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EVA MAE BELL & PATRICIA LARSON  
Narrators

ISABEL MILLER  
Interviewer

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Eva Mae Bell & Patricia Larson

IM: I am Isabel Miller and I'm here at Mrs. Bell's house and your first name is?

EB: Eva Mae Bell.

IM: And we're just talking here and I had a few questions to ask and we've just decided she'll answer the one's she wants to. And I'll just start out in order to start the discussion. Remember in your childhood, being a girl, do you feel you were treated any differently than your brothers when you grew up?

EB: Probably favorite, because I was the oldest and the only girl and there were four boys.

IM: So you were valued for being the only girl?

EB: Right, I would say. And yet of course, responsibilities were placed on me, that weren't on the boys too, so it's hard to say that I was favored either. But I got to go places my brothers didn't get to go at all. I'd get to go stay at my grandmother's because I had an aunt my age, when my uncle gave permission I got to go with him to T. and, and the boys stayed home.

IM: So you feel pretty good about being a girl?

EB: Yeah, I did.

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IM: You felt like you had more opportunities because of your age?

EB: I did have.

IM: And you must have been pretty responsible, and your family said....is that Mrs. Larson?

[Mrs. Patricia Larson joins them, at the home of Eva Mae Bell, and the interview continues]

IM: We've been joined by Mrs. Larson who's going to talk with us on the same subject. Your first name is what?

PL: Patsy.

IM: Patsy Larson. Mrs. Bell has kind of started answering questions about how she felt being a girl, she can think a little more about that while Mrs. Patsy Larson talks about how she felt when she was growing up.

PL: I didn't give it too much consideration when I was a girl, I mean, it was just one of the things that was.

IM: Did you have any brothers?

PL: Yes, I have an older brother.

IM: Did you feel like he was privileged?

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PL: Not particularly. I think he was because he was older.

IM: More because of the difference of age?

PL: But not because he was a boy.

IM: How about chores you did around the house?

PL: I think it was probably equal.

IM: Did you work mostly in the house helping your mother?

PL: Yes. Mostly.

IM: And you were satisfied with that?

PL: Yes, I was. I didn't feel that he was favored over me.

IM: How about when it came time to growing up, did you decide to get married or was it expected of you?

PL: Oh, I decided to get married, I don't think it was expected.

IM: How about you, Eva Mae?

EB: Same thing.

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IM: Your parents, it was pretty open that you could do whatever you wanted?

EB: Well, they sure didn't want me to. They wanted me to go on to school and I didn't want to go on to school.

IM: What, high school, college, or what?

EB: Well, yes, I hadn't finished high school yet, and they wanted me to go on and finish high school at least and probably go on to college, but they definitely wanted me to finish high school.

IM: Why did you decide to get married?

EB: I just wasn't interested in school, I couldn't see any advantage of it. I still don't think in my case for what I wanted to do for my purpose in life. I don't think that that would help me a bit.

IM: And you all along had planned to be a housewife and mother?

EB: That was my big ambition in life.

IM: And you weren't doing anything in school that...

EB: That held my interest.

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IM: Was that true for you or how did you feel about school?

PL: I didn't particularly like school. I went to school because I was expected to go to school, but not because I liked it.

IM: Did you finish high school?

PL: I finished high school.

IM: Then you were glad?

PL: Yes, I was very gald when I finished.

IM: And have you always wanted to get married?

PL: Yes, I think so, I always wanted a family, they go together.

IM: That was just what you grew up with? Could you have gone to college?

PL: I could have gone to college if I wanted to.

IM: So that was your choice?

PL: Yes. I think now I'm sorry that I didn't go.

IM: Why do you say that?

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PL: Well, because I think that college broadens your outlook on life and you have more experiences.

IM: But you thought more of just postponing marriage? You would've married anyway?

PL: Eventually, yes. Yes, I wanted to marry.

IM: But going to college would've given you a more broader...

PL: It would have given me a more broader outlook on life, more experiences.

IM: Would you think you would've married the same man?

PL: That's a good question. [ lots of laughter ]

IM: Maybe, what your opportunities would have been.

PL: That's hindsight.

IM: How about you, you wouldn't of considered college if you had to do it over again?

EB: No I still wouldn't. I do think getting married too young and I was 18, which wasn't really too young, I guess. But in my case as far as a college education, I think you miss a lot in



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growing up because when you get out of school and you go right into the responsibilities of marriage, which of course, we were married 4 years before we ever had any children, and had adopted one. I think all of that depends too on how...we went through depression. So as far as I'm concerned, I think you can educate yourself, self education. But then there's a lot you miss being with young people as she says, when you don't go to college; there's a lot you can miss, but for me I don't regret a minute of it. I'd do the same thing right over and marry the same man.

IM: O.K. then. Do you have children?

PL: Yes, I have eight.

IM: And you adopted one? More?

EB: Just one, we just adopted one.

IM: And you found you couldn't have children?

EB: No.

IM: Were you sorry about this?

EB: Well, yes, we should have had two. We were satisfied with just the one. It was all we thought about, of course my health wasn't

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good either because I had asthma even then. And, uh, I just didn't feel that I really could take two because we could've had two, and adopted the other one.

IM: And you were telling me before we started recording that you thought that was probably the most worthwhile thing a woman could do.

EB: I do. I do. You bring children up and they contribute to the world and if you did the job, I don't think there's anything more worthwhile.

IM: So in effect, the work you're doing through other children, is the way you contribute to the world and your community?

EB: And this is more or less the way I feel about my Sunday School class for 20 some years, working with children, I love it, every minute of it.

IM: Would you agree with that about women's contribution?

PL: Yes I would.

IM: Do you want to add anything to it?

PL: I can't think of anything right now.

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IM: Was this traumatic for you not to have children of your own?

EB: No, it really wasn't. Perhaps, I don't even know if we'd have adopted one, hadn't we...this was a nephew. And we thought, I just set there and couldn't stand it, and I just couldn't stand it if he would've been given to a children's home. My husband walked clear to Moscow to find out. We didn't have a car, it was depression time, see. And he made the trip, walked over there to see if we could adopt him and we did."

IM: Your sister died?

EB: No, my husband's brother and his wife separated, so it was on my husband's side. Well, we thoroughly enjoyed that child, I tell you. We really enjoyed him and now, I look back, I'm sure we should've had somebody for hom. I think more for his sake maybe, even though for our own because too many times you expect too much of 'em, of your only child.

IM: Well feeling the way you did then about women's main contribution being through raising children, what would you have done if you hadn't had him?

EB: This I don't know. You know it's something that like comes by hindsight, you don't know what you, I don't know what Id've done.

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IM: But you were feeling pretty good about yourself, what you were doing?

EB: Yes. Well, it was depression times and you had to just scrape uh, you know. And he went out and [unintelligible] when we adopted him in order to give us food and clothing. Of course we didn't own anything, we were married in 1930 and this was 1934 when we adopted him and it was pretty hard going. So then as time went on, I don't know what I would've done. Our whole lives just kind of evolved around him and yet we didn't give him a lot of, I mean he had strict rules and all those and he was disaplined. It wasn't like he was given his way and everything he wanted or anything like that. Probably as mush if he'd of had brothers and sisters.

IM: When were you married?

PL: I was married in 1947.

IM: And you've had eight children.

PL: Yes. I've actually had 10. Two of my children died.

IM: Did you want that many children?

PL: Yes I did.

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IM: You were relieved everytime you had another one?

PL: Well, yes I was.

IM: You'd expected to have a lot of children?

PL: Well I wanted a lot of children, there was only two in my family, I felt that, I was always envious of the people that did have children and I'm glad that I lived at that time instead of now when you're supposed to only have two.

IM: You feel pressure now. You feel women now are kind of discouraged from having more children?

PL: Yes I do. I think they're quite pressured not to have more children and if you do have more, like my husband and I when my older daughter went to college and she had a friend and she asked her, "How many children do your parents have?" and she said, "they have eight," and this friend looked at her and said, "Well they should be shot." That was the attitude and I think this is the attitude that the young women have now, if they want to.

IM: So it sounds like they don't have a choice to make for themselves.

PL: Well, now actually, I don't think they have. There are some that are discriminated against, they don't have a large family,

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even if they have them because they want them.

IM: It's their personal decision. O.K. let's go back to, you got married just because you wanted to. And you really wanted to.

EB: Right.

IM: How did your parents, you said something about your parents tried to discourage you?

EB: Yes, they tried to discourage us; they wanted us to wait.

IM: Because you were so young?

EB: Yeah, I was 18, well I was 18 1/2. I didn't start school until I was eight years old. Because I was little and we lived a long ways from school and we had to walk alone. I had to wait until my brother was old enough to come with me. This made me late, and maybe this was also...we went to school it was a one room school where there was only 8 grades and one teacher and the 6th, 7th and 8th graders taught the first graders and the first two years they went through 3 grades and I didn't get them. When I got older this made school very hard for me and I went into town and went to school and the teacher said, "You have absolutely no foundation." And this maybe one reason why I didn't care for school then.

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One of our brothers who played all through high school, took him 5 years and now he's a psychologist over at [unintelligible] school. So this probably had a lot to do with whether I liked it.

IM: Where did he go to school?

EB: We went to the same school but at that time we had two teachers in 4 grades of school so he had a good start, I mean a better chance. He didn't mind school, he played all through his 8th grade and through high school. And still now, then he went into the Navy and then he became a psychologist...a psychologist is what he is.

IM: Were your parents, was it O.K. with them when you got married? Were they pleased with that?

PL: No they weren't.

IM: What was their objection?

PL: They thought I was too young and they wanted me to go on to school, and they thought my husband was too old for me, he's nine years older than I am.

IM: That was upsetting to the family?

PL: Yes.

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IM: You remember this, you've watched this family?

EB: Right, we've been neighbors all these years.

IM: That's interesting isn't it? Was she a friend, did you come to her?

PL: No.

EB: I was married, my Bob, he was 8 years old by that time she got married.

IM: But you just observed this.

EB: Yes, her mother and I were real good friends.

IM: You heard from her mother, probably.

EB: Yes I did.

IM: Did you sympathize with her mother?

EB: Well, no not particularly. I could understand Patti's viewpoint.

IM: Did you tell her mother anything?



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EB: I dón't think that her mother said too much, really.

PL: She didn't ask, there was very little to say. It happened so fast.

IM: Where did you go when you eloped?

PL: Oh we went to Coeur d' Alene to the Hitching Pōst.

EB: We went to Moscow and got married and my folks knew it and everything, you know.

IM: So you didn't elope?

EB: No we didn't elope. We didn't go have a big wedding.

IM: Privately.

EB: Yeah, two aunts and an uncle went with us and folks knew all about it and everything. We come back the next day and we had a chivalry and all my relatives were there.

IM: They had a chilvary when you got back? That's something to describe. I'd like to hear about it.

EB: Well we came back about 6:30 in the afternoon, I guess, and all our relatives were still there, it was just beginning

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to get dark and all the cars come up the hill, kind of a steep hill to get up then, and they started blowing the horns before they even got there and then they made all the noise they could make, standing around hollering, then they'd take out candy and cigars.

IM: You had to be prepared.

EB: You had to be prepared. We came from Spokane, we were all prepared.

IM: This was your folks house now, did I miss that? You were back there? And all your friends came from all over the community and then you passed out cigars and candy. Was there any unpleasant experiences in this one?

EB: No.

IM: They didn't cart you off or do any things like that?

EB: Nō.

IM: So this was a happy gathering. This was a pleasant occasion, kind of a welcome back to the community?

EB: Yes. We've lived here ever since.

IM: Is that so?

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EB: No, there was nothing here when we came here, except for 3 months we lived in Elk River. All the rest of our lives we lived right here in this community. All of my life ever since I was born, I have lived in this community.

IM: How long is that?

EB: 63 years since last December. 63 years and a month. My husband was born in Colville, he came here in 1929.

IM: Is he farming?

EB: No he's retired now.

IM: But he did work?

EB: He worked at the mill. Well we own a farm and he farmed for seven years. He also worked at the mill. Paid for everything and bought our machinery for the farm and it wasn't cleared, everything was trees, we had to get stumps out of here to move in one house, one 14'x18' room and then we built everything around it. It started out what is part of our living room and everything's been added on since.

IM: As you could afford it and as you had time to do it.

EB: As we could afford it. He did everything himself.

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IM: So it's really a house that grew.

EB: Well he had to do a little bit of wiring at first.

IM: Did you help with any of it?

EB: Oh yes, I helped pound a few nails and of course there's been a lot of painting and everything; but there was a lot I couldn't do or would like to.

IM: But you fixed the meals?

EB: Oh yes, like the thrashing meals we used to have. We had thrashing machines first before we had combines, and then there'd be, oh, 14-15 men come and we'd go from house to house, you know each one cooking and...these were great experiences.

IM: Well, tell us about those; I haven't heard about them.

EB: Well we'd bake pies, lots of pies, all kinds of desserts, everything imaginable, potatoes and gravy and meat was the most important thing of all, and then your vegetable.

IM: Even in the hot weather?

EB: Hot weather didn't make any difference how hot it was and

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you'd cook this over a wood stove and perspired and opened up windows, did all this baking and there usually be about 3 or 4 women that would go and everyone, neighbors, and everyone would go. And then one would go to their house and then we'd go to my house and then we'd go to the other house, wherever it'd be, this is what we'd do.

IM: Now the men working were all neighbors too.

EB: Right.

IM: Did they hire anybody else to help them?

EB: Just neighbors.

IM: There was just co-operation?

EB: Right. It was the same thing in the haying. They'd do the same thing.

IM: I've often wondered who determined who went first so if bad weather came and somebody...

EB: Well, now part of this time there was a shared, one time we had a combine with four men. So it was my husband and three neighbors all on the same machine. So just whenever grain would be ready, there were some people that lived up a little

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higher and their grain would be ready first and we're down here where it's low and part of ours would be later than the others.

IM: So sometimes it's among them?

EB: Right and sometimes they'd start up in the higher place and they'd come on down and pick whichever one they'd come to first rather than move the machinery up over the hill and go miles, all the way, then come back...if grain was ready, they'd just take it as they come to it.

IM: The machinery was owned co-operatively?

EB: Yes, the combines was and the thrashing machine we owned ourselves.

IM: But the women, when this time came, they just got together. Did you have a telephone?

EB: Yes, they had an old crank telephone, we didn't have but most of them did have, and maybe you'd call; or if you didn't you'd just go up and tell 'em, you know, and the men were working together and they'd say well we'll go down to your place such and such a time, and then we'd just get together. Just something automatically, this was something we just did.

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IM: And how did you determine who made what and the food?

EB: Well usually, of course everything would be at your home, if you had the harvest then it'd be at your home.

IM: If they were harvesting at your place, then that's where the men ate.

EB: Right.

IM: And the other neighbor women came in and helped prepare.

EB: Helped to prepare it. They wouldn't bring food; they usually just came and helped me to get it cooked and do the dishes up afterwards.

IM: And then they'd go home and work on their own places.

EB: And then you had to heat your water on the stove and all these kind of things, because you had to go outside and get the water. My husband would pump all the water and bring it all in the house and have it ready for me so that I'd have it. So I didn't never hardly have to carry water. This is what you'd do, you'd heat the water on the wood stove and cook your meals and afterwards you'd have to heat the water to do the dishes and rinse the dishes.

IM: What time of the morning did you get up then?

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EB: About 4:30 or 5 o'clock, about 4:30 usually.

IM: About how many people would sit down at the table then?

EB: At least, about 14.

IM: Would that be the men first? The men would eat first then go back out in the field.

EB: Then the women would usually eat.

IM: A nice and social occasion.

EB: Oh yes.

IM: You really enjoyed it.

EB: We really enjoyed it.

IM: Because after the work was done you kind of relaxed.

EB: I even enjoy talking about it and thinking about it, you know thinking back brings pleasant memories.

IM: It's kind of a thing that's lost now.

EB: Right.



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IM: It's harder for women to get together. Did you have any experiences like that?

PL: No I didn't.

IM: So that, since the war since people own their own machinery and did they harvest their own little plots now or how was that?

PL: Well most people did.

IM: So they don't need the co-op now. But they need more money invested in the machinery. Each one.

EB: We sold what machinery we had, see our farm was leased out. So of course the people come here and do our haying or combine or whatever; or just maybe there'll be two or three in the family that'd do it. One'll drive the truck, one runs the combine, sometimes there's two drivers.

IM: But now each farmer needs more money, more investment, so he can do it himself and you've lost this nice social, co-operative feeling.

EB: Right. Like our community club that we used to have, it was as high as 30 people in it. Now there's seven of us.

IM: Where does your husband work?

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PL: My husband is unemployed right now; we have a farm and he works in [unintelligible].

IM: And it's a seasonal unemployment, or is a result of the housing?

PL: It's seasonal.

IM: Ordinarily he's employed?

PL: Uh huh, and when we were first married he was sawing in the woods.

IM: That means going to cut down the trees, the first ones?

PL: Yes.

IM: Did they have power saws then? Or did they use crosscuts?

PL: They used crosscuts.

IM: Did you feel pretty secure in that he'd make a good living for you?

PL: No, although I felt secure that he was making a good living but I didn't feel secure in the fact that he'd come home alive again.

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IM: Oh, accidents were pretty frequent?

PL: Yes.

IM: Did your parents object to you marrying a man in this work?

PL: No, at that time he was a carpenter.

IM: Oh I see. Was there more money in this other?

PL: Oh yes, it was a very well paid job because it was so dangerous.

IM: And it probably wasn't your idea that he take it.

PL: No, definitely not.

IM: Did he enjoy it or was it just to get more money?

PL: Oh he enjoyed it, he thought it was a wonderful job.

IM: And how long did he stay with it?

PL: Stayed with it until 7 years ago and he hurt his foot.

IM: So he was in it quite awhile before anything happened to him?

PL: Well, he broke his back and hurt his head 2 or 3 times,

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and other things like that but nothing really serious.

(Lots of laughter)

IM: Anyway he came out alive. And then after he hurt his foot he went to work in the mill?

PL: Yes, he wasn't able to walk around in the woods anymore because most of the logging was done on a steep hillside, in the mcuntains.

IM: But he did it partly because he enjoyed it?

PL: I would say completely because he enjoyed it.

IM: You weren't putting pressure on him to earn more money beside the fact that you were having more children?

PL: No, I don't think so, I was putting pressure on him to quit because I wanted him to come home every night, and in one piece.

IM: Well what happens in a situation like that? Obviously he didn't pay any attention to you.

PL: Yes obviously.

IM: Did you suggest to him?

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PL: Well actually I told him that I thought it was his life, I had no right to tell him what he was to do.

IM: And that was O.K. He make the decision.

PL: I wasn't happy about it but it was his decision and his life.

IM: Was there anything said about what if he came home an invalid and how to deal with that?

PL: No.

IM: So it still was his decision and you lived with whatever, you adjusted to whatever he decided to do.

PL: Yes.

IM: O.K. then, this is very interesting, I'm enjoying hearing this. Did he want many children, too?

PL: I don't really know. When we were married we wanted five.

IM: Did you talk about having five?

PL: Yes we did, I had problems, my first baby died at birth and then I had two miscarriages and then we had our four children we didn't really plan on any more. And then we had our fifth

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and he died and then we really realized how very important your children are and then I wanted another baby, so we had another baby and there was about five years difference between those two and he was gone and I'd be so lonesome. Then I had another baby and then we wanted a girl and we decided to gamble and we had Ann.

IM: You won.

PL: And then we had another boy, we had six boys and two girls.

IM: Well, obviously you wanted the most and it was O.K. with him.

PL: Well, he didn't react too violently.

EB: He's from a family of thirteen and she's from a family of two.

IM: So he could deal with a lot of children.

PL: It didn't bother him, it was a fact of life.

IM: Everybody was happy with it?

PL: I think so.

IM: What do you do , you can't get out very much now because of your health.

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EB: No not this time of the year. We're crazy for rocks, we're rock hounds.

IM: Oh yes you're a rock hound, you and your husband both, and you enjoyed for a long time Sunday School work.

EB: Oh, yes I love working with those kids. I'd just couldn't stand giving that up.

IM: That's because of your health?

EB: Yes. Last year I ended up with heart failure because I coughed so much, bronchial asthma. So this year I just told them I wasn't gonna take it and they said, "We don't want you dead, we want you back alive." So I've been still going down since September up till the last Sunday in December, and since December I've been here since. I had just automatically gone down for the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade class and working right with them anyway, until now this month I haven't been there. She called me last Saturday and wanted to know if I was gonna be there and I said, "No I hadn't been out." My chest had been hurting me a lot and she said the kids asked about me and I, it's just so rewarding. I feel that it was something worthwhile. I really loved it.

IM: And you've done it for how many years?

EB: At least 23 years.

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IM: So you've seen a lot of children grow up there in Sunday School.

EB: She (Patsy) went to Sunday School. Her (Patsy's) mother and I went to Sunday School here together.

IM: And what did you do for recreation? (Is talking to Pat Larson now)

PL: I take an art class on Tuesday night in Potlatch and I've been a 4H leader for 10 years. I work up at the school as a teachers aide and I really enjoy that.

IM: You count that as recreation?

PL: Yes.

IM: Your idea of recreation is to get away from the house and do something?

PL: Yes.

IM: And be with people?

PL: I think that's it, to be with people.

IM: Do you feel isolated at home sometimes?



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PL: Somewhat I do.

IM: Because if you're doing your work at home there's no way of doing it with other people, is there?

PL: I'm always surrounded by that.

IM: It's nice to talk to a woman sometimes.

PL: Yes.

IM: Do you enjoy your daughters?

PL: Oh yes, I really enjoy my daughters.

IM: Because there's so few of them?

PL: Because I have more in common with my daughters. I can understand them better. It's hard to understand the boys because...I've never been a boy.

IM: Were you closer to them when they were smaller?

PL: I don't really think so because boys and girls are different from the time they're born.

IM: In what way?

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PL: The boys are more violent and they're more apt to throw things and they're more active.

IM: Do you see any difference in how they respond to your suggestions, the boys or girls? Maybe more than suggestions, orders sometimes.

PL: No I don't think so.

IM: So it's not that different?

PL: No, it's just that there's an inborn difference between a boy and a girl.

IM: And the things they play with, their interests?

PL: A girl is more gentle than a boy.

IM: And you respond to that more in girls, you just have a more repor with your daughters?

PL: Yes, just because they are girls. When my oldest son was small, I read that he should have a doll to play with because this would help him to be a good father. So I bought him a doll and he put it on the floor and jumped on it. There was no trouble or nothing he just...

IM: Did your husband go along with giving him a doll?

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PL: He had no objections. It was O.K.

IM: You were pretty open when your kids were little.

PL: I just thought that it would be fun. All of my boys had teddy bears. My youngest boy fell asleep with a teddy bear.

IM: What do you think about the future what do you expect, well some of your children are grown up.

PL: My daughter's left.

IM: What is she doing?

PL: Oh she's a secretary for the Red Cross. She took nurse's training but she didn't like that.

IM: Do you leave it up to them, pretty much what they want to do?

PL: Yes.

IM: Do you expect the girls to get married?

PL: No.

IM: You would hope they would?

PL: Yes I would.

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IM: Do you think that's probably the best thing?

PL: I think that they need to be married in order to find a more satisfying relationship.

IM: You would doubt if a woman be happy if she weren't married?

PL: It depends on the woman. Some people, I don't think should be married.

IM: So she should have the choice.

PL: Yes.

IM: As well as men too?

PL: Uh huh.

IM: Uh, she went through nurses training?

PL: She only took one year.

IM: But she tried it our?

PL: Yeah, but I don't think she liked it.

IM: Does she like her work now?

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PL: Yes she likes it.

(Isabel is talking to one of the children)

IM: Hi, what's your name?

AL: Ann.

IM: What do you think you might do? Haven't given it much thought, do you talk about it at school? So you're just enjoying being a girl?

PL: She'd like to move to the mountains.

IM: Farther away from the crowd of people and the situation here? Do you like being a girl?

AL: I've never been a boy.

IM: You've never been a boy!

IM: Do you see many families in the area that are similar to yours?

PL: I don't believe so. I think we're unique...

IM: You mean having that many children?

PL: I think in having that many children and I think when you

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have that many children your lifestyle's different because you aren't able to buy as many things and your entertainment is different because you can't afford to go out as often.

IM: But you're pretty self-sufficient, you entertain each other.

PL: Yes.

IM: Do you think the kids feel O.K. about this or do they feel like they are missing something?

PL: I don't think they think they're missing anything.

IM: So they're pretty satisfied with the way it is.

PL: Well I'm satisfied.

IM: How about you in making decisions with your husband, how do you make decisions?

EB: We talk it over together. Small decisions, of course, like if it's something for his rock shop, well then that's personal, but any large decisions we talk it over.

The remainder of the original recording of this interview is unavailable. Therefore, the remainder of this transcript can not be varified.

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IM: It's mostly the big things that you share, then you have other little decisions that you make on your own?

EB: Well some little things we do too. It depends of course on what it is. Like now on this rock hobby that we have, something that we both enjoy he makes all the plans for the showings and wherever they are and I buy the findings and then after he gets them made up they're in the, and the glue on so there's a togetherness.

IM: Do you go out looking for rocks together?

EB: Yes, if I could climb but right now I can't climb like I would like to. But any places where I could go and climb we'd go a lot of places and [unintelligible] wouldn't give me any trouble. But the year before we went, we have a trailer [unintelligible] went up through Oregon and we just really had a ball.

IM: Pretty good country, isn't it?

EB: We really thoroughly enjoy it.

IM: Do you do things with your husband similar to that or mostly with the children?

PL: Oh I think it's mostly with the children.

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IM: Because of this certain time in your life?

PL: I have a husband that isn't [unintelligible]. He's perfectly happy at home, he doesn't want a profession.

IM: Except now he's not working, what does he do at home now?

PL: Well we have flowers to garden. There's a lot to to there.

IM: So he's not really unemployed. He's just not sitting around twiddling his fingers. When will he start back working at the mill?

PL: This spring sometime.

IM: As soon as the weather opens up.

PL: Probably May, April.

IM: It's kind of a nice life, isn't it?

PL: It's very active.

IM: What kind of livestock do you have?

PL: We have a lot of cows and one guernsey milk cow.



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IM: And the milk's just for the family?

PL: Yes.

IM: Do you sell the cattle then for meat?

PL: Yes.

IM: Do you sell it to a packing house or do mostly people come and buy it?

PL: Well this year it's just been people coming and buying it because the price of livestock was far too much but we can make more money by selling it that way rather than taking it down to the packing house.

IM: How do you make decisions?

PL: We pretty much make our own decisions.

IM: Together, do you talk it over, he decides certain areas?

PL: He decides certain areas and I decide certain areas. I decide the household areas and he decides the outside areas.

IM: What about spending money?

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PL: He gives me the money and says to see if I can make it stretch.

IM: And that keeps you busy.

PL: Other than that he works on the winch and he made \$1,000 a month and he handled all the money and then when he was hurt we didn't have hardly any money and he says we can't live on that and I said, "Yes we can.", and he says, "Well you can do it."

IM: So he turned it over to you?

PL: Yes and I've been handling the money ever since.

IM: Sounds like you would do a better job when it gets that time of the year. How do you manage, what are some of your tricks to make it stretch?

PL: Well, usually I just go down and I pay the bills, whatever we have left I divide it up into different categories such as recreation and clothes. I don't think that we need clothes every month.

IM: Do you [unintelligible]...You raised a garden?

PL: We raised a garden.

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IM: Who works in the garden?

PL: Myself and my husband.

IM: Your husband works with stocks and rocks (?).

PL: He doesn't have much time for those.

IM: And you plant fruits and vegetables?

PL: Yes I freeze vegetables. We have a freezer.

IM: That takes time doesn't it?

PL: Lots of time.

IM: Have you done a lot of canning and preserving? (talks now to Etta Bell)

EB: Oh yeah, 107 pints of green beans this year. My husband picked when we got ready to can and freeze and we canned our own and he raised bulbs, potatoes, carrots, onions and the beets and when he dug up the beets I went outside and helped.

IM: Did you get the beer?

EB: Yes, I did.

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EB: Before I had something frozen because I found out I was a diabetic and I have to have a lot of leaf greens. You buy them in the store and they have salt in 'em and I can't have salt either. So Mable gave me some beets and I had some left over so this went real good. But we have two freezers; one of the biggest demands and it's full and the other one's almost full, we have all the young berries, he picked all of them, he does all of ours. I guess he just loves the farming but he couldn't make it in farming so he went back to work at the mill and worked it out, but we had berries this year.

IM: Would you be helping him if your health permitted?

EB: If my health permitted, I would. The same with the flowers, I love flowers and lots of 'em to go pick this year. I hope next year I'll be able to get out and do something like that. I really enjoy it. I like inside work better, but I love the flowers and I like to work in the garden too.

IM: Do you like to work in the garden or is it really necessary?

PL: I like to work in the garden and I think it's necessary.

IM: If you really had a choice would you rather be outside or inside?

PL: I'd rather be outside. Personally I don't like housework.

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EB: I love the housework, and really have a choice, I'd be in the house.

PL: Eva, I remembered something that you said, you said that you liked to do the housework because you could look back and see what you've done. Alright, in my house I can't look back and see what I've done. (lots of laughter)

EB: Makes a difference with that many children around.

IM: You never ever get through.

PL: No, it's like a treadmill, just keeps going and going, you never get anyplace.

EB: This is more or less like when we have the three grandchildren come and stay because we have three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

IM: That's great. Your adopted son had three children?

EB: Right.

IM: And among those three children there are three girls?

EB: And [unintelligible] is our first great granddaughter [unintelligible] and we have two great grandsons.

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IM: Isn't that delightful, so that they kind of grew up.

EB: Not nearly often enough, they're in Spokane. So the grandchildren were raised around here and we had 'em all week at the time of summertime until they went to school, you know.

IM: You were really fortunate.

EB: We enjoyed them too.

IM: Now your new great granddaughter, what do you think her life's gonna be like?

EB: Well it's not going to be easy, I'm sure.

IM: Any harder than yours?

EB: Because [unintelligible] I'll admit the things, I can't see, you can only see, of course I think the women are going to have different advantages than what they used to have, well I don't know if this is good or bad because as I said, to me I think the most important thing a woman can do is, it depends, like you said some women should never be married, some women shouldn't rear children because they're not good mothers. When they are good mothers this is real important I think, that if you only had two children, not being able to have any control or even having it separated from its

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mother and a good mother, I don't think there's a replacement. I don't see the future of a woman well for either boys or girls as far as I'm concerned, I just don't see it now like it was. I think things are gonna clamp down and I just don't think they had their advantages. Of course right now we probably have too much. We live in such an affluent society that we don't even appreciate what we have. Sometime I've heard that children ain't poor and I think sometimes they have a good gooder sense of value than those of fewer children that have everything that money can buy. Because money doesn't buy a lot of things. It doesn't buy love, it doesn't buy happiness.

IM: Do you think she's going to have more choices?

EB: Yes, I think she'll have more to make but if she makes the right choice is gonna be another thing.

IM: That's more responsibilities.

EB: More responsibilities. Oh I think, when I look back in my girlhood and the girls then and there were more I think that were much more responsible than the girls are today. Because I don't think the girls today, they have much more push-button gadgets and don't know how to do things. I know how to do many more things than they do. Now even in cooking and all those kinds of things. I'd bake bread, not much bread, but

I had baked bread and I've done a lot of these things because I worked all together in the house. I had the younger brothers and I had the housework and I learned these things and learned responsibility of keeping house. Where so many young girls today don't know how to do these things. Even keep up their own room, much less keep house.

IM: Well you found that you were really needed in the family and your brothers and your father, your husband appreciated much and they needed you to do that.

EB: Yes and I still feel they did. With the money situation, with all the checks and everything, I make out all the checks because I'm the bookkeeper. He'd bring in the money and I'd pay the bills. There was a time when he was working when I couldn't drive and then he paid them, but after the driving and everything why he just turned over to me and felt that I would save him time. He could go home and do work because he cleared this land after working eight hours at the mill. He had cows, and we had around three head of cattle to milk and two hours to feed, pigs to feed, chickens, everything, of course there were so many chores to do. At then we had his garden, and then I worked in the garden. I had helped with hay and a lot of these things too.

IM: So you went where you were needed?

EB: Right. So over all of my 20 years I suppose I paid all the



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bills and looking over it, I felt that I was part of the labor to help him with and he was happy with that.

IM: Sounded like you were older when you learned to drive?

EB: I was, I must've been about, probably 27, 28.

IM: So when you grew up girls didn't learn how to drive.

EB: They didn't much, no.

IM: There weren't that many cars.

EB: No. There were a lot of things in question. Everybody didn't have them. I think we started pretty young, I'd of been about 27. We bought a new car in 1937 and I learned shortly after that to drive. But there was a lot of women who didn't, of course a lot of women did know before that, you know. But my mother never learned to drive. Just a lot of people didn't. Did your mom?

PL: No she never learned to drive.

IM: Would she ask then, her daughter or her husband or sons to take her to town?

PL: No my father always took her wherever she wanted to go.

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IM: But she'd ask?

PL: Yes.

EB: And we walked.

IM: Did she walk in say from here into Potlatch?

EB: I did it so many times I can't even tell you.

PL: I don't think my mother did.

EB: I sure have.

IM: It's over two miles?

EB: Yes walked two miles often. I walked sometimes way up there two miles farther on up. It was least a mile up or two at the place where we lived first and I used to always walk down and wheel the baby when he was little. I'd take him in the buggy. And then the club would meet. There'd be people from way up the creek, they'd start down the road, then they'd meet their neighbors and they'd meet a neighbor and they'd come and be ready and they'd come to town, they'd go down to the old school house and where our clubhouse was.

IM: And you'd pass on the way?

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EB: Yes there'd be a whole congregation of women and there'd be about 7 or 8 women by the time they got there.

IM: That sounds great!

EB: It was. And then we started to go up over this butte here and we'd start on this side and there was women come up on the other side and we'd walk and carry our babies. And when violet was little and when Bob was little and they got too big for the carriage you know they could walk a ways and we'd set them down and they'd walk. We had a lot of fun.

IM: During harvest season, you did a lot of work together. In an off season when fall, spring, winter you'd get out and go to other people's houses.

EB: Yeah, sure. My mother used to do that. We still have our club but like I said there are only a few members now.

PL: There are a lot of women that work now.

EB: Yes they're working, and with so many younger women it does seem [unintelligible] the club.

IM: Do they get their social mark someplace else?

EB: Yes, bowling and all kinds of things.

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IM: So it's diminished a little bit.

EB: It's like , used to be, when we had a rural school everything centered around the school because you had programs, you had [unintelligible] , you had square dances, you had all these kind of things that drew the people together and now there's none of this.

IM: And 4H doesn't quite do it?

PL: No it doesn't.

EB: There was a time when 4H did the south but not like it used to. It just plunged and died.

IM: Did they consolidate the schools and go into Potlatch, is that what happened?

PL: Yes.

EB: Only an outline school.

PL: It was right after I was married.

EB: So that's before we went on as our granddaughters were taken out of our community. Even I noticed the difference and then there's all these older women that were older than I am that

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have passed on, some of them are not even passed on but maybe they're not able and maybe they're not here and they just don't have the interest.

IM: So for your family which started about roughly '48.

PL: My oldest son was born in '51.

IM: '51. But they've been in this new era with schools in Potlatch and they haven't had this community feeling out here towards that and you grew up in this era that she described?

PL: Yes.

IM: But because you've had more children they kind of entertain each other but if they had their own school here you'd have more community things?

PL: I think so but I think the children are better off going to a larger school. They have better education and are able to take music. That's something that I wasn't able to participate in and they're able to participate in sports.

IM: So there's more advantages?

PL: Yes.

EB: I think I can remember our son in the 1st grade come home and

telling me what the 2nd and 3rd grade did and 4th. I said "well how'd you do?", and he said school was real easy and then he went into the 2nd grade [unintelligible] and he kept [unintelligible] there really was repetition all the way through. By the time he got to the 4th grade it was easy and this is something I think they're missing now but there are so many advantages too that you can't have. In a country school you can't have, like she said, the music and the sports.

IM: Well now these social relationships with women, it sounded like you had nice close friends that you saw frequently. Do you have friends like that now?

PL: I have friends like that but not close neighbors.

IM: And you don't get together so much?

PL: No, I get together, I think a car is one of the things that's changed things because you usually go on the other side of town and we spend time on the weekends and I enjoy it.

IM: So you might have more in common with a woman on the other side of Potlatch?

PL: Yes.

IM: One that has a lot of children and has a lot of things in

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common with. So you're dependent on a car for that?

PL: Yes.

EB: Our club met twice a month so that'd be every two weeks.

PL: And what is it now?

EB: We also had it at [unintelligible] because my burcitus was so bad I couldn't have it and [unintelligible] couldn't have it til she got better she couldn't have it. This is a good time of the year to have it because people can get out because this is when they're cooped in. It soesn't affect me, I can be cooped in. [unintelligible] my husband's home and people keep coming, we have a lot of people coming in with rocks, and he'd make me this and he'd make me that you know, there's always people here so I don't miss it too much. But that club was so nice we had. [unintelligible] I belonged up until about two years ago I belonged to a [unintelligible] club and the neighbors from this community [unintelligible] Spokane trip. There was about five women in Moscow that belonged to it and the next one [unintelligible] I think was in 1971 we had [unintelligible], but this was a lot of fun too. It was more of a social club. We got together if we wanted to just visit, we did this and it was just a social thing. But we really enjoyed it.

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IM: Do you have any clubs?

PL: I belong to the teacher's aide and I belong to the Grange.

IM: But still most of your time is at home?

PL: Yes.

IM: Kind of a necessity right now.

PL: Right now.

IM: Do you do anything with your husband for fun?

PL: Not really too much. There's a lot of work to do here.

IM: He really enjoys his home?

PL: Yes.

EB: That's alright. He wants to stay home for two hours to go and get rocks.

IM: Sounds like people come to him.

EB: They do.



PL: I don't think he'd be interested in rocks.

EB: That's just one thing we're interested in.

IM: Does he have any other men that he discusses work with?

PL: Yes.

IM: So their common interest is cattle and other, and you, more or less for a social life have other women that have common interests.

PL: I'm surrounded by men enough.

IM: So do you get the car any time you want?

PL: Yes, I have my own car. Anyway it's supposed to be my car.

IM: Is there anything you'd change about your life if you could?

PL: I think if I could live my life over I would've gone to school.

IM: College?

PL: Yes. I'd like to teach [unintelligible] but I think I'm too old to go to school now. And the teaching situation is so poor I'd go to school for four years and I couldn't get a job.

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EB: The job situation that she's too old to go to school, I think because I know it's always been if you haven't a school education to teach school you can't get a job. But it wouldn't be your aid.

IM: It's more the job situation. So have you ever thought of doing anything else besides teaching?

PL: No, I considered going to work for my family shortly after my husband was hurt and I sat down and figured out how much it would cost for transportation [unintelligible]. I do my own baking, I do my own sewing and I would've had to by more ready prepared things and I would've had to hire a baby-sitter and I decided that it wasn't worth it because I like to take care of my own children and I would've made \$20 a month. And I didn't think, it just wasn't a worthwhile thing to do.

IM: What kind of work would you have been doing?

PL: This would've been working in a kitchen in Pullman.

IM: In Pullman, that's quite a ways.

PL: Well I could've gone with my sister-in-law, she already told me I could do taht. And I would've helped her pay for the gas.

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IM: Have you thought if whatever happened to your husband what you would do?

PL: I think I'd pay more rent.

IM: How would you make a living?

PL: On the farm with the cattle.

IM: You could manage it?

PL: Yes.

IM: Do you think a man would have an easier time managing a farm?

PL: I think so because women are discriminated against when you go into a machine shop you stand there while they wait on two or three men.

IM: So it would take you longer to get anything like that?

PL: Yes.

(tape ends on one speed and some of the conversation is lost and now there is personal data beginning with Patsy Larson)

IM: What is your maiden name?

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PL: McManama.

IM: Did you have a nickname?

PL: No. Well I guess actually my real name is Patricia.

IM: Well true, yes so it's Patsy.

PL: Yes.

IM: What was your date of birth?

PL: June 20, 1929.

IM: And your address now?

PL: Rt. 2 Box 114.

IM: And your place of birth?

PL: Potlatch. I've certainly traveled a lot. (laughter)

IM: What is the location of your first residence in Idaho?

PL: It was about 7 miles north of Potlatch.

IM: And your mother's maiden name?

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PL: Elda Wright.

IM: Do you know when she was born?

PL: August 27, 1898.

IM: Did she have a job or anything?

PL: She was a teacher.

IM: And where was she born?

PL: She was born in Weyerhouser, Wisconsin.

IM: Is she still living?

PL: Yes.

IM: Do you know what year she was married?

PL: 1920.

IM: What is your father's name?

PL: John McManama.

IM: Do you know when he was born?

PL: He just had his 84th birthday I can't say what year.

IM: What was his occupation?

PL: He was a farmer and a mill worker.

IM: Where was he born?

PL: I really don't know.

IM: Is he still living?

PL: Yes.

IM: Do you have one brother or sister?

PL: I have one brother.

IM: And your husband's name?

PL: Edwin Larson.

IM: When was he born?

PL: He was born July 19, 1920.

IM: And he is a lumberman?

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PL: Farmer, lumberman, whatever.

IM: And where was he born?

PL: He was born in Potlatch. See we have both traveled. (jokingly)

IM: When were you married?

PL: June 20, 1947 on my 18th birthday so he wouldn't annul it.

IM: Give me your children's first names.

PL: Do you want my two babies that died or do you just want the living children?

IM: Living.

PL: Alright. My oldest son is Frances, that's one of those family names I've never liked it.

EB: You're partial.

PL: My oldest daughter is Jennifer, and Christopher and Dwayne, Jain, Carl, Ann and Matt.

IM: You had two children that you lost and then Frances, the first living one, you didn't like his name. How was that decided?

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PL: That was because my husband wanted to name him after his father so definitely that was. I was just so happy to have a baby, I didn't mind.

IM: Frances was born when?

PL: July 20, 1951.

IM: They were all born in Potlatch?

PL: Moscow.

IM: All the way to Moscow?

PL: The hospital's over there, see.

IM: Jennifer was born when?

PL: October 28, 1952.

IM: And Christopher?

PL: November 26, 1954.

IM: And Dwayne?

PL: That was July 11, 1956.



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IM: And Jain?

PL: January 4, 1961.

IM: And Carl?

PL: September 14, 1962.

IM: And Ann?

PL: March 27, 1965.

IM: And Matt?

PL: October 29, 1967.

IM: And the only one working is Jennifer?

PL: No, the other, Frances is working but he's living at home.

IM: What is his occupation?

PL: He's a millworker.

IM: And Jennifer is a secretary for the Red Cross?

PL: Yes.

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IM: Where does she work?

PL: She works in Spokane.

IM: Christopher is working?

PL: He works for Best Way Equipment in Palouse.

IM: Is that farm equipment?

PL: Yes. [unintelligible] it's hard to remember what they sell.

IM: And the rest are in school?

PL: No Dwayne is unemployed. He was employed but it's pretty rough to find a job when you're a kid.

IM: What kind of work did he do?

PL: He did farm work. He's the only one that hasn't gone through school.

IM: You mean finished?

PL: Yes.

IM: And you went through high school?

PL: Yes.

IM: What do you consider your skills?

PL: What type of skills do you mean?

IM: Well everything you do at home, certain cooking and preserving foods. Do you type?

PL: I type but not well.

IM: The only time you considered getting a job was as a cook?

PL: I really am not trained to do anything else.

IM: You do get along with people and you work with 4H?

PL: Yes I get along with people.

IM: And you work with 4H. And you did volunteer work for the school?

PL: No, I'm a teacher's aide for the 1st grade.

IM: But that's volunteer?

PL: Yes that's volunteer, you don't get paid for it.

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IM: Have you ever held a paying job?

PL: Before I was married. It was about for 6 weeks, I worked as a typist.

IM: You must've done something, you got money for it.  
And you quit immediately as soon as you got married?

PL: Yes, my husband never wanted me to work. I think I could have because we didn't have children for two years.

IM: Did you consider working?

PL: I considered working but he didn't want me to.

IM: So that was enough?

PL: Yes.

EB: [unintelligible]

IM: So I'm hearing the difference in the two families kind of, there's not so much a division of work because of man and woman or anything but in your family it's more that way. There's men's work and there's women's work.

PL: Yes because it infuriates me.

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IM: It infuriates you? Because there are some men types of work you'd rather do?

PL: Yes actually I'd rather clean the barn than I would clean my house, I really would.

IM: Let's see, you were in a sewing class. Is that one of the things you like to do?

PL: Yes, I like to sew.

EB: She can sew.

IM: Now you've been in clubs. You were with the 4H club.

PL: Yes I've been a 4H leader for 10 years.

IM: Did you get into that because you liked it or because of the children?

PL: Because I liked it. I think it was because of the children partly because I wanted my older children to go on to 4H and there wasn't a 4H, so I started a 4H and then I was, what do you call that, I was a big cheese in the 4H. Organization leader, I was fine until my youngest son was born and that was about the time my husband was hurt and things just got tco hectic.

No, they were just terrible.

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IM: So if you hadn't started a 4H there might not be one in this community.

PL: Well there isn't enough because after I left, another man took over and it didn't last too much longer.

EB: Takes a lot of patience. My husband was a leader for a tractor. They sent him to Boise. I never got into doing anything but he was a leader. But sometimes when he wouldn't pay attention he got off the curb and all the men got disgusted with him, lost patience.

IM: But you worked with 4H for how many years?

PL: 10 years.

IM: And then when you couldn't do it anymore somebody else did?

PL: I think I worked for 6 years, or 7, and then I quit and then I went back to it because the hired leader couldn't find a sewing leader, so I took that over. And I'm still with that.

IM: You took that part of it?

PL: Yes, but I'm not an organization leader anymore.

IM: And whoever took it over just couldn't keep it going?

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PL: Well, no.

EB: There just isn't anymore clubs. Like our Sunday School down here, I said her mother and I worked together so that's dismantled from '52, '53. The kids grew up that were going and so I went to town church and started them down there.

IM: So what is there for Ann?

PL: She belongs to a 4H club in [unintelligible] Creek.

IM: You have to drive over and it's a longer way?

PL: It's not really, we're right on the border between Helen Creek and Rock Creek. So we can go either way.

EB: You can go 3 miles and you go into town, you go that far?

PL: Well we meet in Princeton at the Grange Hall, so it's probably about 2.

IM: Do you have any other clubs or gorups that you're a member of, just for fun?

PL: Not actually.

EB: You just belong to the Community Club.

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PL: Yeah, the Community Club, I don't have any time to have any fun.

EB: Yeah, that's just social.

IM: But mostly in your time of life right now in your situation you just don't have time for much social life and you go contact your friends personally and spend time with them?

PL: Yes.

IM: When you were in 4H did you get any awards or honors?

PL: I don't think they actually give you awards. They gave me a 5yr. pin and a 10 yr. pin.

EB: If you love it, it doesn't make any difference because you get a reward out of it just what you're doing.

IM: And that's enough.

EB: It was for me, like in Sunday School I cried when they gave me a few records, it floored me but I certainly wasn't expecting it because they all had different years they'd give us a pen and pencil or something. But it wasn't done to get anything. I felt I got more out of it than I gave. And I think it's if you want to raise children and you love



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it, you're getting something out of it and you have to know it. And if you don't know it you can't put it across to them. If she didn't know how to sew she certainly couldn't teach the girls how to sew.

PL: I don't think I'm good enough to teach them anything for a couple of years.

EB: Well I don't know about that. She can sew. Beautiful.

IM: Do you feel this way about your work with the 4H?

PL: I enjoy it but I enjoy working at the school more though.

IM: As a teacher's aide?

PL: Yes.

IM: So that's what makes you think if you ever got the chance you'd like to go back to school and be a teacher?

PL: I'd like to but I think I could put in 4 years of school and I wouldn't have a job anyway.

EB: That I can see, yeah.

PL: If I thought that I could get a job I would go back to school.

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IM: There's no pay for teacher's aide, that's just volunteer isn't it.

PL: No.

(A photographer is waiting to take pictures; the conversation is kind of scattered here.)

IM: Is she waiting? That's too bad, I think she'd enjoy. You don't mind if she stays?

EB: No. She was afraid if she got in here, she wouldn't get out.

IM: What kind of pictures do you want, do you want to take them while they are alone or while they are talking?

Photographer: Whichever is more comfortable.

IM: While I'm asking her these questions, maybe you'd like to read the release form. I gave it to her earlier and she decided she wanted to wait to see what I asked her.

PL: Would our names be confidential?

IM: If you want your names used or not you know like we did the presentation yesterday. Like we did the dialogue we would say, "Two women from Potlatch.". So that would be the

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confidential part.

EB: I don't really particularly care.

IM: I don't think we've asked you anything that's really incriminating.

(Isavel, the interviewer is now taking personal data on Eva Mae Bell)

IM: And your maiden name?

EB: Button.

IM: Ever a nickname, ever say "cute as a button"?

EB: No, [unintelligible]. Even when I was a girl, you didn't mention girls pants. (Laughter)

IM: What was the date of your birth?

EB: December 14, 1911.

IM: And your address now is Rt. 2?

EB: Rt. 2, Box 79.

IM: Your first residence was in Potlatch, right here?

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EB: Right.

IM: That's where people were moving in, what was your mother's maiden name?

EB: Spencer.

IM: And when was she born?

EB: I'll have to make sure, I wouldn't want to make a mistake.  
October 8, 1891.

IM: And the place?

EB: Troy.

IM: And she's dead? When did she die?

EB: Yes, in 1971.

IM: Do you know when she was married?

EB: Yeah, in 1911.

IM: Did she have an occupation or just a housewife?

EB: Housewife. Very artistic, she made flowers and she did a lot

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of it and I don't have any of that creative ability in me.

IM: And your father's name?

EB: Harry Button. We called him [unintelligible] Harry, that's my youngest brother there.

IM: And when was he born, do you know?

EB: Yep. December 21, 1889.

IM: And where?

EB: Williamsburg, Mich.

IM: And he died?

EB: 1952.

IM: And what was his occupation?

EB: He was a millworker and had his own farm.

IM: Did you have brothers or sisters?

EB: 4 brothers.

IM: I guess I need their names.

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EB: Max is dead, deceased. And Earl, Glen and Harry.

IM: Any sisters?

EB: No, that's why I say I was privileged, you see.

IM: That's right. And your husband's name?

EB: Raymond A.

IM: His date of birth?

EB: June 7, 1906.

IM: And he's retired?

EB: Millworker and farmer. He says loggers, had a lot of trouble to cut logs but he never went after we were married.

IM: And his place of birth?

EB: Marcus, Washington.

IM: You got married in Moscow and the date?

EB: June 14, 1930. Just think we're heading on to our 45th anniversary come June.

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IM: And you have one adopted son?

EB: Yes.

IM: What was his name?

EB: George Robert.

IM: And when was he born?

EB: April 11, 1933.

IM: How old was he when you got him?

EB: 11 months.

IM: And he is, what is his work?

EB: He operates one of these huge cranes.

IM: Alright, you didn't finish high school, how far did you go?

EB: Two years.

IM: What are your special skills?

EB: I would just say homemaking.

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IM: Homemaking and schoolteaching?

EB: Right. I don't know if it's a skill but I sure love it.

IM: How about the rock collecting, do you do anything with them?

EB: I don't polish them, I put them in the findings and then if we put them on display like a rock show I always put them on displays, you know.

IM: You have some artistic ability.

EB: We got a lot of compliments down here at the hobby show and they took pictures of it and I'm anxious to get the pictures because I want you to get one.

IM: Have you ever had a paying job?

EB: Never.

IM: O.K. Now you got rock collecting, you had social clubs and groups, you had church?

EB: Right.

IM: You had church too didn't you? (Talking to Pat Larson)

PL: Yes.



IM: Did you ever get any awards, honors ribbons, for this rock collection?

EB: Yeah, we got one time we entered, this last year we was sick all year so we didn't even get to enter the fair, be we got one ribbon and the man that got the blue ribbon had just won about a week before at the Lewiston fair from the whole nation. Otherwise we'd probably gotten the blue ribbon. The man had came and that's the last in all the western part and we got the blue ribbon of course.

IM: That's pretty stiff competition.

EB: And he says "Well did you enjoy yours?", and I said, "Well I guess we did pretty good.", and he said, "Pretty good? Do you realize how well you did?". This was our first year without displaying or anything. We had just a small case. But you have to learn how to put them and I have learned since then if you learn to get your [unintelligible] for instance, or a belt buckle or whatever, it is you have it so it's not cluttered looking, you know so it really gives benefit to the, this is why we have these shows since you learn by it.

IM: Is there anything I haven't asked about that you'd like to have on there?

EB: No.

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IM: How about you, have you thought of anything else you'd like on there?

PL: No, I don't think so.

IM: Well I'm just gonna take a little bit cus I was interested what you were getting into when the tape run out. You were mentioning you felt like if you were trying to manage your farm it would be harder for you being a woman than your huaband. Is there any, you don't get the attention when you go into a machine shop, they don't want to deal with you?

PL: They don't want to deal with be because I'm a woman. Because several times my husband would ask me to do things for him and I would go and they would just more or less ignore me.

IM: So if you actually had to get down and manage the farm, you might even have to use your sons sometimes?

PL: Probably. My father gave me the farming that he had and I went to the ASC Office and the farm is in my name and they wouldn't deal with me alone. My husband had to be in on this also.

IM: Did he have to sign for it?

PL: They have to see that there is a man involved. Apparently,

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they have to see that there is a man involved in the operation, I don't know why.

IM: How do you feel about this?

PL: I really don't think it's fair.

IM: This would really limit you in a way to make a living then?

PL: It would. Of course, I don't know if a woman, a woman isn't physically strong enough to do part of these things.

IM: But she could hire somebody to do that part.

PL: Yes.

IM: Have you felt any discrimination or have any feelings about things like that?

EB: No. I am completely liberated. And I do everything on my own. Of course, I haven't had the situation that she's had either, I don't know how I'd feel. I told her the other day, to me woman has, in fact I think the woman has gone too far, because I have my own personal feeling, because I think God created Adam and then he created Eve as his helpmate, and I think the woman should be the homemaker and raise a family, now this is my personal feelings.

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IM: That's important that she should be able to choose that.

EB: Right.

IM: A woman should be able to do something else if she wants to.

EB: Right.

IM: O.K., now I hate to stop this but we really been getting into a lot of stuff and I really appreciate getting all this information and how you feel about yourselves and other people. Now I'm gonna have to stop this. Now would you be willing to sign the release form?

EB: I will.

PL: I'll sign mine, I won't care what you put. Oh, I feel semi-liberated.

EB: Well since my husband retired, I'm glad he's got this hobby. he's one of those people that's very very active, [unintelligible] took 3 hours to cut our lawn and since this lung condition I can't even get out and do anything like that. But he has to have something to do and it's sure a good thing he has that.

PL: What is the date, the 25th?

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IM: If you just tear it in half, you keep one and I'll keep one.

PL: Do you want my official signature or my unofficial?

IM: What's the difference?

PL: Officially I'm Patricia and unofficially I'm not. I have Patsy here so I'll leave Patricia down here and that'll take care of everything.

EB: I guess that's all you want.

PL: What are you going to do with these?

IM: One thing we're going to use data that we felt some of the book stuff in the program that you heard yesterday, with how women feel about themselves today and their experiences today. Another thing we're going to do is keep the recordings in the library so this becomes part of history. How women feel about themselves, things they've done today, things you've told me about today that nobody else will talk about, that's yours to experience.

EB: Right. I like old dishes and few other things, but these actually I have a sentimental attachment, otherwise I would never [unintelligible] in some people's life because [unintelligible] doesn't make much difference to me. I have a pitcher

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that belonged to my great grandmother and that has a special significance to me and I just barely remember her.

IM: Don't you wish you could have some recordings of things she had to tell?

EB: Yes.

IM: These are things that are lost because so many things men do are written down and put in books.

EB: Right. This is what, she said she told someone about that I had a writing that was [unintelligible] I have a salt and pepper shaker that she had and I took piano lessons from her daughter and I was only 11 or 12 years old and she had written [unintelligible], I think I mentioned this in [unintelligible] but I lost it. I went to the neighbors and copied it and I cannot find it so I know I lost it there after she passed away and I'd hurry to get things cleaned up and get ready for the folks and I suppose it got lost, see. There's no way [unintelligible] has it. I asked her and she couldn't find it so I'm ready to contact her daughter. This was so interesting, all this history, I don't think [unintelligible] at the time she had written this.

IM: I think so often women had kept diaries in details like this. they may have kept it locked in a bedroom drawer or something.

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There is so much that has been lost.

EB: Right. Kathy said she remembered reading about a women's circle that was called the Kansas Circle. She said she never knew there was such a pretty name. I can remember when dad used to work 10 hours at the mill and then they walked to work and then they'd walk home or they'd ride a horse. There were so many things a woman had to do then than they do now, that's why I said, when I look back I think a girl at 16 then sometimes almost a mature woman. When I was only 16 you miss so much, "That's right", she said if you don't go through college. Well you do miss out on a certain amount of things if you get married too young, and especially if you start having a family, there's so many things that you're not a girl, or a boy, whatever. You're old for a long time. You're a child for such a short time.

IM: There are certain experiences that you ought to have then that you can't have at any other time.

EB: Right.

PL: [unintelligible]

EB: [unintelligible] and said something about fooling around, and he said, "Well if you didn't fool around long enough then don't get married."