

The following interview is with Elizabeth Mabbutt taped July 14, 1975 in St. Maries, Idaho by Dale Anderson.

DA: First of all we're going to start off with personal data but if there's really anything you don't want on the tape be sure to say that.

How do you spell your last name?

EM: Mabbutt

DA: Do you have any nicknames?

EM: My name is Elizabeth but most people call me Betty

DA: Maiden name?

EM: Siegel

DA: Date of birth?

EM: Oct. 19, 1908

DA: Place of birth?

EM: Scottville, Mich.

DA: Locale of first residence in Idaho?

EM: I guess you'd say Harvey Creek, this was not a town and not a post office but that's where we lived.

DA: And where did you come from before Idaho?

EM: Michigan

DA: The year that you arrived in Idaho?

EM: 1930

DA: Mode of travel

EM: Car, a Chevrolet sport coupe with a rumble seat. There were five of us came out from Michigan. My sister, two brothers and a friend of my sister's. Which meant that at least two of us had to ride in the rumble seat. You know what a rumble seat is, don't you?

DA: I think so

EM: Instead of the trunk lifting this way, it lifted that way and there was a seat back there. It was like an extra seat in the car but it was in the trunk. This was a very sport thing and all five of us wanted to come and this was the kind of car we had.

DA: What made you decide to come?

EM: Oh we had relatives here.

DA: Your mother's maiden name?

EM: Voelker, it's German,

DA: First name?

EM: Bertha

DA: Date of birth?

EM: It was Aug. 29, but I can't remember the year for sure. She died in 1968 she must of been born probably in 1879, I would imagine. I think that's right.

DA: Place of birth?

EM: She was born in Michigan.

DA: Year she was married?

EM: 1902

DA: Occupations and jobs?

EM: She did some millinery work I think before she was married but no other work outside of that. She raised seven children and that was a steady job.

DA: Your father's name?

EM: Arthur Sigel

DA: His date of birth?

EM: March 13 and I think it would've been probably 1878.

DA: Place of birth?

EM: Shaftsborg, Michigan

DA: Date of his death?

EM: Jan 2, 1971

DA: His occupation and jobs?

EM: He was a railroad telegrapher, a station agent, those were the main jobs.

DA: All I need now is your brothers and sisters names.

EM: Muriel M. Mildred, Donald, Dorothy, Paul, Grant and me.

DA: Your sister's married names?

EM: Muriel is not married and Mildred is not married, Dorothy Yuill.

DA: Was there any reason why your sisters didn't get married?

EM: I think they just didn't want to, they were working and had good jobs and very independent.

DA: Your husband's name?

EM: George Edward

DA: Is he still living?

EM: No

DA: The date of his birth?

EM: Sept. 16, I'll say 1900

DA: Place of birth?

EM: Shoshone, Idaho.

DA: Date and place married?

EM: In Spokane, Wash. March 15, 1935.

DA: The date of his death?

EM: May 25, 1958

DA: His occupation and jobs?

EM: He was a cook was one of the main things, he did a lot of different types of work but I would say the main thing was cooking.

DA: How did you meet him?

EM: Oh gosh, he came in the area where I was to do some work and there weren't many people in the area.

DA: How long did you know him before you got married?

EM: A couple of years.

DA: What sorts of things did you do during your courtship?

EM: Not very much because we weren't living where there was very much to do. Just visited and took little walks and that's really all there was to do.

DA: Did you go horseback riding or anything like that?

EM: No we didn't have horses. He liked to ride he grew up on a ranch and he rode horses. He used to tell me about his sister, she was just a kid, 14 years old, she'd ride her horse down to milk the cow and she'd come back carrying the milk and get off her horse without spilling a drop. They had a lot of horses, this was in Southern Idaho. We didn't have anything, do you know where Marble Creek is up the river there? It was up there and this was a long time ago, you know and there was nothing, no place to go, nothing to do.

DA: Is that where you were living at the time?

EM: Yes

DA: What were you doing before you got married?

EM: No not then I wasn't. I had worked previously but not for a few years because there wasn't anything up there to do.

DA: Children?

EM: I don't have any of my own, I have two step children.

DA: Why don't you just give me their names and occupations?

EM: Dorothy Sword and she's a housewife, she's not working. William Mabbutt he worked for the ELM, do you know what that is? I don't know just really what his job is called but he's worked for them for years. In fact that's his life work.

DA: Your education?

EM: High school and about one year of college.

DA: Where did you go to college?

EM: Battle Creek, Michigan

DA: Skills.

EM: Oh I don't have any, not actually. Well I did office work and I can type some filing and just clerical. I was a bankteller for six years, too and I was a waitress for about three.

DA: When were you a bankteller?

EM: 1953 to 1959

DA: Were you doing that to support both of you?

EM: Yes, he wasn't able to work, yeah that's just about the time that he had to quit work. I was working as a waitress before that, too and he had to quit, he couldn't work anymore.

DA: Any other jobs?

EM: I worked for the employment office for 11 years. The state Employment Office here in St. Maries and the last two years I was managing the office.

DA: When did you do that?

EM: 1959-1970

DA: So you just recently retired from that.

EM: Well just a few years ago.

DA: Interests, hobbies and talents?

EM: Talents I have none. My interests, I love to read, I love to work crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, garden and travel. I love to travel.

DA: Where have you traveled?

EM: Alaska, Hawaii then to Yukatan in Mexico and the Baja Peninsula in Mexico.

DA: Did you go with your husband?

EM: No, I went with my sister Mildred, we've been all over those places and I've had a lot of trips just in the United States.

DA: Which place did you like the best?

EM: That's very difficult to say

DA: What did you think of Alaska, did you go during the summer?

EM: Well I like Alaska, this was one of my dreams to see Alaska, you know things that you dream about when you are a kid, see Alaska. I finally decided to go and actually it was disappointed and I usually don't get disappointed but I was in Alaska. People are not given a true picture of Alaska. Have you been there?

DA: My husband has but I haven't.

EM: I always thought of Alaska has having beautiful timber, beautiful rushing streams with a lot of fish in them and some mountains. Well the mountains were beautiful, I was not disappointed in the mountains. But the streams they are just filled with this, they are muddy looking, they are not pretty.

DA: Did you go fishing there?

EM: No but I guess there is good fishing because either one of us don't care to fish. And then the timber is just little bitty stuff. When you understand the reason why; is because of the perma frost. In some places the soil is that deep, soil where plants can grow but right under that, it's solid frozen, therefore the trees don't have enough root system to grow big and beautiful. Then when there is a storm why then they tip, these little trees tipping.

DA: We went camping over the 4th of July up by Russell Creek and the area we were at had some really big cedar and I was just amazed because those were the biggest trees I've seen in Idaho.

EM: See we homesteaded on Vigil Creek and it's more or less in the same area and there was a great big cedar, it was a swampy area and people told us this was a bear wallow because they told us they liked the water. These were big beautiful cedars so I know that they do grow pretty big up in that area and they are pretty aren't they?

DA: They really are, I was so impressed because I've just seen very little trees here. I've seen large oaks occasionally.

EM: Whereabouts did you come from?

DA: Georgia

EM: Oh they have trees there?

DA: Oak trees.

DA: When did you homestead?

EM: This was in 1930; we came out here the summer of 1930. My brother and I Paul, we stayed there, we didn't go back. We had intended to go back we just came out for the summer but we decided to stay and homestead. I never got back to Michigan for 29 years. I'll tell you, here, our trees grow tall. I was born in Michigan and was there until I was 21 years and it's beautiful. So many lakes and lots of timber and it all looked pretty good to me. When I flew back there as we were approaching Detroit, the airport and I saw these bushes. See I haven't been to Michigan for 29 years. And it was until we got in the car and started driving away that those weren't bushes, those were trees. Because you see our trees grow so tall. One of my sisters that lives in state of Michigan, she's lived there all the time visited a number of times and she says, "that's the first thing I always notice, when I come here to visit, is how tall the trees are." Because they are not like that back there. I actually thought they were bushes.

DA: What made you stay here?

EM: Well my brother had been working awfully hard the summer before and he had and then we'd go together to school in Michigan and he had been working as a waiter and it was very hard on his feet and everybody wanted him to stay. They thought it would be good for him to spend a year in this country. There weren't any sidewalks or anything, just walking on the ground. The depression was starting and we were afraid that if we went back we probably might not have our jobs that we'd had the year before and this was a distinct possibility. And of course we didn't have any money so we depended on these jobs. We kept hearing people tell about homesteading, you know you could live on this land for seven months for three years then you get a title to it. So we thought, well this would be a good way to spend three years, there wasn't any work anyway anyplace and maybe the timber

would be worth something someday so that's what we did.

DA: Did you build a house?

EM: Oh yes we built a house, we had a nice cabin built there.

DA: Who built it?

EM: Well there was an old timer around here, it wouldn't mean anything to you. His name was John Stanfeld, he was a carpenter but he liked the woods and he always had a cabin down near Marble Creek. So he went up and built a cabin, my dad helped him so we got the cabin built. It's still standing up there, too. We sold the land for the timber and the cabin went along with it and the people were very happy that it was a very well built cabin. We did finally sell and we made pretty fair about of it. It took a lot longer than three years.

DA: Did you farm during that time?

EM: No there was no farming country around there. My folks were living at Marble Creek, they lived in several places but that's as close as I can tell you. My brother worked in the summers, we'd come down summers and he would work and then we'd go up and live in the winter. See you were supposed to live there seven months out of the year so that's what we did. We lived up there in the middle of the forest and not a soul for six or seven miles.

DA: Do you belong to any clubs, groups or societies?

EM: I belonged to PEO Sisterhood

DA: What does that stand for?

EM: That's a secret, you don't tell anybody, I've had a lot of people tell me a lot of different things that it stands for but none of them are right. I belong to a small church circle group. I belong to the senior citizens down here. That's all I belong to and that's all I have time for.

DA: Awards, honors and ribbons?

EM: Oh nothing.



DA: Have you ever entered anything in a county fair?

EM: Oh no, I don't do handwork, don't sew, don't do handwork, don't do anything, period.

DA: What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of living in a rural area?

EM: You get to know people like in a small town like this you walk down the street you can speak to practically everybody and I like that, I think it's very nice. You are closer to nature in a small town than you are in the city. In fact I don't know what other advantages there are. There are a lot of disadvantages, too. You have to go so far if you want to see anything.

DA: Have you ever wanted to live in a big city?

EM: Well I have never really wanted to but I think as I get older maybe I might. It would be easier to go places.

DA: How big is Battle Creek?

EM: It used to be about 30,000, did I mention Battle Creek?

DA: You mentioned going to school there.

EM: Yeah, it was about 30,000 but I expect it's probably twice that much now.

DA: Did you like it there?

EM: I enjoyed that year, yes.

DA: Was it right after that, that you came to Idaho?

EM: As soon as school was out we hopped in the car and headed west.

DA: Did your parents expect you to go to college?

EM: Yes we were expected to go to college. One sister only went two years, she went to teacher's college and then she got married so she didn't go back. One brother just had one year. My other two brothers finished college and my other two sisters finished college. I had the least of any of them. I had the one year and it wasn't a full year either but it ended up to

about a year in credits.

DA: Where were your parents when you were going to school? Were they in Michigan?

EM: They were out here then, they had just come out here.

DA: Were they living in Moscow?

EM: Two or three miles past Marble Creek and there's nothing there except just a creek. There isn't much of Marble except just a creek. What I'm speaking of is Marble Creek station. There used to be a railroad building there. There was a little building there that people could wait in. They kept some fuel in there so that the people that were waiting for the train in the winter, they could keep warm. They called that the Marble Creek Station and there was a store there and a place where you could rent rooms.

DA: Did your father run the station?

EM: No they didn't have anybody running the station. It was just there and the section men kept it supplied with the wood or coal so it would keep warm because there were passenger trains at that time. Marble Creek, itself, of course it comes into the St. Joe River, and it's a little ways past the station where the; so when I say Marble Creek I'm speaking more of the station than of the creek. At Harvey, when we lived there it was just the one cabin that we lived in. We just lived there the one summer and then we moved down to P                      which is a mile below Marble Creek and it's a railroad station too. Then we moved back up to Marble Creek. See we just went back and forth until finally my dad bought some land and built a house and that's where my two sisters are now living. They worked in Mich. and Wis. until they could retire and they came here. By that time my folks were getting to where they needed some help, you know, they wanted to stay in their own homes. So my sisters retired and left this beautiful country. Now my folks are gone and my sisters are still living there.

DA: Your folks lived a long time.

EM: Yes my mother was 88 or 89 and my dad was, I think he would've been 92 in a couple more months. So they were pretty good age. They were lucky that they could live in their own home and not go to a nursing home. I think it's sad when people have to leave their own home. So they were lucky that the girls could take care of them.

DA: That's really nice.

EM: Yes that was wonderful and we're all very thankful that it worked out that way.

DA: What did you and your brothers and sisters do for recreation when you were growing up?

EM: Movies were a big thing at that time, movies were just starting when I was just a little kid, oh 4 or 5 years old, I think. We had a movie theatre and we used to go over on Saturday afternoon and watch the serial, Perils of Polley" have you ever heard of that?

DA: Yes

EM: You've seen how the old time moves were jerky and all that and no sounds, they just put the words on the screen. What I remember best is that they tied Pauline to the railroad tracks when the train was coming and that would be the end of the serial for that week, see so you had to go the next week so you could see what happened to Pauline.

DA: She got left on the railroad tracks for a week.

EM: Yeah she did. It cost a nickel, I remember to go, it was a lot of money in those days but we went to the movies. Well of course, as we grew older we did go to dances only none of my brothers and sisters went to the dances much but there wasn't really much else. There was no television, we played cards, go for rides out in the country.

DA: What did you and your husband do for recreation after you got married?

EM: We didn't have any recreation and this was right in the depression time,

too. There was a movie theatre and we got to go occasionally but money was pretty tight.

DA: Who did your husband cook for?

EM: He cooked in restaurants, different ones, here and there. In sheep camps and forest service camps.

DA: Did you travel a lot then?

EM: No

DA: I mean did you live in different places?

EM: No, we were in Shoshone and then we came up here. By that time there was a place across the river from where my folks lived and it was up for sale and we bought that so we could be near the folks and that was the only one out here. I was the only child out here, the rest were back in Michigan so the folks kind of wanted us to have the place and so we did, we bought it.

DA: How long did you stay there?

EM: We stayed there for about seven or eight years. We came to town, we came to St. Maries. He had diabetes and he was very sick the first year and he was in poor health after that. But we stuck it out there for a few years and then they asked him to come into town and cook for one of the restaurants so he did. So while he was gone, the house burnt down, I was there all alone and the house burned down.

DA: Would you rather live in town or up there?

EM: Oh I loved it up there, I really loved it. I'd rather live up there, I think. I kept our place for about 20 years and I always thought I'd go back someday but it was unimproved. It would have taken a lot of money to fix it up and I knew I couldn't do it, live up there alone anyway. It was too isolated. It's different, you can live isolated if you've got at least one person with you but I couldn't do it alone. I finally sold the place.

DA: Why did you and your husband get married?

EM: You know this is a hard question to answer, why does anybody get married?

I don't know.

DA: Did you plan in your future that you would be getting married?

EM: No not particularly; I wasn't like, like a lot of girls this is what they want to do, they know. I always figured that I was going to teach school, that's what I was planning to do and travel every summer. That's one of the things that didn't quite work out.

DA: Did you ever want to go back to school?

EM: Oh yeah, I almost did a time or two. Well just reasons that I finally decided not to.

DA: Your husband had been married before?

EM: He had these two children, they were 13 and 16 years old.

DA: Was there any particular reason why you decided not to have children?

EM: No I just didn't.

DA: What did you expect out of marriage?

EM: Companionship and a home, you know.

DA: And were those expectations met?

EM: Oh yes

DA: What were some of the adjustments you made to being a widow?

EM: I really don't know, it's just to adjust to being alone is different. When you're used to living with somebody for years and years and then all of a sudden you are alone it's hard. That's the only adjustment because I was already working and supporting myself so there was no adjustment to make there. But it's just getting used to being alone and making all the decisions. When you went somewhere, I remember the first time I got in my car and drove up to see my folks, it was an awful feeling, you know.

DA: Did you have any expectations for your step children?

EM: No

DA: Did your husband have any?

EM: No not in particular.

DA: Did they go on to school?

EM: Bill went to school, he went, I think maybe a year, I don't remember for sure. He went after he got out of the service. He was in World War II.

DA: What had more effect on you, the war or the depression?

EM: I think the depression, naturally, because it influenced your whole life style, your expectations. When you're in a depression you don't know when it's going to end and when things are going to be better.

DA: Do you ever talk about it now with your friends?

EM: No because, not very often, it's mentioned occasionally but you don't do much talking about it. Anybody that lived through it knows what it is like.

DA: When you were homesteading did it actually have an effect on you then?

EM: The depression?

DA: Yeah

EM: No not too much because there was no work for a woman at all. There was no work for me. My father and brother worked on the section, that was about the only work there was for a few years and then they worked for the forest service in the summers after that. After my brothers started going back to Mich. to go to school they came out every summer and worked until they were through with school. They worked for the forest service.

DA: Did you have a garden at that time?

EM: Our first years here we didn't have one because there was no place to have one. Then we did along about in 1933, the summer of '33 we finally had a garden spot. Then after that we pretty much lived where we could have a garden.

DA: Do you have a garden now?

EM: Yes, I have a little garden. (end of tape, side 2, tape 20

DA: Do you cann?

EM: I don't try to raise them to cann, I'm not particularly interested in canning. I did a lot of it but I don't really enjoy it. But I freeze a few things. Do you know about raspberry patches? They grow like this and before I knew it I had a huge raspbeberry patch. I think this year I'm going to have it just about right. A few in the summer and a few for freezing which I would like to have some.

DA: Do you freeze vegetables?

EM: If I have to but I don't plan on it. I did freeze maybe three little cartons of string beans last summer. This was my first attempt and they turned out pretty well.

DA: When you had the children here did you do a lot of that sort of thing?

DA: What magazines and newspapers do you subscribe to?

EM: I take U.S. NEWS and World Report, Look, TV Guide, Reader's Digest. There are two of them that I dropped because I have more reading than I can keep up with. I think that's about it. Newspapers, Spokesman Review. The Review is daily.

DA: What were some of the most common things that your husband asked you about?

EM: Oh goodness that was a long time ago. I couldn't answer that question.

DA: Did you make big decisions together or did he make decisions about jobs and stuff on his own.

EM: Yes he was doing the work, I let him make the decisions there.

DA: Did you ever talk about where you might be travelling to?

EM: No because at that time we didn't have any money for awhile. There wasn't much chance of travelling and I don't think he was particular interested in travelling. We didn't even think about travelling. Many years we just went to Spokane and back.

DA: Where did you usually go to go to movies?

EM: To Spokane.

DA: Did you ever go to Coeur d'Alene?

EM: I have for a couple of times but we don't get the advertising things for Coeur d'Alene. Spokane of course, is always in the paper.

DA: Who do you usually go with?

EM: I have some friends that do travel, you know we go places together. A group usually.

DA: Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?

EM: No I can't think of anything. I really didn't have much to say.

DA: Any rural experiences of living in Harvery Creek or I think you mentioned another one?

EM: Well the *Daveaggio* Creek was where the homestead was Daveaggio Creek, I think it was named after a man and I don't know where that's an Italian name or what. It had been named long before I came to this country. The only thing that I could tell you that I think is different is when we lived up in that area before the road was built. Do you know what the three CCC camps were? This was during the depression because there were so many unemployed young people in the cities, mostly in the west but they probably had some in the east, too. They'd ship these boys off from New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and all these camps that were set up in the west and they were going to do forestry work. The government paid them so much a month and so much for their families. When they put those camps in well then they started building a road. When we came here in 1930 there was a road on the north side of the river and that was Herrick and Herrick is I think about three miles east of Colville on the railroad, you see, because these were all railroad places because there was no road and the railroad was the main method of transportation, or walking. Then the three C camps, there was one at Marble Creek and there was one at Herrick and they were working on building the road on this side of the river. How



far the road had been on this side of the river, I couldn't say for sure. That is what they did and after that the road on this side was made. This was kind of closed in community up there because as I said, there was just a very few, there were only two other women besides my mother that was up there. Mostly it was these old woodworkers and during the depression there was no work for them so they just lived in little shacks. They'd just shack up, find an old place and they stayed there because it was a very cheap way to live. There was no electricity up there and no mail service. When anybody wanted to walk down to check the mail there was a post office at Calder, it was eight or ten miles for the walk. The lumberjacks would go down there and then they'd bring up a packsack full of mail for everybody and drop it off at places or else take it to Marble creek. So if we wanted the mail we could go to Marble Creek to see if there was any. Usually they'd stop off at our place and deliver our mail for us because we were right along the tracks. That's how we got our mail, now they get mail up there six days a week. There's mail service and there is a road that goes all the way up to Avery and they have electricity. We didn't have electricity when we first went up there.

DA: When did you first have electricity?

EM: Well I was living in St. Maries when we finally got the electricity up there. I can't say for sure. We came here in 1937, it must of been some time after that. That made a great change in things. With the road they could have the mail service. They had two passenger trains and one went through, a fast train and they would practically not even stop. They had this little local that would stop. When we went to Spokane on a train, we'd have to walk several miles to get to the station. Coming back we asked the conductor to let us off at our place and he would do that so that was no problem. Except that we used to, we lived two or three miles from the station we used to walk and the train came early about five o'clock

we'd get up about one or two o'clock in the morning and walk to the station. Unless we stayed in Spokane we wouldn't get back until almost midnight that night. Quite a long day. It was a little different. It's much different now. But a lot of people still think it's isolated up there and they live way back away from everything but it's nothing like it was. At our homestead, of course, we had to walk all the way up and all the way back and the snow was deep, we had snowshoes.

DA: Where did you go to school?

EM: There was a family up there with three little girls. There was no school at Marble Creek and there was a family near Herrick that had a lot of children so there was a school at Herrick. The first month or two, the little one was too young at the time but the others were about five and seven years old. They rode the horse way through the back woods from Marble Creek to Herrick to go to school and back at night. Then in the winter when they couldn't ride the horse their mother moved down. There was a cabin they lived in during the winter. Then they moved back up to Marble Creek and the little girls rode the horses down.

DA: You said you had snowshoes, where were you going?

EM: Well back up to our homestead cabin. The trail was about two or three miles very straight right along marble Creek. Then we crossed the creek, you would go right straight up, it was a very steep climb. I don't know how many miles that was. Probably three at least. It seemed like ten because you went up all the time. You'd come down a lot faster than you could go up. It was lovely and it was beautiful. We had a lot of problems with the bear up there, too. We almost did shake hands with a bear one night. My brother and I were, it was the first fall we were up there. We heard a bear and we had a little can of salmon and I set it down and thought we could empty it in the morning. Pretty soon we heard something, the bear had taken our cans. A few nights after that, we had an old dog up

there with us, too. This kind of scared me when the bear was coming around the cabin, you know. When we went to bed at night we had just kerosene lamps and I put these matches right near my bed where I could get hold of them if I needed it. My brother had a gun that he could shoot and the gun was in the living room, it had two bedrooms. Well we'd gone to bed and gone to sleep and the old dog slept by the stove. It was up in high country and it was pretty cold and we always had a fire in the stove. This night we had gone to bed and gone to sleep already and I heard the awfulest noise and then I heard my brother yell and it scared the daylight out of me because I thought it was the bear, he's come into the house and then I heard a shot and Paul told me afterwards, 'well I wasn't scared but I yelled to try and scare the bears' whether he actually got in and broken it and heard the sounds, I don't know. This was pretty scary on a black night. I was trying to light the matches and they broke, you know how things happen. Well it lit and here the old dog was under my bed, he was scared. Paul had took the gun and where the bear had broken the window was on the opposite side of the house, that was the lowest window, the other windows were high above the ground uneven slightly. This window was low but those windows were high. That was pretty scary and we had a lot of trouble with the bears breaking in and getting our groceries, bacon, cans of things. we used to get things in sacks, beans, rice and all that kind of stuff. One year when we went away in the spring we had planted some huckleberries the year before, bears liked huckleberries. Our cabin, you might say, had two stories, it was very steep with a slanted roof. So Paul built a little shelf up there and we put our sugar and our huckleberries and everything else that we thought the bear might be interested in, we put it right on top next to the roof. We thought it was perfectly safe. Even if he got in, he couldn't get close to it. The next time he went up there, instead of

breaking the windows and going in, he tore the roof. Bears are smart, He must of been able to smell that, even through the roof. I don't know how he could but he must've.

DA: Does your brother go hunting?

EM: He went hunting, yeah

DA: Did you ever have bear meat?

EM: No we never had bear meat. The first summer we were out here, this was after the rest of the ~~summer~~<sup>family</sup> had gone back to Mich. my brother and I had stayed, and the folks, this was at Harvey Creek. It was the middle of August and the bear were coming down. in the middle of August they start coming down, the berries are ripe or something. My mother and I had gone for a walk up the track because this was the only place there was to walk and as we were coming back we saw my dad and brother on the porch just waving at us and pointing towards the river and we looked and there was a young bear maybe about a year old. We dashed back to the house and my dad got his gun and he shot this little bear. You see we didn't have any refrigeration and we didn't have any way to get meat except fresh meat. They wouldn't kill deer but we shot this bear and it smelled awfully good, it smelled like roast pork and we hadn't had meat for awhile so it was going to taste pretty good. My dad skinned out his bear and he had the carcass hanging up and it looked like a baby hanging there. Paul and I couldn't eat any of that bear meat.

DA: Did your parents?

EM: Yeah they did, they were glad to have that bear meat. It was the summer and what we couldn't eat we'd give it to other people. I've never been able to eat bear meat, it just feels like you are eating something human.

DA: A friend of mine got a bear and we just saw him skinning it.

EM: When you take the hide off.....

DA: Did they still have the logging camps then?

EM: Well because of the depression there was practically no logging.

DA: Was there anything left of the logging camps?

EM: There weren't any down along the river but Weyerhaeuser had camps and they were all abandoned and there was so much stuff that wasn't taken out because it hadn't to be taken out on pack trains. It would cost them more to move the stuff out than to leave it there so they just left it there. If anybody wanted they could go there and get stuff. We got most of our stuff that they used up in our cabin, those enameled dishes. After the bear broke so many of our windows we had to go over and get windows over there, too. We had quite a time keeping supplied with windows for awhile.

DA: Was it hard to get glass?

EM: Living where we were it was difficult. I suppose there was a place in St. Maries where you could get it. We would have to come down here and the way the trains ran it was very difficult to order things. We used to order our groceries. Way back then they used to have a grocery store in Spokane and they used to send out catalogues and we'd order our groceries that way out of the catalogue. We ordered the groceries twice a year, we'd get orders, big orders once or twice a year. First we put down an order of what we had to have, we needed sugar, flour and stuff like that. Then we'd put down as much as our money allowed for luxuries. That was a big deal when the grocery order came in, just like Xmas, you'd open a box and say, 'oh boy look at this and this.

DA: I can't imagine just buying food only twice a year.

EM: It can be done if you buy in big quantities. They came in hundred pound sacks. A lot of people that lived out in the country, rural area do it and it's cheaper and of course you are going to need that much. Flour came in big sacks and now people buy little sacks. We bought big sacks because we baked our own bread. It took a lot of flour.

DA: Do you still bake your own bread?

EM: I bake it once in awhile, it doesn't take much to supply me. I don't eat bread at every meal. I like to bake.

EM: Do you ever bake bread?

DA: Yeah I went through a period where I bought it but we've pretty much had it for a year now.

DA: It's just a matter of keeping up with it.

EM: It isn't so hard

DA: No, it's easy, it's just the matter of taking the time.

DA: Did electricity make a big difference in your life right away?

EM: I was down here when; when I lived in Michigan we always had electricity and a bathroom and evrything. That's why it was such a contrast when we came out here and didn't have any of this. Oh goodness, yes. I know with my folks, we used to have battery radios. Your battery would wear out and you'd have to send in an order and get more and this was inconvenient but when you plug in your electricity you can go 24 hours a day. With a battery we had to sort of pick and choose and make it last as long as possible. Then it happened that the most important things of the time the battery would run out. The time of Pearl Harbor, we didn't know about that, the battery had run out of our radio and I didn't know about Pearl Harbor until the next morning and this was very important thing.' When Franklin D. Roosevelt died I didn't know about that until the next day, too.

DA: What convenience did you appreciate having the most once you were married?

EM: We were renting when we first moved, in fact we stayed in an old house and the old couple had owned it and we stayed there and looked after the house and I can't remember if we had a refrigerator. I think a refrigerator would be one of the main things. I didn't have an electric stove here for quite awhile. If you've ever tried cooking or canning on a woodstove

on a hot summer day, or baking bread, it heats up the house terrifically and houses don't usually cool off that fast at night, either.

DA: Did you camp with a boiling water bath or did you have a pressure cooker?

EM: I think you call it an open kettle. I tell you you'd stand there and the perspiration would run down your back. It can be done. I think about all these kids today that want to go back and live in the sticks, I hope they only want to do it for a couple of years. It's not a bad experience for them but I hope they don't intend to always live that way because it's a good experience but I don't think it's anything to do voluntarily. Why should you when it's so much nicer and comfortable? I mean the hippies go back there and they don't care if they have any electricity or anything. When you are young, it's kind of a lark and you can manage but as you get older I think you need more comforts.

DA: They seem pretty important to a lot of young people.

EM: Of course they do to a lot of them, yes. I was thinking of the ones that really want to get back to nature, like the cave men did.

DA: I don't think anybody wants to go back quite that far.

I think it would be a good experience to go back. I would like to know that I could be that self sufficient.

EM: It isn't easy without all these conveniences but conveniences are not what make you happy, those were some of the most wonderful years of my life. Even though they were hard. It was very inconvenient and you didn't go much of anywhere but you were happy anyway. I loved the outdoors and that was beautiful beautiful country. It still is beautiful country. Of course you've got wires and roads and all this stuff and we didn't have at that time. I like the out of doors and I had a lot of it and I like to walk and I still walk so I walk as much as possible. It's good for you, too.

DA: Anything else you want to add?

*(End of interview, side 1 tape 21)*