

INTERVIEW SUMMARY-TAPE INDEX

NAME: Egland, Erma  
 DATE OF INTERVIEW: 3-22-75  
 LOCATION:  
 INTERVIEWER:  
 TAPE NO. 4 Side I 175-685

TAPE MINUTE	MANUSCRIPT PAGE	SUMMARY OF CONTENTS
0-19:00		Personal Data Sheet; hobbies, occupations - waiting tables. Description of working on the farm - hiring kids.
19:01-24:20		Clubs, groups - discussion. School Board - discussion of being the only women on Board.
24:21-33:30		Life in rural area vs. urban area. Housework vs. outdoor work. College expected after high school. School days.
33:31-39:40		Courtship. Parent's feelings on marriage. Discussion on marriage - expectations.
39:41-45:30		Medical services. Having children - raising children. Husband's feelings on children. Ideas on child raising.
45:31-52:00		Mother's friends and neighbors. Family life now. Entertainment. Current interests.
52:01-61:00		Changes in life from childhood to children's lives. Discussion of farm life and being a farmer's wife. Social activities.
61:01-71:20		Decisions in family. Story of buying farm. Difference between women in earlier days and now. Legal Release form.

IM: The first thing we usually do is fill out this personal data record, and then I'll ask you some questions which will be just kind of a starting point to stimulate conversation and to get you to, give you ideas, is the kind of thing we want, and it's just kind of stimulus. If it reminds you of something else, just go ahead and tell me about it. The first thing is your name, Irma Eglund.

IE: Yes.

IM: Do you have a nickname?

IE: No.

IM: You've just always been Irma?

IE: I've had lots of nicknames when I was a kid, but not anymore.

IM: And what was your maiden name?

IE: Schlader.

IM: That's a German name, isn't it?

IE: Yes.

IM: When were you born?

IE: January 8, 1928, in Orofino, Idaho.

IM: And your address here?

IE: Route 2, Genesee.

IM: And your first residence, of course was, you grew up in Orofino?

IE: Yes.

IM: And this other question is for people who have moved in, so we can skip over that. What was your mother's maiden name?

IE: Kachelmier.

IM: What kind of jobs did she hold? Was she a housewife?

IE: Oh, we lived on the ranch and she worked outside an awful lot. She also was a rural mail carrier for 25 or 30 years. In fact, I hope that if you go to Orofino, I hope you can talk to her.

IM: Oh, she still lives there?

IE: Yes, she's a very outstanding woman.

IM: Yes, we certainly will start this and see that we keep her name for reference and maybe do something. Do you know her date of birth?

IE: Yes, December 17, 1899.

IM: And where was she born?

IE: In Nez Perce.

IM: Do you know the year she was married?

IE: 1919.

IM: And your father's whole name?

IE: George Schlader.

IM: Do you know when he was born?

IE: March 3, 1889.

IM: And where was he born?

IE: Somewhere in Illinois. I know he always talked about Cook County, but I don't think it was Chicago.

IM: Is he living?

IE: No, he passed away about 13 years ago.

IM: So, that would have been about 1962.

IE: When was Tony born?

HE: 1964. Grandpa died before that.

IE: I don't know. He's been dead for about 12 years, I guess, because he was 73 and he would now be 86.

IM: What was his occupation? Was he a rancher?

IE: Farmer, rancher.

IM: Okay. Did you have any sisters?

IE: Yes, I have two sisters.

IM: Could I have their names?

IE: Helen Anderson from Troy. Then, Shirley Seeley and she lives in Orofino.

IM: And your brothers?

IE: I have one brother, Raymond Schlader, from Orofino.

IM: And your husband's name?

IE: Harry Egland, Jr.

IM: And what was the date of his birth?

IE: Oh, September 12, 1922, I think.

IM: And he was, if I remember, he was born in Moscow, is what your mother-in-law said.

IE: Yes.

IM: He was the oldest?

IE: Yes.

IM: Where were you married?

IE: Orofino.

IM: And the date?

IE: May 23, 1951.

IM: And what is his occupation?

IE: He's a salesman for Everett Well Tractor in Moscow.

IM: And your children's names?

IE: Nick.

IM: Where was he born and when?

IE: Well, we were living in Genesee, but he was born in the hospital in Moscow, and he was born May 31, 1952.

IM: Is he working now?

IE: No, he lives just up the road about a mile in a trailer. He and his wife go to school.

IM: Is this Peggy's husband?

IE: Yes.

IM: I have an appointment with an interview with her this afternoon.

IE: Oh, great!

IM: And your next child?

IE: Do you want their whole name, or just their first name?

IM: Just their name, yes, whatever you call them by.

IE: Mike, and he was born June 9, 1953. You'll have to help me on these dates, Hollis, because I can't remember.

IM: Is he still a student?

IE: No, he's just around.

IM: I have one like that, too.

IE: He was taking off this morning to go down to Oregon. He was going down the coast.

IM: Does he help farm and that kind of thing?

IE: No, not particularly, he works for a while. He's traveled all over the world practically. He works and then gets money and then takes off again, which is fine.

IM: At his age, that's the only time you can do it. It's a good thing to be doing. And your next child?

IE: Hollis, and she was born April 8, 1955.



IM: And you're a student at Lewis and Clark?

HE: Yes.

IE: And Ed, October 18, 1957, and he's in high school. And Tony, he was born January 27, 1964 and he's 11 now.

IM: Is that all, then?

IE: That's enough.

IM: You were fortunate to get a girl.

IE: Yes, right in the middle.

IM: What education have you had?

IE: I graduated from the University in 1950.

IM: Is that Idaho?

IE: Yes.

IM: What was your major in?

IE: Sociology and psychology. I guess that must be one of the boys, Hollis. He's knocking to see if it's safe to come in.

IM: Do you have any special skills that you've developed since then, or that you associate with homemaking, or sewing, anything that you particularly do?

IE: Oh, I really enjoy antiques and I like to refinish furniture and I'm an antique buff, I guess you'd call it. I like gardening and all kinds of sewing, handiwork, you know, quilts and that type of thing I did.

IM: Have you ever held any jobs?

IE: You mean since I've been married or before?

IM: Before, anytime, all through your life?

IE: Oh yeah, I worked my way through college pretty much. I had help from home, but not too much. I always worked in the summer. I waited tables mostly in the summer. I worked two summers in a logging camp.

IM: Cooking?

IE: No, just waiting tables. That used to be the big thing in Orofino. I mean, girls, that's what they did, the ones who were really with it, you know. In Orofino, You wouldn't dream of going out and working in someone's house. I mean it was just, yuck.

IM: It was pretty degrading, then?

IE: Yeah. Here, that's what the girls do is go and work for other women; but, we didn't do that in Orofino.

IM: There's quite a difference in the community of the feeling that way.

IE: Yeah, I'll say.

IM: Was there more money in being a waitress?

IE: There was more money in being a waitress, I would say.

IM: A little more dignity.

IE: Yeah, you were a little more, I don't know, independent. You could come and go.

IM: You'd have certain hours when people would work.

IE: Oh, yes.

IM: That's interesting.

IE: So, I did that, and when I was in school, I had odd jobs at the University. I was a lifeguard for a couple of years.

One job I had was, oh, one of the experiment things they had up there; they worked with white rats. This wasn't a real pleasant job. I cleaned pens, but it was different and fun, I didn't mind. In fact, I enjoyed it. And, let's see, what else did I do up there?

HE: Didn't you work in the bank?

IE: Yeah, I worked in the bank then, too. I stayed out of school a year and worked in the bank in Orofino.

IM: As a bank clerk?

IE: Oh, teller, I guess. I worked once for six weeks up at Sacred Heart Hospital. I didn't like that, it was in the kitchen just putting stuff on trays. The trays would come through, the menu would be written there, you know, what they wanted, say for dessert, and you would sit that on the tray and it would go on down on the conveyor. I got terribly bored with that.

IM: Not very stimulating.

IE: It was okey for a while, but I just as soon look for another job and then, that was when I went back to Orofino and went back to work in the bank. Then, when I came back up to school, I had one more semester. I only had to take about 12 hours, so I had a lot of spare time and I worked half days at First Security

Bank in Moscow. Then, after I graduated I went on full time at the bank and worked there for a year.

IM: And that was until you got married, then?

IE: Yes.

IM: And then you quit?

IE: Well, then I went to work in Genesee at the bank and I worked for about six months.

IM: Anything else that you can think of? Kind of a variety of jobs.

IE: No, I don't think. I went to California one summer and when I went broke, I had to work in a drive-in for a week to get enough money to buy my bus ticket home.

IM: You went out to California by yourself?

IE: No, I had a very good friend who was from Long Beach and I went down with her.

IM: This is while you were a student those few years?

IE: Yes.

IM: So, you were pretty independent. Tried out quite a few different things.

IE: Well, yes.

IM: We asked about other interests, hobbies and talents and some of these are the same up here, like refinishing furniture, the antiques. Is there anything else you can think of?

IE: Oh, I don't know. We have the cattle and I run the hay crew and that type of thing, and do chores a lot.

IM: What do you do when you run a hay crew?

HE: Cook.

IE: Yeah, cook. Well, you get a bunch of kids out there and they work real good, but they also like to visit. I'm all for visiting, but I think you also have to keep moving a little bit.

IM: You kind of motivate people to get the task done.

IE: Yeah, they need an adult out there to keep them moving.

IM: These are local kids you hire?

IE: Well, for years it's been our own, of course, you know,

it's family. But we also hire other kids when we get a big rush on. Because we do unintelligible . My husband works six, seven days a week and in the summer, he works Sundays at the shop, too. So, it's pretty much up to me, that type of thing.

IM: How much ranch, farm, do you have here?

IE: We only have 25 acres here.

IM: So you raise hay.

IE: We rent about 70 acres and we also, well, he's very busy going out and getting all this hay for us to cut up, and then, of course it's up to the boys and I to do it. Then we sell it. That gives us a little extra.

IM: Do you run tractors, things like that?

IE: No, I won't do that, I just won't do that. I drive truck.

IM: You just oversee and drive the truck?

IE: Well, I used to pitch the bales all the time, but I decided in the last two years that I'm getting too old. Can't lift them anymore.

IM: About how heavy are they?

IE: Oh, this year they're awfully heavy, they cut them a little big. They're 60 or 70 pounds.

IM: Those would be above your head.

IE: It's a hard day's work. If they get wet, they are really heavy. We used to, when the kids and I did most of it, we kept them at 45-50 pounds and I could handle those just fine. These 70 pounders, that's a little heavy for a woman.

IM: And you have cattle that you feed yourself?

IE: We have a few.

IM: For beef or for milk?

IE: Oh, they're beef, pretty much. We have one milk cow. It isn't giving milk right now, but we do have one dairy cow, but they're mainly beef.

IM: You spend quite a bit more time taking care of the farm and the family, the home and this are than your husband does. He's usually on the job.

IE: Oh yes, because he works long hours, so I do it.

IM: Do you have any clubs or groups that you are a member of?



IE: Oh, not too much right now. I don't like to belong to anything unless I feel I can take an active part in it. I can see no point in paying dues. Half a dozen different organizations never go anywhere, and so if I can't take an active part then I simply don't belong. Right now I'm on the school board and that keeps me pretty busy. I go to a lot of meetings out of town.

IM: This is the Genesee School Board?

IE: Uh huh.

IM: Are you elected for that?

IE: Yes.

IM: How long have you served on the board?

IE: Two years.

IM: Is that the term?

IE: No, it's a three year term. I have one more year to go.

IM: Will you be running again?

IE: Oh, yes.

IM: So you must like that.

IE: Yes, I love it.

IM: Are there any other women on the school board?

IE: No.

IM: Do they usually try to have one woman on?

IE: Oh, no. I think I'm, now, many years ago they said that a lady ran and got on, Mary Cunningham. There used to be two Mary Cunninghams in Genesee and I never did find out which one it was. But she quite soon resigned, I guess. The men really gave her a bad time. I don't know what they did, but at any rate, she soon resigned and I think I've been the first one that has even tried since.

IM: How do you feel what their attitude is towards you on the board?

IE: Oh, they've been very nice.

IM: Do you get a chance to say all you want to and have influence?

IE: Yes. They don't always care for what I say, but I can say anything I want.

IM: That doesn't inhibit you from saying it?

IE: No, they've been very good about it.

IM: Do you feel like you've made some changes since you came?

IE: Well, I think, for one thing, I do not really push it but if something comes up on girls' sports and they think, well, there isn't enough interest or something and they ought to cut this out, you know, this part of it, and the girls don't need to do that, well, then I speak up. I say, yes they do, if we offer it for boys, we have to offer it for girls. I think it's made a difference that way. They did try to cut out girls' track this year and I said no. I thought that girls could turn up for, they could use the same coach. They didn't have to have a woman coach for girls' track because that's strictly an individual effort and I thought they could all be under one coach, which I think they're going to do. Other than that, I don't know if I'd made too much of an impact.

IM: Well, it sounds like you speak out and you speak for a group that hasn't been represented in the past.

IE: Well, I think sometimes, I think the men do a great job of running the school. But I do think women are more interested in the actual children, don't you?

IM: Having been associated with them more where men, I sometimes think their focus is more on their jobs.

IE: I think that I have a little different attitude than they do.

IM: You certainly have a different viewpoint. I think that's interesting. Have you ever received any awards, honors or ribbons? Were you with Four-H or anything like that?

IE: Oh, I've been a Four-H leader for 13 years.

IM: You mentioned that you had been with groups off and on. What were some of those other groups?

IE: Catholic Daughters, I belonged to that for several years.

IM: I suppose it changes with your situation when your children were small and home. Were you in different groups then?

IE: Well, I don't know, not really.

IM: It was just where your interest was.

IE: I belonged to a little neighborhood club around here, oh, it was the C.G. Club, and it's just women out in this area who meet once a month.

IM: So, it's just kind of a social get together.

IE: They do charity work and they take things to the hospital and nursing homes and that type of thing.

IM: But it's a woman's organization?

IE: Oh yes. They talk about things that you're interested in.

IM: Okay, that takes care of the personal data sheet. Now, I'll start out on several questions and, like I said before, it's just to stimulate you to go on. Do you see certain advantages in living in rural areas as opposed to living in urban areas?

IE: Oh, yes, and I like the country and the farm life. I think it's a good life; I like a small town. When I was a kid, we lived in the country and we didn't have school buses in those days and, of course, we had to walk and we always thought it would be so neat to live in town. I really envied all my friends; I was the only country girl at that time. But, I always had it in the back of my mind, though, that when I grew up and got married, I was going to live on the farm, too. So, I evidently didn't hate it as much as I thought I did.

IM: It was good for family life?

IE: Oh yes. Yeah, I think it's the only place to live. I don't

think I would like it in the city at all.

IM: Do you know any women who live in urban areas, personal friends?

IE: In a large urban area, you mean?

IM: Yes.

IE: Well, no, not so much anymore. I used to, but now all my friends are pretty well centered in Genesee.

IM: Can you identify anything to compare to your life to an urban woman's life that would be very different? Can you think of any, certainly, they wouldn't have farm chores like that, of course. The role in her family, for instance, is it different?

IE: No, I really can't say. I've never lived in the city, so I just don't know what it would be like. I'm just sure I would not like it. I'm prejudiced.

IM: As your children were growing up, was it a lot different from what it'd been for you when you were growing up at home?

IE: Oh, I don't think so, no.

IM: When you were growing up at home, did the boys and girls do

the same chores, or was there division of work?

IE: Well, at home we did the same thing. Well, there was three girls and just one boy, so, of course, we had to work outside as much as he did. So, I couldn't say, within the family, we weren't treated any differently at all.

IM: So it wasn't really boys' chores and girls' chores; they were supposed to be done and you all did it.

IE: And my brother could cook. My dad was very good at helping my mother in the house and then she would go out and help him. They worked together. That was kind of the way I was raised. If there was work to be done, we did it and if anyone was going to lay around, everybody laid around.

IM: You got the work done and then everybody could take off. Yes, I understand that. Was it pretty much the same when you were raising your children?

IE: We've tried to do it that way. Hollis doesn't really care for outside work, but I've needed help in the house, too, because I do work outside and so I needed her in the house. She's done more cooking and housework than I did when I was growing up.

IM: This was kind of her preference, was that it? You'd rather work in the house?

HE: Yes.

IM: And you had more brothers that are available for outdoor chores.

IE: Yes. So that's a difference too. My older sister, the one that lives in Troy, she's a Home Ec teacher. It's just always been that she was an excellent cook, even as a girl, you know, and she still is. She did more of that type of thing.

IM: Do the boys help in the house at all?

IE: My boys? Well, these two younger ones don't, no, I can't say that they do. The two older ones did, not a great lot, but like on Saturday mornings, they had to clean the basement or something, you know. But, now, these two don't.

IM: They were just special jobs, special assignments that needed to be done. Did your brothers or sisters go on to college?

IE: My brother went into the service. He graduated about, it was Pearl Harbor time, so he went into the service for four years.

IM: He graduated from high school about that time?

IE: Yes. My older sister graduated from the University and my younger sister didn't. After she got out of high school, she



just wasn't interested in going on to school. And my folks relaxed a little bit by then, too. Then, when I graduated from high school, I had no interest at all in going on to college. I just didn't want any more school, but I went.

IM: Because your parents expected you to?

IE: Yes, there just was no question about it. I didn't have to go to the University even; in fact, I didn't have to go to college, but I did have to go and learn how to do something. I couldn't just sit around and do nothing, or just get a job. I had to go to secretary school or something. They insisted on that.

IM: Did they see it as kind of a backup for marriage? Did they expect you to get married?

IE: Oh, I imagine they pretty well took it for granted, but they always said that they thought a woman should know how to do something incase she ever had to, you know. I think that's good advice. Everybody should know how to do something.

IM: They've helped you some, but you've worked quite a bit.

IM: Well, they helped, yeah, quite a bit. They're in cattle ranching and each one of us kids, when we were ten years old, were given a heifer calf. So, then by the time we were in college,

we had a pretty good little herd of our own, you see, we had four or five cows. So, then you would have your calves; you'd sell your steer calves and that would give money. So, I would say that was help from the folks because they were our own animals and we were free to do what we wanted; but, it was my parents' land and their hay and dad's work and you know.

IM: Were you supposed to take care of your animals?

IE: Well, we didn't work out too much in the summer in high school because we were expected to be there and help with the haying and we hayed all summer long. That was in the days before the bailers and it was all loose hay and it took quite a while.

IM: And you helped with that?

IE: Yes, and then for the chores, we had lots of cows and somebody had to go out every morning and help Dad feed every morning and every night. So we just, when it was your turn, you just went and did it.

IM: What time did you get up in those days?

IE: Oh, we got up not terribly early. When you read about farm families up at four or five in the morning, none of that. We didn't get up until about six or six-thirty.

IM: So, you had to have your work done before you got to the school bus?

IE: We didn't have a school bus; we walked. It was two miles and we walked. So, we had to leave early and so we got up and got the chores done first.

IM: There must have been some pretty cold days.

IE: Yes, although it isn't as cold in Orofino as it is here. I can remember, though, sometimes there'd be a lot of snow where we lived. Downtown, there would be no snow at all, but when we left home it would be up to our knees. And, of course, you had to wear long socks, long underwear and all this, and all the town girls would have on anklets. Laughing. So, I believed my old long socks rolled down and my underwear rolled up.

IM: When you got to school, you did that?

IE: Right. It was time to get behind the bushes so nobody would see you adjust your clothing.

IM: So that was part of thinking that maybe the town girls had it easier; life might have been a little bit more ...

IE: Yes, I thought they had it much nicer than I did.

IM: Yes, I can understand that. Where did you meet your husband?

IE: When I was in school, at the University.

IM: Did you have a long courting period?

IE: Oh my, yes, three and a half years.

IM: You didn't really expect to get married until you both graduated?

IE: Well, he didn't go to school. But, he wouldn't marry me until after I graduated. He said no way are we going to get married and then five years later you're going to say, "Well, look, if I wouldn't of married you, look what I could be doing now." He said, "You're going to graduate first." And so I did and it was a year later that we got married.

IM: You worked at the bank in that year?

IE: Yes. He said he wasn't going to have me all of a sudden decide I had to go back to school when I had two or three little kids and such, he felt. Well, I agree, it's better to get finished with that stuff first.

IM: So, you were satisfied with having gotten your degree and you worked.

IE: And I think we've had a better marriage, get along a lot better by having known each other for so long. Because we had an awful lot of problems all figured out, you know. How we're going to raise the kids and such, so I think it helps.

IM: You talked a lot about that before you were married?

IE: Oh, yes.

IM: Can you remember why you got married? What were some of the reasons?

IE: Oh, I don't know, I wanted to.

IM: You just loved him.

IE: Yeah. I never was especially interested in a career. In fact, I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up, you know. I never did settle anything. When I was in school, I really was interested in, I thought I'd like to be a parole officer, like the criminal psychology and that type of thing. But you had to go, I don't know now if you can do your graduate work at Idaho or not in psychology, but at that time I know you couldn't. When you were through with your four years you had to

go somewhere else. And I also realized that I wouldn't be able to get a job to do that kind of work unless I lived in the city. There's no call for that around here and I didn't want to live in the city, so that took care of that.

IM: So that was one important view in jobs. And you said your parents, they didn't have anything for or against marriage; they just kind of expected it.

IE: Yeah, they never pushed it. We were never told as girls that we were going to get married or this type of thing.

IM: There wouldn't have been any stigma attached if you hadn't gotten married?

IE: No, I don't think so because my father has a, I think she's still living, has a sister who never married. In fact, I think they all kind of admired her because times were real tough there in the '30s. She was a teacher and, of course, they paid very low, but she did have money when nobody else did. You know, she has a job, so I think there was no stigma attached to her whatsoever, and I think everybody thought she was pretty neat. She traveled a lot and such. Then, my dad had another sister who was a nun and, of course, there was no marriage there. So, I don't think we were ever pushed towards this at all.

IM: You were left pretty much to make the decision for yourself. Whatever you decided would have been okay.

IE: And we were all older when we finally did get married. I was 23 and my older sister was 25 or 26. My brother was 28 or 29, so I mean, there was no big rush. It wasn't the idea to get out of high school and you'd have nothing else to do but run out and get married. We were expected to do something else.

IM: Was that true for most people in your community, or was your family different?

IE: Well, I don't know. Like I said before, I think my mother is a very outstanding woman. She's a brilliant woman and I think she had a wider perspective, maybe.

IM: She worked around the house, homemaking and the family.

IE: Yeah, I think she had a different attitude than say, her sister did.

IM: You think they're transmitted to children and makes a difference in the family?

IE: I think so.

IM: What did you expect marriage to be? Was it what you thought,

or were you disappointed in any aspect of it?

IE: Oh, no, I don't think I've been disappointed. I think it has turned out to be pretty much the way I thought. I can't think of anything that I was expecting that I didn't get.

IM: When you had your children, there was a doctor in Moscow?

IE: Well, there was a doctor in Genesee at that time. There was a doctor in Genesee, but of course the hospital was in Moscow.

IM: It's pretty much the same facilities that we have now. There's not a whole lot of difference there. How did you decide? Did you want five children or did you just accept them as they came along?

IE: Well, they just kind of came. I had always, I think this was strictly an accident, but I had always thought that I would want to have four or five kids and just one girl. But you can't plan your children as such, but however it just happened.

IM: Looks like you did pretty well.

IE: But I can remember that as a little girl, that that was what I was going to do.

IM: Did you enjoy boys more?



IE: I think, I would say with the experience I've had raising the family and, of course, I haven't had much with girls; but, I've found boys easier to raise. I don't know just why, but I think boys are much easier to handle or whatever.

IM: I've heard people say there are less complicated problems, personalities.

IE: I don't know. It seemed like Hollis screamed a lot and giggled a lot and was just, you know, a typical little girl. She was never a tomboy; she was always just around being silly. The boys, they were more active outside than inside; maybe it was getting them outdoors, I don't know. But they've done a lot and they've always had a lot of friends around and there's always been a lot of kids around the house. I really can't say why I found the boys easier to raise.

IM: Do you identify differences from the time they were very young babies, boys and girls?

IE: No, not really.

IM: What was your husband's position on the number of children?

IE: Oh, he didn't want too many. And he said that right from the very beginning. He was never real tickled. Now, he thinks we got too many. But I said, "Well, what are you going to do

with them?" He said he didn't know, but that we might kick them out of the nest occasionally.

IM: Was there quite a few in his family at home?

IE: Yes, there was six in his family.

IM: Did he ever feel like there were too many in that family?

IE: Oh no, I don't know. They were quite spread out and so the two younger ones he didn't really know real well.

IM: That's true, they were born almost after he left home.

IE: Yeah. Well, the youngest boy is 25 years younger than he is, so there hasn't been too much companionship there.

IM: Right, they hardly think of each other as brothers. When you were having your children, did you get personal advice from your parents, from your mother-in-law, or did you just like to solve your daily problems yourself?

IE: I just think I just handled things myself. I very seldom asked anybody for help with anything.

IM: Even women, your contemporaries, did you ever discuss toilet training or things like that?

IE: Oh, not really. I don't think I would discuss the children a lot. Of course, I think I had my ideas how it should be done and I did it.

IM: Had you been observing neighbors, or did you look in Dr. Spock or anything like that?

IE: No, I never did read Dr. Spock. I never knew any children, really, before I had my own.

IM: You kind of moved into it and felt comfortable.

IE: Yeah, it's just one of those things you do.

IM: Solve your problems as they come.

IE: You just raise them the best you can.

IM: Did your children have more freedom, more freedom of expression than you did as a child? Were there any differences there?

IE: Oh, I don't think so, no.

IM: You weren't really repressed, or you weren't in that group that children should be seen and not heard?

IE: Oh, no. We weren't expected to shoot off our mouth too

much, but we were all just there in the family and we were never repressed or set back or anything.

IM: And that's pretty much for your children.

IE: Yes. The folks just accepted it as part of the family and it was just a family group.

IM: Did your mother have close friends around, or she did her job at home pretty much?

IE: Well, she had, it was in the country and we didn't have any close neighbors except just a half a mile up the road was a much older couple than my folks were. They did visit with them quite a bit, except my mother would get mad everytime she would go up there because, well, times were hard. This was before the Second World War that I'm talking about. I remember my mother would get so upset, you know, the price of cattle and the price of meat was just nothing. This lady was always saying, the war was on in Europe, and she was always saying that we've got to get in the war. This woman was 70 or so and had one daughter who was 40 and lived in California with no children. My mother had this growing boy and, of course, she didn't like this idea of wars for that reason and for otherwise. My father had been in the service, so my mother just didn't want war just to get the price of meat up. So they didn't get along too well on that account.

IM: That's interesting.

IE: Other than that, she had friends that she didn't see real often. But, she would, every once in a while, get on the saddle horse and just take off and go two or three miles, wherever someone lived and visit with them and then come home again.

IM: When she felt like she needed a break from the house and family.

IE: Yeah, she had time and whenever, she would just go.

IM: Do you do anything as a family together, or does each person kind of take and goes off on different things when they need to break away?

IE: We don't go camping or anything like that type of thing. My husband doesn't fish or hunt; but he and the boys are all avid sports fans, and so I decided years ago that if I wanted any social life during the winter, I simply was going to have to go to the ball game. And so I do, and I enjoy it.

IM: Was that school basketball?

IE: Yeah, high school. Now he doesn't care too much for college or he doesn't like the professional games on television at all. In fact, he doesn't watch television. It's mostly high school.

Now, our two older boys play on the town team; they play on the parks and recreation bit. They had their last ball game of the season last night in Kendrick at nine o'clock, so we were down there for that.

IM: Does your husband go too?

IE: Oh, yes. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't go. He's going to go to these ball games and he definitely prefers that I go along. In fact, sometimes, when I don't feel up to it, he has been known to stay home with me, but not too often. He goes, so I go too.

IM: He's interested in the games as well as supporting the boys, that which your sons are in.

IE: Yes.

IM: Do you go along with the games when you're here?      Narrator  
is asking Hollis Eglund.

HE: Oh yeah, I'm right with Dad.

IE: She's a loud mouth, too.

IM: Do you ever get a chance to take trips in the summer?

IE: We're very, very busy in the summer, no.

IM: That's your busiest time. And for relaxation in contrast with recreation, you mentioned TV. What does your husband do?

IE: He reads. Yeah, he comes in every night and lays down on that davenport and reads for about two hours or until he goes to sleep and that's what he likes to do. We all read a lot. I don't watch much television, either.

IM: Do you take magazines?

IE: Oh, yeah. I don't take too many anymore. They're getting so expensive that you can't afford to subscribe, and so, once in a while, if I see one on the newstand that has an article, I'll just buy it.

IM: What are some of the magazines you like the best?

IE: Oh, I like the, I used to like the American Homes so well, but it's gotten more modern or something. I don't care for it like I used to. I like the Women's Magazine, and I take Sports Illustrated, and I don't know. I don't take too much right now.

IM: But you pick up new issues a few at a time at newstands.

IE: Yes. And Harry's mother gets all the magazines, so any-

time I want anything, I can get it in there, she sends them out.

IM: Do you have the newspaper regularly?

IE: Yes, we get the Moscow paper.

IM: How about, do you watch television a little bit, do you have regular programs that are your favorite?

IE: No, not really. Oh, I see different ones, the ones that come on every week. I'll see one one night and I'll think that's really good and so the next week I'll watch it and then I'll go maybe three weeks and then I'll get tired of that.

IM: Can you think of one that you particularly like?

IE: There's none that I watch every week, no.

IM: Do you watch news regularly?

IE: No, not too much because at six o'clock or five-thirty, I'm busy and I never stay up late enough for that.

IM: Well, we talked about what you did to help your family at home, like helping with the fields, the animals and things like that. Have you seen things change very much in the last 30 years in the way of other children? You say it's not too much



with your children in the way you grew up, but your neighbors, other children?

IE: Well, I think there's quite a bit that certainly is different. Like, we all got fancy cars. I mean, I don't understand why every high school boy has to have his own car and these are not older cars, they're new ones.

IM: They're expensive now, too.

IE: Yeah, they are. Now our high school boy drives an old pickup and he's tickled to death with it and I think that's good enough. I don't think he needs a ...

IM: Do you get pressure from your boys to provide a fancier car?

IE: No, not really. The older boys always had a pickup or something too and they seemed happy with it.

IM: You are a little separated from Genesee?

IE: We're four miles out.

IM: So, do you think your children feel the same way about being more rural in going into Genesee as you did going into town?

IE: Well, I don't know; some of them might feel like that and some don't. I think this is just natural, you're going to have this in any family.

IM: Let's see, you quit work when you got married and you evidently saved some money during that year to get you started.

IE: Not too much.

IM: Mostly you spent your money on yourselves?

IE: Well, we did buy a car when we first got married, not a new car, it was a second hand one. But I remember I made the down-payment on that; but other than that, I didn't have too much saved.

IM: And your husband was with the same job he has now?

IE: No. He, at that time, was, when I first met him, he was farming and then his grandmother sold the farm. So he was working around for different farmers at the time. In fact, the first two years we were married, he worked for a farmer and then he went to work in, for the ...

IM: But he's always been the support of the family?

IE: Oh, yes.

IM: Have you ever wondered what you would do if anything ever happened to him? Would you be incapacitated for a while?

IE: Oh yes, I have thought about it. But, I just assume I could get a job; maybe I couldn't.

IM: You had that past experience and you had pretty positive feelings about your ability to do that.

IE: I think I could work.

IM: How much of the family income is provided by the farm?

IE: Oh, not too much.

IM: It mostly provides a pleasant place to live, that part of it. So, your husband's income is ...

IE: Yes, I would say. But the extra money we make in the summer, oh, it just buys a little extra, you know.

IM: That gives good activities for the boys.

IE: Yes, it gives them something to do. I'm a great believer in having something to do.

IM: Does the whole family go to church?

IE: My husband doesn't, no.

IM: I guess I've kind of doubted this -- did you ever display anything at county fairs?

IE: Not myself. The children were always in Four-H and the spare time, we were so busy with that that I've never taken anything myself.

IM: Mostly it's been them.

IE: Yes.

IM: Would you ever, thinking over, what would you tell a young woman, say Hollis, if she were getting married to a farmer? Well, it's kind of different for you, you live on a farm and yet your husband's not a farmer. But, from what you've observed in the area, do you think it's hard for a woman to be a farmer's wife?

IE: No, not at all. I really don't.

IM: They have electricity and everything now, which they didn't have then.

IE: So many of the farmers around here, at least, are strictly farmers and what we almost call gentleman farmers. They work very, very hard in the summer, but they do nothing all winter.

They might work on the machinery or something. Most of them don't have cattle. Now, some of them here, the bigger farmers, well no, I shouldn't say the bigger farmers because we have some friends that farm 4 or 5,000 acres that don't have any cattle at all. There are others that do, but the ones that do run cattle, I think they do work hard all year around. So, many of them here do not work in the winter especially, you know, maybe a few hours a day and they're able to, they do a lot of traveling and so forth, and they lead a different life than you think of farmers. You know you read about farmers and it's from daylight till dark, and I don't think that's quite true.

IM: And, of course, it makes it different for their wives and their families. If they have children in school, they can't travel in the wintertime. Or, do they leave the children at home?

IE: Well, some of them leave them at home or take them along. It seems like every winter, there's two or three that go to Hawaii and take their kids along, take them out of school for a week. It's okay.

IM: I remember, the one thing I remember from Etta Mae's interview, she said when she went to the farm she wasn't prepared for the loneliness that she felt. Of course, women now have cars.

IE: Well, I don't think she would even be happy on the farm now. I don't think her make up is such that she would have ever been

happy on the farm. This is just a difference in women. Now, as far as lonely, I've never been lonely in my life. I guess I talk to myself; but, I don't understand this -- when women are lonely and bored and stuff. I simply don't understand it because it hasn't happened to me, so I don't know.

IM: So, actually, you don't see a farmer's wife has that much different life now as any other woman that keeps house and children?

IE: No. I think it isn't isolated at all, you know. It's free to get in the car and go, you know, wherever, to town or shopping or whatever you want to do. I don't know, I was going to say something, but I lost my train of thought.

IM: Do you do canning? Do you have a garden?

IE: Oh, yes, we do a lot of canning. We can everything we can get our hands on.

IM: That's during the summer, too, so you're pretty busy in the fall. Do you do it yourself? Do the boys help you on that?

IE: No, no, they don't help.

IM: Does Hollis help when she's home?

IE: Yeah, she has helped a little. She's expected to. And the big boys used to help prepare the vegetables and they always had to help with the beans, especially. But other than that, I don't think I've ever expected the boys to do any canning. I like to can, so I don't need any help with it, except sometimes in the preparation.

IM: Do you use a pressure cooker?

IE: Yes, I use a pressure cooker.

IM: So, it must be pretty satisfying to see a row of jars on the shelf.

IE: Yes, I enjoy canning. The modern women, they just dread it and a lot of them have given it up; they don't do it anymore. But I don't think I'll ever give it up entirely; I like to do it.

IM: It seems like it's being valued more with prices going up.

IE: I think so. I think now that a lot of people are going to raise gardens and get back with it a little bit.

IM: That's what it appears to me. What are the most common things that you and your husband talk about? Do you make decisions together on things?

IE: Oh, I would say we make decisions together, usually. Although, occasionally, he'll come home and announce something that takes me completely by surprise. We used to live in that house in town, you know, where Harry's folks lived. We lived there for five years. One night, he came home and we were trying to find a place in the country, we had been looking desperately because the boys were getting up, they were going to be in the second and third or third and fourth grade. It was getting hard to hold them on the hill. There were a lot of children there on the hill and I insisted they stay there; they weren't allowed to go downtown or go here. One of their good friends was able to take his bicycle and come right out on the highway. Well, no way was I going to let my little kids go out on the highway, you know. It was pretty hard to hold them on the hill, so we decided we had to move out of town. And Harry came home one night and he said, "Say, how would you like to live at the James' place?" And I said, "Well, yeah, that'd be okay." And he says, "Well, that's good because I bought it today."

IM: Was this the family that Grace Wicks ...

IE: Yes.

IM: I recognized that name because Lillie still calls her Grace James and I know her as Grace Wicks.



IE: Yes, it was the same thing.

IM: Has he ever decided anything that you really didn't want to go along with, that you had to adjust to?

IE: No, I wouldn't say so. I think that I've always been able to adjust to things pretty good. So, I wouldn't say there's ever been anything that really upset me.

IM: No real crises.

IE: No.

IM: And the thing about haying and everything -- he kind of works at places or he solves those problems and lets you know where the crew will be?

IE: Oh, yes. And he keeps the machinery running, too. In fact, he comes home every night and has to overhaul something. I've always said that I wouldn't be able to do it without him. That's all there is to it.

IM: You make most of the decisions about the way the house is run and that kind of thing because you spend most of your time here. And he turns that over to you.

IE: Yes.

IM: Well, your decision, you both wanted to live in a small town. You lived in Genesee for a while and then decided you wanted to live farther out in the country, and you did that, so you had that opportunity. Well, that takes care of most of my questions. I guess I would like to know if there's anything you would have done differently about your life if you had a chance. Would you have changed things?

IE: No, I don't think so.

IM: You're pretty comfortable with it?

IE: Yes.

IM: It turned out pretty well and you like the way it's going.

IE: Well, I think so. I can't think of any major change that I would have made. I might of done something differently here and there, but not that had any big difference.

IM: So, you moved along pretty smoothly from one stage to the next, and you were ready for the next thing that came along. Is there anything else you'd like to tell about now that I haven't asked about?

IE: Well, no. Now, there was one question that you asked Etta which I've given a lot of thought to. You asked her if she

thought that the young people today, now maybe you asked me that too here somewhere, if the young people today, like if Hollis had a lot more opportunities than she did. And she said, "Oh, yes." I will admit she had a very restricted childhood. So, I guess that might be a difference where I would. She thought the girls now had much more opportunity. I, myself, don't think so.

IM: Compared to what you had when ...

IE: Yes. I think now entirely too much is expected of girls. I really do. I think that there's none of this, nobody is allowed to just stay at home if they don't particularly want to go out and go to school or get a job. Girls now can't stay at home. The pressures on them -- they have to go do this and do that, and some, maybe don't want to. So they shouldn't have to.

IM: So, instead of having the choices, there's more pressure to get out and achieve.

IE: Yeah, I don't really think they have a choice anymore. I think they are forced to go out and do this whether they want to or not. I think it's better if it would be a little more relaxes. Well, around here, we have quite a few boys who have gone to school for a year or two and then flunked out or quit, or did whatever. Now they are back on the farm and supposedly working for their dad. Well, actually, the year before, their dad did not have a hired man -- he doesn't need a hired man. All of

a sudden, it's fine for this boy to be home and he's out running unintelligible all the time and doing nothing. But, this is fine; he's helping his dad. Well, I don't know of any girl that would be acceptable if she came home to help her mother. I think there's too much ...

IM: There's kind of an idea there, that appliances and housework isn't that hard. They don't have hired girls anymore.

IE: No, not too much. Well, a lot of the women around here that have children, you know, they will in the summer, but not in the winter, no.

IM: But, it's kind of like housework has diminished, or sometimes, you don't need that much help and there's really no place then, for a girl as she's growing up in the home.

IE: Well, I don't know if that's really what I mean. But, it seems there's too much pressure put on them. Now, there's this, oh, I don't know what they call it, I don't want to say free love because that isn't really what I mean. But, girls are expected now, more than when I was growing up, expected to be looser and such. Maybe some girls don't want to, but this is what is expected of them now and I don't know if it's from reading too much or what. I kind of object to that.

IM: You get that feeling in what's been published and the way people talk.

IE: Yes. So, I think it was easier when I was growing up than what it is now.

IM: Girls are a little bit more protected.

IE: Well, could be, I don't know. I guess I don't know how to put my feelings into words. I think there is much more pressure put on girls than there is on boys.

IM: Do you have any expectations with Hollis?

IE: No.

IM: It's okay with you whatever she decides to do.

IE: Except she's going to have to learn how to do something pretty soon. No, she's not expected to do, I don't push this getting married thing. I mean, if she doesn't want to get married, she certainly doesn't have to, as far as I'm concerned. But, if she would rather get a job and work, that's fine.

IM: Is there any feeling that a woman can not possibly be fulfilled if she doesn't get married and have children?

IE: Oh, no, I don't think so at all. It's what I wanted, but I don't think it's necessary.

IM: So, she can have a full life doing something entirely different.

IE: I think there's different ways of having a full life. You can go one way or another way. You don't have to get married to have a good life.

IM: And you said the nuns were an example of that.

IE: Yeah, I think that, goodness, my aunt who is a nun is, no, let's see, I was going to say she's the supervisor of the head one over there at Cottonwood, but no, she isn't. I think she's second in command at St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood. So, I think she's had a very full life; it's what she wanted.

IM: Can you think of any more questions to ask? Talking to Hollis.

HE: You've talked pretty much.

IM: We've covered, I think we've pretty well covered it, and we really do appreciate you giving us the time to talk. We do have a form here, what we call a release form and you can read it.

It's up to you

It's up to you to determine how you, well, I'll be quiet so you can read it.