.

EA: Or they both work now, see.

MM: Yes. You didn't ever look for another...?

EA: Yes, I tried to work in town one time. Shipped in the piers, way up. You had to reach up all day. I got such a pain in the side, I had to quit. I couldn't stand that. So that was the end of that. So I didn't try to work after that.

MM: What was your courtship like with your husband?

EA: Oh, he'd come every weekend.

MM: Did you go on picnics?

EA: Well, he come with his sister, and they'd go on picnics then. Then Sunday he'd take me in our car. We didn't have a car, our car, and he'd take me to school on Monday. So we'd go take

the bus back home.

MM: Was he older than you?

EA: Yes, he was 15 years older. That's why he talked me into it.

MM: Fifteen years, oh, boy! He was a bit older.

EA: See, he was ready to get married and I was just ready to start my own stuff. See that's the way it is. A man, 32 or 3...No, I think he was 34. Anyway, see, tell like he's going to get married and he lived to his 80s. See his life was half gone when he got married. That's why I'd like for Patrick to wait to get married. See, I had boyfriends from school too, but they had no chance but a maybe. Come home and come right out in the streetcar Fred did. They didn't know each other. But, who got there first. Something says that Father did from the Navy. He'd never met him. I told him Fred was coming. Is it still going? You're going to take some of this out, aren't you?

MM: No, this just stays in the interview.

EA: Oh, it stays in. It'll sound terrible, won't it?

MM: No.

EA: Well, anyway, that ended that courtship.

MM: What kind of wedding did you have?

EA: Well, just my mother and my sister came in and Mr. Herman. Fred was cattling. He raised it all. Nine o'clock wedding, early, so we could hardly get up and get ready and get in town by nine o'clock.

MM: Were you excited?

EA: Yes, I suppose.

MM: Had your mother told you anything about birth control or anything before you got married?

EA: No, she didn't know anything either.

MM: She didn't know anything either. Had she told you about menstruation when you were a little girl? When you were younger?

EA: I don't remember.

MM: I bet one of your sisters told you.

EA: Well, I found out somewhere, but I don't know that my mother told me.

MM: So, you were...?

EA: Maybe we just found out for yourself. You start menstruating, and then you go ask about it, see, something like that. You were curious then, thought maybe something's wrong with me, see. No one told me it's something you're supposed to do. So, what else is there to know?

MM: Just a minute, you see I'm kind of...Okay so you got married and you started keeping house here in Portland. Where was your house at?

EA: Oh, we moved in with the Kitchen Villages in a house in Urbandale.

MM: Did you have girlfriends around or anything?

EA: Not in town.

MM: Not in town. Were you pretty lonely at first?

EA: Yes. He worked nights. I was scared to death. You know, in the country you don't even lock the door or nothing. Come in town and the leaves are blowing make a sound, and you're sure someone's coming in.

MM: That must have been a big adjustment.

EA: Well, it was. Was scared to death. I lived. I'm still going, so...You have to live through everything regardless if you can or can't.

MM: So, when did your first child come?

EA: Oh, let's see. Let's see, we moved out here from where we lived at this place, right here, and she was born here, right here in this house. How many years ago might that have been? She is 56.

MM: So it was about '34?

EA: No...

MM: [Nineteen] twenty-four.

EA: [Nineteen] twenty-three. She was born in '23 and Dorothy in '25, two years later.

MM: Did you have a doctor come here?

EA: I had someone.

MM: Did you have care before the baby was born? Prenatal care?

EA: No, I didn't have that.

MM: Did you have any problems—?

EA: No.

MM: —that you needed any? You just had a doctor come when it was time. How did you know in advance when it was time?

EA: You get pains, you know.

MM: How you felt.

EA: I suppose, you have to go to the doctor for check-ups, I think.

MM: So, you did go to some check-ups.

EA: Well, yes, to the doctor. Make an appointment with the doctor, see, so...

MM: Were you pretty happy to have babies?

EA: Oh, yes, I'm crazy about kids. I'd take on a boat full of people if I could, but I don't want to do that. They could help with the yard work or something, maybe, but that would be a problem, and I got enough problems.

MM: Yes, that's true.

EA: Yes, you can't take on even if you'd like to.

MM: Can't take on all the children?

EA: No, you can only do so much.

MM: Do you remember if there were any midwives around in Portland when you were having

your babies or...?

EA: Well, I don't think there were. My mother's that last one who had the midwives. The kids never did. We all had the doctor and went to the hospital. Imogene's born in the hospital.

MM: Is that your third one?

EA: No, my first one.

MM: Oh, you didn't have her here?

EA: No, Dorothy was born here, right in the garage. Don't tell nobody. She don't like nobody to think she's born in a garage. She says, "Well, dying in the garage, just go to the hospital." She was so near dying, I thought. She just weighed five pounds, and I thought, Another ounce and I wouldn't a made it. I just felt like dying at home, couldn't be no worse. So I stayed home. The doctor come, and I delivered right out in the garage there.

MM: Great! Did you have four children all together, or three?

EA: Three. Frank, of course, he was born later. [Nineteen] thirty-four he was born. He would have been at County Hospital, you know County Hospital, up on the hill? No work, see. They give you two weeks work—the city or the county or the state, somebody. What do they call that work program? Anyhow, two weeks work—I made about 34 dollars.

MM: Who worked there?

EA: Mr. Herman, during the Depression, see, there was no work. The banks were all closed. Took everybody's money. My poor neighbor, she had 2,000 dollars in the bank. She'd been saving, and they took it, took everything. Course we didn't have anything in the bank, just building this house, finishing it up.

MM: So he was born during the Depression.

EA: Yes, Depression baby. I worked at the clinic with Dad, see, and I didn't help him.

MM: Did they give you good care?

EA: I don't know if they did or not. They would give me iron. I'd feel so much better, but when it didn't work and I didn't have the iron, why, I didn't feel so good. I was a ninny. My blood was 50-50 when Frankie was born, see. They give me that iron. I would have been built up, but he would have been all right anyway if he would have had good care.

MM: You don't think he had good care during the delivery.

EA: No, and bringing him to me...The nurse just bring him wet and shaking. His eye was all red, and I said to the nurse, "Why don't you put a dry blanket on him. He's all cold and shivery and everything."

"We don't have time. We don't have time. We're too busy."

I said, "Well, you bring me the blankets, I can change him. I've got nothing to do. I've got all kinds of time."

Whether she did or not, I don't know, but in three days he was dying. I said, like, in tears, I couldn't take it. The nurse come in, and she said...The little nurse came in. She brought the baby to show me. She says, "Look, his eyes are wide open."

I says, "Is he dead or isn't he."

"Oh, goodness, yes, he's all right."

Bad scare's what he had and nightmares come in. She rushed in and said, "Your baby's awful low."

I thought, You ought to know it. I said, "Now, why aren't you doing anything. Now you get in there and do something. Do you want me to get up and try to do something? Why are you letting him die?"

So, they just worked like mad, see, after he'd already gotten brain damage from laying so long, see. Getting him started again. They put him in an incubator. They should have done that in the first place, I think. He was only seven months.

MM: He was seven months?

EA: Yes, you see, they said come in a day early if you...Better to come in a day early than to be late, and I came in when I start getting the pains. They said, "Well, you're not big enough to have him yet." They just talked the pains right out of me, like whatever. They said, "Go home and come back in a month." Soon as I got home, the pains come back. Here I come walking home from 82nd, up on 82nd and come down Third Street, and by the time I got to 85th or something, the water broke. I'm going to hemorrhage. I looked down. It isn't hemorrhage; it's water.

So I had to come home, and Fred says, "What are you doing home?"

I said, "Well, they told me to come on home and come back in a month, but I got to go right back because the water's broke."



So we got Mr. Cohen in the store, we had a little store there, see. He rushed me right back up there. I just barely made it onto the table. I couldn't get on I was in so much pain. They shoved me on, like that. I was like, "I ain't getting on there. I can't do it."

So they put me on there and I grabbed the nurse's arm and neck like this and said, "Now don't you leave me. I don't want to have this baby all by myself," and if she didn't get loose and leave me. Man, I bawled her out when she come back. I let out one scream, and everybody come. They know when a baby's coming. The doctors and the whole works, and I said to the nurse, "Why did you leave me?"

She said, "I had to get a doctor, the head was showing." Why couldn't she told me that in the first place, and then go get a doctor.

MM: Why couldn't she have?

EA: Yes, why couldn't she have explained that?

MM: What hospital was that again?

EA: County hospital up on the hill.

MM: The county hospital where you would work two weeks and then pay it off? Is that what you said about...?

EA: No, you had no work. They didn't charge anything. They couldn't with no work. No, not even the Dornbecker Hospital. Dornbecker where's he was at. I went to County Hospital, not Dornbecker.

MM: That must have been rough. That's when he got brain damage?

EA: Yes, when he was that sick. He was so low. He was rattling, and I said, "Oh, my God, he's got pneumonia." Just rattling, but that was the death rattle, see, like you get. I didn't know that yet. You're young, you don't know anything, and the doctors don't tell you anything. They just come in and look at you and go on. You just talk to the little nurses and tell them, "My baby needs his health. He's not doing so good. He couldn't nurse so good." I'd give him water, stick the bottle in his mouth, and he'd just lay there and drip. That's how he got wet.

MM: He wouldn't suck it?

EA: Well, he would, but it'd soon fall out of his mouth and nobody to put it back in. He couldn't. Let it drip, drip, drip, drip until he was sopping wet. That's where his water went. If he'd a gotten that water in him. Nobody could give him any special care, just let him lie there.

MM: Do you think it was too crowded because of the Depression, or...?

EA: Oh, I don't know about that but my neighbor, two, they lost their babies. One was taken out of the (unintelligible), and the other one stillborn. I thought, Oh, I'm lucky, my baby lived. I sure had to fight on in to making him live. They'd a let him die, too, so I don't know. You go through a lot in 80 years.

MM: You really do. Well, how did you last during the Depression? Did your husband get enough work?

EA: Well, I remember one week we all had 50 cents to live on. Family of four with Frankie coming. Then we had to go on welfare. I went, they wouldn't pay nothing to me. They said, "Your husband's got to go," and men don't want to do nothing like that. They want to just go on, and I don't blame them because it's men's job to see that the family's provided for. So, the welfare give us three and a half a week to live on for four of us and half of Frankie. That's as much as you could get. Seventeen cents a pound for just hollows. It just made me sick. I couldn't eat it. For just the hollows, coffee's all out of it.

MM: Then you had your garden, probably.

EA: Well, we didn't have seeds but nothing to buy seeds with. Go to Red Cross or somebody for seeds, then we had a garden. The Red Cross provide for a sack of flour seed, then you could bake your bread, see? But different means of helping that way. Just did it, I guess.

MM: Well, I wonder what the welfare would have done if a woman went down who didn't have a husband? What if you didn't have a husband? What if your husband was dead or gone?

EA: Well, they'd have to take care of it. They have to take care of a baby. They aren't responsible, just like these girls getting pregnant around here. One of them, of course, got two babies. She never did get married. Welfare officer was in her house and taking care of it, I guess. The guy skips out, see. Looks like girls would get on to that, wouldn't you think?

MM: Yes.

EA: Or take a chance like that. Why didn't she take the pill if she's going to chance? I don't understand. Never had pills, or I never heard of them.

MM: You never heard of anybody ever using anything like birth control?

EA: Well, my sister used to make something with cocoa butter, but I don't know if that worked or not. She had two boys. I never did that.

MM: Well, did your husband handle the money in your marriage?

EA: Yes, more or less.

MM: More or less. Did you sit down and make decisions with him if you had to decide something?

EA: Well, he ended up making most of the decisions. But I was so much younger. I just a kid compared to him, see. You know how that would go. He's older, he knows it all, see.

MM: What about when you got older? Say when you were 35 and he was...he would have been 50 then, wouldn't he?

EA: Well, I know when he got so sickly, see, that he wasn't able to get a job. He was a plumber then. He took up plumbing. But he didn't have a car. He didn't want a car. He was afraid he'd kill somebody. Can you imagine that? He never killed nobody. He didn't want a car because he might get mad, see. Some people get mad, have a temper. Someone wouldn't get out of his way. He might run over them or something. Well, I don't know, but that's what he thought or not. He was afraid he might kill somebody. But I figured that. Some people out in a car, you seen them, smart alecks. Why, he'd just probably run right into them.

MM: He had quite a temper.

EA: Yes, he had a good temper.

MM: You seem pretty independent, like you wouldn't let anybody boss you around too much so I don't suspect that he did. Didn't you put your input in, or...?

EA: Oh, yes, when I had something to say, I did. But if he'd get too loud, I'd watch out, see. Dorothy wouldn't let me argue with him. She'd, "Ma, Ma, be quiet." Imogene'd take my part, and we'd both fight him, see! But Dorothy'd get in, and Frankie, since he was born. If Freddie'd get loud, he'd start screaming, and that'd shut everything up, see. Well, I said, "See, now you've got little Frankie fussing. Why you have to get so loud."

Well, he's the boss, you see, "I can be loud, shout." Like the king of the world, I guess.

MM: Did that make you mad?

EA: Well, no, I don't get mad. I have this disposition. I don't get mad regardless. Even if they curse and swear, I wouldn't curse and swear back. You know, I don't believe in that. I wasn't raised like that. I've been a Christian since I was 13 years old, and you don't do that. You are trying to follow Christ. For example of it, nobody would notice it I think because it's impossible to be perfect, you know, you say something or do something then just being joking, say

something you wish you hadn't said. I've done that, probably, but it's too late, you can't call it back. I try to be careful and not call anybody a fat slob or nothing that would hurt them and me too, and there's no sense of it. Even if they were and I didn't like them or nothing, even if they give themselves...There's my phone.

[End of Side A]

[Side B]

MM: Did you have any women friends who lived around here?

EA: Oh, yes. One's in a nursing home at, let's see, West Haven Harbor or West Haven or something. One girlfriend lives at...somewhere. We phone, see. I've never been to the place where she lives. She calls me, and we talk for an hour. She's 80, too. In the '80s, we are old, and she walks with a cane. I was surprised when I went to her sister's funeral to see what a sad shape Beatrice is in. She's still going good!

MM: Did you know her in high school, or...?

EA: Yes, we graduated 60 years ago together, same as this other one. No, she was one year ahead of me. She was my good friend.

MM: You played basketball in high school?

EA: Yes, we had a basketball team.

MM: Did you have a pretty good time?

EA: Oh, yes a lot of fun. A lot more fun than dancing, because dancing (unintelligible), that kind of stuff. See, I had boyfriends, see, but we didn't get close—just friends. Good friends. One come to see me when Imogene was two months old.

MM: Oh, great.

EA: He came to the shop and got my address. I said, "Well, now, you don't want to be single all your life, do you? Why don't you get married? Don't want to live alone all your life." I guess that's what I said. So, finally he got married. He married a school teacher and...

MM: Most schoolteachers would quit working if they got married, didn't they?

EA: I think so. But this schoolteacher here that he married, she lost her husband in the war. He was a soldier. He was a marine, this boy. He was about 17, 18. He just quit school and joined the marines, didn't graduate. Stayed with it for years. When he come back, all the girls was married. He was popular with the girls, too, see. He was nice, you know, friendly and full of fun. He'd pinch some of the girls. I said, "Bob, how come you pinch too hard?"

"I's just playing, teasing, see."

Josey got tears in her eyes. He'd pinch so hard. He said, "Well, you noticed I never pinched you." Oh, I'd scream. I couldn't have took it. I can hardly take it, him pinching other girls. They'd

come at him. I didn't wrestle with them or scuffle. Whether he's trying to get rid of them or something. I don't know. I would have quit in a hurry, wouldn't you?

MM: Yes.

EA: I don't take not pinching or slapping from nobody. I stand back. I get out of the way if I can.

MM: They wouldn't do it.

EA: Yes, I wouldn't stand for that kind of stuff.

MM: Well, your husband was a plumber, and what else did he do?

EA: Well, he was a foreman when I met him in Portland before. He was working, anyhow. His foundation or foreman at the Foundation Shipyard. Machinist foreman with all those big things.

MM: He was out of work during the Depression.

EA: Yes, there was no work. When the shipyards closed, that ended the machinists, so then he went into plumbing.

MM: When did the shipyards close?

EA: Forty-five.

MM: So he was around the house, pretty much, during the Depression.

EA: Yes, and he always worked nights when he did work, so, plumbing again, when he did that.

MM: Did you like having him around the house?

EA: I was used to it because he always worked nights, you see. He'd get home at two o'clock in the night, see. A car would be standing in front of the house. I didn't know what car was out there so I'd go and see, and he wants to see where that car went, too. It was the neighbor girl and her boyfriend. Instead of parking in front of her house, he'd park in front of my house.

MM: Trying to get you in trouble.

EA: Then it looked like some fellow was here, see, and it wasn't. Now, Fred got mad and went over and told him, "Now, don't you park by our house anymore. You park in front of your own house." Put a stop to that. But you had to watch, see, because he left and she was mad. She's got a boyfriend. I know she took in a roomer once. My neighbor across the street said, "What's

that car doing at your house all the time? Throwing cigarettes and all kinds of things out there all the time."

"Now, don't you get mad at my roomer, or he'll leave me. I'm trying to make some money."

She said, "I was just curious to know what that car is doing here."

But, I'd never take another roomer. You know what happened. He turned out to be an ex-convict on parole. What is left to think...I locked my door anyhow, because I didn't know him. He'd come to fix the TV, and he was looking for a room. I said, "Well, I can rent you a room." I was afraid to put an ad in the paper, afraid I'd get a crook or a mean man, see. I figured, a mean man wouldn't be...a convict, give him a job and work, see, be in and out of it.

MM: But you never had any trouble with him?

EA: Well, sure. No, I never had a bit of trouble. Nice fellow. Never did invite him for a cup of coffee or nothing. I never tried to get friendly. I just was nice to him.

MM: He just stayed here. He didn't eat here.

EA: No, I couldn't board anybody. They'd eat you out of house and home. I never could do that. Everybody paid what it's worth. So he gave me 25 dollars for the room for a month. Come in after work, go up to his room, go to bed. Come in about nine o'clock. Well, one night he didn't come home, and the cops come looking for him. I said, "Well, I don't know where he's at. He didn't come home."

They searched his bed upstairs and going through his things and, "His address, you know, is post office box 1,000. You know what that is, don't you?"

"No, I don't know."

"Well, that's [Pendleton] State Prison"—Washington, or Oregon, or somewhere—"You didn't know there's a Penitentiary up there, did you?"

"How would I know," I said. "I just know he was a TV man, and he kept my TV always fixed and everything for nothing extra. He paid his room."

Well, that ended that. They took him. They caught him. What he was doing was stealing cars, giving them to some pal that he met in the penitentiary before, when he was young, or when he was in. They got to stealing cars. Go up to Salem or somewhere and steal a car, and then they'd pick it up in Washington and sell it. It was so long, and he was checking on us so much that this Elmer started running. Then they caught him. They knew that he was guilty. They'd change the license plates, see, but they got suspicious someway and they caught him. But the

fellow that was with him got away. He come to see if he'd come back and I say, "No, he didn't make it. Where was he?" The cop told me what he was doing. He never stole anything around here.

MM: That's good.

EA: Well, I didn't have anything, and I was home all the time with Frank, you see. I wasn't gone much. So he wouldn't have a chance to search what I had. A man wouldn't want any of the junk that I got. They wouldn't want it. Unless they owned a secondhand store, or something. I didn't take another roomer. I learned that lesson. Scared—careful with anybody that was crooked or anything. My sister came in from Omaha that same night, and I was so glad. I didn't know...I was so glad to see because he didn't know either one of us.

MM: Was your husband around then?

EA: No, he was dead. He'd been dead a while. I was trying to make a little extra money, you see. I was baby-sitting and selling Christmas cards and 25 dollars for the room. Of course there's the bed and the bathroom up there and everything, but for 25 dollars that wasn't so bad. He stayed about six months, and he was doing good. He fixed TV and had a painting job somewhere, I don't know what he was painting, because his shoes were all paint. He was doing good, now why did he have to go stealing, see?

Then he had to go back, and his clothes was all here and everything. He wrote to me when he got out, now, could I mail him his clothes. We boxed them all up, and he had pennies laying all on his dresser. I gathered them all up and everything I could think of, you know. The cops went through everything and under the mattress and all under the bed, and I didn't know what they was looking for. What would they be hunting for?

MM: I don't know.

EA: What money he had he had on him, I suppose.

MM: That, so, your husband died when he was 70? You were about 55 then, weren't you?

EA: Yes.

MM: When you were raising your children, did you make all their clothes and everything?

EA: I made everything but their stockings and shoes. I made the coats and the hats and BVDs, and the regular BVDs.

MM: What are those?



EA: Underwear, you know. Unbutton the flap in the back, see.

MM: That must have kept you very busy.

EA: Oh, I was busy. I'm not at the sewing machine, but I still got it. I made coats, winter coats, dresses, petticoats. Everything but stockings and shoes.

MM: When did you start buying those things? Do you still make them for yourself, or...?

EA: No, I don't sew anymore. I'm too old. I got more clothes than I know what to do with. I got that package over there, the retarded children I called up, see if they want some. I suppose they might want it for a garage sale. (unintelligible)

MM: Do you remember when you could buy clothes, and you didn't have to make them? You could buy things like soap. When did it happen that you could start buying those things?

EA: Oh, well, we always bought those things, but then we hit the Depression. That's when you made your soap and everything.

MM: You had been buying those things when you were married—buying clothes—but during the Depression is when you made everything.

EA: Yes. None of the kids clothes, though. I'd buy my dresses and things like that.

MM: Did you like making those things?

EA: Oh, yes. I worked in the miller shop once. The girl was real young. She fired her help. Said the girl was stealing. She ended up firing her, you see. Said she was stealing. I knew she hadn't. Good girl, nice girl. Now why the old German woman go and do that? It was for credit, I don't know. She paid her a little something, maybe she wasn't. I don't remember.

MM: Maybe she wanted you because she could pay you less.

EA: In fact, I don't know if she paid me anything. I forget. She must have paid me something. But she was a miller and had to be paid, see. Now why didn't she tell her, "Now, I don't need you anymore." Because, actually truth is the girl would take a bolt or something, you know. I noticed it going through the stuff, and I said, "Here's this ribbon that you said the girl took. It's right here. It come back. Come back." She said there was nothing to come back on. See, she just took it, and we couldn't find it.

MM: That's rotten.

EA: But the girl was gone, and I went to the bus with her because I knew she was a good girl. I

couldn't see through that kind of...That's how crooked people are. She stole nothing from this old lady. I bought my piano from her. She sold me a piano, so we buy it.

MM: Do you play?

EA: A little bit.

MM: Did you have lessons when you were a girl?

EA: No, I had lessons when I got the piano. But Fred wanted me just to sit down and play without a lesson. I can't do that. I'm not that smart. We have to practice. He didn't like to hear that practicing, you know. Just kind of fiddling around. So, I just quit. He should have bragged about me, "That's sounds pretty good. Keep it up. Keep it up. Play something, play something."

MM: You have to learn before you can play.

EA: Yes, I had lessons nine months. Right now, I don't know too much about it. But I can play church songs and some things that now I practice now and again. My hands are so crippled up from yard work. I don't know if I can wrist it out. You can't work out and be a musician and everything all the time. You have to just do what you can, and I have to keep the yard up because I like a pretty yard. I like to see everything's nice.

MM: Have you always spent a lot of time in the garden?

EA: Yes. I cleared all that out. That used to be wild raspberries, rosebushes. You know the little wild roses? All down the front. You know, this side was already raked. I had to tear that all out. I guess that's after he died because I don't know what, but we didn't tear it before. We just couldn't see no sense in letting that grow there like that.

MM: So you worked out in the yard a lot and took care of Frank?

EA: Yes.

MM: You said once you thought taking care of Frank was one of your main jobs.

EA: Well, it is. That's a 24 hour a day job. That's why it take me all before noon to get him shaved and his pants changed and the stink off and just move him, you know. My neighbor come visit me one before noon just last week. Dorothy was here. She fixed my hair and put it up. I got it cut. I like it better this way. It was too long, kind of shaggy. She just cut it off and put it all up. Tina, she's coming tomorrow, and so, this woman come about 10 o'clock. I was her proxy...the little one's proxy grandma at school across the street for two years now. Why she coming before noon is just...I didn't tell her. I can't be seeing anybody before noon. It's all taken.

MM: You're really busy.

EA: Yes. I do well with the phone. I tell him now—forbidden for Frankie. I'd just let him go because it's rude to be told, see. Sometimes they call, you know. I have another friend calls. She moved. She wanted me to know where she's at. My old neighbor. I didn't go to school with her. Just a neighbor. Her mother stayed with me. I baby-sat her when they went on vacations. I'd baby-sit the grandma because the grandma come out to help take care of Frankie when he was born. Fred had already gone and got her when I come home that night, here they was sitting talking. I said you didn't have to get her till the morning, but he did. He went right and called her, and here she comes and they started talking. She was so fun, and the little girl she was ten and Dorothy eight. They kept house for her. That's when Frankie was born.

MM: Right, when you brought him home.

EA: No, before he was in the hospital—before in the hospital. What did we do after we got home? I don't remember. It seems like another friend come and help. She's dead now. There's all the people who'll help if you're friendly to them. If you're a friend to them. This other woman I took in, she didn't have any home. Over there at the Hock Yard. They both got stuck on my second husband. You know, I've been married two times.

MM: Oh, I didn't know you were married twice.

EA: Oh, yes, my name is Herman, see. We went to Stanley at the Hock Yard, and he knew these two women. One was divorced and the other one was, I think, separated or divorced. Anyway, neither of them had a man, and they both got stuck on Stanley. They got to fussing over Stanley.

MM: Were you married to Stanley then?

EA: No—wasn't. He was Fred's friend. Fred and him picked hops together. I had to pick with his friend Duke. I never could see through that craziness. But that kind of man was bigger pickers than me. I was kind of slow. I better pick more. They move fast, I guess. So I picked with Duke. Duke's dead too now. Stanley's not. He's still with us.

So this one, the old ladies gotten into a fight. I went up and packed her suitcase and moved in with me and Fred. She had no place to go. I guess the old lady was kicking her out because she thought she stood between her and Stanley. Stanley didn't want either one of them. One was the big fat lady, and the other one—Izzy he called her—she looked just like a comic valentine. I felt sorry for her and couldn't help but help her. She had big feet and big knuckles. Big boned and ugly face, big nose, and skinny—just like a rail. She had a bad heart she said. Her timepiece, she'd call it. She had a bad timepiece.

I took her in and she lived with us. She looked in the paper and got a job housekeeping. She'd go house-keep, and I'd pack her suitcase and get her someplace to work. She worked, and she finally got married to a fellow who lived in the dairy where Fred worked. That didn't work out, because when she asked for money he'd spit in her hand. She just let him. She got out and got her a job. If she can't have no money by being married, why, she won't be married, see.

MM: Did you agree with her position on that?

EA: Yes, and he'd come back and complain about her. I said, "Yes, if you'd been good to her, you'd still had her." So he never argued to me about her no more. No woman's going to be treated like that. She's going to be doing the housework and the cooking and washing and everything? He just wanted a housekeeper. But she just left. She didn't divorce him. When she died, he had to bury her. So, that was the end of that.

She left me all her belongings. When I got to the hospital, no, to the home where she'd been a working, some friend had seen me coming, and she wanted me to have everything. But all she had was enough goods to make the two little girls a dress for school out of them. Imogene was six years old, the other one was four. She had two new school dresses. I said, "Where's your watch?" I didn't see no watch. "Where's your new blue shoes?" Nobody'd seen them. They was too big for me, but I think they could fit somebody else. You see, the nurses where she stayed had cleaned all that out. What they wanted. All that was left was just what nobody wanted. That's the way that happens.

MM: Well, tell me, when did you get married the second time?

EA: Let's see, '64.

MM: [Nineteen] sixty-four.

EA: I think it was.

MM: His name was Stanley Allen.

EA: My name is Allen now, see. It was Herman, half the people calls me Herman half the time.

MM: So how did you get along with Stanley? Did that work out pretty good?

EA: Well, it'd been fine if he didn't have so many kids. Instead of help me, he'd go help the kids all the time. After nine years, I said, he couldn't. He'd get out of here quick when I'd be with Frank. I'd hear the door shut. He was gone. I'd said, "Oh, there go the Birdie's house. Oh, they're in his house." Because I wouldn't move with Frankie, and I said, "You move in here." So his boy was living with him. That's one reason he got married. So he could get away from his boy. Got married and moved in. So then he thought it would be nicer for him to live in here. I

thought I was doing a good job within the home. But he didn't work in this yard. He wanted to work in his yard going to pieces. He had to go trim the hedge, clean the basement. You know, the paper, they would have burned the house down. That worried him. I said, "Well, you just better go over there and stay." I just had it up to here.

MM: So you separated.

EA: Yes, we just separated. I'm not divorced, just separated. I couldn't see no sense in it. I took the money and got me a stove. Five hundred dollars in the bank every year, but he wouldn't put my name on it, see, just his. Unless you have some money, they won't cash your check. So I didn't like that. That isn't right.

MM: No.

EA: I said, "They'll cash his check when he goes in. When I go in with my check, 'You don't have any money in here.'" So we put this 500 in, but they said to me, "It's not in your name. See, it's in his."

So I said, "That doesn't get me through. That isn't right. You're not going to do anything for me anyhow. So, I just won't bother."

Let him go, take care of his business. Take everything out. Took the freezer and everything. I had to go buy a new freezer. My brother said, "Now, you shouldn't have given back anything that he'd put in here new after nine years." I should have kept the freezer. I wanted nothing to do with it. Take everything and get out. I don't want anything. I'll get by somehow. Frank and me have our stuff. See, we can live by that. We don't live by you anyhow. So, that's how I got rid of him. Not rid of him, he's 91 years old. Yes, he's got a housekeeper.

MM: You were pretty glad to have him go.

EA: Well, yes, if he's just going to be a handicap there's no reason. If he's not going to help me those nine years...We'd have had the place fixed up and everything.

MM: Right.

EA: Instead of helping me, he'd go help everybody else.

MM: Right.

EA: This one old woman he went and helped. She had her leg off, and I felt sorry for her. I would've helped her, too, if I lived over there. She called up, and she wanted him to come over and the dog got sick. Had to fix a place for the dog. (unintelligible) Another woman called up, and he had to go dig up her deck—her garage for his neighbor. He had neighbors over there he

had to go help. I said, "Just go stay over there." His neighbor called here once before, and I told her. She always called him every week when he was here. She called every week to see how Stanley was. She only calls me at Christmas or something like that. She didn't care about me, it was just Stanley she was talking to. I don't know if she was stuck on him or what.

MM: Okay, well, do you remember when women started voting? Do you?

EA: No, I don't remember that.

MM: Did you start to vote?

EA: Oh, yes.

MM: What did you think about that? Did you think that women should be able to vote?

EA: Oh, yes, I'm always in there. That's why I got a scholarship. Always in there, and basketball and everything—teaching and what not.

MM: Did you ever go to any meetings about women voting, or anything?

EA: No, I never did any meetings. I'm not a politician that way. I got my work laid out for me here. I can't go chasing around to do anything else.

MM: But you started voting...?

EA: Oh, yes. Went and voted about this...Sorry, before I went to vote my daughter come tearing through to take me. Well, I went to the wrong booth. Got in there. Didn't know any of the ladies. They said, "You aren't registered here." I didn't ask Imogene to take me this last time. I could have walked up there. I never did tell Imogene yet. I didn't vote. She said, "Ma, I didn't take you to..." Aww, get into all that very much. I'll tell her one of these days. That's the way I grew up. I meant good. My neighbors didn't go. They think they's no good. There's nobody running worth any good. Are you for Kennedy?

MM: Oh, I'm not sure, really.

EA: Oh, I'm not.

MM: You don't like him?

EA: No, I never voted for John Kennedy. Them Kennedys, they's just big Catholics. Catholics would take over the country now if they could. So, I don't vote for the Kennedys. I didn't vote for Nixon, either. I didn't vote on that one. Let's see, no, I didn't vote on that one. Kennedy was running against...he beat Nixon, didn't he?

MM: Yes, yes.

EA: I didn't vote on that. I didn't want either one of them, so I didn't vote. Pat vote for Nixon, but see, she didn't know anything either.

MM: That's right.

EA: She's sure she don't. She didn't want Kennedy. She's not for Kennedys either. Nobody I know is except Ms. Stone's husband down here. He's for Kennedy. He don't know he's Catholic, though.

MM: What's a matter with Catholics?

EA: Look how they're fighting over there in Ireland. Them Catholics is trying to make all of Ireland Catholic. They're fighting and fighting and fighting. Them Irish, they're not going to be Catholic. They got their own way of looking. What kind of religion is that, that fights? You're supposed to love one another. Be kind to one another. Catholics don't believe that. Look how the Kennedys have harmed that Carter. He's making it hard for Carter. That's all that they're doing.

Hard for them people in Iran to hear them hostages. See, they think, oh, Carter, he's on there, or Kennedy's for them. Just for the Iranians. Set up his own government. He's really a traitor, I think. Kennedy could do that, still hollering. I turned it off. I couldn't stand it. When he comes on the horn, raving and ranting. There Carter has given his whole life to do everything he can. He's a good man. He's got no bad reputation.

MM: Yes, well, I'll talk to you about that after we're done. (laughs)

EA: We don't want no politics in this?

MM: What did you think about women running for political office?

EA: Oh, that's okay. We'd be smarter than them, I think. They're not as crooked. They don't change as much, the wives in politics. Congressmen's wives are all nervous before...Mrs. Nixon was a drunk. I liked her, but not Nixon. She couldn't do a thing with him, I think. I would have straightened him out.

MM: Well, were there very many Indians around here?

EA: I never saw any Indians.

MM: What about in Estacada?

EA: Well, no Indians.

MM: Didn't have too much contact with them?

EA: No, Indians, no. Years ago there were no colored people, but now they have a colored teacher out there.

MM: What do you think about that?

EA: I think that's okay.

MM: It's okay?

EA: I'm not against anybody. If you're crooked and dishonest, I don't...I think we need a whole new congress. They got Duncan out. They got him out for good. I'm tired of those same old men. It's the same old thing. You can't get nowhere, and you have this big business and you divvy it up, you see. I don't like it. They're starting to get that Pritney Van Alman (?) out, too. He's all been outs instead of working with the president. Why don't they get in there and help him? He's got a big job. His own congress. I want that congress out of there. Time to get them out, too. That was pretty good for Bob Levin (?) to go. James Candit (?) never been in Congress or nothing. He just went out and worked, and people want somebody like that can get in and do something besides play politics. That old congressman, Wilbur Mills, chasing at that girl. It makes me sick to think what congressmen we got. They raise their own salaries. I'd make a different law if I was in there. They would be able to raise their own salaries. The people would do it or get them out.

And they vote Wilbur Mills back in, yes. They forgive him. He went right back to that girl. Shamed to be in politics anymore. He and his wife, both alcoholics, and they got together and both quit and now they're back on. But he's out of politics. Why didn't he behave? Once they get elected, they don't know what to do. That's the problem.

MM: That's probably it.

Were you for Prohibition?

EA: Sure. Sure, I didn't join the W.C.P. [Women's Christian Temperance Union?] because I didn't have time.

MM: Did you join any active women's clubs, or anything?

EA: No.



MM: Too busy.

EA: I worked in the church always.

MM: Do you remember if there were any prostitutes in Portland when you were here?

EA: I don't know. I never heard of it.

MM: You never heard of it.

EA: I suppose there were, though. I never asked Fred if there were. But I suppose.

MM: Do you remember if any young girls got in trouble when you were in high school, and what happened to them if they did?

EA: I don't...one girl was pretty fresh. But I don't know for sure whether she got pregnant or not. If she did, she went and got rid of it. I know my brother told me she was camped out in Eagle Creek. Had a tent, see. The boys would go in at night and visit her, and her mother never knew anything about it. So I shouldn't wonder whether it was true. She must have got rid of it. Imagine that. My brother told me that. Because he would watch them go, see. So, she was boy crazy, but she might not have been pregnant. I don't know what happened, anyway.

According to my brother, now, and the younger brother, that's the two that was born after we come to Oregon. They're the only two that's living, see. They were born out in Estacada, see. My little brothers. Well, 72 and 75. That's how old they are. They're not little, but I was 13 years old when they was little, see. George was just seven and Jeff was three. I had to babysit them and help with them, you know. I always called them little brothers. Called them little brothers, but they're way bigger than me. Six foot and that. One wasn't six foot. Frankie looks just like my youngest brother to me anyway. That's just the way he looks. He don't look like his daddy. The girls, Dorothy and Imogene, look more like Fred. Anyway, they got all their good features—the girls—that made them good-looking. They got the good features. So, if you do that, and you have kids that get their folks' all bad features, that's really pitiful when you do that.

MM: Yes. What year did you get married the second time, and what year did you separate? Do you remember that?

EA: Well, it was '64 when we got married. When was the big blow? All the trees blown down. That was '62, wasn't it? No, I remember we went to the hospital to see Rusty Nails. You remember Rusty Nails, don't you? He always rode in the parades, and he preaches. He's preaching up Stanley's boy, and see now, his boy was born. Now it's just an armory. They ought to take the step off. Just look at him now. Wow. That's what we wanted to take that step off. But, let's see, he was born in '62, and it broke the window out at the hospital where she was

having that baby. Scared her half to death. And he's, yes...No, he was born...He was married then before then.

MM: About '60?

EA: Sixty-four. Maybe it was '60.

MM: How did you feel about being separated? Were you afraid that anybody would look down on you for that or anything? Did you worry about that?

EA: I didn't care if they did. I got to keep up this yard and everything by myself and him just chasing around. You could ride the ten cents. I just needed enough to ride the bus. I found ten cents outside in the yard. I brought it in and set it in the window. I said, "Where did my ten cents go?"

"Oh, I lost that." See. Just that stingy. That gets me. Stuff like that. I like to see people be honest and strict and patient and straight-shooting, see.

MM: You got along a lot better without him.

EA: Well, because he was gone. Sometimes he'd be gone for days. Fishing. "I'm going fishing and if I get a fish, I'll be right home." He got a fish, and he never come home for four days. Divide it all up, and I got me some frozen fish. I wanted fresh fish.

I said, "Don't tell me nothing like that again because your word's no good. You didn't keep your word."

"Well, I changed my mind."

"You're not supposed to change your mind when you give your word. 'I'll be right home.' You're supposed to do that, you know. You're supposed to keep your word. Don't give me your word because you're not going to keep it, so why...I can't believe what you're going to do."

He come home, I wouldn't believe anything he said because I don't know what he's been doing. Fishing and feeding the yard and trimming the hedge. Oh, goodness. But I was trying to think when we was married. Let's see, he left...We've been married 15 years this August. Now, how long ago was that?

MM: Fifteen years this August? That would mean about 1965 when you were married because it's 1980 now.

EA: It was '64 then. But then when was the big blow?

MM: I don't know. I didn't live here then. I don't know.

EA: I thought it was '64 when I was married. Yes, don't you remember? It was as big as a hurricane. I thought it was '62, but that would be before we was married. It wasn't because it was when he was born, and we went to the hospital to see him, Kenny. He's 17, now, isn't he?

MM: I don't know.

EA: Let's see. Stanley's wife died—

[End of Interview]