

EMMETT UTT
and
ANNA GLEASON UTT
Fourth Interview

Interviewed by:
Sam Schrager

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EMMETT UTT / ANNA GLEASON UTT

Emmett: Princeton; b. 1903
sawyer at Potlatch mill and farmer.
Anna: Princeton and Harvard; b. 1906
homemaker

2.3 hr.

minute page

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Emmett Utt / Anna Gleason Utt

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27 50 More about working for the well-to-do on Nob Hill.

Side E

00 52 Her family wanted her to go home and care for them during the flu, but she didn't want to give up school. Father helped her through school as much as he could. Emmett was led upstairs to see Anna in her Lewiston boarding house by mistake. Boarding in Lewiston while going to Lewiston Normal.

Emmett Utt / Anna Gleason Utt

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Side E (continued)

07 55

During the Depression, a young married wife starved
to death. Shooting deer and leaving much of the meat.
Popularity of Roosevelt. Boomdays of the twenties.
Opposition to Truman election among mill management.

(15 minutes)

with Sam Schrager
Nov. 4, 1975

II. Transcript

This conversation with Emmett Utt and Anna Gleason Utt took place at their home on Hatter Creek on November 4, 1975. The interviewer is Sam Schrager.

AU: For twenty three dollars, ^{Emmett,} ~~and~~ what year was that?

EU: Long about the same time.

AU: Now that was terrible.

EU: And had to pay five dollars to get it hauled to Spokane out of that. Wound up with about fifteen dollars. ^{worth}

SS: When did you two start going together?

EU: Oh '25. I think I took her out once in '25 and I think I took her out two times in '26. (laughter)

SS: Three times in '27.

EU: Something like that. We got married in '29. I don't know. She was going to school down at Lewiston. Oh it's a big tale.

AU: Anyway, what did you start to tell? I was going to finish that. I don't know. Oh, I was going to say, he walked up to me on the street and he said, what did you say to me now?

EU: Oh, you was with John, your brother.

AU: Yeah.

EU: You was using the Ford.

AM: Uh huh.

EU: Going downtown. John stopped, he hollered at me. I just called you good looking was all.

AU: "Hi good lookin'" or something like that.

EU: All the girls got the same moniker.

AU: He sure thought he was cute. (laughter) So did all the girls. You know. Yeah.

EU: Yeah. Really ^{we} started going together in '25.

AU: Well, see I went to school in Lewiston in '25 and '26. And I finished down there in the fall of '26. I went to summer school til the fall of '26. And then I went up here to the Woodfall school above Harvard, you know, way up there at Harvard. And I taught school up there and that's when we went, started going together.

EU: You got the thing on now?

SS: Yeah.

AU: Has he got that turned on?

SS: I just turned it on. I wanted to know how you got together in the old days.

It seems a lot different then nowadays as far as young folks meeting and deciding to make a life together.

EU: Well, the only trouble with today, they make that judgement too fast. I think.

Give you three or four, five years to size one another up before you lock horns. Like a couple of bulls that circle around awhile before they go at it.
(laughs)

SS: When you were going to Lewiston Normal to become a teacher, right?

AU: Yes. And then I taught at Woodfield two years and then Chambers Flat, and in the meantime I substituted one year over here. One quarter. And I guess that takes us up to '29.

EU: She was teaching school, oh, I don't know what year it was.

AU: Then I started again in '43, you know, during the war.

EU: During the war they had that rationing on. Yeah, that was rationing.

AU: Then I taught til '49.

SS: Was courting very formal, did you get engaged very early or did you date?

AU: No. It was at Christmas in '48, and we were married in September of '49.

SS: '28.

EU: '29.

AU: '29.

SS: You got engaged at Christmas of '28?

AU: In '28, yeah. Why do I say '48?

SS: You're thinking of teaching.

AU: Yeah. That's what I was talking about. Yeah.

EU: That was business, you remember much about that gasoline rationing they had, you know.

SS: In the second war? No, that was before I was born.

EU: That's what I figured. Anyway, you know, I was as a in' down at the mill. Head sawyer. They had four carriages, you know. Each one had a head sawyer. Anyway,

she was teaching school up here at Chambers Flat. And I had about 8 or 9 head of cows, bunch of beef cattle to feed and take care of. And I was runnin' a farm too. And so I had to have, you know, three gallons of gas a week, you know, was your allotment. Three gallons a week. Well, I had that much on two cars. I had that old Dodge, old '27 Dodge, we had that. And then I had this '42 Plymouth. And so she had to gotto school and I had to go to the mill and of course, we had to take our cream to town and running around and I went over ^{there} to the office in Moscow to try to get some extra gas. "No." No, just couldn't do it. See like everybody ^{went there} that get extra gas, they figured was a damn liar, you know. He didn't need it, you know. So I went over a couple times, and they turned me down, "No, we can't give you any extra gas." I told 'em what I needed it for, but they, so by god, she had to gotto school, I had to go to work. I had to do my runnin' around on the farm, you know, take cream to town and we was just goin' day and night, both'of us. And so I just didn't change the speedometer on the cars and I could get gas to farm with, barrel gas, but you wasn't supposed to use that on the road, you know. I could get all the gas I wanted by the barrel but then I couldn't get the tickets to go car gas. So, heck, I just pumped gas in ^{to} the car tanks and kept again'.

SS: Was that farm gas marked?

EU: No, you had a ration. But they'd go by the speedometer every month. You had to turn in your speedometer reading, you know. Well, I turn it in in order to get that three gallons a week, I had to turn it in. So it went on for a month, I guess and finally I got a letter from the head office. They wanted to see me over there. So I knew what was about. So he says, "Well, what's the beef? Seems like you said your cars making pretty good gas mileage." I said, "No, I don't think it is." I said, "I got two of 'em. I don't think either one of 'em is making any extraordinary gas mileage." "Well according to the speedometer reading, you are." "The amount of gas you're supposed to have." I said, "No, I'm burning gas." He says, "Well where you gettin' gas?" I said, "I'm gettin' it out of the farm barrel." Oh boy, he was ready to throw me in jail

right now. That was that old, oh that guy that used to run them theaters over there in Moscow.

SS: Kenworthy?

EU: Kenworthy. Yeah. He was the head of it. So I told him, well, " You wanted to know what I was using the gas for." I said, "Well, my wife is driving about 8 or 10 miles a day going to school and back. I'm holdin' a job down at the mill. And I'm milkin' so many cows." And I said, "I'm doin' some farmwork, I'm farmin'." I says, "If you can to that on three gallons of gas a week you come over and show me how." Well he says, "You say your wife's teaching school?" I says, "Yeah." I says, "I'm holdin' a job down at the mill. I'm farmin', I'm milking so many cows, ^{chickens,} ^{and} pigs to feed and..." He says, "Well, wht didn't you say somethin' ^{about that}?" I says, "Mister, I've been over here and cried my eyes out tryin' to get some extra gas ^{and do it} legal." "Well," he says, "you go home, you'll get some extra gas." So the next day, I got home, and the next day in the mail there was a string of tickets that could choke an ox. Why I couldn't start to use 'em all, you know. Crazy. (laughs) So, by gosh you know, if you take them extra tickets and turn 'em back, you didn't need 'em, why then they'd ~~short~~ ^{short} you that much. So...

SS: They'd do what?

EU: They'd ~~short~~ ^{short} you that much next time. You just turn it in and say your burnt 60 gallons that month. Well if you took a bunch of them tickets and turned 'em back, why, that's all you'd get was just 60 gallons. Well then if you had an emergency, well then you wouldn't have enough gas. I never turned the tickets back. I didn't waste gas or do anything foolish 'cause I didn't have time to go out and joyride.

SS: You were throwing the speedometer back?

EU: No, no, that's what got me in trouble, see. If I had turned the speedometer then I could've, I could've got by. But I just let it go 'cause, well, I was mad at 'em. Let 'em throw me in jail. If they wanted to throw an old farmer in jail, well, let 'em go to it. Anyway I leave the speedometer run, ^{just} ~~didn't~~ ^{just} didn't

pester with it at all. So that's why the guy called me up, 'cause I was gettin' too good a gas mileage with them cars. So anyway...

SS: I guess bureauacracy isn't a new problem. They had the same problem back then.

EU: Yeah. That's what they had then. So anyway, after that, how they go from one extreme to the other. See, I told 'em about how much gas I needed but anyway, the next day here come a string of tickets, man, oh, man. Well, her dad worked on the section, he was section boss on the railroad. So during the winter he just laid the crew off you know, and he just kind of worked himself on the track to keep, shovel out the crossings and one thing and another. So he just put his car up. So, by gosh, he was gettin' extra gas for driving to work and doing his work on the railroad. But when the next month come, he hadn't been runnin' his car, he lived up there above Harvard and he just left it set. So he was a good honest guy, he took his tickets, he didn't use 'em and took 'em and turned 'em in. So I asked him next spring when he wanted to get his car out again, go, three gallons of gas was all he'd get. They ~~wouldn't~~ give him any more. So I helped him out with tickets. That wasn't fair, but they wasn't fair to him either. So that's the way democracy works. You're lying til you prove yourself honest.

SS: You started telling me how you two got together. You said it was a long story.

EU: Oh boy, (laughs). Should I tell that story how it took up so long?

AU: No.

SS: Why not.

EU: You ain't going to put it in the book, are you?

AU: But he's got that turned on.

SS: Is it a bad story.

EU: Well, yeah, I'll go ahead. Anyway, we had started to goin' together in '25 and she had to go back to school. Well, anyway, she stayed with a girlfriend, I won't name her, she's gone now. ~~But~~ anyway, they got talking, that girl said she bet she could cut Anna's time with me. So Anna, foolish enough to take her on. So she tried it. Well I didn't now what the devil the rib was, you

know, her brother-in-law, by gosh, was wanting me to go up to the house..

AU: The other girl's.

EU: The other girl's brother-in-law. And I didn't know what the heck the rib was so I stayed pretty ~~gun~~ shy of that mess. I didn't know what the heck it was but if I had it I might have changed my mind, might have been more fun than you think. But anyway, I was writing to her and she wouldn't answer me.

AU: I wouldn't?

EU: Oh no, she wouldn't, she wouldn't write back.

SS: Why not?

EU: She made a bargain with that girl that she'd lay off of me, why she could get me. Well, you know, it's something to have two girls fighting over you but(laughs)

AU: We made ~~that~~ bet and it was to last, the bet was to last til nine weeks, wasn't it Emmett?

EU: I don't know, you did it, I didn't.

SS: Why did you take a chance like that? Were you that sure of him?

AU: No, you're never sure of him.

EU: Anyway, I didn't know what was going on. So finally she wouldn't answer my letters, so I thought, "To heck with women." And I went and bought me a new Harley Davidson motorcycle.(laughs) And that just about broke me in business you know, buying that brand new. And so I just went tearing up and down the roads here with that motorcycle and having more fun ~~pack~~ ^{heck} a mile.

SS: Having more fun what?

EU: ~~Pack~~ ^{heck} a mile. Did you ever hear that expression?

SS: No.

EU: Never heard that expression.

AU: ~~Pack~~ ^{heck} a mile.

EU: ~~Pack~~ ^{heck} a mile. I don't know who says ~~it to start with.~~ ^{They just} say it.

Anyway, so I give up on her. I thought, "Heck."

AU: Then it come Febuary.

EU: I had a love affair with that motorcycle til in about Febuary she come up here.

AU: He had broken his ankle. A bone in his ankle.

SS: On the motorcycle?

EU: Yeah. Darn car backed up, I was going down the hill into Potlatch. You know half way down the hill that concrete wall is there? Well, it was at hight I was going down there and a car come up and turned up in there. Well he went out of sight. So I was battin' 'long down that hill there, see the old bikes just had a back wheel brake. So anyway, by gosh, that car ^{just} went up there and pretty quick here he come back out, backin' out into the highway. Well I didn't know if he was goin' to keep agoin' or what, but anyway, I zigged and zagged him. He backed out into the highway and I kept turnin' going behind him, I thought he'd stop, see. Well he didn't. I guess he figured he'd get far enough back I'd cut in front of him. Well, we both zigged when we should have been zaggin'. Well, he had no business backing into the highway that way. Well anyway, I got the motorcycle clamped around sideways and I slid into him sideways and oh, broke a couple of bones in my foot.

SS: You were laid up?

EU: I was laid up for a few days.

SS: And Anna came up to see you?

EU: Yeah, no, no, I was off the mill so I didn't have ^{nothing} to do so they had a dance up here at Princeton so I come up to the dance and watch the rest of 'em have fun and she was at the dance. Well, when the thing ^{whole} changes, chain dance. So we started to go together again then for good.

AU: That's when I came home from Myrtle.

EU: Yeah, Myrtle's where she went for teacher training.

SS: The women were that fickle when you were young?

AU: I don't think most of 'em ~~were~~.

SS: As fickle as...

AU: Yeah. I could be talked in to most anything then. That girl was so sure and I was just as sure. You know, and I wasn't, you know, I wasn't that much for looks, I don't know why I was so conceited.

EU: Oh you wasn't too bad.

SS: You're so good lookin' now that I imagine you must have been really a beauty.

EU: She wasn't such a bad lookin' pill.

SS: I can't believe that.

EU: She was pretty good lookin'.

SS: I bet.

EU: No, I don't know. That girl, you know, she was so bold and then have a relation working for her, you know.

AU: This is Emmett, you see, he hasn't changed an awful lot. This is our wedding picture.

SS: Well, you're good looking in that picture.

AU: And he hasn't changed all that much.

SS: You were really a lovely looking girl. You both are good looking, you're a good looking couple.

AU: But the picture, now he doesn't, his wife doesn't keep his hair as nice as he did here.

SS: But you really took a chance like that, that she'd be able to. Did you really think that he wouldn't fall for it.

EU: Oh she wasn't too much to look at.

AU: No, she was a person that always tried to work the other guy, you know. ^{If} She wanted to come up, go to a dance up here you know, she'd nigger me all week to write Emmett a letter and ask him to come down and get us and take us to the dance, see. Well if he come down to take me to a dance, she'd go, you know. But that was too far and too much. And winter wasn't very good.

SS: But if you had to let go for three months, you couldn't be sure what it would bellike in three months time.

AU: But...

SS: You probably weren't all that serious about him.

EU: Oh we just started going together really, you know, I took her out two or three times.

AU: Well, you know we did ^{because he} couldn't find anybody else by that time so...

EU: That's what you think. (laughs) No, I just went and bought a motorcycle and I had a love affair with it. Another guy, a kid of my age, he got one just like it. And boy, we was just a yellow streak up and down the roads you know.

AU: And that's true. He took me for a ride one day, soon after he got his bike, didn't you, Emmett?

EU: Well, that summer, next spring.

AU: Well anyway, I got on behind him, you know, and he was gonna make me a good slow ride up the...

EU: I made an awful mistake there.

AU: And I bet he went, what was it, you went 90 miles an hour?

EU: Well we went from where she was living over here at Princeton up to Harvard, turned around and come back. I think I was gone from home about ten minutes you know. And they was gravel roads, rock roads. Oh I don't know, we went 90 or not but I was bumping better than 80.

SS: That's a real nice guy.

EU: We went up there and wheeled right back again.

AU: He just, and that was the only time I ^{ever} rode on the bike.

EU: Only time she seen daylight by god, is when she got on and when she got off. Course, she had her face buried in my back, you know.

AU: Oh we were going so fast and that wind was, but anyway, if we had taken it easy you know, I might have learned to like it as well as ^{the} girls do nowadays, you don't know.

EU: Oh yeah, it would have been a lot of fun if I hadn'ta...

SS: As it was, you must have been pretty mad. Or pretty scared, anyway.

EU: Well, I think I delight in scaring people. I don't know why I done it, you know, thought I'd have something kicking what I'd done. Like one time I was going to Potlatch and there was a tramp going down the road, had a big pack on his back. Just down ^{there} below Hampton. So I stopped and asked him if he wanted a ride. He looked at that motorcycle, no, he think he just as good walk. I said, I'm going to Potlatch, you can just as well ride. I just talked him in to gettin' on the motorcycle. I said, It won't hurt you. And so I got him on

and he had that big pack on his back too. Away we went for Potlatch. Well, we got down there, ~~where~~ them ~~curves~~ going up the hill you know, well, you know on a motorcycle you know, you lean to go around this way and you lean to go around that way. Well I knew what he'd do when I hit that first curve and I leaned over, I knew he'd go this way you know, and he was going to be on top of it. So I allowed for his weight and that pack and made it fine, but every time I'd hit a curve I could lean this way or that way, he'd go just the opposite way. And I stopped there in front of what used to be the old pool hall there in Potlatch. He got off and he was just ashakin'. And he thanked me so nice for that ride, you know. He should have halfway killed me, you know. (laughs) I thought he was going to cuss me out for what I'd done, I'd done for fun. But he was so polite about it and thanked me so nice for giving him a ride down there, you know. It just kind of made me feel...

SS: Did you give him a hard time for that?

EU: Well she didn't get her breath for two weeks. By the time she got her wind she forgot about it.

AU: No I didn't, I just wouldn't ride again. And that was it.

EU: Oh it was an awful mistake.

AU: But if he had[^] sidecar too, you know, I could've ridden in that you know.

EU: I didn't have it then, I traded it off.

AU: Oh you didn't have that.

EU: I got that with the motorcycle. One with sidecars.

AU: ^{If} You had had it then.

EU: Oh, it's fun to ride in them. You ever ride in a sidecar?

SS: Never.

EU: Oh boy, they was easy ridin'. And they're fun too if you want to go around a curve like you come around here and you want to go around this curve, you know, well you just turn it a little sharp and that sidecar will go up in the air, even if you got a person in it. Yeah, you can put it right up in the air as long as you hold it there, you know, you can hold a man up there.

Well, I never was too good at that, but I know we went down to the races down at McMinnville, Oregon when we were down there out at McMinnville, there, they had motorcycle races and they had a cop out there and he had a sidecar on. And I don't know how many girls, but there must have been at least six girls besides him on that motorcycle, sidecar. And he'd go back and forth in front of the grandstand with them girls. He'd raise 'em up and let 'em down and raise 'em up and let 'em up and let 'em down, they was yellin', you know. I don't know how he done it with all that weight on it.

AU: Must have been fun riding in there. Your mother, you know, he took her up to Wallace and she enjoyed it so much.

SS: In the sidecar?

EU: Yeah, she rode in the sidecar.

SS: When my mother told me about her dating when she was young, it sounded pretty crazy. As if a lot of young people didn't know what marriage and love was about in those days.

EU: Well, I had an old Model T Ford and Anna, the first year she taught school, she taught up at a place they call Woodfell. I don't know. Just this side of where you go into timber, when you're on the north side of the highway. She had a little log schoolhouse there, that's where she first started teaching school. And snow get deep up there in the winter and there's no cars running much, you know. Everybody up there use horse and sleigh in the wintertime. But I got in and out, I'd go in every weekend and bring her out and take her back every Sunday evening and make tracks, you know, car tracks? Well, it thaw and they'd kind of freeze. Well it was just like a railroad track. Going through the snow, your car kind of shift a little bit once in awhile, but you couldn't steer. Once you got started on the other side of Harvard in them ruts, why you could go clear up there on that old road. The steering wheel just flip around, well, you couldn't hold it, that front wheel gonna follow them just like a railroad track. And I go in there and pick her up and gosh, there must have been over three feet of snow on the road, it was packed down, you know.

All winter long I went in and out. If you ever jump the track, why then you had to get out and shovel and get it back up and ^{get it} ~~aligned~~ up and then pack down the snow where you jumped and ease it across it. Once you get back on the track again, away you went.

SS: Did most of the people put their cars up in those days? You were probably one of the few that kept driving? In the winter?

EU: Well, up there. See, the snow gets so deep up there and they didn't used to have snowplows and people just put their cars up and go to sleighs, horses. There was only one other guy that lived up there that was driving, that was that old Man Boone.

AU: Yeah, and his home was in Palouse so he, but they had a mill up there and he come up to the mill, you know, once in awhile.

EU: When the roads was as bad as that he didn't go.

AU: No. ~~Some~~ running the mill and he just come up once in awhile. That was the other car that was runnin' those days.

EU: She had a place up there, she was boarding up there and my railroad track went right up to that gate and I had a place where I could back up and start down again. If you wanted to go further than that, well you was out of luck. 'Cause the snow got deep and you had to keep your track broke out all winter. But the snow didn't drift up there much.

SS: What did couples do for entertainment?

AU: Usually a show in Palouse or...

EU: You'd go to Palouse for a show.

SS: Movie?

AU: And then once in awhile in Harvard, well, not Harvard then, but the dance here in Princeton we could go to if we...

EU: No, in the wintertime, I don't know, kids just entertained themselves.

AU: It was just the weekends, what I'd seen...

SS: Movie show in Palouse?

EU: Yeah. They had movies in Palouse, ^{a theater} and they had down in Potlatch too. Yeah, they

was quite a deal. People go to a show on Saturday night and on their way back to, course, you wouldn't know where the old road was now. It's still there but it's not travelled much anymore, but, you know where is?

SS: Yeah.

EU: Highway comes round there now. Well, right there at and Hall, you come from Palouse you turn right, left, and then it goes up round over the hill and comes out over by that lumber company. Where that lumber company below Potlatch there. That's where the road comes out. That comes out over them hills. Anyway, we come up there one night and it was muddy and raining and whole bunch of us in the car, had an old of my dad's. And the cut outwide open well it was belly like a bulls. And anyway, we got over there it was just past that before that bit up over the hill there, well the headlights all up above. Somebody ahead. It was just ruts all up through there you know, mud roads. And it was nothing but headlights clear far as you could see. And so this car's stuck up there. Well, nobody could get by him. Oh gosh, you know. I looked up on the back fence along here there was a bank about so far from the fence. Well I shoved it in gear and I head up on that bank and I bounced four ditches and I went clear past a whole bunch in the ruts and in the ditches and up on the banks. That old ^{car} looked like a, but I passed everything. And boy oh boy, everybody that comes to that (laughs) Wasn't as that damn fool driving that thing.

SS: You're lucky.

EU: Yeah, I was lucky, oh boy, that I didn't upset the damn thing. Anyway, we had a lot of fun. Everybody in the car was yelling, you know, hold on to her. Anyway, I bet there was 40-50 cars that spring, lined up there and I went round the whole bunch of 'em. Landed on ahead of 'em and kept agoin'. Boy, that old had a 40 horsepower motor in it. (Laughs) Had an exhaust pipe about that big around and belly like an old tractor.

SS: Did your parents object to your going with such a wild guy?

AU: They weren't too much. But different Harvard people, see I was raised up at Harvard. They didn't like it.

EU: It was like Dogpatch. It was like, what do they call it, guys back there, Dogpatch or...

SS: Little Abner.

EU: No. What was the families always fightin' back there? McCoys and the...

SS: Yeah.

EU: Well Harvard and Princeton was 'bout like the, that country back there.

(End of side A)

EU: Bunch of those old women get along the sideline and they'd look at you, it was like you walked in out from Mars or something. That Princeton, I didn't have much use for Harvard either. So, it went on that way for years. So when I started going with Anna, oh boy, I don't know. And I could be, well, a sport.

AU: Yeah, he ^{sure} did.

EU: I used to go up in that ^{old} ~~Valve~~ ^{Valve}obile, you know and ^{yyou} leave a dust streak from the time you leave Princeton. You get up there and that old car bellerin'. You come around a corner and there'd be an old farmer out there next to the fence, "Whoa boy, whoa!" Holdin' his horses. (Laughs)

.(laughs).

SS: Then when you started going with Anna they probably thought it was too bad for her.

EU: Yeah, I suppose.

AU: My dad said, I asked him one time, he said, "Well, I suppose you'll have a better time, have more fun if you got with a guy like ^{Emmett} ~~him~~ than somebody who, I don't even know who he compared him with now.

SS: Probably some farmer boy.

AU: But anyway he was always was good to Emmett. When we had our combine down here and he come down and help him harvest and he was, they were real good pals.

EU: He'd get up and sew sacks for me. Yeah, we got along alright.

SS: Did you do a lot of planning before you got married, thinking about getting married and what you would need to be married as far as setting up house, thinking about the future, did kids do that in those days?

EU: No, nah, you just kind of went from day to day. All at once we decided, well

We got engaged and she been teaching but I think, you didn't have a job teaching that fall yet. Anyway...

AU: No but....I had one more year before I had to get back to school and we talked about, and then the mill shut down.

EU: Well, they had low water and they couldn't do nothing, didn't have enough water to float logs down to the dam at Potlatch, you know, the logs were laying on the ground, it was just, so they had to shut the mill down, so I told Anna, well, why don't we go get married and go on our honeymoon while the mill's shut down. So that's what we did.

AU: And then we come back and we went to Garfield and got our stove and...

EU: Rented a house down at Potlatch.

AU: Rented a house, well, ⁺after awhile. We couldn't get one right off. It was a few weeks, wasn't it 'fore we got one?

EU: Yeah, I don't know, we had to order it, finally got it.

AU: And then we moved in with our bedroom set and our kitchen outfit.

EU: Started out on a shoestring, they call it. Got what we needed.

SS: You went to Garfield to get a stove?

EU: Yeah, yeah, that's where we bought a stove. They had a hardware over there. Fellow named of Harland run the hardware store. So we went over there. And then we bought some other furniture down at Gibby Williams'. Palouse.

AU: And then that spring we bought, ho, you had a .22 and I got me one.

EU: Yeah, we used to go squirrel shooting so I got her a little .22.

AU: Just a little one, but man, we were death on squirrels for a while. And then I just couldn't see 'em at all. I just miss every shot.

EU: She was a deadeye. What did they call her? Deadeye what?

AU: Well, that's not... but anyway, I could shoot a wire, a fence wire.

EU: You know a wire stapled to a post? She could split the wire. Not only once, she could ¹do it two or three times.

SS: Did you use any of that for food when you shot the animals, or did you use the skins or just for play?

EU: Just to get rid of 'em. Farmers were almost paying bounty to get rid of 'em.

SS: On squirrels.

EU: They was... you don't see 'em much anymore now. They're pretty much done rid of, but when I was a kid around here, Jesus Christ? Right up this road there'd be squirrels ~~running~~ back and forth across the road in front of your car all the time.

SS: Did you get shivareed after you got married?

EU: Yeah.

AU: Yeah, we had a shower up in Harvard and I had one down here at Princeton. Then we had a shivaree and it was just beautiful. So many, many, two showers, you know.

EU: Worked out alright 'cept, one of your old boyfriends hit the shivaree and I just ~~set~~ set a box of cigars out you know and cripes, you know. There wasn't all that many people here but somebody told me afterwards he went out with his pockets full of cigars.

SS: He got something out of it.

EU: He got somethin' out of it. By the way, ~~spell~~ shivaree.

SS: I thought there was two ways. The easy way I seen it was shivaree. I've also seen it spelled ch, like chaviare or something.

AU: Yes, that's the way.

EU: I think it's probably the French way. Charivari. Don't sound like shivaree.

SS: That's pronounced shivaree too?

EU: Guess so. You look it up in the dictionary "shivaree". And that's the way they spell it. And that tells what it is.

SS: What were the showers like then Anna? Did they give you gifts?

AU: Yeh gifts. And pillowslips you know, and you know, little blankets or lot of dishes. I got that cupboard back in there most of 'em, a lot of wedding gifts in there. I'll have to divide up one day.

EU: No, they don't shivaree no more. I haven't heard of a shivaree around here ~~any~~ more.

SS: Did they surprise you? Was that part of it? Did you know it was coming?

EU: Just harassed you. Wait til you got to bed, you know, and ^{then} make you get up.

Dress. I know one time I got in there, I darn near got shot one time, I was shivareeing my sister. She got ^{married} ~~mad~~. We were living on the other place up there sleeping upstairs, you know. So by gosh, when they started to come in, they was shooting shotguns off and beating on cans, you know. We had an old shepherd dog. And I never seen a dog as brave as he was, but he went out and met the whole bunch of 'em. They was banging away and raising heck, you know. And he went out there and man teaching school here at Princeton named Albert Chava. By gosh, she bit him. But anyway, the come ^{on} up to the house. And course.

AU: What kind of word do they call that?

EU: That's what they call carnival.

SS: It's lovely.

AU: Carnival glass I think. And then I got two or three like this, godd sized handles on 'em.

SS: Those are shower gifts?

EU: Yeah.

SS: Really nice.

AU: And you know, just stacks of glasses you know. Fruit bowls and little sause dishes. YDu know, that kind of stuff.

EU: Wonder why they call that carnival glass. Is that what they used to give for prizes at carnivals?

SS: Looks too nice for that. Maybe it's the calors. It has so many different colors in it.

AU: Carrie Reynolds has one almost exactly like this. Only it's plainer. It doesn't have ruffles in it so much. But it looks like the same color and everything.

EU: That's carnival glass. zNow what's depression glass? You see that advertised.

SS: You were telling me a story that that dog bit...

EU: Yeh. That dog bit that guy. Anyway, the come up to the house, well, all the racket woke me up, see. I was just a little kid. And so I went and looked out the window. I think it was summertime and I think they had the window raised

up so far and I went and stuck my head out, and just as I stuck my head out I seen a ball of fire right down below me. And so(laughs) some guy just up and pulled a shotgun off, you know, in the air. And he didn't have it straight up. So next day I went out the house and right up, just above the window where the are on the roof, you know, birdshot all around the place. So the little house fell down now. It was still there. That old shot didn't miss my noggin pretty far. It was out there by the house and he just BANG, you know.

Just Like that. I had my head stuck out there, looking down there.

SS: When did you first start working in the mill? That was before you two were married, right?

EU: Oh yeah. I started working down at the mill during WWI.

SS: That early.

EU: 'Bout 1918. I was leave out as soon as the United States got into it. And oh I don't know, all the kids that was able to^{work} could get a job 'cause they pulled so many men out, you know, to gotto war that they put boys and women to work. And that's when I started to work. Picking edges down at the mill. I think I was about 17, 18.

SS: If that, 'cause weren't you born in 1903?

EU: Yeah.

SS: You must have been even younger.

EU: Let me see.

SS: If it was '18 and you was born in 1903...

EU: When did the United States get in the war?

SS: I think we got in in 117.

EU: '17.

SS: So you must have been about 14,15.

EU: No, I wasn't that young. There's something wrong with my story there. It must have been right after the world war. 'Cause it seems like I was 17, 18 years old.

SS: Did they still have a 10 hour day when you started working?

EU: No, no. Eight hours.

SS: Was it eight?

EU: No, I think about 1914 was the last of the 10 hour day.

SS: What was the working conditions like when you went into the mill? I guess the Wobblies had already cleaned it up as far as the ten hour day goes.

EU: Yeah, the Wobblies had already done their good work.

SS: What was the work like. Did you get many breaks?

EU: No, the work wasn't too hard. They always had a lot of men. That's before they tried to double ^{the} work up on men like they do now, you know. No they just, kids go down there and like picking edges and stuff as they go by off of the boards. It wasn't no hard work. Pay was ^{n't} so hot. it was \$3.40 a day. That was a lot of money for a kid who never had any money, though. No, it wasn't, six days a week. No, when they first started the mill up ^{down} here, they started up two shifts, 12 hour day. Yep. 12 hours a day. Kept the old mill going day and night. But I don't know, that started up about 1906 I think. They got the mill started ^{way} in there someplace. I think it was about 1914 that they, well they finally got it down to 10 hours and then finally down to 8, I think about 1914 was the last of the ten hour day.

SS: I've talked to people in Potlatch, I've heard quite a bit about all the foreigners here. Did you see or hear much of the Greeks or Italians?

EU: Oh yeah. I seen that mill, well, that was during, that would be during WWI. WWII. There wasn't over six men it that sawmill that was white. They was all Greeks, Italians, Japs, yeah, they had Japs. Italians, Greeks. They had 4 carriages down there and they had 2 men on a carriage. Long time there I was the only one that wasn't a Wop or a Greek. All the rest of 'em was. But then during the depression was when they cut them Finns out a lot. Lot of 'em took off during the depression and never come back.

SS: Did, were they, did they stick to themselves pretty much?

EU: Yeah, they were, oh, ^{by God} they used to be in the mill, supertime, you know, they'd all get around a bunch, them Greeks, there was Alec McDonald and I, only about 3 or 4 guys in there outside of the sawyers that wasn't Greek. And the guys

they'd get to yakking sound like a bunch of chickens over there. Old Alec McDonald would say, "Hey you son's of b's! Can't talk English, go back to Greece!" He'd ^{use to} give 'em a hard time. They'd congregate by themselves. They didn't associate. Well, I guess you couldn't blame 'em. But anyway. There's only about one Greek left in Potlatch I guess.

SS: Gus Stevas.

ED: Old Gus I guess ^{he} is the only one left. There's Italians down there.

SS: That's true.

EU: I guess old Gus is the last one of the bunch.

SS: Do you think that foreigners were discriminated against? As far as getting the better jobs? Do you think they had a harder time than the Americans?

EU: I don't know. I think they were favored.

SS: Do you?

EU: Yeah. Well there was a reason for it. I don't know. I can't prove what I say there. They'd do anything for a job. Ordinary guys around here, none of them every married, you know, they was all single bunch and they'd all back together didn't cost 'em much to live. But they'd kick back to the boss, see. Is what I've heard. Now I've never seen that, but then I think there must be something to it. 'Cause they'd kickback so much a month to the boss. Boss would work 'em up in the job. So they didn't have much trouble working up and getting a better job.

SS: I wonder why the Greeks were in the sawmill and the Italians were in the yard? Why they worked out that way. Do you figure about why that was?

EU: By gosh, there wasn't very many Italians in the sawmill, but there was a lot of 'em out in the planer and, that's when they had little railroads running all over the yard out there, they hauled lumber around on, they had a lot of 'em working on the sections and building tracks and there was quite a few of 'em worked on the green chain. But I don't know why that was. Greeks and Italians didn't mix very good. Oh I guess they don't to this day, do they?

SS: I don't know. They're both southern European, but that doesn't mean much. I

don't really know. Did you have any friends among the Greeks and Italians?

EU: Oh yeah. After the WWII, why there was old Gus, John Gadle and...

AU: John Canle was a good friend of his.

EU: Yeah, he and I was good friends. And Gus, I knew him pretty good but I didn't know him as good as I did John, but then there was John's brother, Tony. And yeah, they was all good guys.

AU: Yeah they were.

EU: I got along with them alright. But the rest of 'em, they just disappeared. I don't know where they went to. One of 'em, I don't know, like I say, he's squeezed his money and ^{when} depression come, why, I don't know what his name was, they called him Sleepy Jim, was all I ever knew him byn was Sleepy Jim. And he was kind of a lagged guy, he walked, you know, like he was all disjointed. Anyway, he saved his money so I guess when the depression come, why he pulled out and some of the other Greeks told me, by gosh, him and another guy went together and they bought a big hotel down in Seattle. And then they made money on that by gosh, then bought another one. I guess they got to be millionaires. Both them two Greeks.

SS: What about the Japanese, they were pretty much separate from everybody else too, weren't they?

EU: Oh yeah, they had their own boarding house. Company built a boarding house just for the Japs down there at Potlatch. Yeah, they kept themselves pretty well, ^{well} there was one little Jap used to janitor in the store and down at the main office. Wopaknobe I think is his name, something like that. Just a little fella. He had a little wife, ^{there and} two, three little kids. But then when Pearl Harbor hit, why, I guess they just railroad^{ed} 'em out to the concentration camps, I guess

SS: I heard that there was talk that he was an agent of some kind. That's what they thought about all the Japanese then.

EU: Anyway, this guy, he was just ^a janitor, but yet, he had a real expensive camera. And he talked different guys to take him around the country, you know. They'd go to Lewiston and he was takin' pictures. And nobody thought nothing about

it, you know, til after it was over with. Then they wondered why the heck, how could he afford such a camera. That was really some camera. And of course, when Pearl Harbor hit, why, they figgured he was just a regular spy suddenly taking pictures of, oh, the mill down here at Lewiston, and I suppose this one and dams wherever they was, I think he could get around, he paid a guy for taking him. You know a man just ~~workin'~~ for that kind of a job in them days didn't make that kind of money. So anyway, everybody was just going along with it til Pearl Harbor Broke loose and then all of a sudden they was ready to take him out and skin him alive. He was a good little guy up til that point. He disappeared out, I was reading the other day about lot of 'em was good citizens. Take 'em, just hauled 'em off like cattle and trucks you know and shoved 'em them concentration camps and it wasn't fair.

AU: Didn't a lot of 'em know about Pearl Harbor before it happened and get put of here?

EU: Well, yeah, the started before Pearl Harbor, they tried to, allot of 'em started to disappear out of Potlatch. I don't know where they went. Oh there was one little Jap down here, I worked with him and ooh, it was way back in early '20's. Way back in early '20's. He kept saying, "Some day Japan gonna whip this country." I'd say, "Oh they couldn't lick one side of it." "Oh yes they will. Some day Japan gonna whip this country." By gosh, you know, I believe they was planning that long time before Pearl Harbor. He was saying, "Someday Japan gonna whip this ^Ucountry."

SS: MAbeybe he could just see that it was coming because of history. They've got a different way of looking at history in the East, the Orient, then we do here.

EU: Well I think the country must have planning, you know, just waiting til they got ready to go. And probably that might have been 10 or 15 years ahead of Pearl Harbor.

SS: I would have thought that those foreign groups, they didn't speak much English. I bet it was pretty hard on groups like that, to be part of the community if they couldn't speak English.

EU: Well, most of 'em ^{to} ~~tried~~ speak a little bit. Old John Canle and Tony, they, you had to be used to 'em to understand 'em. But they got so they could talk pretty good. But anyway, they, nah, they wasn't bad guys, but most of 'em wasn't even citizens. They come over here and, I know Gus was telling me one time, he went back to Greece, oh, 6 years ago, 7 years ago, maybe more than that time goes, but ^{ANYWAY,} ~~he~~ took an extra pair of shoes with him, you know and his cousin was over there, he used to be at the mill but he went back to Greece and got married. So Gus was over there and by gosh, the people so poor, you know. They almost fought over that extra pair of shoes that Gus had. So finally he gives a pair of shoes to his cousin and ~~Gus~~ didn't stay long. I guess he give a lot of money, he was pretty well heeled at one time. Saved his money all his life. But I guess he give a lot of his money away over there. He kept enough to live the rest of his life over here. He gave a lot of his clothes away, he took his old clothes over there. But people were just so hard up over there he just couldn't say no to them.

SS: He mentioned to me that his sister wasn't in very good shape over there. I wouldn't be surprised if he didn't help her out quite a bit.

EU: Oh I imagine, yeah. But, he didn't like it over there. He went over there to stay, I guess. After ^{he was} ~~there~~ awhile he bought himself a ticket ^{back} ~~to~~ the U.S.A.

SS: When those guys, I heard the Greeks did quite a bit of gambling and the Italians did quite a bit of bootlegging here. Bootlegging wine, anyway.

EU: Well, the Greeks weren't as bad as the dagoes. Used to be an old, Dago Mike they called him, ^{there} ~~at~~ Onaway. Mike Peptogalla was his name. And he was a bootlegger from way back. And he, you probably heard 'em say, when you buy a Model T Ford you can have any color you want, as long ^{as it's} black. Well that was the truth. That was the only color. ^{Old} Mike every once in awhile he'd get a new Ford. But before he'd take it on the road he'd take it in and paint her yellow. Yeah, paint her yellow before he'd ever take it out on the road. You could always tell it was Dago Mike's car when he got down the road 'cause it was real yellow. I don't know why, but he'd take it and paint it yellow before ~~it~~ ever went on the road.

SS: Do you think there was much, I've heard that tricks and jokes were a big thing in the mill. A way of passing the time, I guess. Do you remember there being much of that when you were working in the mill? I remember a guy told me they used to stick grease in a guy's glove.

EU: I don't know about that, but one thing that was kind of fun, one night down there, I discovered a fire, but I was riding No. 1 carriage and up on the carriage you could look out the window and they had a conveyer ^{RUNNIN' OUT there that} that runs out to the fire hole to carry the sawdust out to the fire ~~you know, that fire~~ hole. I looked down in there and I seen a fire burning. So I let a yell out of me and I jumped off the carriage and I had a fire hose up there and so they had to run, like this is the edge of the mill here, the fire hose is here, where they turned it on it rolled up on ridge here, but you had to run it down here and ^{then} poke it out the window down on the fire. So I was gonna be the engineer that turned the water on and old George Turner, he's one of them, ^{but} they went down there and drug that thing down there and pulled it up and hollered, "Turn her on!" Well instead of turn her on easy, I just give here a wang and course, that old hose just straightened out and them guys went backwards over the tracks there, ~~over~~ the carriage (Laughs) and damned near drowned. (Laughs) And they ^{always} swore I done it on purpose. They hollered turn her on, you know, but it'd been alright if they'd hold it straight. They had that bent out the window. That old pressure hit that hose, she just straightened out and shook them guys loose. (laughs) But they always blamed me for doing that on purpose. I tell you, they hollered turn her on, so I turned her on.

SS: How would a fire like that get going?

EU: I don't know how it started fire. ^{could be} Friction. ~~Maybe~~ a bearing got hot on that chain. ^{or something}

SS: What's the fire hole?

EU: Fire hole? That's where they got the fire ~~to~~ ^{rough} heat, make the steam. Boiler rooms. Down there where they watch the fires and boilers were up above. Down there where they have to keep sawdust on the fire down there on all them boilers.

I don't know why they call it the fire hole. That's what they always called it. But, no them guys, I didn't do it on purpose. They ~~run~~ the hose down there and poked it out the window and turn it on. So turn her on I did!

SS: Were you going there from Princeton every day to work in the mill? In the days when you first worked there?

EU: First started out, another kid and I, we stayed at the boarding house down at Potlatch. Then we come home on weekends. And we both had bicycles and then we got tired of that. That boarding house grub kind of plays out on you after awhile. So, no a long time I lived up here on the old place and working night shift. And I'd ride my bike to the mill and back every day. Nights. No headlights on it.

SS: A motorcycle, not a bicycle.

EU: No, a bicycle. Once when I was a kid. I didn't get the motorcycle til I was oh, 23 years old I guess, before I got a motor bike.

SS: Was there a real difference between the local kids from the farming country and the kids from town?

EU: Yeah, there was a lot of friction. Town people always, farm kids, you know back woods, yeah there was a lot of friction between townpeople...

AU: Yes, it was awful hard down on Potlatch going to high school. You know, town kids just about run that country kid out. Didn't want to have a friend, she had to ride ~~on~~ horse to school way out in the country, you know, in order to come to school. And they'd go like that, hold their nose 'cause they said she...

EU: Smelled like horses.

AU: Smelled like a horse. She took til she couldn't take it and then she quit. But I had a better deal than they did. Most because I had to work in Potlatch for my board and then I would go to school. And so after awhile I ~~got~~ considered a town kid.

EU: Well you lived with the better people.

AU: I don't know as they were better people, but they sure thought they were.

EU: They thought they was.

SS: While you were going to high school you were working? For your board at the same time?

EU: Yeah.

SS: You were working at the house you lived at?

EU: Well, you know, you work for the people you know.

AU: They'd take in, and the thing to do then was to have ^{your little} a servant girl. And you go in and get a family to live with and they'd feed you for doing the ironing and the dishwashing and taking care of the kids. Stuff like that in the evenings and mornings so they could go to their parties and whatnots. I worked one year and a half for the store manager down there and then I worked another year for Elsie, he run the pool hall. And I liked that, I liked that place. He'd bring home ice cream you know, ^{and that,} bars or something, and I never used to having that as a kid. Or he'd bring candy home or something from the pool hall. And then he'd always bring one for me too. Candy bar or an ice cream bar.

(End of side B)

EU: ...eskimo pies he made, down in the bottom of the basement of that old pool hall. It was his idea, he really invented that, you know, it was on a stick you know. Ice cream on a stick and then chocolate around the out edge. But he didn't know exactly the formula, he had to experiment so I helped him down there. And of course every stick that wouldn't work, why I'd get to eat ^{it} (laughs) I put on pounds with ice cream. They way they do it you know...

SS: It sounds like a pretty good job.

EU: Well, it was no different . So, I don't know, we worked down there pretnear every night trying to get the temperature just right so you could get that ice cream just cold, you know. And you dip it in this hot chocolate. And that'd leave a coating of chocolate on it. But if you didn't have the chocolate hot enough, that ice cream wasn't cold enough, why you know, it just wouldn't work. So he'd have his thermometer there and he'd get his chocolate just boiling hot you know. And then you'd get that ice cream on a stick and shove it down

in that chocolate and pull it up. Get everything just right *why* you could just take it and shove them right in there and just make it, nothing to it, you know. I don't know how many chocolates *he* shoved down that didn't work, he didn't have the chocolate hot enough or the ice cream wasn't cold enough.

SS: Did he just sell them at his place or did he sell them around the country?

EU: When he got 'em he started selling them here right down at his own joint down there.

AU: And then he shipped them out to other towns.

EU: Yeah. He got the patent on them, I think. And then they went out. I went to Portland, I went *in* a joint down there at Portland you know and asked for an ice cream, eskimo pie, they looked at me like I had horns on, they didn't know what I was talking about. Anyway...

SS: Anna, did a number of kids come into ^{live at} Potlatch to go to high school, or were you special? Were you one of the few that did that?

EU: Oh no.

AU: Oh no, anybody could come that could stand it, you know. It didn't make any difference how they got there. When the year I graduated was, there was only 14 or 15, 15 kids I guess graduated that year.

SS: 15 kids from Potlatch...

AU: And all the country around that...

SS: If you wanted to go to school in Potlatch and you were from as far away as Harvard, would you pretty much have to live in town? Some kids came in every day that far?

AU: Yes.

EU: One thing about Potlatch, they run the school, they run everything. They hired the teachers at Potlatch Lumber Company, the hired teachers, the built the school, they kept the school house up.

SS: They let you go without paying.

EU: Yeah.

AU: And the district we come from had to pay something for us.

EU: They did for high school?

AU: Uh-huh.

SS: But probably the family didn't pay.

AU: No, the family didn't.

SS: Did your family think it would be easier for you to go to school if you were living in Potlatch?

AU: Well, yes, ^{they did} because we had no way of getting there and go on to school and so that was one way of doing it. Well I had been working in Potlatch anyway in the summertimes, you know, and so I wasn't new at that job. And then when I went to high school, why...

EU: That's about the only way a country kid could go to school, you know. They pretend near had to go to town and live.

AU: If you lived two or three miles, you know, you could ride a horse. ^{But} Like living up at Harvard, I'd have to go down there and stay.

EU: And when they lived over here at when they moved over here at Princeton then she'd walk to school.

SS: When your family moved to Princeton you could walk to Potlatch?

AU: My family moved down to Princeton and so we started walking. Most of the time we walked the track, railroad track.

SS: Was it hard on you when you were a kid to be working in the well to do people's houses? To go to school, did you feel that that was a hardship then?

AU: Yes, it was harder working for my board lot than it was walking. Because, well you had so much work to do for the family in order to earn your keep.

EU: Well they treat kids like that, not all families, but some of 'em like the white man used to do the niggers, you know, ^{you was} just a servant. That's what you was was just a servant. How was it a aunt of mine done you when she, she met a dentist down at Potlatch and for pay she'd give you some old dress or something. 7

AU: She said that if I'd come and work for her, why she'd give me a dollar a week besides my board. So I changed, I was staying in a good place, but a person needs money too, so I went to work for her. And I don't think I ever collected

a dollar. She would give me some old blouse she'd worn out. She'd say, "Well you take this for your pay and we'll see, it's about worth six dollars." And so that'd be six weeks I'd work for that thing, probably I ^{would} never have it on. But you know, that's theyway it was. And I was glad to walk.

SS: I think kids can be used pretty easily that way.

AU: Course, I knew what work was. My folks had a big family and I was the oldest girl, so I knew what it was to take care of kids, but the thing I didn't like most of all was ironing. And I rironed pretnear every night for (noisy)

EU: Did they have electric irons at that time?

AU: I suppose, I don't know.

SS: I don't know, was it electric or did you just heat it up on a stove?

AU: No it must have been electric. But she had two little kids and she would dress them in the morning and at noon she would change their clothes and they were ready for, til their daddy come home. So that was two sets of clothes every day. ^{Besides} His white shirts he wore down to the store, I just, I was so weary by the time I'd get ready for bed. And I got up in the morning and got the kids up and give them their breakfast.

EU: Board and I bet you didn't eat enough to...

AU: Well, not there I didn't.

EU: Oh boy. No those were cruel days.

AU: At Elsie's I got more than I wanted, more than enough.

EU: That's why I say it just depends on who you work for.

SS: Do you think these people that were living on Nob Hill, that quite a few of them lived above their means?

EU: Oh boy, it's kind of a funny thing, during the war, WWII, there's a ~~family~~ living up there ~~and~~ Nob Hill and he was one of the foremen down at the mill. And they was living high. Well anyway, down at the garage there at Potlatch, man's name was Stapleton running the garage, well all of a sudden, the government put it out I guess, ^{that} anybody that didn't pay their month's bill, gas bill, you know, for that month, why you couldn't get any more credit. Well, I didn't

know nothing about it. Just happened I made a little money and I went in and paid my bill ^{up} there and so that law went into effect and so I know I come up to the garage quite a bit to get some gas. Had to drive when I lived on the upper place up here, driving back and forth to work and so this high falutin lady, she drove in there and told 'em to fill her tank. And so, by gosh, she drove in so they wanted ^{their} money and so she said charge it. Well, he went back and looked on his, 'cause they had pages and pages of names there, you know. If your name was on that list, well you didn't get no gas. So they went looking and she says, you'll have to pay for it, but she didn't have the money to pay for it. So they drained the gas out of her tank. Course, I, hell they just drained the gas back out, that's all could do. The law said they had to have their money. So I pulled right behind her, finally they got her shoved out of there. I pulled up and told 'em to fill 'er up. Guy looked at me and went back ⁱⁿ and I went in with him. I guess I shouldn't have been, but, he was going down a list of names you know and I didn't have my name on it 'cause like I say, I just happened to hit her lucky and went in and paid my bill up. And so, by gosh, my name wasn't on it. He act like it almost hurt his feelings. He was so sure he was gonna tell me to go, you know, scat out of there. And by gosh, my name wasn't on the list and I believe it really hurt his feelings. By gosh.

SS: Those people that didn't care if you had enough to eat, they pretty much used you like a servant?

AU: Yeah. You know, you had it to do. The first people I stayed with I was invited to the table to eat, you know, right with the family. But the second time then I wasn't, I had to eat in the kitchen then, ^{I had to serve them and then} go back in the kitchen and eat what I could... And I don't know, now that I'm old I don't care much for them.

SS: You don't what?

AU: I don't care ^{too} much for them. But she was pretty good to brag on me. "My girl does this and my girl does that!"

EU: "My girl".

AU: But I got in trouble more times there because....

EU: Where?

AU: Walters. He run the store down there and he would bring, you know, candy and stuff home. You know, I knew better than to touch it. But I had company, my girlfriend from up at Harvard stopped in to see me. And she saw candy there and she saw candy she just take it, you know. And she'd eat and eat and eat. And I didn't know how to stop her. I was too dumb to say, that's not for me. But holy cow, next morning did I get it?

SS: They just don't sound like nice people.

EU: No, they wasn't.

SS: It seems that they should have understood that you were as good as they were.

EU: Well there was a whole lot like that attitudes, I was telling you about the old manager, that Laird, that put up a road up here. He was so important that us hicks were supposed to get off the road for him. Until I taught him a lesson. And he found out, by gosh, that wasn't paying off. But then that was the idea. He'd set there, you know, you couldn't say, he fired the chauffer for when he got in trouble. But yet you couldn't say he was riding there and seeing everybody get thrown off the road so he could go through, that he wasn't enjoying that. You're darn right, he was enjoying that. Watching all the hicks get off the road for him.

AU: But it was nice to be bragged on, you know. It was nice to have the ladies brag on ya.

SS: She bragged on you to tother ladies?

AU: Yeah, you know, "My girl does this and that. I told my girl to do this and that."

EU: They had a two class society. They used to have dances down at that old gymnasium. And just a dance just for the bigshots. Well I or Herb, we couldn't go to that, you know, we was outcasts. And course, we could go in and get in one of the balconies and look down and watch the high muckamucks dance down there, you know. Anyway, I don't. Some guy got a whole bunch of stink bombs someplace, and I was up there and I didn't know it. But I guess he throwed them down on the

dance floor or something. (laughs) That didn't take long to break up the dance. And old Ed, he was so furious. Oh, if he ^{could've} found out who done that. He never found out. But that was the last dance they had, that mauckamuck stuff. That two classes, that was the last time they ever had a dance, that broke it up. No more of that.

SS: Did most of the houses on Nob Hill have servants, have a girl working for them, would that be common or only the most well to do?

AU: No, I think anybody they could get work for them for nothing, you know, and if they could keep you, why that was the big thing. But, then I stayed at old Dr. Thompson's. And Mrs. Thompson was a jewel. She was awful tight, she'd be at the table and she'd look all over, she said, "What do you want?" And if I said bread or something like that, "Whole slice or half a slice?" Course, I'd always say a half a slice. If I'd a said a whole slice she would've...

EU: Give it to ya.

AU: She was generous and all that but she wasn't one to waste a thing. Soon as I understood that I just uh... and she was very careful to see that I got enough sleep and she was the one that taught me the most about how to get along with those kind of people.

SS: She was one of them herself?

AU: Uh-huh. She was one and she was a gracious lady, or whatever you call it. She truly was. Her kids were bigger than, just ^{general} babies too. And so they didn't need any babysitting with them. I just, the kids would ask, "Can I do this, that or the other thing?" And I'd have to decide whether they could or they couldn't if their mother, if they hadn't asked her ahead of time. But that was a real nice place to stay.

SS: She taught you how to get along, was that like, were there certain things that you were and weren't supposed to do when you were dealing with those people?

AU: Yes.

SS: Certain ways of acting?

AU: Uh-huh. And she told me, well, for instance, one thing, this doesn't mean anything

but it's one thing I remember especially. She, I always washed my hands you know, before I'd go to do anything, well this time, I just had the soap in my hand and I was ^{just} really washing. And she says, "Well dear, I would just take a little soap and then wash my hands with water. I just wouldn't wash the soap." Well that's really what I was doing. And so, that was one way she taught me. And just little suggestions in that way with anything.

SS: When you were living with the store people, were you supposed to speak only when spoken to? Or did they have rules like that. I don't know how people are supposed to be when they're waiting on people.

AU: Well I don't know either.

EU: Supposed to stand ^{kinda} around the corner til you're spoken to, weren't ya?

AU: Yeah, and you don't interrupt any conversations or, you know, just keep scarce.

EU: Kind of an ^{ed} irony anything happen^{ed} you know. Like I say, my aunt, she married a dentist and course, Anna worked for her and well, by gosh, you know, she'd just lowbrow you know, just nobody, you know. Just a servant. Well, it turned out I started going with Anna and married her, see. Well Anna not only worked for her, she knew a lot of the goings on around the house, you know. (laughs) That got my aunt's goat.

AU: That woman would scream to the top of her voice. Just scream and scream and scream. But then long, long afterward I saw her in Potlatch at a dance down there and she had gone down to change her shoes, into a more comfortable pair of shoes. And she said, "How are you Anna?" She said, "I'm extremely glad you got into the family." (laughter)

EU: She was in a pig's eye. (laughs)

SS: I was pretty happy about it too, except for you, lady.

AU: Yes. But she...

EU: Yeah, that got her goat when ^{Anna and} I got married, by gosh, you know. She knew Anna knew goings on around that house.

AU: But she wouldn't get up in the morning, you know, she'd leave me a note here, leave me a note there. And if I'd miss a note, Holy! Mmmm, things would erupt.

One time she left a note on the kitchen stove, I guess it was kettle sitting on it or something. Anyway, I looked around and I didn't see the note. And what she wanted me to do was put a boiler on the stove and fill it full of water so the laundry maid could come in later and do the washing. And I didn't see that and I didn't put the water on the stove, of course. And I just didn't know I had to do otherwise. And pretty soon, the laundry woman come and no water on the stove, no hot water to start with. Oh man, Pearl was mad. 'Cause she was wanting to get that woman out of there, you know, 'fore noon. ^{But if} She left her notes in the same place so I could find 'em. Sometimes you could go ~~into~~ the living room and if she happened to be there the night before when she thought of what she wanted me to do, she'd write the note and leave it there.

SS: Just inconsiderate.

EU: You know, she wasn't a rich girl herself. She was just raised on a farm down here, you know, but, you know, families had a habit of doing that. Maybe they'd have a half a dozen kids or more, but they'd pick one kid out and they'd lavish everything. Well it happened to be that family it was the older kids. They had to work and do without and everything else. But the last two ones, well, I worked for my grandad down there in the haying, you know, when my uncle, he was what, three years older than I was, but his mother wouldn't let him work on that, go out there and work in the hay field. Wasn't good enough work for him. I could go out there and work alright. But he couldn't, no. Most he could do was take the car and run to town and get groceries and stuff and haul out. And my aunt, his sister, why she just set around and look pretty. My mother go down help my mother in the kitchen get dinner ready for the men you know, cooking and daughter of hers, she set out on the front porch, by gosh and looked pretty. She couldn't get her hands soiled or nothing. Well that's the way they raised her, see.

AU: She's the greatest la-di-dadder there ever was.

SS: She got herself a dentist, right and was pretty well to do.

AU: Yes. He was.

SS: And that shot her into the upper crust.

AU: And she never let anybody forget it. But ^{then} they, well no, they didn't divorce.

She was suing for divorce...

EU: When he died.

AU: And he died. And then she married somebody but I forgot who else.

EU: You've been around probably a lot more than I have, but you know, like I worked

on construction over here in Portland, you know, real millionaire, real rich man, or his wife, don't make any difference, you know, you'd never know it,

just being around them. I been around two or three of 'em down there, ~~working~~

~~down there~~. But I was working on a man name of Bowles. He made his money in

WWI in shipyards down there on the coast. Bowles. And he built a great big

three hundred thousand dollar house up on Council Crest up there in Portland.

And I worked on that job there. Well he come around you know, in his old

slouchy hat on, ~~standin'~~ around, I thought he was just a sidewalk bum, you know.

He'd stop ~~you~~, ask you about something, talk to you and maybe talk to you. I

wondered why ~~I~~ was talking ^{to him} ~~why~~ the boss didn't come around you know. He'd

keep aholdin' you up and talking to you when you were supposed to be working.

I couldn't figure that out, why the boss didn't come around and tell me to

lay off that talking business and get to work. Later I found out I was talking

to the guy that was building ~~that~~ house, you know. And he and his wife, the

only thing is, they never drive the same car. He had one of them old Franklin

cars, air cooled Franklin's. And she had one, it wasn't a new one, it was an

old one. His daughter, when she come around, she'd drive the fastest car. But

the old lady had an old car she'd drive around. And she was ~~friendly~~ enough.

SS: Do you think it's the difference between the old rich and the new rich?

EU: Well ^{just} ~~two~~ bit millionaires are the worst kind of millionaires there is, them

two bit ones. Somebody that gets a few dollars more than the other guy and

everybody's supposed to salute 'em when they go down the road or something.

^{NO} ~~I~~ always called 'em two bit millionaires. But you take a real millionaire,

a rich man and by gosh, you know, you can be around 'em, you know they ^{they} ~~don't~~.

AU: They don't brag. They can talk with the common man ~~without~~ trying to put him

down, you know.

SS: I don't know if it's still that way but probably in the old days it was.

EU: Well, ^{not now,} today I don't think it was so bad as it used to be. All that class distinction stuff isn't so bad as it used to be. I got a friend, when I was a kid I went runnin' around here at home, his father died when he was small and he had to quit school and work for money enough, you know, to help his mother and his sister live. They just didn't have nothin', they just poor is what he was and his folks. And anyway, he got ahold of an old bicycle someplace and front wheel went out and I know my mother sent to Montgomery^e Wards and got the spokes and stuff to build a new wheel. And I helped him build that wheel up. Anyway, they was just so poor it was pitiful, but he got tired out and he made up his mind he was going to sell vacuum cleaners. Well he was a backwoods boy, you know, he couldn't talk to strangers and he was the last guy in the world you think would go door to door selling vacuum cleaners. Well he said ther^e was nothing ever harder in the world then he put in the first day selling vacuum cleaners. And second day he said he just about give up. But some woman let him in and bought a vacuum cleaner^{from him}. But otherwise they just close doors 'cause they seen him and practically slam the door in his face, you know.

SS: Where was he selling, locally?

EU: Spokane. That's where he started out, Spokane. And but finally he made a sale. So by gosh, he was all gungho after that, you know, he really went after 'em. And today he's still in the vacuum cleaner business. Now that was when he was a kid, when he first started out and he started out in Spokane. Now his head office is in Portland. And maybe you've seen the papers, Scott's Vacuum Cleaners.

AU: He's got stores all over the country.

SS: He owns it?

EU: Yeah, he's retired now. But he still, he's general manager of all^{of} his stores. He's retired but the company he owns furnishes him with a Cadillac every year, brand new Cadillac every year. I guess they do, ^{yet} I don't know, but they was up here til a couple of years ago. Every year he'd get a brand new Cadillac to

drive and he had his credit cards on the company, anything he wanted to buy.

And then he had a salary, so much a year from the company. But he's a millionaire time and again. All ~~started~~ selling that first vacuum cleaner.

AU: And then during the war everybody was selling everything they could get to get a little money and he went around collecting...

EU: Old vacuum cleaners.

AU: Old vacuum cleaners.

EU: Well, he done that before the war. He seen ahead.

SS: First war or second war?

EU: Second war. First war. No, wait a minute. That was the depression. Depression, the first time. He went ahead and he had shop down there, oh it was a high place. Shelves. He just had them shelves every place you could pack a second hand vacuum cleaner on them shelves.

SS: In Spokane?

EU: No that was in Portland. After he moved.

AU: But he's got a store in Spokane yet.

EU: Yeah, he's still got a store up there, but he was, his headquarters was Portland then. But he seen some way or other, well, he's in the vacuum cleaning business and before WWI, no, before the depression. Everything was boom, boom, boom. You know, people were buying cars, buying this, they were trading vacuum cleaners well, he'd take their old vacuum cleaner and sell 'em a new one. And then he'd go out and buy up a, some guy up there have a, sell black, maybe he'd have a dozen there, he'd go up and make a deal for 'em and get 'em. Anyway, as to how he rummied around and got them vacuum cleaners, well then, depression hit. And ~~course~~ ^{nobody could} buy a new vacuum cleaner. So he hired a guy and they went in and he fixed up a shop and he'd remodel them, you know, he'd get new brushes and motors, repair the motors on 'em and then he'd paint the handles. Then he'd put that paper, you know, wrap it around the handle, it looked just like a new one, you know. Well, he'd probably get the darn thing for a dollar and a half, during the depression he'd probably sell it for six dollars. It'd be

second hand but it'd look just like a new one, probably. It was awful battered up before he, he was pretty slick, you know, it'd look like a brand new machine. And they'd come in and he ^{then} sold all of them off. When nobody else could sell anything, people was buying vacuum cleaners from him second hand. Well that was a big go, and then he got another rap at it during WWII. Doing the the same thing. But anyway, he branched out, he's got stores in Eugene, Seattle, Tacoma, Grants Pass, I don't know. Spokane.

SS: When this guy was young did you think he had this go getter in him?

EU: No, he didn't. He didn't. You wouldn't, you know, you just couldn't imagine him goin' ahead and doing anything like that. You know. If you was going to judge all the kids in this neighborhood, ^{you would've said} he's the least possible of getting anyplace in the world. Well it turned out just the other way. He's the only one that really went places. No.

SS: They used to talk about rags to riches. I've read about that it was a big idea, that anybody could become a millionaire. I never really believed that because it seems that so very few have gotten rich like that. From a case like this do you think that it's possible, or do you have to be extremely lucky?

EU: Well nowadays, course, them days, you know, there was so few rich people 'round the United States, there were so few of 'em, real rich people. But nowadays there's so many people that's, you know, they can hand their wealth down to the kids, you know. But ~~then~~ that start, he was a regular rags to riches. He done it all on his own. He didn't have to inherit no estate or end up. He was just... and today, well, he, like I say, he's in that company now and he was up here a couple three years ago, I guess, couple years ago he was up here last.

AU: Yeah I think so.

EU: But we went fishing, him and I went fishing up at Sandpoint and you know, he's driving a ^{big} brand new Cadillac. That didn't make no difference. He go along you know and old cars would pass him. He had his automatic speed control on it. If he want to drive 50 he'd set that and then he'd just set there and steer

it and talk. Thing would go up hills and down hills, that's all he had to do was set there and steer it. And he had another thing that come out on it. It flopped, was that business of headlights, you know. If you had that magic eye, ^{in it} if you met a car coming it would dim. You seen them, haven't ya?

SS: Yeah.

EU: Well that had that on. Well we was coming down from Sandpoint and that old road used to be pretty crooked. Lot of curves and up and downs. And that magic eye business. But another thing that happened with that magic eye, we went over hills like this at one place and there was a car coming. Every time the car was going over the hill this lights would dim. The hill was probably a mile away. And then lights would come on bright would go down and come up but it always dimmed just after that guy, it would hit him right in the eyes before they'd dim. But they'd dim and they'd ^{turn} bright ones. The most dangerous part was, you'd come here and go around this curve, they had them bright markers along them guardrails. And them darn things would dim the lights. Right when you needed lights going 'round the curve, they was setting out here in the brush. So.

SS: Pretty bad idea.

EU: Yeah, it wasn't a good idea.

SS: It seems like guys that work in the mill, they don't get rich. They could work harder than anything...

(End of sideC)

EU: Then by gosh, they'd lay you off. There was no time, ^{period like} set ^{he} he was 65, he might retired now. But back there it was just like an old horse, they would just turn you out to pasture, you know. You didn't have no pension, no nothin' no company....So you said, "Well, this is it. You don't need to come back no more, we don't need ya." A lot of 'em didn't have anymore than just rentin' their houses from the Potlatch down there, they was renting their houses and I don't suppose half of 'em had 50 dollars in the bank or no money to lay up, you know, they just couldn't do it. And well, they just went on the county. Just had to go on the county. County aid.

SS: Do you think that in the '20's when people were working in the mill, you think they thought they had a good chance of getting ahead?

EU: Just trying to eat three meals a day. You know, at \$3.40 an hour for common labor and like I say, everything, if you had a car, gasoline was around ^{anywhere} from 20 to 35 cents a gallon way back in them days. It wasn't cheap. Cheapest I ever seen gas was 5 gallons for a dollar, that's 20 cents a gallon. That's the ~~cheapest~~ it ever got. Five gallons for a dollar.

SS: Seems like these days, people really hope that they're gonna get ahead. A big stake. Was it the same in those days?

EU: Well some people can save more than others. It seems funny though, by gosh, you look things over, you take some guy with one or two kids and by gosh, when he gets retirement age, he won't have nothing. But maybe a guy ^{have} with 5 or 7 kids, he'll have a home paid for. Don't make sense. They can make the same wages, but they guy with 6 or 7 kids, by gosh when he gets older and can't work, he's got a home paid for. But the guy, by gosh, with ^{maybe only} 1 or 2 kids when they get up old why they just don't seem to...

AU: Well, now, it's awfully hard to feed a family and get ahead. It seems like to me. I hear more young people you know, complain about, you know, its not payday you know, I don't know what I'm gonna have for supper. I'm just, you know, eat up everything we got and I ^{just} don't know what we're...

EU: Course, people live so much different nowadays, you know. People won't do without a car, they have to take the food off the table, they still own a car. Now poor people just didn't have cars them days, you know. They walked to work you know. Walk back and maybe have an old horse to drive to town if they had to get something heavier than the pack on your back, why, they'd drive an old horse to town. Poor people, it just wasn't everybody had cars. Back in them days. And ^{guys} ~~lot of~~ that did have cars, like I say, gasoline was up there 28,30 cents a gallon, you know and you just couldn't afford to drive your car to Potlatch and back. Heck. I walked, even when I had my own car. I walked to work and back, by gosh, all week and left the car settin' in the shed just

to save gas. A lot of guys up here at Princeton walked to the mill every day and walked back (Mumble) walked back and forth to work.

AU: Sometimes they caught the train, too, that was only charge ten cents, didn't it, to ride to Potlatch?

EU: Fifteen cents.

AU: Fifteen cents.

EU: I worked lots of times, I'd go over here on the nightshift, I'd go over here and catch that, what they called the 3 o'clock train that go down through Princeton. Well, I'd get on it and ride to Potlatch for 15 cents. And then I'd walk clear home that night after work. Well there was a whole gang, almost like Cox's Army coming up the track, you know. I wasn't all alone.

SS: Do you think that theyguys that lived out in the country and worked at the Potlatch mill felt a little more independent than the men that lived in town? Or wasn't there any difference?

EU: Well, they usually had a little more they could claim their own. Most of the guys in Potlatch, they were trying to live a little ^{bit} above their means I'd say, because they'd try to have better furniture. They was always in debt. Well, just a case like, when the depression hit. They put me, a lot of guys, I was lucky, I got a job nightwatching. I guess you'd call it lucky. Anyway, I had to work 12 hours a night. But then they divide it up, I'd work half the week and then another guy'd take the shift and go the other half and divide that work up between us. But I was out there in the yard out there at Potlatch, and every evening you could see a pickup goin' down the road with a car behind it, new cars. They was haulin' 'em out of town, repossessin' 'em. ^{when} They got through haulin' cars out, why I bet there wasn't a dozen cars left in the whole town of Potlatch. I'm not kidding. I'm not kiddin' ya. I didn't go for that new car business at that time. ^{Anna and} When ^{when} I got married, she had a little Ford roadster, '27 Model and I had a Ford '27 model Coupe. Well, she ^{used} her car to go to school and back with and I had that little Ford, so that when we got married, why, we didn't need two cars. That's one thing. So we decided, a '27

Dodge sedan come up for sale down there and it was a pretty good car, so we decided to trade our two Fords off and get that. So that's what we did. And so when the depression hit, why the old Dodge was ^{all} paid for. I'll tell you, if I'd a went like them other guys, you know, and there were salesmen around trying to sell you new cars there before the depression hit, all those boys were working, they sold a lot of cars. But gee whiz, when they got through hauling cars out of town, I'll tell you, there weren't very many left.

SS: I wonder why they were like that in Potlatch. I know the company owned the homes, I wonder if that was it, if you couldn't own your home, you wanted to own something.

EU: It was the thing to do, if you could get a car. And there was still that little bit of class distinction, you know. One would try to have a little bit better car than the other guy, you know. And bigger and that was still goin' on.

SS: Do you think that doesn't operate so much out in the country?

EU: No, it seems like out in the country, it didn't ^{seem to} make much difference what you drove. I don't know. It didn't seem to make much difference. But in town that way, why. I don't know, they looked across the hall to see what the other guy, what he had. Anyway, they caught 'em all with their pants down when the depression hit.

SS: Quite a few of the families here had a little land, didn't they?

EU: Most of 'em. Lot of 'em lived over here in Princeton, you know. And a lot of 'em was farmers working down here, you know. Lot of 'em, by gosh, they'd lay off in the harvest and puttin' their crop in and they go down and work all winter down in the mill, you know. And they make pretty good, let's say. Yeah. They done alright. It was pitiful the way it was though. Nothing to look ahead to, you know. You just were one month to the next, if you could keep your nose above water, it worked alright, but when you got old and they didn't need ya...

AU: It really was truly hard. I know one month you was paid 13 dollars, your check was, and our gas bill was 12 dollars.

SS: In the depression.

EU: Depression, yeah.

AU: So that wasn't a very good... but he had insurance, see, and we dipped into

that. That's what put us through the depression.

EU: Well, lot of guys, they just got laid off, period. Well they could go down to the store you know, and hold their hand behind their back, they'd get a chunk of meat and they could get their grocery bill and I was out there, runnin' around the snow in the wintertime making $27\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour. That's what they paid during the depression. $27\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour. And, well I was doing alright, but we had a house rented there, we didn't have too much furniture. We just got married, you know, a year before. Couple years.

AU: Really two years and a half before it really hit us hard.

EU: Yeah, we got married in '29 and I think they shut the mill down about the last part of '31 or '32. Anyway, they had a system there that if I was working, now we only had two lightbulbs in the house and we didn't have an electric stove or nothin', but my electric bill was goin' up 8 and 9 dollars a month, you know. Well, they was usin' me to pay my neighbors bills you see. They just put it on to the guy that was workin' to cover the other guys. Well that was more than I could take so, house, my dad had ^{up on the hill} vacant, so I told Anna, the heck with it, let's pull out of town. So we moved up there. I think that was a mistake.

SS: Why?

EU: I don't like to have anybody shoved on to me like that, you know, but...

SS: Why was it a mistake?

EU: Well it just worked a hardship all the way around. And I could astayed down in Potlatch, you know, ^{I guess} and paid that 8, 9 whatever they wanted to charge me for 'lectricity.

SS: But it wasn't your electricity.

AU: No, we had to help pay for others.

EU: So anyway, I told 'em to take their house and shove it and we moved out. Well we stayed out there, I guess, a couple of years. Couple of winters.

AU: We stayed there, we moved up there in November and then we stayed that winter and another winter. Then we moved out sometime...

EU: That spring.

AU: I think it was the fall of the year that we moved back to Potlatch wasn't it?

EU: Yeah, they started the mill up again.

AU: Yes.

SS: What was it like when you were living up there. You weren't working in the mill?

EU: Yeah.

SS: You were still watchman?

EU: Still workin' yah, I watched ^{awhile} and then I worked in the planer awhile.

AU: Three days a week.

SS: Sounds like that was really going back to the land.

EU: Yeah, it was. Oh, we done alright. But I never did have to take a handout during that depression. No, I'll say that.

AU: But he, like I say, he had that insurance and ^{he} cashed it in you know. And then we were careful. Living up there, no rent, no lights, no water. Well I mean, paid for. And then we milked cows and his folks brought their herd up there, Emmett and fed 'em out for the winter. And so we had a cow to get our milk and butter. See ^{it} was a big help that way.

EU: Yeah, it was hard. So anyway, the mill started up in '34 and we moved back to Potlatch. And then I stayed there till about '43 I guess. *144 I quit.*

AU: Yeah. Your dad died in February and we moved up here to take care of your mother. That was '43.

EU: I worked awhile after that though.

AU: Yeah, you worked till '44.

SS: When you lived on the hill, did you stay at home most of the time?

EU: Yeah. Yeah, she wasn't teachin' school then.

SS: Was it really a whole different life to make things stretch during the depression? Compared to before?

AU: Well we truly weren't too bad off, were we Emmett?

EU: No, we wasn't. I, they shut the mill down, kid, Elliot McDonald, we worked on the carriage together, so anyway, well, we were up against her now, so I had that old Dodge and we got in it and went over here to Kendrick. And a guy up there was raisin' beans. Well I got two sacks, sack of white and

big 100 pound, 140 pound bags, you know, sacks.

of wheat, ^{of} beans.

How was that? He got two...

AU: You got two and he got three, wasn't it Emmett?

EU: I guess that was it. Anyway, we was loadin' up the back of the old Dodge and hauled 'em home. You could get 'em for about a cent a pound you know. Beans at that time. So by gosh, the joke was, the beans I hauled home kept Hatter Creek alive here that winter. He said Potlatch would have starved to death if they hadn't had his beans. (laughs) And by gosh, there was more truth to it than lie.

AU: And up there I had a garden ~~too~~ that you don't have in town.

SS: Were you giving your beans away?

EU: Yeah. We didn't charge nothin' for 'em.

SS: You had a garden and grew most all yyour vegetables?

AU: Yah, after the first winter. And Emmett got a chicken house built and we ~~had~~ chickens. And it was...

SS: Did people get together very much during the depression in the neighborhood?

AU: No. No you couldn't.

EU: Do what?

SS: Get together in the depression in the neighborhood.

EU: Not too much.

AU: Not then.

EU: Everybody stuck pretty close to the fire. Oh they'd, summertime, ^{each one'd} ~~they'd~~ help one another out in the hayin' or somethin' like that, you know. Farm work they'd help one another out. What I had the other guy didn't have, or my dad had and they didn't have. Lot of swappin' done between the farmers. 'Cause nobody had any money.

AU: We worked hard up there. Emmett ^{would} ~~worked~~ in the mill and ^{then} ~~helped~~ with the hayin' too, you know and different things like that. I cooked for the hay crew. So it was a busy life, you know. No time to waste. Had orchard up there.

EU: When was it I bought the Patten place?

AU: Well it was after we moved down from the upper place.

EU: Yeah.

AU: Back to Potlatch.

EU: Fellow had 40 acres up there, name of Earl Patten. And he had it all pretty well cleaned up, you know, and had a nice garden spot and fairly good buildings on it. But his dad passed away back in Minnesota and he had a farm back there and he wanted to get rid of this so he could get money enough to go back there. Well by gosh, all he wanted for it was a thousand dollars. Well by gosh, it just wasn't easy to find somebody with a thousand dollars them days. Finally I talked to the banker and I raised a thousand dollars and got that 40 acres. Well that was my first land purchase. And then, let's see. Oh I schemed around and got ahold of a little land one way or another. I got 160 acres ^{way over here} ^{between} here and Viola. Back here in the mountains. Timber claim. I got that through the fact of the just paying back taxes on it. Course I didn't get nothin' off of that, matter, I give it to my boy Frank before I ^{ever} seen the darn place. I never could find it. I don't know. We went over and looked for it but we just couldn't find the darn place. So after I gave it to Frank and then he got acquainted ^{better} ^{A little} and they got up and found it, got it outlined where it was. But, then he turned around and sold it, I believe for nine thousand.

AU: I think so, but I don't know.

EU: I think nine thousand he sold it for. I got for it for payin' taxes on it but I didn't get nothin' on it otherwise. I gave it to him and he sold it.

SS: When I said get together, I was thinking of parties and dances. I know I heard they used to...

EU: They did when I was a kid. They, yeah, they used to have houseparties. Have a dance over at this place and one here one week and then somebody else would have it the next week during the wintertime especially. And had some rousin' times. I know ^{one time} ^I was just a kid, over here there's this guy that lives over here, he lived, big log house there, maybe I told you about this, Slim Callaghan. Callaghan. He was a long, lazy lumberjack, you know.

SS: One of the 4 L's?

EU: Something like that, but he was a good guy, but he was just a lumberjack. He wasn't married or nothin' but, anyway kids, they was dancin' in the house, the kids were outdoors horsin' around and ^{come on} all at once ^I him out there in the back of the, behind the house, ~~down in the weeds layin' there~~ and moanin' and greanin' and well I knew him a little bit, 'cause he worked for my grandad. Hayin' down there. And so I talked to him and he wanted to know who I was and ^{I told him} "You're a good boy." So finally he said, "I'm gonna give you somethin'" so he pulled out of his pockets a five dollar bill and give it to me, you know. And oh boy, I thought, all of a sudden I was a millionaire. So by gosh I took it. So we went home that night ^{from the dance} and told my dad what happened, that guy give me, so I got the five dollars. Holy smokes? I shouldn't have taken it, you know. So anyway, the next day was Sunday. Anyway, they got me up early and they put me on a cayuse and I took off and the lumbercamp was way above Harvard someplace. I 'd never hardly been up there you know. I'd been up there as far as Harvard, but beyond that I didn't know. I had a little cayuse. Her name was Dolly. And I started out that morning I had to go and get that money back to that guy, or by gosh, I might ^{as well} not come home, that's ^{about} what it amounted to. And so I rode all day and way late that evening. But finally I found him up there in the loggin' camp. Course, there was other guys around there. So I found him and I give him his five dollars back. He didn't know nothin' about it, you know. Well I said, you give it to me last night and my folks said I had to give it back to ya, so. Well he take it but it kind of embarrassed him around the other guys that he would throw his money around like that when he was drunk. Anyway, I tell you, no drunk man ever give money ~~after~~ that. That was the end of that.

SS: When you guys were going together in those days, then dances, they didn't have them any more? At homes?

EU: No no, they were mostly over in the halls. They had a hall up in Harvard and they had pavillions, well they had one down at Kennedy Ford down here, big

pavillion down there at the time.

AU: These are all gone. The dances, they just don't have 'em anymore.

SS: Would people come from all around to a dance like that?

EU: Oh yeah.

SS: Oh just be people from the neighborhood?

EU: No, all over. Some people maybe a bunch go to Avon up here, Helmer. They used to have a pavillion up there, big round hall, dance hall.

SS: I've heard about that one. That was quite a big place.

EU: Yeah, big place. Then they had one down at Ford down here. Round hall there. They had one over at Troy. Had a, it was on the road goin' out towards Moscow, off on the left. 'Stead of goin' out towards Moscow, they had a big round hall there. And this place down there, this side of Colfax. They call Parvens. I never was down there, but they had a big hall there. Lot of people just, you know, they go this one time and the next day they go to the next one and that's the way they done. Every Saturday night they probably go to a different hall.

SS: I've heard that during Prohibition outside of those dance halls they had quite a few fights outside of those dances, it wasn't unusual. Did you get many lectures at home, Anna, about that kind of thing? Did they try to make young ladies fear liquor. Did parents try to be strict about that?

AU: No, we never... well I never had a drink at a dance in my life.

EU: I don't know. I never did either.

AU: And I don't even think the girls...

EU: Younger people didn't go for it. It was mostly just older people go to dances and raise all the heck.

SS: You as a young sport didn't have drinks at the dance either?

EU: Maybe just a little sip, just a social sip or something, but I never got drunk.

AU: One time, I know, he took a sip, somebody invited him out to the car and reached down and pulled out a bottle. But you never got drunk or anything.

EU: Oh no. No I never was that crazy about the stuff.

AU: But if, it seemed like if they drank they'd fight. There was always people that'd go to the dances to fight.

EU: Get a, smell a cork or two and then they'd have to fight. Anyway...

AU: But Emmett, it doesn't seem ^{as though} we went to all that many dances. For a few years we did, and then, what's the matter, did we grow up?

EU: I don't know honey. I was only, one time I was up in Avon up there and Helmer I was up there one night, but you wasn't with me then, that's when my cousin come down and us kids all went up there ~~at~~ night. That's when you ~~was~~ there and that girl.

AU: I don't remember that.

SS: Was it all ages of people at those dances?

EU: Oh yeah. Yeah.

AU: All ages. Even little kids dances and the old women were around (Make swishing noise). I didn't get old fast enough. I mean, I missed out on that.

EU: Well they just don't have 'em no more, hon.

AU: They quit havin' dances.

EU: There ain't a dance around the country, no more.

AU: No.

EU: 'Less the school kids have a dance in the gymnasium down here, you know, just for school kids.

AU: They just school dances.

EU: As far as a dance hall, there isn't one in the whole country that I know of. It's just a thing of the past. Television I guess is..

SS: Took it's place.

EU: Take it's place and they haven't even got picture shows. They haven't got a show building in Palouse, Potlatch. You got to go to Moscow or Lewiston even get to a theater.

SS: What did you think of the picture shows in the '20's. Were they, did kids think very much of them? Were they great stuff?

EU: Well you know, kind of a funny thing. You take some of them old sob stories they run on television, you know, you probably wouldn't even turn the television

on to watch them. ^{But} Then days they'd put a show like that on and put it up in lights and advertise it and people would come from all over to watch them darn shows. You know, there was nothing to them, you know, but, the same thing that's on television today. People wouldn't give the time aof day to turn the thing on for it,

AU: And then there was those wild wests, you know. And they were really, well, an awful crowd would go there on the westerns.

EU: Oh, Wild Bill Hickock add, oh what was that one, one of the first cowboys on the theater? Bill Hart. Bill Hart, he was one of the first ones. Oh one of his shows come on. But the thing that set people wild was, oh they come out in Spokane with a big show like, oh that old Civil War show. You know I can't think of names worth a hoot today. But...O'Hara.

SS: Gone With the Wind?

EU: Gone With the Wind, that's the one. Well, that come out. Well when that come in to Spokane, the whole neighborhood practically moved up to Spokane that night to see that show, you know. Go up there to Spokane to see a cockeyd show. Here in Moscow, or Lewiston, or where^{ever} in hell it happened to be. Well they had a cycle like that for awhile. People didn't go to these little ding dong shows they had around here too much. They were just people, maybe young people would go because there's nothin' else to do. But anyway, I tell you take some new show that come out and cripes, the neighborhood just move to Spokane or Lewiston, where ever the show was and they'd run that thing there in Spokane maybe ^{for} three weeks before they play out^{es}.

SS: I heard that there were some local girls that wanted to go to Hollywood to become movie stars. Was that one thing the movies did when they first came out?

EU: Oh yes. That was the big thing. Girls get into the movies. Yeah.

SS: Anna, when you talked about when you were working in Potlatch, it sounds really rough. It's too bad, if you were just getting room and board, you must have worked hours every day.

AU: Yeah, I did. You started early ^{nights} and some^{nights} you would go late. And in the meantime,

you had to get the kids to bed. Tell the little guys, see, I was nice, stories, you know, to make 'em sleep and I had one girl, I imagine she was 5 and you'd tell her her story and she'd promise to lay down and go to sleep and all that kind of stuff and you'd get through telling her the story, you had to get through pretty soon, you know, because you had work downstairs to do. And she would start screaming. And she would cry and cry and cry. Finally one of the neighbors told the woman ^{that} I was stayin' with that I must be beatin' that child to make her cry that way ^{at night}. And so she jumped on to me. And I told her that what the little kid would do, you know. You know, she wouldn't believe that. Then the next time I went up there and she was ascreamin, I patted her little, you know, sitdown, real hard. I didn't, and I plopped her down on the bed and then I turned off the light and that was a no-no. And I left her in the dark a little while. But I went up and changed it pretty quick 'cause I thought ^{maybe} her mother'd come home and not see a light in that room and she'd, ...so I didn't, but then there were some ladies we just went through the year doin' fine.

SS: There wasn't any other way that a girl could live in Potlatch, I mean you just about had to work out if you were go^oing to live there.

EU: Um hum.

AU: And pretnear every woman on Nob Hill and all those around had a girls.

EU: That was the thing, you know. High Society, have your girl, you know.

SS: Did boys from Harvard also live in Potlatch to go to high school?

AU: Well my brother lived out on a farm just outside of Potlatch.

EU: He done chores for a livin'.

AU: He went to school three years and then I don't know why, whether that farmer died or moved away or what. But then that was as much schooling as he got, he didn't go back ~~the~~ fourth year.

SS: Chores, was that real hard on him?

EU: Well it depends on who you're working for.

AU: He didn't think it was so bad. You see he didn't have any little kids to deal with. And he would just do his chores. Pick apples or whatever had to be done. And he liked it.

SS: Did you have any other girlfriend that you knew was working in Potlatch like you?

AU: Yes. Yeah, the girls were got so they got so they treated me like a town girl.

I really didn't mind high school. ^{If} I had time enough to study with. And I didn't...

SS: I mean, were there other working girls that you knew?

AU: Um hm.

SS: Were most of them country girls too, or were some of them town girls?

AU: No, country girls.

EU: All country girls.

AU: All country girls.

EU: Girls that lived in town, they had their homes.

SS: Did you get homesick being there?

AU: Well, at first I did. But then I got over it, I guess. I must have. Because in my third year, it's an awful thing...

(End of side D)

SS: ...home?

AU: Yeah, at home. The family at home got sick. And my dad come down and asked me to come home and help. Well, if I did that, that would be the end of my schoolin'. And so I just told him, I'd sure like to finish school. And I just didn't want to go home and that be the end of it. But you know, I don't know if I'm over that yet or not. I regret it, because...

EU: They all lived.

AU: Mama's, yah. They were all real sick. But I, they'd been sick so many, many times. 'Flus and pneumonias and different things you know, we had to pull 'em through. And John had, what's that awful disease, fever?

EU: Rheumatic.

AU: Huh?

EU: Rheumatic fever?

AU: No, no. You get out of water, see, and anyway, he had that. He was sick months and months with that. He got it at Aunt Maude's you know.

EU: Typhoid?

AU: Typhoid. I couldn't think of that word.

SS: Your father let you stay because you asked?

AU: Yeah. And he understood, you know. And then he, I went ahead and finished and school and then I went down to Lewiston, he helped me through as much as he could. And he was, good heart, an awful good, one time I wrote up to him for some money and he didn't have that much money. So he wrote me the nicest letter telling me, I'm sending what I can and tomorrow I'll send the rest. That was when I was in training. And the girls each had to pay something towards their board, And in training. So I was no easy... Then when I started teaching, I started givin' 'em back the money that they...

EU: One funny thing, you know. She was boardin' down there when she was goin' to college, Normal. And a bunch of girls lived in a geat big 2 story house. Each one, couple three have a room here, room there, you know, I don't know what the old house was, but it had a lot of rooms I guess. But anyway, the snow was so deep, right down there in Lewiston, ^{Normal} up there on a Hill, there must have been a good foot of snow on the ground. Well that's when they wrote me and wanted me to come down and take 'em to a dance. So I found the place where they was livin', I'd never been there before. I went in and there was nobody in the bottom, kind of a waiting room there, you know. And so I standin' around there waitin' see, to see somebody that I could inquire and pretty quick, a younger girl, I guess one of the other girls' sister, younger sister, she come agallop in down the stairs and she ^{standing there and} seen me, she stopped and looked at me. I said, "Does Anna Gleason live here?" "Oh yes, follow me." Well she took me right back up the stairs again. I guess that was no man's land up there, you know. But anyway, she says, "Follow me."

AU: And you did.

EU: And so she come up there til they went back to the door there. She says, "She's in there." And so she ^h threw the door wide open, her and her girlfriend was in the room, they wasn't expectin' company. But anyway, I went back downtown

the old car didn't have no heaters in them, ⁱⁿ them days, you know, so the girls, it was an awful cold night, and the wind blowin'. So I went down and got some of them heavy men's socks, you know, big wool socks? I got a couple pairs of them for the girls to wear on their feet goin' home. But anyway, I went down and got them and come back and of course, I went right back up there. I been up there once and I didn't get kidded, so I went back up. All them other doors along the hallway they, you know, just full of girls. You could see ^{the doors} cracked that much and a bunch of eyeballs up and down.

AU: So we pulled those socks on and left. And that girl kept those socks.

EU: Yeah, didn't give 'em back to me. She didn't get me, but she got my socks.

SS: Was it nice living in Lewiston?

AU: Yeah, I thought it was. We just had one room and the bed was in that room and quite a big bed you know, and there wasn't much room, and a table, little round table. The stove was out in the hall. It wasn't convenient. But I think we got it for 15 dollars, Emmett. I paid 7 and a half and she paid 7 and a half.

EU: A room, huh? That might ^{we been} about right.

SS: Were most of the girls living there going to Lewiston Normal?

AU: Yeah.

EU: Yeah, They was all schoolkids, yeah.

AU: Two or three rooms there was younger girls that were going to highschool.

SS: Did the house have someone there to look after everybody?

AU: Yeah.

EU: Yeah, they had the landlord.

AU: And if we had a boyfriend come to meet us, or you know, he was supposed to stay down into the living room downstairs. It was fixed up for the men. But that girl didn't tell him that. She said...

EU: She come down and she wasn't expecting anybody, she just come agallop in' down the stairs and when she seen me standing there and she looked, you know and I asked, did Anna Gleason live here? "Oh yes, yes, come on." Up the stairs she went.

SS: Were you embarrassed by that, Anna?

AU: I didn't know how to get him out of there right quick. ^{Before} The landlady caught us.

EU: Anyway, she just didn't go up and knock on the door, she just went up there and throwed the door open, "There she is!" (laughs) I stood there with my mouth open. So anyway, finally what I come for, so I said, I'll go back downtown and get some wool socks for you girls to wear home. And so I went on out and boy, every one of them doors, boy there was eyeballs up and down, girls in all them rooms.

AU: But nobody told on us I guess, I never got in any trouble over it.

EU: We never got in any trouble.

SS: How was the depression on your neighbors? Did they have it harder or not so hard as you?

EU: Oh, everybody was short of money. Maybe one or two guys around the country here, bigger farmers, might have had a little money, but then the ordinary, everybody was just hard up for money, by gosh. Everybody had a charge account at the store, why that's what they lived on and lived on that charge account and hope that they'd have money to pay it off. But that kind of finally wound up and things got tog goin' again. Now we're in a mess now, so many people out of work. If it wasn't for handouts, course we didn't get them handouts them days like you do now, you know. By gosh, we didn't have unemployment insurance and food stamps, ^{things} ~~same~~ as they got nowadays. You know they got, people think they're bad off, but they're really not bad off compared to what it was during the '29 depression. They don't know what depression is, people nowadays. They have to pinch in and change their ways a little bit. People actually, by gosh, went hungry.

SS: People around here?

EU: I only know one girl, I guess she just about starved to death. She anyway, but ^{the} neighbor girl up here, she married a guy and he got a cabin way back up in the woods someplace, ^{they} that's where ~~he~~ was livin'. Then he'd leave her there and take off you know, and go to Moscow and horse around and by gosh I

guess she ^{about} starved to death. She wouldn't go home. Her parents lived up h^{ere}, but parents ~~wasn't~~ agreeable when she married that guy in the first place, and just out of pride she wouldn't go home. So I guess, time they found her by gosh, she was too far gone to save. She died anyway.

SS: Did she die?

EU: Yeah.

SS: From malnutrition probably.

EU: Malnutrition I think was all it was. She just didn't have anything to eat.

AU: But there was a lot of deer killed, you know, during that depression. They some people even went to extremes you know, to get a lot more than they'd use.

EU: Well, the game warden just didn't see nothin'. No, you'd go out and kill a deer but, way it is though, when you turn people loose that way, give 'em that privilege, it was nothing to walk up ^{through} ⁱⁿ the woods and ^{just} see a dead deer laying there with the hindquarters taken off and the rest of it layin' there. Even during them times when the meat was hard to come by, you know. So it don't make no difference what you do, ^{but} ^{the} it's always somebody who'll make a monkey out of it. Always somebody, by gosh.

SS: Did people around here like Roosevelt when he got in?

EU: Oh boy. Oh boy. Yeah, they sure did. They sure did. ^{In} The first term and the second term. And the third term I guess. He was in four times, wasn't he?

SS: Yeah.

AU: Yeah, but he didn't live long.

EU: He didn't live long. I guess it was his third term when we got into WWII. Well, then gettin' into that war was a little bit mixed, little bit mixed feelings, but then, he was still a big hero. He was a big hero to the people. I

SS: I heard that in the '28 election that Laird came down to the mill and got all the guys together and got up and made a speech right before the election. And told them that if Al Smith got elected the mill was gonna shut down and that was gonna be the end of it.

EU: Well, I don't remember that part, but the bosses were noisin' that around that

if Al Smith got elected, no, yeah, old Hoover was runnin' against him.

SS: This was '28.

EU: Yeah, old Hoover was runnin' against him. The democrats got in, why, let me see, who was president before Wilson?

SS: Wilson was in there in '14. Before him was Taft.

EU: Coolidge.

SS: Coolidge was after Wilson.

AU: Coolidge was after.

EU: After, yeah, he was the president all during what they call the boom days of the '20's. Well, that's what they call the boom days. Everybody was making a little money and spend it and...

SS: Is that true around here, was it boom days here?

EU: Oh yeah, oh Christ, that's what I was talking about Potlatch down there. People buying cars like crazy, you know. Everybody was out drivin' around in a new car. Anybody that didn't have a new car was just nobody. And they wasn't no little cars, they was big cars, you know. Can't a Ford's, they'd call 'em. And by gosh, you know, that's where they got caught. Well then by gosh, I'm getting ahead of myself, I'm back in depression again. Was that where we was? ^{During the} Depression.

SS: We were talking about boom days in the '20's.

EU: Yeah, that's in the '20's in the boom days. Yeah, that was in the '20's. Then in '28 Coolidge (Pronunciation) choose not to run.

SS: Yeah.

EU: So Hoover then was the guy. Well everything was still goin' good, that time yet, you know, every body was happy. Then Hoover got in. and that's when he run against Al Smith.

SS: You were saying how the bosses were against Smith in Potlatch.

EU: The biggest racket that I remember of was when Roosevelt run against Dewey. That was a big thing then if noise around here that time I know. If the Republicans didn't get in, that mill would shut down, you know. Well Dewey didn't get in, old Truman got in and so that was the one I remember of.

Do you know what happened? They started up two shifts. They was runnin' one shift before. After the election was over with, I'll be darned if they didn't go on nightshift.

SS: I'm going to have to go. (Talk about leaving)

(End of side E)