

**ELLA GULZOW**

**May 11**

Interviewed by April Curtis

Transcribed by Paula Helten (May 11, 2012)

[audio begins]

AC: Okay, today is May 11<sup>th</sup>, and I am talking with Ella Gulzow at her home on Avenue F. And we're gonna start with her talking about her father.

EG: Alright, my father came from Germany with his family. There was five of 'em.

AC: When was that?

EG: In 1901. And they had family at Joseph, and they went up and homesteaded in—there was a, I guess a little shack they come to. [chuckles]. It was in this paper. And anyway, they—

AC: So, what did he come for? What was the reason he just left?

EG: To get away from—from Germany. The—it was—is bad back there then in the coal mines. The coal—

AC: So, he was a coal miner—

EG: mines were—

AC: for his family?

EG: so terrible. He lost his dad, and he lost his three brothers! He was the only really living.

AC: What was his full name?

EG: Adolph Emil Gaertner.

AC: Adolph Emil Gaertner, okay.

EG: And anyway, I guess they'd had a lottery of some kind. And the women, you know they—they—they live in great, big, apartment complexes, you know back there. And so, the women, they decided that they were gonna put a little money

away every week for their—and they were all gonna buy on the lottery. So they saved their money, and they says, “Lena.” That’s my grandma. “You go buy the tickets. You’re the lucky one.” And by golly, she won the lottery. And so, she wanted to come ‘cause she’s so scared all the time that Grandpa wouldn’t come home like his brothers and his father from the coal—coal mine. So they, then they come over. Grandpa was very reluctant. It tells all this in this paper!

AC: But it’s so great to have your voice.

EG: Yeah.

AC: Yeah.

EG: And anyway, they come over here. They homesteaded in Joseph, and every year Grandpa froze out. And he was so discouraged. So, he come here, and they bought a little place over on L Avenue.

AC: Okay, so they left—

EG: Joseph.

AC: they left Joseph and—and how old was your dad about that time, do you know?

EG: Well, about fourteen. And Daddy was born in 1900.

AC: Okay, so he was in Joseph until he was fourteen then, and then they moved to--?

EG: Then they moved here. And Grandpa had a couple of cows, and they milked cows. They couldn’t use all the cream and butter, so they decided that they were gonna bottle milk up. And my Aunt Ella took a little red wagon and went down Adams Avenue selling milk.

AC: Oh? So—

EG: That’s how they—

AC: that was the—

EG: started.

AC: Was the dairy built on—

EG: No.

AC: Avenue L or—?

EG: It—it was—it was just a barn. There was a—[rustling of paper] show you here. Here's the barn.

AC: Ohhhh.

EG: And old Cory Braseth just tore it down.

AC: Oh, no!

EG: That was the barn.

AC: And that was on L Avenue?

EG: L Avenue right below the recycling. This is the red barn that's out on Island City Highway right now.

AC: Oh, I see.

EG: And this was a picture of our farm out there—

AC: Wow.

EG: on the Island City Highway.

AC: So, your grandmother would sell milk?

EG: Mm-hm.

AC: Where? Where would she go? Where were her customers, just all the—?

EG: I told you up and down Adams Avenue!

AC: Oh!

EG: Yeah!

AC: Okay, right downtown?!

EG: Yeah!

AC: Oh, so were there—there were buildings and offices and things like that?

EG: Oh, not too much. But there was a Dr. Mayville, and he took a lot of their milk. And this is how my daddy started delivering milk—

AC: Oh—

EG: with horses!

AC: wow.

EG: And that is his milk wagon.

AC: Wow! So, did he—

EG: And then they put—

AC: put ‘em in a big, silver, canister like they do?

EG: No, they put ‘em in bottles.

AC: Oh, in bottles?

EG: Bottles.

AC: Mm-hm. So, they hand-milked the cows and then put ‘em in bottles?

EG: At that time, yes. This is how they put up the hay. This is my husband when we came back. Couldn’t—not pay—

AC: Wow.

EG: But that was my daddy’s first—

AC: Great.

EG: horses.

AC: Well, you know Eugene should see these photos 'cause maybe we can include those in your—in your book. So—so, your dad was fourteen, and then what happened? \_\_\_\_\_ do it—they—he was—

EG: Well, they just kept—

AC: \_\_\_\_\_?

EG: gettin' more customers all the time and more people and—and so that's when—when they got this here little milk wagon that was drawn by horses.

AC: A little, red, milk wagon, huh?

EG: Right there. That little, milk wagon.

AC: Uh-huh.

EG: Emmett Fudge got a picture there of Gaertner's Greenwood Dairy.

AC: Mm, that's great.

EG: And uh—

AC: Alright, so then what happened to your father? Was he—did he—how long did he stay with the dairy?

EG: All of his life practically. All of his life he farmed with Grandma and Grandpa. Well, they bought—in 1932, they bought the Coffey Ranch out there right across from S & G Machinery.

AC: Oh? Uh-huh.

EG: That's what they bought.

AC: The whole family did? Uh-huh.

EG: Grandma and Grandpa bought it and Daddy worked for ‘em. And then we—we lived in the big house with their—my sister and me and my bro—two brothers. William was a baby. And \_\_\_\_\_ see what—

AC: So, you were born in La Grande?

EG: \_\_\_\_\_--?

AC: And what were your parent’s names, the name of your mom and dad?

EG: Mamie and Emil.

AC: Mamie and Emil, okay.

EG: My mother’s name—maiden name was Hoffman.

AC: Hoffman?

EG: Mm-hm.

AC: And your—what was your father’s last name?

EG: Gaertner.

AC: Gaertner? Okay. And then your husband—?

EG: Was Gulzow

AC: Gulzow, okay, I see. So, were you living in town at the same time that your husband was living in town?

EG: My husband come from Saint Libory, Nebraska. And they would work all day long! That was in 1937 when he—they’d work all day long for a dollar! Twelve hour days for a dollar an hour! And so, a couple of his fam—a couple of his uncles come out here, and they asked Art if he wanted to come. And he said, “Yes.” And so they stopped off here in La Grande, and they was lookin’ for jobs, and Art got a job with N. K. Dairy.

AC: Oh? Uh-huh.

EG: Out on—it, you know on Hunter Lane?

AC: Oh, yes.

EG: Clear out there. And so then, I was out there later. I went out and helped cook, and that's how I met him.

AC: Oh, so you were the cook out there?

EG: Yeah.

AC: Alright.

EG: I helped cook.

AC: So, when you were born, your—what was—was your father working on the ranch?

EG: Uh-huh, yeah.

AC: What—what was the—what kind of ranch was it?

EG: Oh, it—

AC: Did it have—what kind of animals, or—?

EG: They had cows and the horses, chickens—raised all their own chickens. And—

AC: What kind of farming did they do?

EG: With horses.

AC: And what—?

EG: They didn't have no tractors and things then.

AC: What did you raise?

EG: Daddy raised the hay for his cows. Yeah. He went out there and walked behind those horses and a plow, all that.

AC: Did he give up the dairy by then, or was the dairy—?

EG: No, no. They kept the dairy all those years until, oh lord, '82.

AC: So, was he workin' at the dairy and also at your place? So, was he workin' two places, or? Did he have people helpin' at the dairy, and then he worked his own place, or how'd that work?

EG: It was all the one dairy is all! And when—when they decided that they were gonna get bigger, then, they moved out there on the Island City Highway.

AC: Oh, wow.

EG: They wanted to milk more cows. And then they moved out—we moved out there.

AC: And did you help with the—all the milking and—?

EG: No, I didn't milk, but I sure as heck helped deliver milk.

AC: Did you?

EG: You bet.

AC: How old were you when you started to work?

EG: I don't know. I was the oldest, and I was my daddy's boy.

AC: Oh, [chuckles] is that right?

EG: And I would go with him sometimes when we'd deliver milk in the summer time just like this here milk wagon. Daddy would jump off one side with milk, and I'd jump off on the other side. And those horses would let us out, they'd go up to the intersection, they'd wait for us.

AC: Oh, really? They were well-trained.

EG: In the winter time, when the snow was so darn high, we took a bobsled and delivered milk.



AC: Lovely!

EG: And I was—I'd put my underwear on and my pants, my overalls, and I had a dress hangin' in the closet of the teacher's 'cause you wouldn't—they wouldn't let you wear things like that at—then. Now, they don't care what they wear. But I worked with my daddy, and then I'd—I'd come home. And my grandpa, we'd wash bottles, you know and sterilize all the bottles. And I'd go help my—Grandpa would wash 'em, and I'd rinse 'em and then carry 'em over to the sterilizer. And then I went in and helped Mom cookin' for the men.

AC: Wow.

EG: So—

AC: So, how'd you sterilize the bottles, just—?

EG: There was a sterilizer, just—

AC: What—what was that like?

EG: Well, it was just—like it would—it was just like a big, walk-in thing, and then they had these here tubes like pipes. And the steam did the—they'd turn it on it when all the bottles was washed. And then you put 'em upside down, and then the steam would go up and sterilize 'em.

AC: Oh, wow. Or—so, you must have had a lot of customers?

EG: Yeah, Dad did. Still people talk about Daddy, yeah.

AC: So, were you going to school at the same time you were—

EG: You bet.

AC: working? So, you had to get up pretty early to get all that done—

EG: Yep.

AC: before you went to school?

EG: I never milked cows. When I was three years old, I was helpin' my mom. I thought I was helpin' her, and I run my hand in the wringer.

AC: Oh, no.

EG: And I broke every one of my fingers, and broke my little thumb.

AC: Oh, gosh.

EG: And my—you know you couldn't release it like, you know later, but Mom had to wring my hand clear back out. [chuckles].

AC: Oh my, gosh.

EG: I was a-screamin'. But old Dr. McAdory took and put my hand on a shingle and wrapped it up. But he didn't—they didn't x-ray or anything like that. So, six weeks when he took it off, here was this little thumb. It was too late.

AC: Ohhhh.

EG: So I could never—could never grab.

AC: Mm-hm, mm-hm, but you were strong enough to—

EG: But—

AC: lug those milk bottles—

EG: Oh, yeah.

AC: around.

EG: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

AC: Do you remember any of your customers?

EG: Oh, good lord, yes. Stange's milk—we went—stay—Stange's, Kinzel's, everybody. Joel's Grocery was one of our highest, and oh my, gosh, that little grocery store on the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hamlin's. And then out where \_\_\_\_\_ has

the GI, that was a little grocery store. Dad had practically all the little stores. They—and then the people, they were awful good.

AC: Hm, so when you had the milk bottle, what did you put on the top of it? What was—was it a stopper, or was it a—?

EG: Bottle cap.

AC: Oh! Okay. And they just topped the bottle caps right off? Were they made out of steel, or—?

EG: No, no. Cardboards.

AC: Oh, cardboard. Oh, uh-huh.

EG: \_\_\_\_\_ right there.

AC: So did it say Gaertner Milk on it?

EG: You bet!

AC: Uh-huh, alright.

EG: What is that one there? Is that it? See, that was—

AC: Oh, just like that?

EG: Bottle cap.

AC: Oh, great. That would be wonderful to put in the book too.

EG: It's raw milk.

AC: Raw milk, huh?

EG: Mm-hm, you didn't have no such thing as pasteurized milk. We hated those pasteurized milk.

AC: [laughs].

EG: And the—anyway, that was what we had our phone number on there too.

AC: Mm-hm. So, people would call in and say this is how much I want or need or—how did you know how much to give ‘em?

EG: They’d order every month then when they started out. And then, if they wanted cream or if they wanted extra milk, they’d just leave a note in the bottle. They’d just put a note down in the bottle when we’d—‘cause they always put their empty bottles for us to pick up.

AC: Mm-hm. So, did cream go in a different bottle or—?

EG: Oh, yeah.

AC: Mm-hm, wow.

EG: We had little half-pints and pints.

AC: Mm-hm, in bottles?

EG: And Dr. Branner—we delivered to doctors up in the San—Annex. Dr. Branner wouldn’t even think of eat—drinkin’ anybody’s milk but Dad’s.

AC: [chuckles].

EG: Lot of—all the doctors, Gilstrap, lot of ‘em.

AC: Mm-hm. Well, could you talk a little bit about what it was like to—or what your experiences were going to school? And—I know you went to Island City School, and what—what experiences you have going to Island City School. Now this was in the ‘30’s? Is that right, or—?

EG: Yeah, ’32, we moved out there. And I was in the seventh grade, and we moved to Island City. And I went two years, and then I went to Island—up to La Grande. We didn’t have no buses then. We walked.

AC: Wow that was a ways.

EG: Yeah.

AC: Yeah.

EG: You bet. We only had one car, and that was the milk truck. [chuckles]. When it was really bad weather, Mom would come and get us sometimes. But—well—and lot of times, we had an orchard too. There was a big cherry orch—or apple orchard, and it—Dad would—Grandpa would raise potatoes too. But I would come home from school, get my clothes on, and get the horse and—and people would go pick their own apples. Charge ‘em a dollar a box or something like that and then I would drag ‘em out to the cars on the tr—

AC: With that red—red wagon that you used for milk or—?

EG: No, it was a sled Dad had, and the horse pulled it. And I—that was my job I had to do.

AC: Can you describe the school in I—Island City? What did it look like and—remember?

EG: Well, it was just a school with four rooms in it.

AC: Oh, really?

EG: And had four rooms and a gym is what we had. And they had the eighth grade.

AC: How many teachers?

EG: Four. Mrs. Hale taught the first and second grade, and let’s see there was Luella Miller. She had the third and fourth. And—no, there was only—no, there was only three teachers ‘cause Luella Miller had the—let’s see, third, fourth and fifth. And then doc—Mr. Fuller had the sixth, seventh and eighth. There was three grades—three—three in each one. And then they had a little kitchen that the teacher’s went and eat their lunch. And then when my kids got a little bit bigger, why, I got in school, why, I was president of the PTA. And we got to get—the mothers would all go together and make hot things for ‘em and take over for the kids.

AC: Can you describe Mr. Fuller? Was that your teacher? What—can you describe him for me?

EG: He was just a wonderful teacher. Yeah.

AC: Someone that really liked kids?

EG: Yeah. He really liked kids, and we really liked him too. We really liked Mr. Fuller.

AC: Would—would a lot of the students be working in the morning doing chores and that sort—

EG: Oh—

AC: of thing \_\_\_\_\_?

EG: some of ‘em did have their chore and things. I don’t think any of ‘em worked as hard as I did. But the doctors all say—I got arthritis from \_\_\_\_\_, and they say, “What in the heck did you do when you were young?!”

AC: [chuckles].

EG: I jumped off of the milk wagon and delivered milk and worked like a dog, and now I pay for it!

AC: [chuckles].

EG: Kids don’t work like that now anymore.

AC: So you work in the apple orchard and the milk wagon, what other chores did you have around the place?

EG: Just helpin’ Mom. And then in the spring they’d all make a big garden, and we weeded the garden, I’ll tell you. You didn’t leave no weeds in no garden out there. And Grandpa used to give us a penny a row.

AC: [laughs].

EG: And those rows are big! [laughs].

AC: Oh. What was the community like in Island City at that time for a person?

EG: A lot closer than they are now.

AC: Close-knit families \_\_\_\_\_--?

EG: When we were—when we were—oh, when we got a little older, seventh and eighth grade, we used to go down there and play kick-the-can every night!  
[chuckles].

AC: [chuckles].

EG: Course we had our—we had to get home too! Boy, I'll tell you our curfew—we better be home too! I think it was about 9:00 o'clock, boy. They were—be home—

AC: You had to get up early in the morning.

EG: There's a lot of us that still live and talkin' about our kick-the-can days.  
[chuckles].

AC: [laughs]. Uh-huh. So, you moved into La Grande when you were in high school?

EG: No.

AC: No? You were out there in Island—

EG: Never did leave—

AC: City—?

EG: until I got married.

AC: Oh, okay.

EG: I got—we got—my husband and I got married, and we went to Toledo and lived there for about three minutes. I hated that place with a passion. Uhh! And I don't like the coast anyway. I—but Art thought he would like it, and one of his—course one of his friends that worked out at N. K. wanted—so then, Grandpa was feelin' real bad and Daddy wanted to—he called us and told us to come home. And he'd make us a lot better deal than what we had down there, so we moved up here back on the farm.

AC: Well, how old were you when you met your husband? How old were you?

EG: Hm?

AC: How old were you when you met your husband? Were you—?

EG: Sixteen.

AC: Wow.

EG: Got married when we were eighteen—when I was eighteen, yeah.

AC: And you met when you were cooking. What—what was he doing at the time?

EG: Herdin' cows and milkin'. They had a great, big, huge dairy operation out there, N. K. Dairy.

AC: Uh-huh, and you were a—you were employed as a cook out there? What kind of work did you as a cook? What would you prepare every day?

EG: I just helped the main cook.

AC: Mm-hm, and you made big meals for 'em and—?

EG: And—well, mostly peelin' potatoes and stuff like that, you know and vegetables. The main cook's name was Velma. She was a good cook. And you cleaned up. Usually, I would—you know, you'd—I usually would take and eat with my husband when he'd come in at 2:00 o'clock. He'd herd the cows, and then when they got through, the rest of the crew, they'd go out and then Art would come in. So him and I got to talkin' and visitin' and eatin' together, so [chuckles] yeah.

AC: So after you were married, where did you live?

EG: Well, we lived in Toledo for a little while, and then we moved back up on the ranch.

AC: Oh, on your grandfather—grandfather's ranch, uh-huh.

EG: And then in 1950, we bought the Chenault place off—



AC: Now, where is that?

EG: Out in the middle of the valley that is—it—the Weishaur's has got it now. And, let's see, we was out there for—for nearly—I think about—about ten years. And then my dad kept havin' heart attacks, and it—just gettin' too much for all of us. We had two hundred and forty acres out there, and Art was still comin' in milkin' cows and stuff.

AC: So you had your own place, and he was still workin' on your grand—

EG: Uh-huh—

AC: on your dad's place?

EG: on the dairy farm.

AC: Yeah. What kind—what kinds of things were you growing out in your—your—the farm that you and Art had?

EG: Oh, we had wheat and hay and grass—

AC: And had—

EG: and had a lot of chickens. I—I raised a lot of chickens. I'd take—I had the stores that I took the eggs to.

AC: Oh, you did?

EG: Yeah, and then we'd have our own fryers and stuff. And then we'd have pigs out there too.

AC: Wow.

EG: Yeah, we raised 'em. Course we had our calves and stuff and raised all of our own meat. And then—

AC: How did the—how had farming changed by the time you had your place from when your grandfather—were you—?

EG: Well, he was lucky enough like the Weishaur's were, and you could dig a well to have water out there, why, you were fine. So it changed a heck of a lot.

AC: Sure.

EG: Dry land farming wasn't that great. It takes water to raise stuff nowadays.

AC: So, you weren't—you weren't plowing with a horse anymore in the '50's?

EG: No, they had—

AC: What were you use—?

EG: a tractor.

AC: Oh, you had the tractors.

EG: They had the tractors. They had a lot of 'em, a lot of good machinery, Art and Daddy, yeah.

AC: So, what was—what was the duties of a—of a farm wife in the '50's? I mean you had your chickens. What would you—what an ordinary day be like for you on the farm? Like what time would you get up, and then what would you do?

EG: Oh, let's see here. Course you—when—when we first moved out there, I had to take the kids to school. You know we didn't have a bus to come and got 'em, so I had to take the kids. We'd get up, I think pretty close to 6:00. Art would go out—come in at 5:00 and milk, and then he'd come out and eat breakfast. And then I'd take the kids to school. Then he'd usually farm or something, you know 'cause at that time when they milked, they were—had a big vat in the milk house. And—and from the cows right into that, and then the trucks would come and pick it up. Just like a big tank, you know.

AC: So they'd still hand-milk or—?

EG: No, no, no, no.

AC: No? Not in the '50's? They—?

EG: No, no.

AC: Yeah, so they'd have—

EG: I don't know when—

AC: milking machines?

EG: they got milkin' machines. But well, it could have been pretty close to '37, I think. My sister died in '37, so that—I—I think—there's a real bad snow storm. They went in to pick her clothes out and casket, and when they tryin' to get home so Daddy could milk the cows, I know they had a milker then.

AC: Mm-hm, so somewhere in the mid-'30's, or somewhere in there—

EG: Yeah.

AC: you got milkers?

EG: Yeah.

AC: It probably changed the—the whole milking business.

EG: Oh, yeah, yeah. Course, \_\_\_\_\_, I think it was—we were still—man, we were still sellin' milk when—let's see, I don't know just exactly when we started using those tanks, but.

AC: So, the machine—the—the milk would come on down through the cows and go into a machine or something? A trough, you said?

EG: A tank.

AC: A tank.

EG: A tank.

AC: And then how would the milk get into the bottles then from there?

EG: It didn't then. When they kept the tank, the trucks come and got 'em.

AC: Oh, I see. So you didn't just bottle—

EG: We didn't bottle—

AC: the milk and—?

EG: then, no.

AC: And where would the milk go from—?

EG: And you know about the time that—of course, you know Safeway and all of those places was comin' in here sellin' milk, and it was pasteurized. And then you had to fight with the milk control board. You either had to go and get your pasteurization, you know, and that was a fortune.

AC: Yeah.

EG: So, Daddy and Art just decided that they were gonna just put it in the tanks and in the tanks that take it to the processing plants, and then they'd—

AC: Was there a processing plant in—in this area, or did it go somewhere else? Uh-huh.

EG: Nope, there was Portland, I think. Close—closest that we could—but those tanks would come every other day. Of course that tank was all refrigerated, you know. And they'd—they'd dig back into the—the milk house and had big hoses that they'd—and it'd pump it right into their tank, their big tanks, yeah.

AC: Wow. That was a big change. Have no more little red wagon going around town, huh? Did you miss that?

EG: No.

AC: It's a lot of work, mm-hm.

EG: Yeah, it was a lot of work for everybody.

AC: So, did you raise a garden out on the—

EG: You bet.

AC: farm too?

EG: I raised a garden and canned and—and we moved up here in 1955.

AC: Moved to La Grande?

EG: This house.

AC: Oh, this—this particular house on—on F?

EG: Yep.

AC: Is that—?

EG: We built onto this house too. This is a four bedroom house. You wouldn't know it, [chuckles] but its four bedrooms 'cause we built on here. And then, of course, after my husband died—he died in 1982. Well, my brother was killed up in Canada, and his wife. Their first vacation they ever had in their life, and he was milkin' then 'cause Art—Art just in 1955, he just didn't want any more of it. And he went railroadin'.

AC: Oh!

EG: Quit the dairy and went railroadin', and then we—we moved up here \_\_\_\_\_.

AC: So, you moved up here because of the railroad?

EG: Oh, yeah.

AC: Can you describe what life was like that went on with the—a husband that was railroading?

EG: Well, it's different.

AC: [chuckles]. In what way?

EG: You get called all hours of the night, all the time. It's different. Course our railroad's been awful good to us. 'Cause my husband in 1967 was over in Baker and he got knocked off the train, and the train went over his right arm.

AC: Oh my, gosh.

EG: And \_\_\_\_\_. And in 19—well, my oldest daughter, she wanted always to be a nurse, and so she was workin' over to St. Joe Hospital. And of course when she decided to get married, why, the Sisters was always after me to come to work for 'em. So when Lana got married, why, they wanted me to come and work for 'em. I said, "Well, I'm not workin' on no floor. I'll work in the diet department." So, I was head of the diet department for ten years over to St. Joe Hospital.

AC: Now where is St. Joe Hospital?

EG: Right down here—

AC: Oh!

EG: on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

AC: Oh, uh-huh, uh-huh. And so that was—wow, uh-huh.

EG: And anyway, why, when Art lost his arm, why, I was there at the diet department, and the phone rang. And it was the hospital in Baker, and she said, "Mrs. Gulzow?" And I said, "Yeah." She said, "There's been an accident." And my husband was a real bad diabetic too. But they had just eaten, so it wasn't that he had a reaction. And she said, "There's been an accident." And here she says, "You are gonna have to come to Baker." And I says, "How bad is Art hurt?" And she says, "Oh, he's lost his right arm." Gad, I just stood down. I would—I hollered to Sister, and I said, "Sister, have somebody cover me 'cause I've got to go to Baker." I said, "Art's unconscious in the hospital, and I've got to go over there." Course I was cryin' so darn hard, and—and the phone rang again. And I went back and answered. It was the doctor. And he says, "You stay there! We are gonna bring him over to La Grande."

AC: Wow.

EG: He says, "I don't want you on that road at all." And I said, "Thank God! I got a fourteen year old boy that I got to think about too, [chuckles] my only son." And—and so they—he says, "You get surgery all ready for him." And so I run up to surgery, and Dr. Vanderbilt was up there. And I told him that Art had lost his arm, and they were bringin' him, and I'd like for him to operate. And so he thought a little bit, and he says, "Ella, I can't touch him. It's got to be a railroad doctor." So I had to have Lundsten and Kubler. That Dr. Vanderbilt, he says, "I

will look and see what has to be done.” And they did it just—it splintered at his—had to take the whole, up clear up to the shoulder off.

AC: Wow.

EG: So, anyway—

AC: Was that—did the railroad have many of those kinds of accidents?

EG: You bet. They’ve had a lot of accidents. Art was on with that Weir that lost his foot.

AC: Oh, no.

EG: [chuckles]. Art picked up his shoe to take, and there’s his foot cut off. There’s a lot of accidents on the railroad, but this was all uncalled for because it was a—it was a arm that took the train back and forth. Leonard Sayler got knocked off a week before, and they were supposed to do somethin’ about that. They didn’t, so my husband got it. Yeah, all it done to Leonard was so young that he re—he—it just tore his coat up. But Art, it just flung him on there, and as the—his head hit so hard and it come up. And—and the train just—they all thought it was his head.

AC: Now where was he on the train when he got knocked off?

EG: On the side of it—the train—they were—

AC: On the side?

EG: they were—

AC: What knocked him off?

EG: That arm.

AC: Oh.

EG: See, when—when you don’t have a engine, they can—that arm can—to carry these here cars back and forth.

AC: Uh-huh.

EG: The—boy, I tell you nobody worked in there ‘til they changed it! It should have come up under there and moved it—

AC: Oh.

EG: to havin’ that arm there! And it was just a bad situation, and course the engineer wasn’t that sharp either. My cousin, it was his day off. He—he always said he should—“If I would have been on there, Art wouldn’t have ever lost his arm.” But I don’t know. You can’t ever tell.

AC: Did he continue to work for the railroad after—afterwards?

EG: Oh no, you can’t work for the railroad. No way! He was in the hospital for thirty days, and then we had to go to Portland. And he was in their re—rehabilitation for about six weeks.

AC: Wow.

EG: So, yeah. No way. That’s the end of his railroadin’ days.

AC: Mm-hm. When you said that the railroad was good to you, did—did you get a lot of help from them afterwards, or were they—?

EG: Not especially, but they—course we had—had to go to court to get a decent settlement. But I mean they were—Art liked the railroad. It—you know. But when you get hurt, that’s a different story.

AC: Sure.

EG: It—a guy come here and first thing he did was offer Art twenty-five thousand dollars. Art just couldn’t stand to—hardly to be here. I was workin’ over at the hospital and—once he’d come over and see me and we’d have coffee, and then he’d go down to the railroad. But he didn’t want to be here so they’d come. And they didn’t want you to—they wanted you to try to settle. They just—they wanted you to settle before you’d had to go to court, you know.

AC: Mm-hm, but you ended up going to court?



EG: Oh yeah, had to. Yeah, we had a whole day in court.

AC: Mm-hm. Before he got injured, what was his duty on—what was his job on the rail?

EG: Brakeman.

AC: Mm-hm, is the—?

EG: From here to Hinkle, and from here to Nampa, but mostly he was from here to Hermiston.

AC: Mm-hm. Was it at night that he usually went, or all hours?

EG: All hours, just whenever the trains come through and they needed you.

AC: Mm-hm. And how did you—how did you deal with that? You know tryin' to keep the family together and all that railroad—?

EG: You just do. But my—my girls, see they were—my—they were all in school, and there was no way they wanted to move to Hermiston. They kept sayin', "We're gonna go live with Grandma. We're not gonna move to Hermiston!" [chuckles].

AC: [chuckles].

EG: Art really never wanted to move to Hermiston. When he would have to work in the yard over there, he'd—sometimes he'd have to work couple weeks in the yard. But he'd have two days off, and he'd come home, but.

AC: So, was his schedule, maybe, would he have two days off every—how—how—how many days was it he'd be working \_\_\_\_\_--?

EG: Just depends on—you never know when your two days is gonna be off. Never always on the weekend either. That's the high seniority gets weekends.

AC: Mm-hm. So, in the '50's this was a big railroad town, right?

EG: Mm-hm. It's still a little bit. This town has a lot of railroaders in it. Like my brother's oldest boy, Terry Gaertner, he's one of the oldest brakemen right now in La Grande. I have a lot of family that's been in the railroad.

AC: So, the Gaertner family is a family that's—that's been around for quite a while \_\_\_\_\_?

EG: Yeah, since 1900. And then my mother was raised in Pendle—born in Pendleton, and then they moved up on Cabbage Hill. They had—they—my mom's grandma bought a place up there, and they moved up there. And Mom spent some of her few days up there at that little, one-room house, you know. Then my grandpa, he got on the railroad. He was a—a section foreman over in Kamela, and they all moved down there to Kamela. And Gus Chochos brought a lot of his brothers, nieces and nephews and them over here from Greece, and they all ended up workin' for my grandpa.

AC: Oh?

EG: All of 'em did. And my grandma would cook for 'em. Her name was Mary, and oh, they loved John and Mary.

AC: [chuckles].

EG: And still some of the Greeks—they all know how. It was—

AC: Mm-hm. So, they came over to work on the railroad?

EG: Well, they come over here, yeah, to a better country is what it was. [chuckles]. And course they all—you knew Gus Chochos, didn't you?

AC: Mm-hm.

EG: See, his—they—the house right around the corner, they had that. That's my house now.

AC: Oh?

EG: Mom and Dad bought it for my brother from Matilda after Gus died. And then they brought young Gus over here. See, they—they brought a lot of people.

They just brought a lot of people over. But they—they up at Starkey—they—them a lot up at Starkey, you know.

AC: Mm-hm. What were they doin' up there?

EG: Oh, farmin' and railroadin' and a little bit of everything. I think John had a book that he's got together about Starkey up there, and we brought it over for Harold to look at the day before yesterday. And Gus was right at the bottom of a lot of that.

AC: Wow. Mm-hm.

EG: And—

AC: What was the community like around in this area where you—was it mostly railroad families, or were you pretty close?

EG: Oh, no. Some of 'em—mill workers, lot of mill workers. I know Harold and Dee lived across the street. They was one of the oldest houses that—boy, they tore the top off and built that house over there. And then, the Blanton's, they were—now they were railroaders. We were railroaders. Dick and Dixie, them on the corner, they're still there. They were Boise Cascade.

AC: Now is anyone doing any farming, or is this all railroad as soon—?

EG: It's railroad mostly around in the neighbors, yeah.

AC: Did you miss being on the farm?

EG: No. No, not really. No, I didn't. It's a lot of hard work and long hours, a lot of cookin' for men. My dad would never ask a man to bring his lunch, and neither would my husband.

AC: Uh-huh. What would you make 'em for lunch?

EG: Oh, cook 'em a meal like a—we always cooked too much really, but they all loved to come and eat with us, I'll tell you!

AC: [chuckles].

EG: Yeah, we'd just cook a real good meal: Meat, potatoes and vegetable and a dessert, and usually pies and cake and yeah.

AC: So that was woman's work?

EG: Yep.

AC: Can you describe working at the hospital because—so you—you started in the hospital in the '50's, right at Joe Hospital then?

EG: Yeah. I first started in '58, I think it was. My daughter would probably know if it was in '58. I started—my husband just about had a fit. He did not want me to work, and I wanted to work a little bit because my son was just started in school. He was born in '53. He started to school so I was really all alone, and those Sisters wouldn't leave me alone, Sister Walberta especially.

AC: [chuckles].

EG: And I—and this was in September, and I said, "Honey, let me work until Christmas, and then I'll stop."

AC: [chuckles].

EG: And then, he—he'd always come over, and he told the Sisters Christmas hasn't come yet.

AC: [laughs].

EG: They all loved Art. They thought he was super, but yeah. I said I was a—I was head of the diet department then. I'd take care of all the diets and everything.

AC: Mm-hm. So, did you work in conjunction with the doctors about what each person's—?

EG: Well, they'd just tell me to come up and talk to patients about their diets, you know. And I was real good at diabetic doctors—'cause the diabetic doc—diets because I'd gone to—the railroad paid our way when Art died—had diabetes so bad, and we went to school down there in Portland.

AC: At—at what school?

EG: Good Samaritan.

AC: Oh? And it was over there—?

EG: And I went down there. And we did. Art was down there, you know. And I got a lot of good training from them. And then I could come up, and all the doctor had to do was put ‘em in there twelve hundred, fifteen hundred, and my husband was on a twenty-four hundred calorie diet, you know. I made out all the diets until we finally, finally got us the—well, Susan Lewis’ mother, a Lundsten. Kirkpatrick, I think is her name, and she there toward the last couple of years, but then she never did ever come and make the diets. I needed any help, I’d of called her and asked her about it. But then there was people that’d come in, and they was allergic to this. And they had to have—Seven-day Adventist’s would have to have just uh, no meat! Now strictly vegetarian, so you had to go up, and you had to find out what they’re allergic to. And—but the Sisters was good to me. I liked ‘em.

AC: Who did the cooking?

EG: Cooks.

AC: So when you made the diets up, \_\_\_\_\_--?

EG: I’d—I’d tell ‘em what I had to have, but they made a—a—a regular meal. And then if I had to have extra diet—extra stuff, then they would make it. We’d always have a nice salad for ‘em too. And uh—

AC: So, did you write these down on cards, or how did you communicate—

EG: You—

AC: to cooks what they needed to make?

EG: Well, I just told ‘em. We just told ‘em. But on—on—on each tray was their name, and then you’d—what kind of diet. It was soft, liquid, or salt-free or all that kind of stuff. Lot of diets and—

AC: Did you enjoy working there?

EG: Oh, I loved it. And I loved my Sister after Sister Walberta left. And Sister Seternia, she was a doll.

AC: Now, who are these people? Are they the directors of the hospital, or—?

EG: No, she would just be over—those nurses just was over certain things, and a Sister would be over the kitchen.

AC: Oh, I see.

EG: And I usually done all of their shopping. I'd go down to Albertson's whenever we was low on stuff, and of course they bought stuff in bulk—bulk a lot too.

AC: Was Albertson's where it was—is now?

EG: No. It was down here on the end of—of—there where Blockbuster is, is where Albertson's was.

AC: Oh? Uh-huh.

EG: And I'd go down every Friday and get what we needed, probably chickens and stuff you eat and different kind of meat. Whatever Sister put on the list, I'd pick up.

AC: Did you go to—did you buy local produce, or was it like from the garden \_\_\_\_\_?

EG: Oh yeah, a lot of it. And then of course the bread man came and always delivered our bread. And—

AC: Was it the—from an order—had a bakery in town?

EG: No, not especially. We—no. No, they did—I—I can't think what the name of it was now, but there was—

AC: So, there was a bread \_\_\_\_\_--?

EG: And then there was a cookie guy that'd come in with those Archway Cookies, you know. And the—then there was the—the—the warehouse at—that—where

we'd get our fresh fruit and stuff from. And Sister would call in the order, and they'd bring it then. Oh, we'd—it was interesting.

AC: And how many years did you work there?

EG: Ten and a half years. And then after Art lost his arm, why, we decided we were gonna travel and do a few things. [chuckles]. We got us a motorhome, and he loved to fish. I had to learn how to tie the knots and take the fish off the hook [chuckles]—

AC: [chuckles].

EG: 'cause he couldn't do that. But he was fitted with an artificial arm, but the only time he would use it is when he went fishin'. That thing was just like a big club hangin' on him, you know.

AC: Who put that on him?

EG: The doctors in Portland.

AC: Did that—?

EG: And then he'd have to use the muscles to get—and it was a nice enough arm, but boy, it was just—he said it was just like a big club. But he could—he had that hook on there, and he could hand—a lot of times he could bait his fishhook real good. But it—he loved hunting, and if he was out hunting—he went to the doctors and them a lot. And he'd put that gun up there, and that gun would just—just—he couldn't do that. So, he kind of had to get up by a stump or somethin'—

AC: [laughs].

EG: to hold the gun up. But we—we use—we went down south quite a bit. And his brother and his wife and another couple from Elgin, there was six of us really goin'. I lost my brother in that accident in 1980. And—and that—that was terrible, and we had to sell all the dairy herd and everything 'cause Wayne was milking. And—and—and my daddy died in November the 13<sup>th</sup>, and my husband dropped dead six weeks to the day later.

AC: Oh, my god.

EG: It just about killed Art when Wayne was killed because after he'd lost his arm, that phone rang every single morning at 7:30. And Art—would be Wayne, “What are we gonna do today, Art?” You know it was just his life goin' out there on the farm with Wayne. Boy, it was hard to lose him.

AC: So, your dad's name was Wayne? Was that your \_\_\_\_\_?

EG: No, my dad's name was Emil.

AC: And now Wayne was your brother?

EG: My brother.

AC: I see. And your brother still had the—the farm out there?

EG: Yeah, he took it over after we quit and Art went to railroadin'.

AC: Oh, I see.

EG: Yeah.

AC: So, the family still had a farm?

EG: Yeah.

AC: And were you still milking? Is that what it was or—?

EG: Huh?

AC: Was that calve and milking?

EG: Yeah, milking cows.

AC: Mm-hm. So they had that dairy all the way up through the—?

EG: Yeah, up until '82.

AC: Wow.



EG: All that time. And Wayne's boy kind of wanted to, but it—it just wasn't gonna work, that's all. And Wayne had bought some, you know—some real good machinery and done some things. It—you just couldn't go ahead and somebody start at the bottom, you know. Yeah, it's hard on.

AC: So, there was three generations that went into that dairy?

EG: Yeah.

AC: Wow.

EG: And of course when Daddy died and Wayne was killed, why, we rented the place to Harry Trimble. And then he ended up with cancer, you know. He was a railroader too, but he loved cows. And—and then Art would go out and help him a lot and help him. And it was just—

AC: Were you one of the few dairies that stayed in town?

EG: Yeah. Yep. Yeah, we were one of the few. There—I think there's Hollstadt's over at Cove—Daddy. But Daddy was never supposed to start up. He was—when we left—'cause we sold out. We kept some calves. And then Wayne decided that he wanted to—he was working over in Hermiston at a game farm. And he decided he wanted to go into the cow business, so Daddy take—he bought some more cows and—

AC: So, he started back up?

EG: and started back up. And—

AC: And so the trucks would still come up and get the tanks \_\_\_\_\_?

EG: Yeah. Yeah, that—

AC: So, are there any—are there—so there—there's not really milk being produced anywhere around here now, is there? I mean that was it?

EG: No, uh, when we sold out all of our—our dairy had went into Idaho.

AC: Oh, wow.

EG: It hurt. And they had a big auction. Auc—auctioned everything off. And then Harry Coleman bought the ranch from Mom. And my—one of my son-in-law's, he wanted it so bad. And—but—I don't know. It—you know there was Mom and me. I had taken care of her for twelve years, and—and Daddy too. Daddy ended up in the nursing home. I—'cause I couldn't take care of him, and—and then of course Wayne died, Dad died, Art died. Everybody that knew anything about that darn dairy was dead. It was just too much for us. And so 'course Harry Coleman wanted it so darn bad for the—the gravel, you know out there. He dug up a lot of that place, I tell you. But time marches on.

AC: It does.

EG: Thank God Walmart didn't get it. They wanted that place real bad to put that old store. I'm sure glad—

AC: Ohhhh.

EG: they didn't get it.

AC: I'm glad too!

EG: You know when Wayne Becker—Mike Becker—Harry Coleman sold that to Mike Becker which he promised he wouldn't do that, but he did! And he sold that to Mike Becker, and Mike Becker wants to put a shopping center out there. Ain't that crazy?

AC: Now, where is that? Is that—?

EG: Right across from S & G Machinery where that big red barn is.

AC: Hm.

EG: The shopping center there and a low cost housing. That's all we need's some more low cost housing in this town. Hope he don't get it. It has—they haven't approved. It was right on the front page of the paper last week. And what do we need with another shopping center? You know with Walmart goin' in there and—

AC: Super Walmart, yeah. Hm. So, what was the—of all the things—it seems like you've done a lot of different kinds of things, what was your favorite?

EG: Oh, I loved working for the Sisters. They were my Sisters. When Sister—when Sister left here—she left here—well, it'd been back—she left here just a little bit before I did and went over to Pendleton. And I couldn't stay there after she left. I liked her so well. She always—

AC: What happened to the hospital? Why didn't it continue? Do you know?

EG: Well, that Sister sold us down the river. That one, Sister Francis, she really sold us down the river. And she got in with some of these darn guys. And it's a dirty shame 'cause that was a wonderful hospital. And—

AC: So it was run all by the—the—the Catholic Sisters?

EG: Sisters, yeah. But the Sister went over to Pendleton. Every time I'd went—take Art—every time we went to Pendleton, I had to go see her. She always told Mom, "I'm just jealous of you. If I ever had a daughter, I'd want her to be just like Ella." [chuckles]. She always wanted—

AC: Awww. [chuckles].

EG: [chuckles]. She'd kiss me boy, the minute she'd see me!

AC: Uh-huh.

EG: And you know I knew she was awful bad. And I took my grandson that lived with me and my little niece, and we went to see my granddaughter over in Seattle. And I told the kids, I says, "I am going to stop and see Sister Seternia 'cause she's in Tacoma." And I finally found her at the—at—that she was in the hospital there. And I went to that hospital, and I told the Sisters. And they told me, "She's awful bad." She had cancer, you know. And she had a darn catheter in her and all. Anyway, I went in there, and she was so tickled to see me. She says, "Oh honey, I didn't think I'd ever get to see you again!"

AC: Oh! That's sweet.

EG: Gosh, it just made me sick, so I told the Sister at the desk. I said, "If anything happens to Sister, you let me know!" And I don't think it was ten days, and they called me and told me she was gone.

AC: How long did that—did that hospital operate? Do you know when that hospital started?

EG: Oh man, oh man, that was uh—my son was born in '53. Oh, let's see, I had my—had Linda in '45. I had her at the Grande Ronde Hospital, and I think it was little bit before that. I think it was in the early '40's. And—

AC: So did the—both hospitals then operated together for a while?

EG: Yeah, uh-huh, for a while.

AC: Uh-huh.

EG: Yeah, I'd—then, yeah.

AC: And so the difference was that this one was a Catholic hospital and that was—uh-huh.

EG: Course I had Dr. Branner delivered the—my—my first two, and then Dr. Ingle delivered Linda. And then I had Dr. Lawton for David. But, yeah there a lot of the doctors, they liked the Catholics, and some of 'em didn't. You know that's how it went.

AC: Mm-hm. So it was run by the Catholic Sisters?

EG: Oh, yeah.

AC: But the doctors would come from—

EG: Uh-huh.

AC: the other hospital and—?

EG: Boy, I tell you those Sisters treated those doctors like kings. [laughs].

AC: [laughs].

EG: Oh!

AC: Why do you think that was?

EG: Oh, it's their business, that's why. And they'd—every month, they'd have a big feed for 'em, you know. And boy, I'm tellin' you, it was the best steaks and stuff you ever could buy—

AC: Ohhhh!

EG: [chuckles] for those doctors.

AC: Uh-huh.

EG: Yeah. We had this Dr. Genrich. He was a real, strong, Seventh-day Adventist, and I told Sister. I says, "You know this is interesting. Him and his wife always when they come in the hospital, it's got to be vegetarian. When I'd feed him, if he was upstairs, it would have to be vegetarian." And I says, "Does he ever order steak, Sister?" And she says, "You bet he does!" [laughs].

AC: [laughs].

EG: And Dr. Stewart, you know he was a Catholic, you know. And his little, ole wife had a little son for him. Oh, man. He had two girls by his first wife, and he had this boy by his second wife. Treated like a queen when she had him I just— [laughs]

AC: I'll bet. I'll bet. Huh.

EG: Yeah, they were really, really nice \_\_\_\_\_.

AC: Now did they—did they tear this—this hospital down? I guess they did. Must have been just—

EG: St. Joe?!

AC: Mm-hm.

EG: No, it's still over there!

AC: Oh!

EG: Even where the nuns lived!

AC: Oh, so it's the Catholic Church?

EG: Yeah—well, no. It's right across the street from the Catholic Church

AC: Ohhhh.

EG: It's right up—that was the grand St. Joe Hospital!

AC: I didn't know that.

EG: Yeah! And then right in the back was where the nuns all lived.

AC: I didn't know.

EG: It's still all there.

AC: Wow.

EG: Yeah.

AC: I don't—

EG: They have court and everything there, yeah.

AC: I didn't know that.

EG: And—

AC: I didn't even know there was—

EG: they got different—what is that—was it Patti Chadwick works there for what? That WIC, up at that WIC. She works upstairs. There's a lot of little things up there, and then that—went with that one woman that the—

AC: Is that where CHD is right now?

EG: Hm?

AC: The Child Develop—Development Center?

EG: Yeah, yeah.

AC: That's it? That's where the—that was the hospital?

EG: Uh-huh.

AC: Oh, see \_\_\_\_\_--

EG: And then uh—oh, yeah. And then, let's see, who else is a—I know there's several of 'em up there. Oh, the juvenile is in there too. And—

AC: I didn't know that building was the hospital.

EG: Oh yeah, that was the hosp—well, you know that big cross was up on top for a long time, and finally it got tore down. I says, "Oh that was terrible that they tore that cross down."

AC: [chuckles].

EG: But the—the third floor, clear on this end of 4<sup>th</sup> Street, that's where the Father—the main Father. There was two or three Father's here at a time, you know. But the one that was always there to the hospital, he was upstairs at the end—right on the very end. And then there was a couple of 'em, I guess, over in the church. Oh yeah, that was St. Joe Hospital. Yeah, it was there, yeah. I still like St. Joe Hospital.

AC: [chuckles].

EG: I was up here for thirty-two days in the Grande Ronde Hospital. I—in 1977, my husband I, we started down south. And I wasn't feelin' very good, but I thought I'd feel better if I got down there. I just kept gettin' worse, and my brother-in-law was with us. Well—and you know—know—and our friends, Harold and Evelyn Breen was with us. And then we could meet Betty and Bob in Las Vegas. And boy, I really got sick. And I—I wanted to—I had diverticulitis, and one of them ruptured. And I was down there in Kingman, Arizona for thirty days. And my oldest daughter is a nurse, and she came out from Missouri. And my husband just about died, but that diabetes. We had our motorhome out there you know, and he stayed there. And Lana would go to bed, and she wouldn't even undress 'cause she didn't know where she was gonna have to take her dad or me, you know. [chuckles].

AC: [chuckles].

EG: And—but—I'd have died if it wouldn't have been for Lana. I'd of died there 'cause she—there was a training hospital. And they—they don't care how sick you are. You know those girls can just pump the heck out of your arm, and they're a training hospital. So Lana just finally told that head nurse. She says, "This is just killin' Mother." She says, "Let me take her blood pressure. And she just can't be bothered like that." Then they flew me out. And Lana—we was on a little, old, airplane. A little, old—well, it was just Lana and me and the pilot from Kingman, Arizona. And [chuckles] out of Baker we hit a darn snowstorm, and the darn pilot got lost.

AC: Oh, shoot.

EG: But you know it, I don't remember too much about it because I think they gave me somethin'. 'Cause all I can remember is the pilot said, "You know I think I'm lost." And Lana said, "No, you're fine." She says, "That's North Powder down there." Course she knew right away.

AC: [chuckles].

EG: And so they got it—got into the airport. Course there was an ambulance is waitin' to take me back to the hospital. But—

AC: You wished it had been St. Joe Hospital you were going to?

EG: Yeah, yeah.

AC: Yeah.

EG: We get—

AC: So, were you a member of the Catholic Church?

EG: Huh-uh.

AC: No?

EG: No.



AC: You just got—

EG: But you know my grandmother was a Seventh-day Adventist, and you know there wasn't a day hardly she'd see us so she's tryin' to make an Adventist out of us. But I—I'll tell you those Sisters never ever bugged us to be in the Catholic Church. If we wanted to know anything, and we asked her, they'd tell us. But they would never—and so that's how I belong to the Christian Church—

AC: [laughs]. Oh, I see.

EG: [chuckles] Dorothy Fleshman. And anyway, why, course when—my dad's folk's is all Lutherans. And course, Grand—Grandma was a little Seventh-day Adventist. So when Art and I was gonna get married, “Well, you gotta get married in our church, or we gotta get married.” So, Art and I just decided, and we had a double wedding. And we went to Walla Walla and got married at the Christian Church. [chuckles].

AC: [chuckles]. That's a good solution.

EG: [laughs]. Oh, I'd had it.

AC: Did they have a Seventh-day Adventist Church here then when you're—?

EG: Yeah, they still got it.

AC: And was that the same one?

EG: Here on the highway out in—yeah.

AC: Mm-hm. So your grandmother went to that church?

EG: Then? You bet. Yep, poor little thing, I know she's in Heaven.

AC: [chuckles].

EG: But she was very deathly about the Catholics.

AC: Oh, yeah.

EG: But what tickled me more, you know she'd test her daddy, you know too. And you know and—and—and of course, she thought I was gonna—they was gonna really turn me into a Catholic, and Daddy says, "You know, Mom, I never had a Catholic cheat me out of much milk or any—

[audio ends]