

INTERVIEW SUMMARY-TAPE INDEX

NAME: Hollie<sup>s</sup> Eglan  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 35-22-75  
LOCATION:  
INTERVIEWER: Isabel Miller  
TAPE NO. 4 Side I 686-871

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This is an interview with Hollis Eglund on March 22, 1975. The interviewer is Isabel Miller. *(Irma Eglund, Hollis Eglund's mother) is present at the interview.*

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IM: This is Isabel Miller and I'm interviewing Hollis Eglund on the 22nd of March, 1975.

Alright Hollis, you're a student at Lewis and Clark College.

HE: Yes I am.

IM: What year is that?

HE: This is my second.

IM: Your second and you are in general Education?

HE: Yes.

IM: Ok. what are some of the advantages and disadvantages you see in living in a rural area?

HE: Well now, sometimes now I complain about living on the farm; but, like my mom said in the back of her mind she knew she was going to live on the farm, and I think I'm going to live on the farm too, because I think kids should be raised on the farm. There's so much more open space.

IM: And you have a chance to be alone when you want to be.

HE: Yes and you can just go off and think by yourself sometimes.

IM: And you, of course, don't feel isolated like your grandmother did?

HE: Oh no

IM: You have your own car?

HE: Yes I do pretty much what I want.

IM: You go to school in Lewiston which is about 30 miles away.

HE: Yes about 30 miles. I still like to get my parents approval. Like two years ago I went down to Idaho Falls and I called Mom and asked if it was alright with her and she said, "Yeah if you think you can afford it."

IM: Do you get to manage your own money?

HE: Well, during the summer I work for dad. Last year I worked up in the bakery in Rosauer's for a few weeks, and I worked for this lady for about a month, so that helped.

IM: So you earned your own money.

IM: All right, Hollis, you're a student at Lewis and Clark College.

HE: Yes, I am.

IM: What year is that?

HE: This is my second.

IM: Your second, and you are in General Education?

HE: Yes.

IM: Okay. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages you see in living in a rural area?

HE: Well, now, sometimes I complain about living on the farm. But, like my mom said, in the back of her mind she knew she was going to live on the farm. And I think I'm going to live on the farm, too, because I think kids should be raised on the farm. There's so much more open space.

IM: And you have a chance to be alone when you want to be.

HE: Yes, and you can just go off and think by yourself, sometimes.

IM: And you, of course, don't feel isolated like your grandmother did?

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IM: Do you get to manage your own money?

HE: Well, during the summer I work for Dad. Last year, I worked up in the bakery in Rosauers for a few weeks, and I worked for this lady for about a month. So that helps.

IM: So you earn your own money.

HE: Yeah, mostly.

IM: So, what did you do in Rosauers bakery?

HE: Put out food and just being a clerk and cleaning up -- it's real exciting.

IM: Have you held any other jobs?

HE: No, that's my first away job.

IM: And you lived in Moscow, then, or did you drive back and forth?

HE: No, I drove back and forth.

IM: You drove back and forth in your own car?

HE: Yes.

IM: Did your parents buy this car for you when you graduated?

HE: No, it was theirs until they got the new one and gave me the old one.

IM: So you kind of inherited it?

HE: Yeah.

IE: It's an old '65 Mercury that runs beautifully and, of course, you couldn't get anything on it on a trade-in.

HE: And it gets me where I want to go, sometimes.

IM: Do you live in a residence hall in Lewiston?

HE: Yes, I do. There's only one girl's hall down there and I live in it.

IM: Do you plan to work in the summertime?

HE: Yeah, I guess so. I have a chance of working down there, helping clean the buildings there on campus, so I think I might do that.

IM: If you don't do that, you'll come home and help your mother can?

HE: Oh yeah, and help my dad with the tractor and haying.

IM: Is that what you like to do best?

HE: Not really. But since I'm the only girl, I get stuck driving truck.

IM: Because you can't lift hay bales?

HE: Oh, I've lifted hay bales; but, I go too slow and my brothers yell at me. Of course, I yell right back at them.

IM: How have you felt about the chores that you have done with your brothers as you were growing up? Was there any real difference in the kind of work you did?

HE: No, I would think so, not really.

IE: Well, now, you never had any real chores besides help with hay, is really all you done outside.

HE: Well, yeah, and then when Nick had those rabbits, he never fed them, I always did. They usually do all the chores.

IM: How do you feel about being a girl?

HE: All right, I guess.

IM: Do you wish you were a boy?

HE: Sometimes I wished I was. Sometimes I'm glad I'm a girl.

IM: What were some of the reasons you wished you were a boy?

HE: Didn't have to clean house.

IE: You don't have to clean barns.

HE: Yeah, that's one advantage of being a girl, you don't have

to clean barns.

IM: What are the times you feel really good, can you think of any times that you feel really good about being a girl?

HE: Well, I get, well, when Mom's in the mood, she makes me new clothes and she never makes the boys any clothes, so that saves a lot of money.

IM: It's a little more fun to sew girls' clothes than boys' shirts.

HE: Yes.

IM: If you got married and had children, would you more or less want to raise them the way you've been raised?

HE: Yeah, I probably would. Living down in Lewiston all week, that really gets to you. Then, when you come home on the farm and you really appreciate the farm.

IM: You get clearer air.

HE: Oh yeah.

IM: And being able to look out and see a nice view. You can't do that in town. Are you studying most of the time down there?



HE: Well ...

IM: I put you on the spot. I wondered if you were going to tell us about that.

HE: Well, half and half. Now, I'm studying a little bit more, but it's getting close to the end of school. I go out once in a while with the girls and have a few beers. It's fun.

IM: Do you have a definite goal in mind? Are you preparing to do some kind of work before you marry?

HE: I really don't know.

IM: Do you plan to get married?

HE: I want to get married someday, but not too soon. I want to wait until I'm ready. I really don't know what I want to do.

IM: But you feel obligated to prepare to do something, at least that you can make a living with?

HE: Yes.

IM: At least, you know you're going to be pushed out of home sometime, huh?

HE: Yeah.

IM: So, you do things with girls down there, like have a beer or something. Are there any movies?

HE: Oh, we go to the movies once in a while.

IM: And you go to ball games when you are home.

HE: Oh, yes. I went to most of the ball games down there because I really like basketball. It's the only sport I've really liked.

IM: Do you play it or just watch it?

HE: Well, if I had a chance, I would play it; but, down there they don't.

IM: They don't have very well developed programs?

HE: No. But I love to watch it.

IM: Do they have more opportunities for men in athletics?

HE: Yeah, I guess. That's always what they have done, is what's based on basketball.

IM: They don't have any girls' teams, though?

HE: Not really.

IM: And they didn't have, I suppose in Genesee High School.

HE: Not too much, no.

IM: Do you think this is something that could be changed. Like your mother's on the schoolboard and kind of looking toward developing that area? Do you think more girls would participate if they had the opportunity?

HE: Well, I don't know. I really can't say. Like, in high school, I learned to play basketball and the girls' coach didn't like me, I guess. So she didn't put me on the team, but I think if they had a chance they would.

IM: Do you think there's a feeling among girls that they can't do anything physical, you know, develop their physical abilities?

HE: I really don't know.

IM: I guess, sometimes I've observed girls standing around the schoolyard and talking, whereas the boys are out running and doing things. What do you think makes that difference?

HE: I don't know. I guess girls like to talk; I don't know. Girls have no reason to do that. Guys must think that all girls do is talk.

IM: But, they certainly see some benefits that people get from physical activity, and you might think that the girls would get the same benefits if they had the opportunity. If they had more opportunities, well then, they'll find out how much fun it is. Well, that was just something that I hadn't talked to a girls your age for a while and I wondered how you felt about that. We talked a little bit about what you do around home, and you help in the garden and you do help with housework and drive truck when the opportunity and when it's necessary. So, you feel you can do just about anything the boys can.

HE: I think I can.

IM: Since you have four brothers, you have just taken part of it.

HE: Yes.

IM: You talked a little bit about preparing to have a job and that you'll work some. Do you see it's necessary, even though you get married? Have you thought about the possibility of your husband not being able to support you?

HE: Not really. I really hadn't thought about it.

IE: She's going to marry a rich man.

IM: Well, lots of luck.

HE: That's what my sister-in-law said: "Where you going to find them?"

IM: What would be your ideal job? Right now, if you could imagine that whatever you decided to do that you'd be successful in and you had your choice of going anywhere and doing anything. What would be the most ideal job you could have?

HE: Well, in high school, I always wanted to be a teacher. An elementary teacher, like the first grade, or even a kindergarten teacher. I love little kids. Maybe a teacher, I don't know. But now, I don't think I want to be a teacher, I don't know.

IM: What kind of things changed your mind?

HE: Oh, the classes I have to take.

IM: Education classes aren't the most pleasant.

HE: Like, you have to take speech and I'm not very good at getting up in front of people and talking.

IM: Do you have anybody down there that talks to you about your

vocational plans? Do you have counselors down there?

HE: I have an advisor, but he doesn't talk to me about that very much.

IM: Mostly, it's decisions on what to take next.

HE: Yes.

IM: There's no women's counselor down there?

HE: Oh well, we have a woman counselor, kind of, yeah. But nobody ever goes sees her, I guess. I don't know why.

IE: How about Lorraine, has she ever talked to you?

HE: No. Whenever she's there.

IE: She's their house mother.

IM: So, you really don't know. Have you ever considered vocational tests or interest tests?

HE: No, I don't think I have. I took a lot of tests in high school.

IE: I'm sure they didn't take them because I never did see them.

IM: You took probably some achievement tests in high school.

HE: Yeah, I took a lot of those in high school.

IM: Did you ever get the results of that back and talk to somebody about them?

HE: No, not really.

IM: So, you really don't know what your strong subjects are and your weak ones are?

HE: Well, I know what my weak one is: math. I cannot do math worth a darn. Math just blows my mind.

IM: Did they ever say what help you can get from your counselor?

HE: No.

IM: I heard the name, Tammy somebody.

HE: Down in Lewiston?

IM: Yes.

HE: Tammy Bishop.

IM: What kind of services does she offer?

HE: She's just there if you want to go talk to her. If you have any problems and you can't talk over with your house mother or anybody else.

IM: But they don't say what kind of problems, just in general.

HE: Yeah, just problems.

IM: Well, aside from this, you might go and ask about some interest there. That must give you some idea of what things, by identifying the things you like to do, like recreation and your daily life. You can identify certain work areas that might be more interesting to you. You might follow up and try that. Anyway, you might go see and what she has to offer because it doesn't sound like your advisor is too much help.

HE: Well, he just asks what kind of classes I want to take and stuff like that.

IE: Well, he's so busy.

HE: Yeah, he's never around. He's a teacher and he takes classes himself.

IM: So, he's really not available very much. Only in preparing



programs for the next semester.

HE: Yeah.

IM: You might just find this Tammy Bishop to be helpful. She's there more and supposed to be available, too. They should have some interest tests that would be fun to take for elementary. Do you read any different magazines or papers than your family?

HE: No, I read about the same. I read the newspaper once in a while and magazines when they look interesting. I really don't read that much, not any books.

IM: Other than for your classes?

HE: Yeah. Sometimes, I don't even read those.

IM: If you don't come home for a weekend, what do you do?

HE: Starve. Laughing.

IM: Is that the only reason why you come home?

HE: There's really nothing you can do down there.

IM: There are some girls that stay the whole weekend; they live so far away.

HE: Oh, yes.

IM: Do they study?

HE: Yeah, most of them do.

IM: And they could get all caught up on everything, then.  
Usually, it's probably pretty quiet.

HE: Usually, it's the nurses' students that have to study. That dorm is filled mostly with nursing students. Mainly, I just like to get away from all the girls and eat a decent meal.

IM: Institutional food, when you're cooking for a quantity, is not very good.

HE: It's not the greatest in the world; it doesn't stick with you.

IM: Not as the same type thing your mother cooks at home. Do you get enough to eat, do you have plenty?

HE: Oh, yeah, you get enough. But, like half an hour later, you're starving. Up here, I can eat and eat and I'm full for a few hours. I love to eat.

IM: Do you have a regular gym program down there now? Do you

have to participate in Physical Ed at all?

HE: You don't have to. Well, you have to take PE the first year and I think you have to take the first three semesterf of PE, something like that.

IM: And you said you were thinking of switching over to the Vo-Tech? What area would you?

HE: Oh, just like typing or something like that.

IM: To develop a really job oriented skill.

HE: Yeah.

IM: That's where you are right now. You don't really see the way to go into teaching or you've kind of changed your mind about that. I think, too, Tammy Bishop ought to have books on other occupations, Our Personal Outlook handbook, for instance. Do you know if she has a copy of this?

HE: I don't know if she does or not, she might.

IM: It might be fun to just go in there and leaf through some of the materials they have.

HE: She comes over to the dorm once in a while and has kind of

like a gripe session. So that's about the only time we ever see her. And then we go over to her office.

IM: And she usually ends up by saying, "Come over to my office and see what we have."

HE: Yeah.

IM: But you've never done that before?

HE: No, not yet.

IM: Do you watch TV down there?

HE: Not as much as I used to. I usually, like I said, Fridays you go out. But sometimes I do, yeah.

IM: Do you have favorite programs?

HE: You mean during the day or during the night?

IM: Anytime.

HE: Well, there's two soap operas we watch down there; there's two main ones all the girls like to watch. In the night time, I like "Mash." It's a comedy type show, and "Emergency."

IM: Do a lot of girls in the residence hall watch TV?

HE: Yeah.

IM: So it's kind of a recreation. How many women live in the hall?

HE: About 56.

IM: This is the one residence hall they have?

HE: Yes.

IM: Do some live out of apartments in town?

HE: Yeah.

IM: Is this the only place girl students live, or do they have options to live in town?

IE: I think there's a lot of apartments, isn't there?

HE: Yeah.

IM: Or with their own families?

HE: Well, yeah, there's more local girls down there.

IM: You plan to marry eventually, but you haven't really made too many plans yet. You haven't met anybody that you'd be interested in.

HE: No, not really.

IM: What do you think is important in having a husband? What would be your ideal husband?

HE: Robert Redford. He has to be tall, that's the main thing I'm looking for.

IM: Do you feel like you're unusually tall?

IE: She doesn't feel it, she knows it.

HE: About 5' 10". I don't know, I'm looking for a guy taller than about six foot, like my brothers.

IM: They're all tall except the younger one.

HE: Well, he's getting up there. They have to be kind, of course. Kind, like my dad and I don't know what I want to say. He can support the family like my dad does.

IM: You would not expect to help support the family?

HE: If I had to I would.

IM: But ideally, would you really want to?

HE: No, not really.

IM: You'd rather do like your mother did, stay at home and raise children. That's the way you feel?

HE: Yes.

IM: So, if you had a job, it would be until you got married or it would be kind of backup, if you had to.

HE: Yeah.

IM: How about decisions you'd make in family life, would you like to have equal say in everything?

HE: Yes.

IM: That's important to you.

HE: Yes.

IM: You wouldn't want to have a man that would decide everything and let you know.

HE: No. I think women have the right to say what they feel.

IM: And if they don't like what's going on, then they should say.

HE: They should tell him that they don't like it.

IM: And be able to make some changes.

HE: If the husband doesn't agree with her, well, I guess you could just drop the subject until you can agree, or else pick a subject that you both agree on.

IM: How about talking about it? That would be a possible way of working it out.

HE: Yeah.

IM: How do you feel, say, you must know something about your grandmother's life and your mother's life and now as you project ahead, who has the most opportunity?

HE: I really don't know much about my grandmother's life. My mom's life, I don't know how. That's tough. I really don't know. I don't know what to say about that.

IM: If you got married and have five children and were living like your mother lives now, do you think it would be a good life?



HE: Oh, yeah. I have some of the same opportunities as my mom did, maybe a little bit more.

IM: So it's up to you, what you want to make out of your life?

HE: I guess.

IM: Just get some ideas and a direction.

HE: Yeah.

IM: Is there anything else you'd like to tell about the way things appear to you right now?

HE: No, I can't think of anything.

IM: Do you ever think much about the women's movement, the liberation or anything like this?

HE: No.

IM: You don't care too much about that, then.

HE: No, I really don't care about it.

IM: You're not that much into that?

HE: No.

IM: Is there a dramatics teacher down there? Shirley ...

HE: Hennigan.

IM: Do you have her for speech?

HE: No.

IM: She, I think is kind of involved in this. Do you ever hear very much from her? Are there some students involved in this?

HE: There's some, I guess. Nobody at the dorm. You hear about her being a liberated woman and things.

IM: What's that mean to you?

HE: Being free, I guess. I don't know.

IM: You don't feel unfree?

HE: No.

IM: That doesn't really mean anything. I guess this kind of gets into something I'd kind of like to ask when you came down here and gave a presentation in Genesee. We heard some people did not want their girls to come to it because it was a bunch of those women radicals. Did you hear anything like that?

IE: No, definitely not.

IM: Lillie had some feedback on that and I wondered about it, the opinion of some people in Genesee.

IE: Oh, I don't know. I wouldn't think so from the women.

IM: In Moscow, we hear that some of the old time farmers from Genesee are pretty conservative and I guess some of the German background might contribute to that. There certainly wasn't anything in the presentation about that.

IE: No, I don't think so at all.

IM: We just heard a few things here and there. Maybe they were expecting some of the radical stuff.

IE: I think Genesee has a chip on their shoulders as far as the University is concerned, I know I certainly do. So, that might have been part of it. But, I think the majority of women in Genesee are, well now, of course, each person sees us as they want to, you know. I think the majority of women are very happy.

IM: They feel pretty free and they manage their lives.

IE: That's the way it looks to me. There are women around that seem to do pretty much what they want to do and they all seem to

be pretty much satisfied with their lives. They have to be home by six o'clock to fix dinner; but gosh, that's not too difficult, you know.

IM: It's not very restricted.

IE: No. But, I suppose if I were an unhappy woman, I would associate with other women who were and then I'd have a different ...

IM: What do you mean about having a chip on your shoulder about the University?

IE: Oh, I think it's happened a couple of times. Well, I really don't know how to say it, but we don't like them to interfere too much with the school, I think.

IM: You mean experts coming in and telling you how to do it?

IE: Yeah. Well, you'll find this in any small town, not just in Genesee. They are doing pretty good the way things are.

IM: They know what their needs are better than someone from outside.

IE: Right. And I do know that they don't really care to get first year teachers out of the University because they are

teaching too much of freedom of the classroom. When you get 30 little kids ...

IM: How did you make the decision to go to Lewis & Clark rather than the University of Idaho?

HE: It's a smaller school.

IM: That appeals to you more?

HE: Yes, because at the University I felt like I'd get lost. And their classes are a lot harder.

IM: You didn't get the results on your achievement test, but where do you think you stood in relation to other people in your class?

HE: I don't know, maybe in the middle, I guess. Maybe a little bit lower.

IM: So you felt like you probably couldn't do the best at the University? You probably felt you could do better at Lewis & Clark, for what you wanted. If you decided on a goal that only could be met at the University, would you have an option to go there?

HE: It depends if I have the money to go to the University.

IM: Is it a lot more expensive than Lewis & Clark?

HE: I think it is, yes. Isn't it? Talking to her mother.

IE: It kind of gave me the impression that it was, maybe not.

HE: I think it is.

IM: What does it cost to go to Lewis & Clark? Does it depend on how many classes you take?

HE: No, it's \$125 for registration and plus I'm living in the dorm and that's \$135, plus food and I have to pay for five months, that's \$80 a month, and so it adds up.

IM: I can't really compare the price of the dorm, I should know. But the difference in the tuition is we pay about \$200 and there is \$75 for entrance. But, the way you feel about it is you'd rather take what Lewis & Clark has to offer rather than, you're satisfied with that because you like the smaller school.

HE: And the people down there are friendly. You can walk in town and know most of the people.

IM: And that's important to you.

HE: Yes.

IM: Do you have some things you'd like to ask about?

HE: No.

IM: Are there other people from Genesee that you are with down there?

HE: Yeah, there is three other girls.

IM: Did you all decide together to do down there?

HE: No.

IM: Just individually.

HE: Yes.

IM: My advice and everything would be just to urge you to go in and use Tammy and try and explore, you know, what the other possibilities are. If you got a job after you graduated, would you be willing to work a long distance away, or would you want to stay in the same area?

HE: I would kind of like to stay in the same area.

IM: I think there are a lot of people in northern Idaho that are like that. They'll do whatever the jobs are here.

HE: I was raised here in Genesee and I really don't know what it would be like to go off into a big city.

IM: And you don't really feel motivated to find out, either? So, you are pretty well satisfied?

HE: Oh, yeah.

IM: You've got this pressure to do something right now. Well, I've really enjoyed talking to you.