

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #344 - Sides A & B

Subject: Eva Retherford - With Video

Place: Retherford Home - Crane, Oregon

Date: July 9, 1993

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and we're at the home of Eva Retherford in Crane, Oregon. Today's date is July the 9th, 1993. And Barbara Lofgren is with me, and we will be videoing this afterwards. The tape and the video will be numbered 344.

EVA RETHERFORD: Retherford, or was Arnold, I suppose you would want Eva Arnold Retherford.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And where were you born?

EVA: I was borned in Condon, Condon, Oregon at my aunts, Betty Holebos' place.

DOROTHEA: Okay, can you tell us something about that? What kind of a town is Condon?

EVA: I don't know, I've never been back. I was three months old when we left.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA LOFGREN: And when were you born?

EVA: 1914, the 14th day of July 1914.

BARBARA: It's almost your birthday then.

EVA: Yes, just about. Oh yes.

BARBARA: And what were your parent's names?

EVA: Ida Metcalf was my mother's name, and Oscar Arnold was my dad's name.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

EVA: Well he had a bunch of brothers, but I don't think there is a one of them left. There was Hoyt Arnold, and there was Buck Arnold. And then my mother, she had --- Millard Newell --- mother, Eva, was her sister, and then I said Betty Holebos. And then there was another sister, Dora Cranmer and there was one boy, his name was Bud Cranmer, but he is dead. And I think all of them are dead now.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

EVA: No.

DOROTHEA: You were an only child?

EVA: Yes, that's all. I've got two sisters and a brother buried over in Mike Acton's field. I don't know whereabouts they are at, or nobody else knows.

DOROTHEA: Oh, so you did have brothers and sisters?

EVA: Uh huh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: But they didn't live.

EVA: No.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, okay. And when your parents came to the county, had they lived here before, or ---

EVA: I don't know. My grandmother Metcalf and them, I think they came from, I don't know, I think they came from Missouri, I don't know for sure.

DOROTHEA: And did they settle in Drewsey?

EVA: At Drewsey. I don't know whereabouts. They used to live, my grandmother, and I think she was married to Judge Robertson then, I'm not sure. And they lived up there where Mike Acton's place, where Bentz lives. And I was three years old when my mother and dad separated. And then she worked in Burns at the old Burns Hotel for quite awhile, and then she married Bill Miller. And ---

BARBARA: So you lived with your mother?

EVA: Uh huh, yes. No, I was thirteen years old before I ever knew my dad, or anything about him.

BARBARA: So you didn't live in Drewsey then, you were living in Burns?

EVA: No, I lived at Pine Creek, and when --- we was only in Burns just a little while. And then when mother married Bill, why then of course we lived at Pine Creek. And then he used to have the place where O'Toole's live.

And then my mother got sick and had to go to Ontario to the hospital, and that is when I met my dad, because my dad had to come and take, you know, take care of me. And Mrs. Goodman took care of me.

And then I was sent to a Catholic School in Baker, and I was in the eighth grade. And of course they didn't have high school then in Baker, so then I was sent to Boise. And then I went to Boise for a couple of years, and then my mother died. And my dad brought me back here, and I lived with Myrtle and "Rink" Myers in Drewsey until, and then I went to school here in Crane. And then I got married.

DOROTHEA: And what was your dad's name?

EVA: Oscar, they called him "Leppy". You've probably --- I imagine there has been old time buckaroos up around your place?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EVA: And they called him "Leppy" Arnold.

DOROTHEA: But his name was Oscar?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay. And what all did your dad do, was he a ranch hand, or ---

EVA: He was just a buckaroo.

DOROTHEA: Just a buckaroo.

EVA: Yeah, he worked for Dean Goodman for twenty-two years, and then he retired.

And he remarried again and moved to Winnemucca. And I don't know, we never kept in touch.

BARBARA: So it was a little hard for him to take care of a girl when he was out buckarooing someplace.

EVA: Oh yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So that's why you went to boarding school.

EVA: Uh huh. And then when he got sick --- we never, we really never got along, we were too much alike. (Laughter) Oh, he was something else again.

DOROTHEA: So did he have sisters and brothers, you say Naomi Arnold is some relation.

EVA: Yes, she is married to one of his nephews.

DOROTHEA: Nephews, okay.

EVA: Uh huh, Dick Arnold.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

EVA: You've probably heard of them.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

EVA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So where did you meet Paul, you married Paul Retherford. Where did you meet Paul?

EVA: I say, you know, at that time they didn't have a dormitory for kids, and they lived in people's homes. And I met him, I lived with his mother. She lived over here in a house, oh right across on the other road over there, she used to live there. And that's where I met him.

DOROTHEA: In Drewsey, or in Crane?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Drewsey?

BARBARA: No, Crane.

DOROTHEA: In Crane?

EVA: In Crane, yeah. And then when school was out, why I worked for Alvon Baker in the hay field out to Frenchglen one summer. And then that winter why I got married. I wanted to take nurse's training, but my dad liked to had a tizzy. Oh, a decent girl wasn't a nurse.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

EVA: How them old timers used to be.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I've heard that story before.

BARBARA: I don't know who was supposed to be nurses and take care of people then, huh?

EVA: Oh, I guess if you was sixty or seventy years old it would have been all right.

BARBARA: Oh, I see.

DOROTHEA: But not a young girl, huh?

EVA: But not, oh no, heavenly days, no. Why if my dad would see the way the young girls are nowadays, he would have a heart attack. DOROTHEA: So what kind of a ceremony did you have when you married Paul? Did you just go to Winnemucca and get married? Or did you have a ---

EVA: No, he had a sister, Mabel Hawk, she lived in Burns and had a place, and we were married at her home, is where we were married.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Did you have relatives and friends there?

EVA: Uh huh. None of mine, they were all Paul's.

DOROTHEA: And did you have a honeymoon?

EVA: No, we went to, we come back to Crane, and he went to work hauling wood for the

Crane Store, used to be Crane V.T. Store, Vale Store. And he hauled wood for the store and they sold it. And I lived with his mother. Well he did too, of course.

DOROTHEA: What was his mother's name?

EVA: Winnie Retherford. You probably know, Mick and John Gogenola. They used to have the Elkhorn for years.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

EVA: He was a Basco, she was his youngest sister.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I see, uh huh.

EVA: And she was married to John, and they had the Basco, or the Elkhorn, and then he bought a place in Bend, and they moved to Bend.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And Paul had some brothers did he?

EVA: Yeah, Kenneth Retherford, you've probably heard of him, the barber?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

EVA: Well he was a barber. And then there was Jim, he was the oldest, he lived in John Day. I think he was a garbage man or something. And then there was Raymond, he worked in the, oh that outfit that makes paper towels and stuff in California. And then Phil, another younger brother, why he was just a ranch hand. And his oldest sister Mabel, why she lived down at Florence. She had a lake down there and had cabins and stuff. And then his oldest sister Vera, she lived in Washington. And then Mick, she was the young one, her and I was about the same age.

DOROTHEA: So that was quite a large family.

EVA: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EVA: And she had --- there was ten of them altogether, and she had lost one when it was born. The oldest one died when it was born. Yeah, that was quite a family.

DOROTHEA: So what did his mother do, did you ---

EVA: Well she just worked.

DOROTHEA: As a cook?

EVA: And then her, back then their dad was alive, a big part of the time. I think Paul and I wasn't married yet when he got killed, a horse fell on him. But he just, he worked for wages, he was a buckaroo too.

BARBARA: So how much older was Paul than you?

EVA: Eight years.

BARBARA: Eight years, uh huh.

EVA: Yeah. But he didn't do a very good job of raising me up. (Laughter) I kind of balked on him.

BARBARA: You figured you were part boss too, huh?

EVA: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And so how many children did you have?

EVA: Well I had two that passed away. One, the boy, the oldest one is buried in Burns. And then my youngest daughter that was born dead, she is buried out here at Crane. And then just Jackie.

DOROTHEA: Just Jackie.

EVA: Uh huh. She worked, Jackie worked, her name is Anderson.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EVA: You probably know her.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I know Jackie. And she finally went and got her nurse's degree, didn't she? Is she now a nurse, an R.N., or is she still just a ---

EVA: I don't know, I think she is still just a practitioner.

DOROTHEA: L.P.N., uh huh, okay.

BARBARA: So where did you and your husband move when you left his family home? Where did you go?

EVA: Well we went to Frenchglen; we went to work for Joe Fine. And we went to the Company, at that time Stringer and them, they had the Krumbo, it was a ranch then. And so we was there. And when the buckaroos would come, I would hide in the barn and Paul would cook for them. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You weren't supposed to be there?

EVA: Oh yeah, but I didn't know how to cook.

BARBARA: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Did you learn?

EVA: Oh yes, I learned, you bet.

BARBARA: Mrs. Retherford didn't teach you when you were first married, or living there at the house going to school?

EVA: Oh, I didn't have time to learn to cook.

BARBARA: Oh, you weren't interested?

EVA: No.

BARBARA: When was it that you were married? We forgot to mention the date.

EVA: Well I was married in 1929.

BARBARA: Okay. And then you moved down to Joe Fine's, and worked for Joe Fine when? When was that?

EVA: Oh, I don't know, it must have been about in 1931, '32 in there.

BARBARA: A couple years after then?

EVA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Okay.

EVA: His sister Jim, or sister-in-law and his brother Jim, they lived at the Grain Camp,



and that wasn't too far from Krumbo. And I called Gladys up one time to make a raisin pie, and Gladys told me how to make the pie, but I didn't ask her about the raisins. So I just dumped the raisins in the piecrust, and put the --- (Laughter) And that was kind of a disaster.

BARBARA: Turned out a little hard, I suppose.

EVA: Oh, I learned to cook the hard way.

DOROTHEA: Did you cook on a wood stove?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How do you like cooking on a wood stove?

EVA: Oh yes, things taste --- outside of the ashes, packing the wood in, and packing the ashes out, why everything tastes so much better.

DOROTHEA: A cup of coffee isn't a cup of coffee unless you've had it off of a wood stove. Yeah I agree, I agree.

EVA: Oh yes. But then when Stringer sold Krumbo, why then we went to Buena Vista, and Katie and Bill Harris --- you know Katie?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EVA: Well they was at Buena Vista, and Paul was, went there, and I was there. And that was the first person that ever tried to teach me to cook.

DOROTHEA: Was Katie?

EVA: Uh huh. So she had to go to Burns one day, so she made a bunch of noodles and cut them all up, you know, like you do, but she didn't tell me to unravel them. So I just dumped them in with the chicken. Oh dear --- (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Kind of a gloppy mess?

EVA: Yes, it was. Oh dear.

BARBARA: So when your husband went to the, to work for Fine, did he expect you to be

a cook, or were you hired as a cook?

EVA: Well not, when we first went to work for Joe, no, I didn't, because he had the P Ranch then. And they had a cook there for the men. No, I just lived in Frenchglen.

BARBARA: I see. You didn't live right on the ranch then, you lived in Frenchglen?

EVA: No, huh uh. And then after they started in developing Catlow Valley, why my husband, or Paul moved up there and I lived in a tent while he run a scraper with horses, and built a reservoir and stuff up there. And then he hauled wood, and I lived in a tent down behind the barn. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh dear.

EVA: Oh, it was nice. I had a cook stove and a tent, and it had a floor on it, in it. And then the sides, in the summertime, when it was hot I could roll up the sides of it.

We was out to HL and I had, that was my first job of cooking was out there, on a little old camp stove. It's a good thing the men were good-natured, and they worked and they was hungry so they ate.

DOROTHEA: How many did you cook for?

EVA: I had four. There was four scrapers, and Paul and I then of course. And Jackie was about two years old when we was out there. And I laid down and went to sleep with her on the bed there in the tent, and I knew when it was time to get up, the alarm went off. And I don't know how come, but I looked before I swung off of the bed, and right in the middle of the place was a big old rattlesnake. So when the men come in, I was a sitting in the middle of the bed, and the snake was in the floor, and there wasn't any supper. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: So they had sandwiches or a late dinner, huh?

EVA: They had warmed over beans. They was quite unhappy with me. Paul said, "Well why didn't you climb out of the tent and get a pitch fork?" And I said, "Well I didn't want

to."

BARBARA: He was eyeing you, and you were eyeing him all this time?

EVA: Yes. But I still don't know why I, is this coming off or something (microphone)?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, you dropped it.

EVA: I'll have to quit twisting it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you're pulling it apart here.

EVA: But I don't know yet why I looked before I swung my feet off of that bed. But --- because if I had of, I'd of lit right in the middle of him.

DOROTHEA: It might have been the end of you, huh?

EVA: Well I don't know probably who would have been the scariest, me or the snake.

BARBARA: So did you get to know Joe Fine, can you tell us anything about him?

EVA: Oh yes, I knew Joe real well. He was an awful nice; he was nice to work for. Worked for him a long time.

BARBARA: What kind of a man was he? What did he look like?

EVA: He was real tall, and had --- well do you know Fred Fine?

DOROTHEA: I do, yeah.

EVA: I figured you did. Well he was about like Fred; only he wasn't freckled like Fred. He looked more like Cliff.

DOROTHEA: He was a bigger man than Fred, I think, all around.

EVA: Yes, I think so too. To me now he resembled Cliff more than any of them.

DOROTHEA: And what kind of a person was he to work for?

EVA: Very, very good.

DOROTHEA: How long did you work for him?

EVA: Oh goodness, we must have worked for Joe about twenty-four years.

DOROTHEA: Now can you describe some of the things that you were expected to do?

Was it just buckaroo, or did you herd sheep?

EVA: Well during the war now, when the war was a going on --- well no when the war was going on why we was working for Jenkins then. We went to, we worked for Joe about, oh I don't know, about four years I guess. And then Paul quit and we went to work for Jenkins at Diamond, and we worked there for fourteen years. And during the war years why Jackie and Paul and I done all the buckarooing. We rode for the cows. And then whenever they branded there was men to cook for, and one thing and another, and a kid to take care of, and one thing and another.

And then Joe wanted Paul to come back, so we come back and we worked for him, oh I guess this last time I guess we worked for him about eighteen years, the last time. And then he retired, and then we did too, when he retired.

DOROTHEA: Okay, did you move then, around to different places?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Because I understand you worked at the Lamb Ranch, and the Hunter's Place.

EVA: Yes. In the summertime --- we didn't work; I didn't work at the Hunter, or at the Lamb Ranch. Paul went over there and hayed, but I stayed at the Hunter. Because there was fence builders, and they was a haying up there, and I had to stay and cook up there in the summertime. And then in the fall of the year, after the cows was gathered and moved and everything to Oliver Springs, then we moved to Oliver Springs for winter where we fed the cows, well steers mostly.

DOROTHEA: Now the Hunter Place was probably too bad to get in and out, is that --- was it mud or what?

EVA: Yes. Well mud and snow. And then at that time they didn't have any hay up there, it was just pasture.

DOROTHEA: Now tell us approximately where the Hunter Place is.

EVA: Well do you know where the Circle Bar is? Well you go down out, go down Crane this way, and the Circle Bar is down over the hill, back this way. Well you go on down and then there is a road that turns and goes up, and it's seven miles from the highway to the gate, and it is seven miles from the gate on up to the Hunter, back, it's back up, the Hunter is back up this, back up in the hills.

DOROTHEA: And is there a house there then?

EVA: Uh huh, yeah there is a house.

DOROTHEA: Still, still, does somebody live there now?

EVA: I don't think the Norman Ranches have anybody up there now, I don't think so. I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so Norman Ranches have purchased it?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. How about the Lamb Ranch, now where approximately is it?

EVA: Well when you come down off of Stinkingwater, and you know where that flat is down there where you see a lot of water?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EVA: Well you go a little ways down there and there is a road that turns and goes back up in that canyon. You can see the trees when you're up on the hill.

DOROTHEA: And who has that place now?

EVA: I don't --- oh people from Drewsey.

DOROTHEA: Is that Harris, or I mean --- used to be Glenn Sitz?

EVA: Well I don't know. He had a place, that would be --- the ranches, they had some boys; a bunch of boys, what in the name of time was their name? Anyway, him and his wife are separated. And I guess he just lives on the ranch there by himself.

DOROTHEA: Is that Wilber's?

EVA: Wilber, that's it.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

EVA: Uh huh. I don't think he has married again.

DOROTHEA: No, I think he is, he may have someone there, but I don't think they are married.

EVA: Yeah. I never knew him and Catherine was separated for, just here lately. And I guess they have been separated a long time.

DOROTHEA: Oh really, huh, I didn't realize that either.

BARBARA: So you just lived mainly in the quarters on the ranches where you worked then?

EVA: Yes, uh huh. Yeah, I just ---

BARBARA: So you didn't have to have too many "things" then, you just packed up your clothes and went, is that about it?

EVA: Yes. I've always laughed that, you see these girls now when they get married, they have showers, you know, and they get everything. Well when we got married, Paul's mother gave me two forks, two knives, and two spoons, and three big spoons, and a butcher knife, and hot cake turner. (Laughter) And a frying pan, I had a frying pan and one kettle. And so that's what ---

BARBARA: So you were ready to go.

EVA: I was ready to go.

DOROTHEA: So when you had to move, that's all you had to pack up?

EVA: Yeah, just my clothes. In them days, you didn't have very many of them.

DOROTHEA: So did you work then with Paul and buckarood?

EVA: Yes. I didn't so much for Joe. But when we worked for Jenkins I did. I buckarood

and cooked and ---

DOROTHEA: And who Jenkins was this?

EVA: Dick, Dick and Tommy Jenkins.

DOROTHEA: Dick and Tommy.

EVA: I bet you knew them.

DOROTHEA: No, I'm not familiar with a lot of these people. I know --- is there a young Dick?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay, I know him. But I don't know them very well.

EVA: Yeah, yeah. Helen still lives at the Diamond Ranch. But of course Dick and Tommy is gone.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EVA: And I don't know whether Mary is dead or not. Mary Haines, you probably knew her.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. I don't know either. Did you do part of the haying, or any of that, or did you just cook for ---

EVA: No, I just cooked.

DOROTHEA: You just cooked.

EVA: And the summer before, well when, after I got through school the first time, I run a hay rake out to Frenchglen for Alvon Baker. You knew them now, the Bakers?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, yeah, know all of them.

EVA: Uh huh. I worked for them, and I got fifty cents a day, and my I thought I was rich. Yeah, I had two old horses and a hay rake.

DOROTHEA: So you knew how to harness up a horse?

EVA: Oh yeah, I could harness up a horse, milk a cow, oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Tell us about some of the relatives that you have. Do you have, are you related to several people around here?

EVA: Well not right around here. Now Laddie Clark, do you know them?

DOROTHEA: I heard of him.

EVA: Well he is a cousin. And then you know Ann of course. She is, that's Naomi's daughter.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EVA: And she is a cousin.

DOROTHEA: And what is her name now?

EVA: Clark, she is married to Norm Clark, Harry Clark's daughter.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

EVA: And oh, let me see, oh I don't know, pretty near all the old timers has died off. I'm about to run out of relation. And, yeah, pretty near all of them --- Now the Miller boys, why we used to be cousins, or brother and sisters by marriage.

DOROTHEA: Now let's see, that Miller, how was that?

EVA: Bill Miller, he is dead of course. And then Francis Miller, and then there is Norman and Dorman. Norman is on the ranch at Pine Creek, and Dorman works here at the school. And I guess that is about it.

DOROTHEA: So then you're related to Claire Newell then?

EVA: Yeah, we're cousins.

DOROTHEA: You're cousins to her and Wilma Duntten?

EVA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. So you went to school a little bit then in Drewsey?

EVA: I went to, part of my freshman year and my sophomore year, and I started my junior year and got married.



DOROTHEA: And that was where, in Crane?

EVA: Uh huh. Yeah.

BARBARA: So how old were you when you got married?

EVA: Well I was pretty near seventeen.

BARBARA: So you were a sweet young thing then weren't you?

EVA: Yes. Not very sweet. (Laughter)

BARBARA: So you really hadn't had time to learn a lot of household things then, had you?

EVA: Oh heavenly days no, I never had time.

BARBARA: Well I think if you were going to boarding school, prior to that time you were not living in a home to really pick up and learn these things.

EVA: No. And then when I was home, of course my mother couldn't be bothered with me, I was a nuisance. One time she was cooking for hayers up at Pine Creek, and Lawrence the younger brother, he and I about the same age, the stepbrother, so Lawrence was awful good. So one time I'd play horses, stick horses and stuff with him, and then next time he would play paper dolls with me. (Laughter)

So we had red dirt up there, so Lawrence and I --- you know we never thought that anybody would ever think about --- mother had made two apple pies, and a long time ago the woman built things out on the windows and put things out, and we swiped these apple pies. We ate them both. And outside of having a stomachache, and a dose of castor oil, and a few blisters on our bottom, why ----

BARBARA: She was not real happy with you then.

EVA: And you know for the longest time I couldn't eat an apple pie.

DOROTHEA: Didn't like them, huh?

EVA: No, they didn't even sound a bit good. And then another time we got to making

mud pies. Mother was a baking, I don't know, anyway one of those wood stove, the oven was always hot. So she was a washing or doing something, so we decided we would make us a cake out of this red dirt. And we put it in the oven, nobody knew anything about it, and we put it up on the top, and mother was a baking bread and she put it down underneath, and it boiled over and --- she had some of the prettiest red breads you've ever seen.

BARBARA: Oh my.

DOROTHEA: Oh dear.

EVA: But you know, we never, like the kids today, we never was bored. Things we got into wasn't very good, but then we entertained ourselves. And they was always a talking about that a blow snake could kill a rattlesnake, and snakes is thick over there. And do you know that Lawrence and I walked them hills over there trying to find a rattlesnake. Bill had a big old blow snake that he kept there at the house. And when he went to irrigate he put this snake on the shovel and pack him, and put him down rat holes. So we decided we would find us a rattlesnake, and we'd see them fight. And do you know, we never could find a rattlesnake. We made us a sack and put a wire around it so we could get him in this sack. Why he would have bit us, or I think he would have.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, probably would have. I don't know how you would have gotten him in that sack. (Laughter)

BARBARA: I think you were lucky you didn't find one.

EVA: Oh yes. But you know, kids a long time ago, we had to make our own enjoyment. And we had to work too. In haying, why Lawrence, we drove the team, Model-A, I was too short-legged I couldn't trip. So he would drive the horses, and I would trip the rake. And oh, we'd make it fine until about four o'clock. We was tired and hot, and then we'd fight, hit each other over the head. And we had to ride from Pine Creek, down to

the Pine Creek School. And Bill caught us one day, we was a running races. So he took our saddle horses away from us and he had this old spotted horse, and he put him on a buggy with ... Well Lawrence would drive, and I'd pull this old horses tail, and oh lordy he would go, and he was older than Methuselah. And Bill caught us, so we walked to school from then on.

BARBARA: You didn't learn your lesson very good then, did you?

EVA: No. But we never was bored.

BARBARA: What are some of the games that you played when you were going to school, do you remember?

EVA: Oh, I don't know. When they butchered, they always butchered at Christmas time, and we'd take pig bladders and fill them full of beans and let them get dry, and they made the best rattle you ever seen. Hit a kid over the head with them. (Laughter) We'd blow them up and have a balloon.

BARBARA: Oh goodness, I never heard that before.

DOROTHEA: You had fun when you were a kid.

EVA: Yes, we did. When school would start, mother would round us up, just like you would a bunch of mustangs, and put shoes on us. And oh lord, that was awful.

BARBARA: Did you go barefoot all summer?

EVA: Oh yeah, I could just go through the rocks and the stubble barefooted. Yeah ---

BARBARA: So did you get one new pair of shoes a year? Did you outgrow them?

EVA: We had a pair of shoes for, the last year's shoes we could wear for every day. And then we had a new pair for school and church, and that was it. And we used to have to wear long underwear, you know, and long stockings. And we would roll our stockings down when we would leave the house, and roll our pant's legs up, and away we'd go.

BARBARA: Did you have to wear dresses to school?

EVA: Uh huh, oh yes, very definitely.

BARBARA: When you were playing around, did you wear jeans and things like that at home?

EVA: Uh huh. Yeah, Lawrence and Francis' old overalls, why I got them. That's what I wore.

DOROTHEA: Now where were the girls at this time, were they staying with their grandmother?

EVA: They was with their grandmother there in Drewsey. She had the old hotel there in Drewsey.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

EVA: And Claire and Wilma lived with her, and Bill had the boys. DOROTHEA: And when did Bill leave? I understood he left and went to Canada after awhile, or someplace. Is this right?

EVA: Well I don't know. After he and mother separated, why when she had to go to the hospital, why they separated, and I don't know. Then he married Eunice Jordan's mother, and I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Don't know what happened after that then?

EVA: No, because I was in Ontario in boarding school.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: Who were some of your classmates when you went to high school at Crane?

EVA: Oh, there was Henrietta Venator; we were the best of friends. And there was Cyc Presley's wife, and Mabel Altnow, and Joe Altnow. And oh, what's --- Denny Jones' daughter. And the Sitz boys, Norman and Jimmy and them.

DOROTHEA: Karen Dinsmore?

EVA: Huh?

BARBARA: That would be too young, wouldn't it?

EVA: Yeah, I think she is Denny Jones' daughter isn't she?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

EVA: I never did know her. I knew Denny before he was ever married or anything.

DOROTHEA: You mean Denny Jones' wife.

EVA: No, his daughter.

DOROTHEA: Oh, his daughter, okay.

EVA: He is married to --- oh, what is --- Altnow, she was an Altnow, Joe Altnow's sister I'm sure.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay. Mildred.

EVA: Yeah. And poor Norman, when he was a kid he was just as bald-headed as an egg, he didn't have a hair on his head. And we'd get behind him and write on his head.  
(Laughter)

DOROTHEA: And this was who, Norman who?

EVA: Norman Sitz.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Norman Sitz.

EVA: They said he got to be an awful drinker, and I could understand why, we all drove him crazy. Oh dear, kids can be so mean.

DOROTHEA: But it is stories to tell after you get older.

EVA: Yeah. But you know we never was worried about anything to do.

BARBARA: Did you learn to swim in the canal ditches, irrigation ditches?

EVA: No, just in the creek.

BARBARA: River and creeks.

EVA: We used to catch the bullfrogs, and we'd take an old dry ryegrass and poke it up their bottom and blow them up and put them on the water, and they'd just go sailing down

the river.

And we had bottle horses, the great big bottles, they were workhorses. And the smaller bottles, they was saddle horses. So we'd get string and we'd make harness, and we'd drive them, and ride stick horses.

DOROTHEA: Well let's stop for a moment and turn this tape over.

SIDE B

EVA: ... they always curled it. And they'd get me all settled down to curling my hair and everything, and I'd wait until they wasn't looking and I'd shake my head like this, and then they had it to do all over again.

DOROTHEA: How did you curl your hair, did you have curlers?

EVA: Oh, you know, my hair is natural, was naturally curly. And you know they had rags a long time ago, and that's the way they---

BARBARA: Tied them up on rags, huh?

EVA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever use a curling iron?

EVA: Huh uh.

DOROTHEA: Never did?

EVA: No.

DOROTHEA: I remember one time my mother decided she was going to curl my hair. So she laid that curling iron on the stove and she picked it up and went to curl my hair and burned it off. So I had a short piece of hair for a while. How many children, grandchildren do you have?

EVA: I've got two granddaughters, and two grandsons. And then I've got two great-grandchildren.

DOROTHEA: Two great-grandchildren?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And where do they live?

EVA: Well now Joey, that's my oldest granddaughter, her and her family they live in South Carolina. She is a real nurse, and he works, he is a nuclear engineer. She lives in Liberty, South Carolina, and he gets to come home on weekends. The families of those nuclear people they can't live within fifty miles of the place. So she lives in Liberty, and then during the week why he is at the plant. He makes real good money. They have a beautiful home.

And then my other granddaughter, why she lives in Boise. Her husband is a foreman at the, oh that Caterpillar outfit. And then Ed, my oldest grandson, why he works at a ranch over around Lakeview someplace, Klamath Falls or someplace over in there.

DOROTHEA: Now these are all Jackie's children?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Now who did Jackie marry?

EVA: She married Ed --- Darrell Anderson.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And what does your youngest grandson do?

EVA: My youngest, he works in Boise. I don't know, I don't understand, but anyway he has something to do, checking water meters or something, I don't know what that is. But anyway he checks water meters. And his wife, she just got through graduating at St. Luke's Hospital, she is going to go ahead, and she has four years, and then she will be a doctor.

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh.

EVA: And he works there. And then Ed, him and his wife they're separated, they've got two kids. Vickie Witzel, you probably know her.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EVA: They've got ---

DOROTHEA: Oh that's, that's your grandson, Ed is?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And so what does Vickie do now?

EVA: I don't know. Well what she is a doing, she is wanting to go to school, but she can't find a place to live in Ontario, or didn't have now.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

EVA: But she has worked in the mill up here for, I don't know how long. But she is at Frenchglen now, she works I think Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, that she is some kind of a tourist, whatever they call them.

DOROTHEA: At Frenchglen?

EVA: Uh huh, for the government.

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh.

EVA: But she just works just a few days. And I don't know, from the way the paper read, whether they're going to let anybody go to Fish Lake or not.

DOROTHEA: I don't know. But she must have a pretty good job though.

EVA: Yeah, it don't last, you know, very long.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EVA: But she is a wanting to go to school in Ontario. But she hasn't been able to find a house.

DOROTHEA: No, I guess they're pretty scare over there.

EVA: You wouldn't really think so. I guess a good place up here at Burns is hard to find.

DOROTHEA: So what is your daughter doing now?

EVA: She works in the hospital at Burns.



DOROTHEA: She works at the hospital?

EVA: Yeah. She just went on days the first of the month.

DOROTHEA: Because I know she was still going to school here for a while last year.

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So, well what do you do now that you're more or less retired? Your husband passed away what, four years ago?

EVA: Well no, yeah about that --- Oh, I don't do nothing. The first time in my life that I can do what I want to, nobody yells at me. If I don't want to do dishes, I don't have to, because nobody is a yakking at me. And if I don't want to cook, why I don't have to cook. Oh, I enjoy myself now immensely. Even if I have got a game leg.

DOROTHEA: How do you get your groceries and things like that?

EVA: Oh, I go to town with Alda Sampson, you met her.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EVA: And then there is always somebody --- I got so tickled I was in the hospital, when I broke my hip, and I wanted to come home and Dr. Morrison told me no, you can't go home. So I put up a fuss and one thing and another, and Jackie said, "Oh let her go home, she'll be alright." So they let me come home. And a lady, one of those checks come down, and I was so lucky, that when she was, just when she got here and got sat down, Cathy Ann and Dorman come with my dinner. I had fried chicken, and mashed potatoes and gravy, and biscuits. And that lady looked at me, and she said, "You don't need me."

DOROTHEA: What, did the school bring you lunches?

EVA: Uh huh. The dormitory, yeah.

DOROTHEA: So that was good. Do you have people that take care of the older people around here?

EVA: Oh no, we just sort of ---

DOROTHEA: Just all the neighbors?

EVA: If you need something, why they come and do it. And there is, oh a lot of times somebody will come along and they'll have a piece of cake and they'll give it to me, or a piece of pie, or maybe a loaf of bread, or a couple of steaks or something. You know, it isn't any big deal.

DOROTHEA: So in other words, you're more or less living the Life of Riley, as they say.

EVA: I certainly am. I don't have to get up until I get ready.

DOROTHEA: Do you do knitting or crocheting, or any needlework?

EVA: Oh, I crochet. And then I work out in the yard. And I read a lot. And in the wintertime I like television, I watch television. But I'm quite a reader.

DOROTHEA: Do you have books that you buy, or go to the library?

EVA: Yeah, I can go to the library up here at school. And over here at the tavern now, everybody brings their books in, and just leaves them, and you can just go get anything --- if you see a book you want why you just get it, and then take it back and get another one.

BARBARA: That's nice, a nice book exchange then.

EVA: Uh huh. And up here to the library at the school, why of course you have to take them back. But they have a good library up here. And then I go to church on Sunday. And we have dinners and everything. So, but it's nice here, everybody gets along.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. You're right on the main drive, so ---

EVA: I just wish I wasn't quite so close. Every once in awhile, there hasn't been so many drinking here lately, but there has been a few times I just wondered whether my fence was going to make it or not, or whether my propane tank was. Because they've scared them a few times.

DOROTHEA: Where, I mean when did you move into Crane?

EVA: Oh, let's see, Paul died in '71 I believe it was, and we was here about three years before that.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he's been gone a long time then.

EVA: Uh huh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: I thought he had just passed away here just a few years ago.

EVA: No, he has been dead a long time. No, I just enjoy myself. Oh, once in awhile I get a little squirrely.

DOROTHEA: Do any traveling, or are you able?

EVA: Yes, Jackie --- last year Jackie took me and we went to Yellowstone Park, and different places there. Now this year she is going to take me down into Utah. So --- but outside that, that's --- Oh I go to Burns and I go out to Frenchglen with people, they'll come by and take me. So I just make it fine.

BARBARA: Good. When you were working, you and your husband were working for Jenkins and Fine, who were some of the other buckaroos and ranch hands at that time? Do you remember some of the people?

EVA: Oh, I don't know, I think pretty near all of them is dead now. There is old Red Levitt of course, he is one of them. He is in a nursing home up here. And just pretty near all of them are gone to be right truthful with you. I just --- Roy Wildman.

And then when Henrietta was alive, her and I we just, we went into every junk pile that there was on the mountain. It is a wonder to me, I don't know yet why we didn't get snake bit or something, climbing around them old junk piles.

DOROTHEA: Did you do a lot of digging?

EVA: Uh huh. Yeah, we looked for arrowheads. People would get mad at us. We told them, we said, we was always telling them we was going to these places, but we didn't tell them we was going to stay. And we'd wander off someplace, and nobody knew where we

was at. And the worst of it, is in the spring of the year we went up Rattlesnake. And the farther up we got, the more snow there was, and we couldn't turn around. Those cockeyed Forest Service roads are not big enough to ---

BARBARA: One way.

EVA: And the farther up we went, the more snow they got to be. And we was a little bit uneasy, but finally we got way up there someplace, and the one road went that way, and another road went down. We didn't like to go back over the same road, but we got up there and we could turn around. And we went down this road, and it was the very same road we come up. But we was mighty lucky, glad to see the flat out here now, because that snow was a getting deeper and deeper. We couldn't turn around, because here it was just on both sides. Oh ---

DOROTHEA: Do you have many pets?

EVA: I've got two cats and that dog. My cats are both outlaws, when somebody strange comes they hide.

DOROTHEA: They hide, huh?

EVA: I've got a big bobtail cat, and then I've got a --- oh there is more cats and dogs here in Crane, and this poor little old Tabby was, I didn't want him, but he was starving to death so I fed him, and of course that was the wrong thing to do. I still got him. And then my Tasha there, she's about as, she's a real good watchdog. Somebody strange comes, she does lots of barking, but outside of that she don't bark. She likes everybody. She don't like men, she tries to bite every man that comes.

DOROTHEA: So you don't have to worry about salesmen then?

EVA: No.

BARBARA: She'd run off all your suitors then, wouldn't she?

EVA: Yes, doggone it! (Laughter) Oh, lord. Heavens, as I say I just enjoy myself. Oh,

once in awhile I get a little squirrely, and wish things was a little different, but I get over it.

DOROTHEA: Well do you think of some of the things that have happened to you during your married life or growing up years that you would like to share with us?

EVA: Oh, about the worst thing was when I fell and broke my hip out here. There was lots of ice and snow, and everybody, every time they'd see me out there, they --- don't you come out here, you get back in the house, you'll fall, you'll break something. And I said, "I'm 65 years old, and I'll just get out there if I want to." And the first thing I did I fell and broke my hip. So, I haven't been quite so smart since. Oh, I don't know.

I've been bucked off, but nothing serious. I got bucked off and dug a trench up on the hill with my shoulder. And then a long time ago, you know, you never went to a doctor, so I don't know whether I broke it or what I done to it. But then we was a moving steers, so I just climbed on my horse and away we went. It was for about a month I couldn't raise my arm up, but that was all right, I could still cook and wash dishes.

BARBARA: They didn't take much sympathy on you then, did they?

EVA: Huh uh, no.

BARBARA: Where is my dinner?

EVA: No.

BARBARA: Did you pack lunches for the men, or did they come back in at lunchtime usually?

EVA: Well if they was going, if they was going to help somebody else, why they ate down there. But if they was working with Jenkins' cows, or Joe's cows, why then they come to the house and ate.

BARBARA: Did they have a bunkhouse that you cooked in?

EVA: Uh huh. Yeah, they had a bunkhouse.

BARBARA: Or a cookhouse?

EVA: Yeah, I had a cookhouse where I lived. And then there was a bunkhouse where the men stayed.

BARBARA: How many men were on these ranches working?

EVA: Oh, I don't know --- if sometimes when they was a branding, why they would be a bunch of them. And then if there wasn't --- as a general rule we usually had about two or three hired men steady. But on a ranch, why you never know whether you have one man, or you have a dozen. Or you'll cook a big meal and go put it on the table, and everybody will be gone, there won't be nobody there.

DOROTHEA: Did that make you happy?

EVA: Oh, I've been so mad over that, but --- yes!

BARBARA: What did you cook for the men when you were at the ranches?

EVA: Oh, most generally beans, and we'd have roast meat, or boiled meat, or fried meat. Mostly meat was the main thing. But oh you had your salads and your desserts. Now when I cooked at Jenkins' that's where I learned to, really learned to cook, because I had to. Why now Dick and Tommy was very particular, there had to be, there was a vegetable, a meat dish, a dessert dish, and then oh like gravy or something like that, and a vegetable.

DOROTHEA: Did your daughter help you cook much?

EVA: No, she was gone. No she --- and then we always had biscuits of a morning, or hot cakes.

BARBARA: Did you make raised bread too?

EVA: Uh huh. Yeah. Oh Gordon McWilliams, the sheep man, taught me how to make sourdough.

DOROTHEA: Did you keep a batch of sourdough going all the time?

EVA: Always did when I was on the ranch. I don't here, because sourdough isn't good unless it's used at least twice a day. You probably know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I never could keep a batch going, because I didn't use it. I didn't have much luck with sourdough; I got a lot of hard biscuits.

EVA: Well I had, oh I cried, and I bawled, and I've cussed, and I've stormed over sourdough biscuits. The men called them appaloosas, they called them dough gods, and rocks. One time I had --- I was mad anyway and they made some smart remark about my biscuits, and I just picked them up and threwed them at them.

DOROTHEA: I had a batch of sourdough going one year, and I was cooking for this bunch of hayers, and they called them saddle blankets. And I sat down and cried, because I didn't cook with sourdough, I just could not seem to get it to go right. So I, that was the last sourdough hotcakes they got.

EVA: Well haying was over with, and Paul was, we was working for Jenkins, and Gordon McWilliams had sheep up there. And so Paul was taking groceries up to the sheep camp and I went with him. And we got up there for dinner, and he was making sourdough biscuits, and he showed me how to make them. And put them and let them raise, just like you would light bread biscuits, and then I finally got the hang of it to where I could make good sourdough biscuits, but I sure had a time.

DOROTHEA: Well like you say though, if you don't use it, it doesn't keep.

EVA: Oh no, you've got to use it at least twice a day. And if you use three times, it's lots better. The more you use it the better it is.

BARBARA: So where did you get your groceries, who went for groceries for you?

EVA: Oh, usually when we was at Jenkins', well Joe and Ethel used to bring groceries too. And either Dick or Tommy would bring them. Or if we happened to be going to town, why ---

BARBARA: Into Burns, or where did you get them?

EVA: Into Burns.

BARBARA: Into Burns.

EVA: In Burns, uh huh.

BARBARA: Was Joe Fine married at the time that you were out there?

EVA: Uh huh, he was married to Ethel. Him and his first wife, the kids' mother was separated. Him and Ethel was married.

BARBARA: I see. What kind of a woman was she; did you get along with her?

EVA: Oh I got along with her. She'd make me so mad; we'd have a real whing ding of a battle. And she'd go someplace, San Francisco or someplace, they'd go to, and she'd bring me back something nice, and then I'd feel bad to think I got mad at her. (Laughter) But she informed me one day, that she scrubbed the kitchen floor when she cooked, why she scrubbed it on her hands and knees. I said, "That's fine, you can scrub this on your hands and knees too, but I'm not going to." So we didn't speak for a couple of weeks. But I didn't scrub on my hands and knees anyway. BARBARA: That was what a mop was for, right?

EVA: Yes. But when the worst --- Joe come pretty near to firing me, I think he would of if he thought he could have found another silly woman to take my place. But he built a new house up to the Hunter, and him and Ethel went trailing off to San Francisco and they just left the carpenter up there. They never give him any orders or anything. So he got everything done but putting the sink in, and he come in and he said, "Now Mrs. Retherford, how do you want the sink, how high do you want it?" I said, "I want that sink so that I can wash dishes and the water don't run down off of my arms." So he did. Ethel come back, and her and Joe, and they was mad!

DOROTHEA: They thought you should stand on a bench, huh?



EVA: Yes. But anyway, I didn't have any more water on the floor; it didn't run down my elbows. And these Norman --- the people that bought it now, why Carrie, you might know her, she was a laughing the other day about how the women, whenever they come up there and helped do dishes, how they moan and grown about that sink. And she said she told them that it was me that caused this sink --- But oh Joe was mad, oh boy he was mad. But it was too late then, it was all in and everything, the carpenter was gone. And I just sat back and giggled.

DOROTHEA: Did Joe ever run sheep?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did he?

EVA: Yeah, when we first went to work for Joe, him and Stringer was in partners with sheep.

DOROTHEA: About how long did they run sheep before they went into cattle? Or were they running cattle at the same time?

EVA: Well, they had a few cows. But oh, I don't know, they didn't have the sheep very long when we was there. And Jenkins, well when we first went to work for Jenkins they run sheep, and then they got rid of them and got the cows.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so were you around when Jenkins got the round barn?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And how did they come about having that?

EVA: Oh, I suppose, I don't know, at that time why people wasn't so hung up on, you know, antiques.

BARBARA: Historical things.

EVA: Historical things, and one thing and another. And Jenkins' got it to keep their machinery in, that's what they used it for. And then of course after they got, the historical

stuff got to going, and one thing and another, why then they worked it over and fixed it up and everything. It's quite a place.

BARBARA: Was there ever another smaller round barn on that property, do you remember?

EVA: Not that I know of. There used to be another one over at the P Ranch someplace, I don't know. I never did know where it was at.

DOROTHEA: And it wasn't a round barn, was it?

EVA: I don't think it was like the other one.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think it was a long one.

EVA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: We talked to Rush McHargue, and he had some pictures that we looked at, and they showed this real long barn at the P Ranch.

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did Joe Fine have, work you guys on the P Ranch, or ---

EVA: Oh my husband worked on the P Ranch, I never did. I used to, when he was a working there at the P Ranch, why when lambing was over, I lived in the lambing camp house.

DOROTHEA: Is that how the Lamb Ranch got its name was, can you tell us anything about that?

EVA: I just don't know. They used to say over there at Drewsey, when you was at the Lamb Ranch, you know it was the PLS, it wasn't anything to do with --- Joe and Stringer bought it separate. But they always said with the Lamb Ranch, if you woke up in the night and you heard horses a running, you covered your head up and went back to sleep, because they was taking horses out of the country. You know they'd take them down into Nevada, but ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, the wild horses, you mean?

EVA: No, they kind of borrowed them from people.

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh.

BARBARA: A little rustling, would you say?

EVA: Yeah, that's what it was. But --- and then one year, it wasn't, Stub Currey was there when that happened. Why they went to fix the porch on the Lamb Ranch there and took the old porch off, and there was, a woman had been buried under there.

BARBARA: Oh, goodness.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they found a skeleton then?

EVA: Uh huh, there.

DOROTHEA: How did they know it was a woman?

EVA: Well I guess from what the clothes that there was, and one thing and another.

DOROTHEA: Oh. Well it sounds like you've had some exciting things happen to you during your life.

EVA: Oh yeah. If I had a little bad times, good times ---

DOROTHEA: Well one of your children is buried over in the Crane Cemetery; do you know anything about the Crane Cemetery that you can tell us?

EVA: Well no, not really. But of course just the later ones, of course, but no. Because really until just the last few years that we went to work for Joe, after we left Jenkins, why we never was around this part of the country until we went to work for Joe and they got the Hunter up there. And then we was up there in the summertime, and then we'd go to Oliver Springs in the winter where he run the cows on the refuge. He usually just had steers, but sometimes he'd get a wild hare and decide he wanted cows and calves. I always liked that, because I got to raise the leppys, and he'd buy them from me.

DOROTHEA: And then you could raise a leppy, and it didn't cost an arm and a leg.

EVA: Huh uh, no.

DOROTHEA: Now you can't raise a leppy, because they cost so much.

EVA: Oh yes. Yeah, if you haven't got a milk cow now, you're "noodled".

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, that's for sure.

EVA: Do you folks still live up in Silvies?

DOROTHEA: No, we've moved down where George used to live, it's the old Tom Baker place, and that's where we live now. Our house was the one that burned down in Silvies. And we haven't moved anything up there since. But the other two boys still live up there, Mervin and Wayne. And I guess they had some vandalism here a week or two ago, I read in the paper. I didn't know about it, but I read it in the paper. They misspelled Mervin's name, but they broke down their, tore down their mailboxes. I couldn't imagine it that far out in the country, why, you know, somebody would do that. But I guess that's the way they do it.

EVA: You know I would be afraid to have mail out on the, you know.

DOROTHEA: We used to be, but we kind of --- we didn't have any problem when we were there. You know we had the stage go by, and we didn't have any problem while we were there. But they've got so many regulations now that it kind of presents a problem there, and then to have somebody tear them down, well ---

EVA: Oh yes, the mail is kind of a joke anyway, anymore.

DOROTHEA: It sure is. It takes a week and a half for the Drewsey people to get a letter, I guess. That's a big joke.

EVA: Yeah, you don't know where they're going to go, or --- Now Herb Davis out here, he has lost three mail, or checks, that he has got for hay, that they have been lost. And the only trouble I've ever had here, I've lost three bank statements. That's not no big deal, but you do like to have your checks back. You can go up there to Burns and they'll make

you --- but then you still don't get your checks back.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

EVA: And I've lost three checks.

DOROTHEA: Well do you have mail delivery here, or do you have ---

EVA: No, just down there where, I guess she is gone. But anyway, the flag down there, the post office is down there. Mrs. Spiers runs it.

DOROTHEA: Is it about mail time?

EVA: Well she should, probably she is getting ready to go home. Because with school out, why she goes home about two-thirty, three o'clock. It opens at eight. But when school is going, well of course she is, it's open until four o'clock, because people, on account of getting their kids, and everything and another.

DOROTHEA: They come in later?

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So how often do you have to pick up your mail, can you let it go a whole week?

EVA: Oh, you can if you want to, but then it really isn't a good idea. And right here, why you can --- I can't go, because I can't walk down there. But Mrs. McIntyre over here, she brings --- she lives right across the road over here, and when she goes after her mail, why she just brings mine too. So it makes it all right.

DOROTHEA: Who are some of your neighbors around here?

EVA: Well this is Ann Thew, Bill and Ann Thew, he used to be principal here.

DOROTHEA: In the blue and white?

EVA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: How do you spell that?

EVA: Huh?

BARBARA: Thew, how do you spell that?

EVA: T H E W.

BARBARA: Oh, okay.

EVA: He used to be principal here. And then the people in the yellow house, I don't know, they are just neighbors, good neighbors, but then they are just newcomers here. And this place over here ---

DOROTHEA: And you don't know --- what are ---

EVA: And this place over here used to belong to Mrs. Presley. And it belongs to Bob Bosen now; it's just a going to pieces. I just wish somebody ---

DOROTHEA: And that was Alice Presley?

EVA: Uh huh, this is where all of her kids was raised, and everything. But he wants so cockeyed --- that old house, it's not fit to live in. And if a person had enough money to buy a nice trailer house and put in there, why you wouldn't need it, if you had that much money. But I would so like to see somebody move in and take care of it. There is land out back; you could have a nice garden.

And then Mrs. Lines on the corner down there, why she is one of the teachers. And then the trailer house that is up against the fence here, that's, Dot Opie lives there; she is a matron at the school. And the big fancy trailer house there, that's Renee Maupin's place, she teaches.

And then the little old place down on the corner there, that belongs to McIntosh. And then the other trailer house there is McIntosh, and then Thompson's, they have Henrietta's place here on the corner. Am I unhooked (microphone)?

DOROTHEA: You're unhooked again, yeah.

EVA: And then, well I guess that's just our closest neighbors.

DOROTHEA: That's just the neighbors on this block, huh?

EVA: Uh huh. Yeah, and then, I don't know, on over farther that's where the teachers are, the teacherages and things. And there is quite a few new trailer houses that has moved over there. And you'd be surprised --- I know every time I go to the school to see the little kids, how many of them there is, you just can't imagine.

DOROTHEA: Quite a few, yeah.

EVA: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: That's how it's getting in Burns too, the schools are getting bigger. When I graduated in 1954, I graduated with 54 in our class, and there must be a 154 now. I'm not sure how many, but I know there is quite a few.

EVA: And ---

DOROTHEA: Don't make a hundred anymore?

EVA: As I said, you just can't --- where they ever come from?

DOROTHEA: All over the vicinity.

EVA: All over, oh yes. And there is so many new people that has moved out on Buchanan Road, got big trailer houses, and one thing and another. And we have an awful nice tavern over here. The best hamburgers in Harney County.

DOROTHEA: Do you do the tavern very often?

EVA: Oh quite often, yes, we go over and eat and visit. It's just ---

BARBARA: A nice gathering place, huh, everybody go over and have a little something to eat and visit?

EVA: A lot of the men come in and of course they get their --- can't sell anything out in the, like beer and stuff. Well they don't sell the hard liquor either. But they've got a place back away from the, there where they can ---

BARBARA: The cafe part?

EVA: Oh, you can go back there and eat, but they have their bar back there, and they

have a pool table, and they play cards.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, Alda and Barbara and I went for lunch there when we came out to see Alda.

EVA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: It was a pretty good hamburger, pretty juicy.

EVA: Yes, real good. They've got quite a business there.

DOROTHEA: Do they? Who owns the place now?

EVA: I don't know, their names is Veneta. V E N E T A, it isn't Venator, but it is Veneta (corrected to Vannatta) or something. They're from California, nice people.

DOROTHEA: Well our little red light is blinking again, which tells us we're about to come to the end of our tape. Would you have anything else that you would like to tell us about?

EVA: Oh, I don't think so. Not very, nothing very exciting.

DOROTHEA: So why don't we pause now and do a little video. And I told you about the video, so we'll do a little picture taking if you don't mind.

EVA: Oh I don't mind, if your camera can stand it.

BARBARA: Well thank you very much for visiting with us this afternoon.

EVA: Oh yeah, I forgot about you coming. You know my little old pea brain don't ---

DOROTHEA: Well I told you I would call you and remind you, so I called you.

EVA: Well I was a working outside there. It's been so cold and miserable that my yard just got away from me, and I can't do very much with this leg.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

EVA: And I just happened to come in the house when you called.

DOROTHEA: Well, thank you again for the afternoon.

EVA: Oh, I've enjoyed it.

DOROTHEA: We've enjoyed it. Now we'll stop and do our video. Thanks again.



(END OF TAPE)

bl