

IM: I'm Isabel Miller and I'm here on the 22nd of March to talk to Peggy Eglan. Now, the first thing we do is fill out a personal data sheet. We usually do it while we are recording. We were interviewing your mother and your sister this morning. What is your maiden name?

PE: Boyer.

IM: Is it Margaret or just Peggy?

PE: Just Peggy.

IM: And you don't have any other nicknames?

PE: No.

IM: When were you born?

PE: December 23, 1951.

IM: And where were you born?

PE: Hawthorne, California.

IM: And what is your address here?

PE: Route 1, Genesee.

IM: What was your first residence in Idaho?

PE: Nez Perce.

IM: And you came directly there from California?

PE: Well, my folks moved [unintelligible] and went to California for the winter.

IM: And that's how you happened to be born down there? Then, when you were less than a year old, you came back up here and that would have been 1952?

PE: Yes.

IM: Did they travel by car, then?

PE: Yes, I think they came by car.

IM: And it was your whole family?

PE: Yes.

IM: What is your mother's maiden name?

PE: Johnson.

IM: Her first name?

PE: Jeanette.

IM: Do you know her birthday?

PE: March 19. I don't know the year.

IM: Do you know where she was born?

PE: I'm sure in Nez Perce. I don't know.

IM: Do you know what year she was married?

PE: No.

IM: Did she have any jobs or occupations?

PE: I don't think so.

IM: She was just a homemaker?

PE: Yes.

IM: What is your father's name?

PE: Robert.

IM: Do you know when he was born?

PE: No, I don't even know his birthday.

IM: What kinds of jobs did he have?

PE: He's a farmer.

IM: And he's always done that?

PE: Yes.

IM: Do you know where he was born?

PE: In Nez Perce, I think.

IM: And both your father and mother are living?

PE: Yes.

IM: Do you have any sisters?

PE: I have two sisters.

IM: And what are their names?

PE: Donna, and Phyllis who is married, her name is Kuther.

IM: And Donna's not married?

PE: No.

IM: Do you have brothers?

PE: Yes.

IM: Their names?

PE: Randy, Steve, Keith, Larry and Stan.

IM: Are they younger than you?

PE: They're all younger.

IM: They're all younger and you are the oldest. Your husband's name is?

PE: Nick.

IM: And he's a student now. Has he had any jobs?

PE: He was in the army.

IM: And I've got his birthday and everything on the other sheet, so I can transfer it to here. Where were you married?

PE: In Moscow.

IM: What date were you married?

PE: October 21, 1972.

IM: And no children. How much education did you have?

PE: I'm still in school.

IM: Oh, you're still a student at the University?

PE: Yes, I'm going to graduate this spring.

IM: What is your major?

PE: Pre-vet.

IM: Do you have any other skills and things you like to do?

PE: I like to sew.

IM: And jobs?

PE: I was a swimming instructor last summer.

IM: What other jobs have you held?

PE: I drove a grain truck.

IM: Do you have any other interests or hobbies or anything that you like to do?

PE: I did a little bit of water color painting.

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

PE: I'm a member of Alpha Zeta and that's all.

IM: Have you done Four-H work?

PE: Yeah, I was with Four-H for some time.

IM: Did you get awards, honors or ribbons in there? Quite a few?

PE: Yes.

IM: About how many years?

PE: I believe for eight years.

IM: Did you exhibit and raise animals mostly?

PE: Yeah, sewing and animals.

IM: Okay, that's personal data about you. Then we have some questions. These are mostly about how you've made decisions in your life and how you got to the place where you are now. What you project your future to be. Mostly the are just to stimulate you to think about and go into some other areas. So, if there's anything that reminds you of, and you want to talk about, well, we want you to do that, too. Do you see advantages in living in rural areas?

PE: Yes, I think so.

IM: Do you know anybody that lives in urban areas that you could compare your life to?

PE: I don't know very many people.

IM: But you see this life as having more advantages over other people?

PE: Yeah. When Nick was in the army, we lived in a ... it wasn't a large town, but I liked it a lot better.

IM: You began to appreciate what you had from personal experience?

PE: Yes.

IM: Most people say how it's a better place to raise children.
Do you agree with that?

PE: Yes, I would.

IM: And, of course, if you are interested in being a veterinarian, that's where the opportunity and the jobs are.

PE: Yeah.

IM: Do you plan to be a vet in a rural area that would be with animals, or do you think small animals, or would you use your business for both?

PE: I'd like it to be both.

IM: So one supplements the other.

PE: Yes.

IM: Are there any other ways you might compare a rural woman and an urban woman? Were there things you missed being in that area?

PE: Well, because I like animals I think that's one thing. You can have dogs and cats and raise meat and if you like animals, that's one thing. Begin away from people, not having neighbors upstairs and downstairs and to your right and to your left.

IM: That was restrictive for you?

PE: Uh huh. I think it's pretty out in the country because you have trees and the country is prettier.

IM: What did you do while your husband was in the army? How did you spend your days?

PE: Well, at first I tried to find a job. I didn't want to work as a waitress or something like that, that I didn't enjoy. I ended up not finding a job and I didn't do much of anything. We didn't know very many people there; it was hard to get to know anybody. I just sewed and we had a dog. That's about all I did.

IM: How long was this period?

PE: From October to May.

IM: He got out of the army and then you came right back?

PE: Yeah, I came back and worked for my dad and then he got out and he [unintelligible].

IM: Where was he located?

PE: Fort Leavenworth.

IM: You lived right in the town of Leavenworth?

PE: Yes.

IM: Of course, you don't have any children of your own yet, but anticipate that you'll raise your children about the same as the way you grew up?

PE: I think so, yeah.

IM: You feel pretty satisfied with the way your family raised you, the things you did?

PE: Yes.

IM: You wouldn't want to make any changes?

PE: No, I don't think so.

IM: Your father was a farmer and you grew up on the farm? Did the boys and girls help with the chores?

PE: Well, we didn't have any animals. We just raised wheat. Well, one of the first animals we had, I decided I wanted to go into Four-H. So I went out and got a lamb and then we tried to get some sheep and raise sheep steers. But, that's all the animals we had.

IM: So, there wasn't really a lot of jobs because you were on a farm, that were different than, say, maybe in town?

PE: No.

IM: Did you have the housework at home? You helped your mother?

PE: Yes.

IM: Were the boys expected to help, then?

PE: We all had to do the dishes every night and we all had a little chore to do after dinner; but, that's about all we had to do.

IM: Was there yardwork for the boys to do?

PE: Yeah, not very much.

IM: Just in the summer time?

PE: Yes.

IM: Was there anything that you thought you could not do because you were a girl?

PE: I can't think of anything that I wanted to do then that I

couldn't do. We started a track team and a basketball team, but we didn't have very many coaches. Not that I wanted to be a basketball player or anything like that, but because I was a girl you didn't have that training that boys get.

IM: You just didn't have the opportunities developed as you were growing up and mostly the girls did it on their own if they wanted to, so there was no real encouragement.

PE: Yeah.

IM: How about facilities, did you have time in the gym?

PE: Yeah, we had all that. But the main thing was getting a coach that knew anything about it.

IM: When you decided to go to college, was it your decision or your parents?

PE: I don't know what I wanted to do. Dad wanted me to go on and get an education. I knew I didn't want to stay home and just work. I just wanted to go to college a year and figure out what I wanted to do. Dad wanted me to go to [unintelligible] and I'd have to go to Pocatello. But I didn't want to go that far, so I came up here. Meanwhile, I got interested in pre-vet.

IM: So, there was no feeling that because you were a girl you

didn't need schooling? They felt that you needed it just as much as ...

PE: No. Dad expected me to go to school.

IM: Were you expected to get married?

PE: No.

IM: That was your decision to make, too?

PE: Yeah. Dad wanted me to get an education so that if I got married or didn't get married and if anything happened in my life, I'd have the education behind me.

IM: Did you get married sooner than they wanted you to? Would they prefer that you graduated first?

PE: I don't think they cared that I got married. I think it bothered them that I quit school to get married.

IM: They were afraid you wouldn't go back?

PE: Yeah.

IM: So, they are more at ease now that you are finishing school?

PE: Yeah.

IM: Where did you meet your husband?

PE: At school.

IM: You had dating and the usual courtship there before you got married?

PE: Yeah.

IM: About how long did you go together before you were married?

PE: A year and a half, I think.

NE: We knew each other for a year and a half.

IM: And you got married about the time he went in the army?

PE: No, he'd already been in about six months. He came home on leave during the summer; then we decided to get married.

IM: You just got married because you wanted to?

PE: Yes.

IM: Like, for some women, it's a way to make a living. But,

for you, you just decided you wanted to be with him?

PE: We had planned to wait until later, but I don't know.

IM: You decided not to wait.

PE: Yeah.

IM: So far, of course it's not been very long, but has your expectations of marriage been what you thought?

PE: Yeah, I think so.

IM: Have you made any decisions about how many children you want or how soon you'll have them or anything like that?

PE: No. I don't want to have a large family. As far as that, I want to have a place, you know, a place to call our home. And I'd like to have a job and have enough money, just be a little more settled.

IM: What do you mean by large? What would be the ideal family?

PE: Probably three.

IM: Your father had a wheat farm, so the children weren't helping out that much. Do you think your parents wanted eight children?

PE: I don't know.

IM: There was a time in pioneer days when they made children helpers and workers on a farm. But it wasn't that way in your family?

PE: I don't think so. I think they just had that many. Like, Dad didn't have too much money then, and it was kind of hard for him to finally get where he was with so many children. So, I think it was just the thing to do was have a big family.

IM: They just kind of came along. What did your family do for recreation?

PE: I don't know.

IM: Well, Four-H might be counted as one of your activities. What did your mother and father do? Did you ever do things together as a family, like camping or anything like that?

PE: Well, picnicking was about it. We never did that much together.

IM: There was a wide age range from you, the oldest. How young is the youngest one?

PE: Steve is eight, I think.

IM: So there's probably not a lot of things that you could do that everybody would be interested in. Did you have television at home?

PE: Oh, yeah.

IM: Do you remember what magazines you would read at home? Did your parents take magazines?

PE: Yeah, I don't remember the magazines at all.

IM: Do you remember any particular programs that were a favorite?

PE: Not really.

IM: You, right now, do you and your husband have a program that you watch together?

PE: We watch TV all the time. I don't know. I like "The Waltons," but Nick doesn't like it.

IM: Is it important to see the news regularly?

PE: Yeah, we always watch the news.

IM: Do you get educational TV here?

PE: No, we only get one channel.

IM: So, you are pretty limited to what's on then, aren't you?
What do you and Nick do now for recreation? Do you have friends
in?

PE: I guess that's what we do. People come over and party a
little bit.

IM: Do you both drive into campus in the morning and just stay
all day?

PE: Yes.

IM: And you both come home together?

PE: Yes.

IM: It's like going to a job for both of you?

PE: Yeah.

IM: Do you ever do anything with Nick's family as far as recre-
ation?

PE: Yeah, we go over there.

IM: On Sundays or for meals?

PE: Well ...

IM: Whenever you feel like it?

PE: Yeah.

IM: I asked you about your job. Was there ever a time when your mother supported the family? Do you think she ever worried about what she would do if something happened to your father?

PE: I'm sure, yeah.

IM: If anything happened to Nick, would you be able to make a living for yourself? Have you thought about that?

PE: Well, I would go to medical technology school next year. If something happened to Nick, I think I could get the money to go to school from my dad, and if I get this degree then I'll be able to get a job.

IM: In the vet program is there any differences in opportunities for women rather than for men?

PE: I don't think so. I think the women have as good of an opportunity or better than the men do.

IM: Is that with small animals?

PE: I think with both. If they want to work with large animals and be permanent enough to get in, then I think the opportunities are the same.

IM: There's really no prejudice against you, say, in a farm community?

PE: There might be, I don't know.

IM: So far, you haven't gotten that far. Does it worry you, does that bother you?

PE: No.

IM: Do you and Nick plan to work together and have kind of a partnership?

PE: I don't know.

IM: You'll just wait and see what kind of opportunities you have?

PE: Yeah.

IM: Would you like to settle in this area in northern Idaho?

PE: Yeah. I don't know where I'd like it the best. I like it, not right here in Genesee, but like Coeur d'Alene and that area around there.

IM: Would you consider going as far away as Washington or Oregon or Utah if you had an opportunity?

PE: Yes.

IM: That wouldn't bother you at all?

PE: No.

IM: So, you're really open to some options. Do you anticipate differences with your married life from, say, your parents' married life?

PE: Yes, quite a bit. Nick and I are pretty equal, like we're both going to school and we both help with the housework. In my parents' home, my dad was always out and away from the home. Mom was always at home and having children, that's another thing. As soon as my folks got married they just started having kids which was the thing to be doing. Right now, Nick and I want to wait until we are really ready and we have enough money.

IM: That is a big difference, isn't it?

PE: Yes.

IM: And I heard you say when the decisions about your future or having a job, you said, "My father wanted me to." Is it significant to say where your mother was on that?

PE: I don't know where she was on it.

IM: You just don't have any impression of any strong feelings from her?

PE: No, I'm sure that she was as concerned about me going to school as Dad was. But, Dad was the one that made the point.

IM: Did you have the feeling that he made decisions about how money was spent more than your mother?

PE: Yeah, I think so.

IM: Do you have the feeling that he made most of the decisions in the family? Or did your mother share them?

PE: I think he made most of the decisions?

IM: And you don't really anticipate you're going to have an equal say or talk it over more?

PE: Yeah, I think we'll be equal in making decisions.

IM: When you do decide to move or something, it's going to be both of you finding something to do?

PE: Maybe and maybe not.

IM: It's not possible that Nick has priority?

PE: No. Like, if he gets a really good opportunity someplace, then we'll go there. But if I get a really good opportunity there, depending on what the other one is doing.

IM: So that you see that the other one is able to find something to do. It's not going to be either or, but whoever has one, the best opportunity. And you've thought something in preparing if something happened to Nick, you're not going to be absolutely dependent on him for your income. Do you go to church?

PE: No, we don't go to church.

IM: So there's no community activities that you're both in?

PE: No.

IM: Most of your time is spent in school?

PE: Yes.

IM: And you did say that you placed things in county fairs and got ribbons for that?

PE: Yes.

IM: This is kind of a different question, but the question is: Having observed your family and grown up on a farm, if you had a friend who was going to marry a farmer now and she hadn't had any experience, what do you think she'd need to know? What kind of adjustment would she have to make on a farm?

PE: Well, I think she'd have to be able to appreciate the things you have on a farm, like now, I like animals. She should be able to appreciate the things you have on a farm that you don't have in a large town. Like, if she moved out to the farm and she expected it to be the same as in the city, she wouldn't have anything to do.

IM: So, it is different as she would have to develop some other interests, maybe, if she didn't already have them?

PE: Yes, I think so.

IM: You've made some big decisions already after you got out of the army -- what you were going to do next. Did you both talk about that and decide?

PE: Well, I think before we even got married we planned on going back to school when he got out.

IM: You talked about all those things even before you got married? So, you knew pretty much what your goals were for three or four years?

PE: Yes.

IM: Are there things now that you make decisions about and things he makes decisions about? Is your life pretty close?

PE: It's pretty close, like I keep the house down and he makes sure the car runs. Other than that, most of the decisions, we both make them.

IM: Now, when you come home from the campus, do you stop somewhere and decide what you're going to have for supper together?

PE: No.

IM: Who does that?

PE: I don't know. I usually put out some meat in the morning and when I get home I start putting it on and he usually cooks and helps. But this year, he doesn't have classes on Tuesday and Thursday, he doesn't even have to go to school. So he fixes dinner on those days.

IM: It's ready when you get home; that must be nice. And you both, I assume, you both like rural life?

PE: Yes.

IM: Is there anything by now that you would change that you would have done differently?

PE: I don't think so.

IM: Was there a time when he was in the army that you might have wished that you stayed in school?

PE: Yeah, I wished I was doing something.

IM: So, it was not a very good time for you because you couldn't find a job that you wanted?

PE: Yeah, I didn't like it.

IM: But, at least you knew it was going to end sometime.

PE: Yeah.

IM: Can you think of any questions that you'd like to ask that I haven't?

PE: No.

IM: It makes a difference what questions you ask. Like, with your grandmother, she's been married for 50 something years. It takes longer to get through the questions. I guess we'd like to give you an opportunity to say how you feel about things. Are you comfortable with the idea of not being dependent on Nick, say, as contrasted to your mother?

PE: Yes, I feel a lot better. After we were married, I sort of depended on him because when we didn't have any friends, I was just hanging on him to take me out and play tennis and entertain me. But now, I feel a lot better because I can go out and do this.

IM: Were you living in an area where there were not other army wives?

PE: Well, there were army wives, but I'm not real friendly. I didn't get along with them.

IM: There were differences, then?

PE: There were differences. Most of them had gotten married pretty young and most of them had small children and we really didn't have very much in common.

IM: So, somehow all the contacts from outside were from Nick?

PE: Yes.

IM: And really, the idea of being dependent on him filled most of your needs?

PE: Yes.

IM: Am I right in saying that you wouldn't let that situation develop again?

PE: Right.

IM: Well, I think that it has been very interesting to talk to you. Can you think of anything else then? How do you feel about the women's movement? Have you met anybody at the University that is much involved in that?

PE: No, not really. I think in college women have equal opportunities as men do, and in jobs they have equal opportunities. But, I think back in grade school and high school, they don't and they need to have more activities for girls.

IM: When you first started to make the decision to come to college, did you decide what work you were going into?

PE: No.

IM: You were just going to try out things?

PE: Yes. I wanted to get away from home and I wanted to ... I didn't think I was smart enough to go to college. But, I thought if maybe I went to college for a year, maybe I would look at things differently, you know, what I wanted to do.

IM: So, you really felt like you had to get away from home and try out some other things?

PE: Yes.

IM: Did you have tests or anything like that in high school that could tell anything?

PE: Well, I was an honor student and I knew everything that I didn't want to do, but I couldn't think positive of what I wanted to do. I didn't want to nurse and I didn't want to go into business and I didn't know what I wanted.

IM: How did you get directed?

PE: In college you have to put in a major, so I put down biology because I like that. I went to summer school and I got pretty good grades, so then I thought that I could do what

ever I wanted. So, I went up and talked to Dr. [unintelligible] and then I decided I wanted to go into vet.

IM: He must have been encouraging.

PE: Yes, he was.

IM: That makes a difference.

PE: Yeah.

IM: Well, I think that covers it pretty well. I guess one other thing was when you graduated from high school -- did the boys in your class seem like they knew what they were doing, if you kept track of anybody in the high school class?

PE: I don't think so. There was only one that I think really knew what he wanted to do and everybody else kind of knew what field they wanted to get into.

IM: Did you have counselors in school?

PE: Not really. Nobody talked to us about careers and stuff like that.

IM: You were pretty much on your own and whatever parents' help you could get?

PE: Yeah.

IM: Have you thought of anything else you'd like to say?

PE: No.

IM: You seem to be working toward your goals now. How long will it be before Nick is a graduate?

PE: A year come this May.

IM: So, you're going to add medical technology next year because you are just going to be here next year?

PE: Yes.

IM: Well, that sounds like good planning.

PE: Really.

IM: Well, thank you very much. We have a release form here. You can read it and it will explain. We give a lot of presentations sometimes and sometimes we take a lot from books where we get interesting experiences and some descriptions about what women are doing in Idaho now. We would add it to the presentation. The question is whether you would want your name on that or not.