

Eleanor Antles, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
September 9, 2004
tape 1, side 1

BL: Good afternoon.
EA: Good afternoon Brenda.
BL: Can you please tell me your full name?
EA: Laura Eleanor Davis Antles.
BL: O.k., and can you spell that for me?
EA: L-a-u-r-a, E-l-e-a-n-o-r, Davis...D-a-v-i-s, Antles ... A-n-t-l-e-s
BL: And, how old are you Eleanor?
EA: Ninety years ____?____ in '91.
BL: And, what's your date of birth?
EA: November 11th, 1913. November 24th, [uh], excuse me!
BL: O.k. And, where were you born?
EA: Northfield, Ohio.
BL: When did you first come to Union County?
EA: ____?____, Let's see, I think it was October, and it was '29...before the big
crash...of finances.
BL: ____?____ Do you recall that year...Was that ____?____ ?
EA: Oh, '29.
BL: 1929?
EA: ____?____
BL: And, so, you were a teenager, then, coming to Union County for the first time.
EA: Yes. I...went into the 11th grade in Eagle Valley School.
BL: Where was Eagle Valley School?
EA: Well, it's in Eagle Valley, the other side of Baker, and...we got there...the
beginning of October; I think it was the first week in October...____?____ it
started....____?____ When I was first out from Ohio, and everybody thought that
sounded interesting and even asked me about the weather. And, I couldn't see
much difference in the weather, just the humidity was different.
BL: Um-hmm. When did you first move to Cove.
EA: In, [uh], ...about the first week of September, 1930. [sounds of cars passing by
on a road]
BL: And, at that time then, what grade were in.
EA: I was a senior.
BL: A senior!
EA: ____?____
BL: What was that like for you, moving as a senior...changing schools?
EA: Well, every year of my high school was in a different school; two in Ohio, and
two in Oregon.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: So, [uh], I guess I was kinda used to it. It didn't particular bother me, except I
was late a week or two weeks, so I had some making up, catch up, to do.
____?____ [?Got a little cloud up a time or two.?)

BL: Do you recall what your first impressions were of Cove, Oregon?

EA: ____?____ [? ____?____ interesting?] Well, I didn't think it was pretty or anything, 'cause, [uh], we lived upstairs until my mother could find a house to buy us, and it looked out in the pig pens and stuff, and, [uh], I didn't think Cove was at all attractive. [laughs]

BL: Where was that first house that you lived?

EA: It was actually...had been...a rectory for the Episcopal Church, so at that time they were just renting it, and so we, [uh], rented and ...and they had this little dog, and she wasn't a well-behaved little dog, so, [uh], mom had my sister, that was just younger than I, [uh], and I were the ones that had to clean up after the little dog, and we didn't like that very well...

BL: Why...

EA: ____?____ we did.

BL: Why did your parents move to Cove?

EA: They bought a store that had belonged to ____?____ Chadwick [?] ...and his wife, Rosanna [?].

BL: Was this a general store?

EA: Yes, a little grocery store...not very general, just groceries I think.

BL: Just groceries. Where was that store located?

EA: Well, that was located on the main drag of Cove, down below the schoolhouse, same side of the street as the schoolhouse, across the street from the library and down a little ways. And, ...it was right beside a...a garage, repair shop, and then there was the pool hall, and then there was another grocery store. And, it was a nice-looking building. [tape interruption] Joe Hallmark [?] had it.

BL: Can you tell me what...Can you describe how the store looked on the outside? Can you start with the outside?

EA: Of our store was, [uh], stones that had been...cut some way, I suppose, 'cause they were all...oh, I'd say just a little bigger than a ...a brick.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: But, most stones are cut about the same size; it was cut like that, and they built the...the building had been built for a garage. It was Cowle brothers...built it for the one brother, Leonard Cole, C-o-w-l-e. And, [uh], ____?____ there wasn't anything around it. ____?____ And, there wasn't a porch or anything ____?____ ____?____. Then ____?____ remodeling and made it into a grocery store... with a cold room for the meat ____?____ so he could cut it, you know, had to have a place to store it...and take care of it.

BL: So, it wasn't a grocery store when you first bought the building?

EA: No. It hadn't been used for anything, I don't believe, for...I don't know for how long.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____?____ folks...had the other little store...across the street and down a little bit. And, ...Let's see, I was married in '32, and they...I think they bought the building that fall, and I think it was during the winter...that they moved into the ...building across from the original...building they had the store in. I think they were renting that building ____?____.

BL: So, they started in the building that had ...that was a garage?

EA: No, they started their own store in the garage. That's where they moved...they had to move the store that they bought...over across the street...the store they remodeled...the building they remodeled to make the store.

BL: O.k.

EA: And that was... ____? ____ musta been there a couple...a couple of years. ____? ____

BL: How big was that first store?

EA: Well, I would, [uh], ...umm boy, feet. [laughs] Huh. I don't know, they...Of course it had a cement floor...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...and...came into the store, and they had ice to keep the ...the meat, and the man that sold ice was real mad at them when they got a refrigerator ____? ____.

____? ____ Powder. And, [uh], ____? ____ was really mad; he couldn't sell 'em ice anymore. ____? ____ Dad had meat block there, and he cut the meat on...[faintly] ____? ____ counter ____? ____.

BL: Did he do his own butchering then?

EA: No. That was...the butchered. He had a ____? ____ ____? ____ I remember now, ____? ____ anyhow he had a big family. But, he was a good meat cutter, and, off and on, he was in and out of the business a couple times...or three... ____? ____ ____? ____ got the first meat, I think, from them. And, then, we got to getting meat from a butcher shop in Union. They brought over ground hamburger, sausage, and, [uh], ... ____? ____ ____? ____ 12 and 34.

BL: Um-hmm. Did you have fresh fruits and vegetables?

EA: Not at first. Dad fixed up a place, and then we had...lettuce and celery and ...not a lot of green stuff, ____? ____ a little.

BL: Was that mostly locally grown?...or did it...

EA: None of it.

BL: None of it was? Where would that have come from.

EA: Well, it came from...Pacific Fruit in La Grande.

BL: O.k.

EA: And, [uh], all our groceries came from ____? ____ ...I don't remember the wholesale house now, but [Western] was part of it ____? ____.

BL: Was that also located in La Grande? O.k. So you didn't have to have anything shipped

EA: No.

BL: ...out from other parts of the country, it just all came from La Grande?

EA: Right.

BL: [faintly] O.k.

EA: The shipping was done by the time it got to the wholesale house.

BL: Um-hmm. Did you work in the store?

EA: No, I didn't like the store. [laughs] I didn't...I don't think I ever worked in it...until later.

BL: Did your mother work in the store?

EA: Oh, she did after awhile, you know.

BL: What was her name?

EA: Bessie [?].

BL: Bessie?
EA: Bessie Gardner [?].
BL: O.k., and your father's name?
EA: My stepfather's name...
BL: O.k.
EA: ...was O. M. Gardner.
BL: O. M. Gardner?
EA: Uh-huh.
BL: Did you know what the "O. M." stood for?
EA: Yeah, Orson Melvin. [?]
BL: Orson Melvin. O.k. So he...Did he work in the store alone?...most of the time?
EA: No. Charlie Hancock [?] ...worked with him, and, [uh], he helped out...whenever ____?____ ...after mom started workin' there regularly, then...he would help out whenever she left, sickness or...something and couldn't be there... ____?____
BL: Do you recall how they ...bagged the groceries during that time?
EA: How they bagged them?
BL: Um-hmm. Would...Would that be...Would people bring in their own bags or...or did they just use a paper bag.
EA: ____?____ a brown paper bag.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: They gave away a cereal, Farina I think it was, ____?____ in paper bags when they had their house opening for the store ...
BL: Uh-huh.
EA: ...when they moved. Now it would be plastic; they wouldn't think of something ____?____ a little brown bag.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ____?____.
BL: What kind of cereal was that?
EA: Farina.
BL: Farina?
EA: ____?____ ____?____
BL: Do you recall anything else about the store and the...and the grand opening?
EA: Not really. ____?____ We were livin' up the hill by then ____?____ year together. We'd been married...18th [?] of August... ____?____ I think shortly after Christmas...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...early, I think, in the new year. ____?____ ...early in '33, we moved.
BL: Um-hmm. Were the local customers allowed to have a charge account?
EA: Yes, a lot of 'em, and they paid by hauling wood ____?____ heated the store and the house with wood, because we bought a house...bought the house ____?____ I guess September ____?____ wasn't too long ____?____. I graduated that first year, and we were in the house by then, so we must...mom must have gotten her house before Christmas.
BL: Do you recall where that house was?

EA: Yes. It was just behind the store, but it was on Orchard...which is now called Orchard Street...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...and it faced Orchard Street, and of course the store faced the main drag. When we went there they still had boardwalks a...across the street ____?____ the library ____?____ ____?____ there. So, it think the boardwalk went by the ...the library.

BL: What's a boardwalk?

EA: Huh?

BL: What's a boardwalk?

EA: Oh, a sidewalk was m...made ____?____ put a two by fours, I think, on the ground, and ...and then they nailed these boards onto it.

BL: That was a board walk.

EA: And, they had it on the...front of the pool hall and the garage, and ____?____ started at the corner, which was the drugstore when we first ____?____, and the boardwalk on up, I believe, clear up to the school.

BL: Were the streets paved in cove during that time?

EA: No, just, [uh], gravel.

BL: Gravel?

EA: Um-hmm. And they ____?____ I don't remember when they put the boardwalk down, but, [uh], he had a boardwalk past the house, but it was kinda goin' to pot, so, [uh], I don't think it was very long until ____?____ completely taken away.

BL: Was it hard to maintain those boardwalks with the weather in Cove.

EA: Well, they just didn't re...tain 'em very well that I remember. [laughs] And, I don't think they were there very long. ____?____ .

BL: Can you tell me more about the inside of the store? You mentioned that it was heated by wood heat.

EA: Yes. Well, they put in a ...a drum, [uh]...When they first went in there, that was what it was, was just a drum or, oh, oil drum up, and they had the fire in the drum. I don't know how they fixed it up, because I wasn't that intrested.

BL: [laughs]

EA: And, then we had a long ways of ____?____ , which was still on a picture [?] ____?____ [?on a furnace]

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: It looks dangerous to me! It was just a long ways across the store of pipe, and I don't ...I couldn't seen a picture...very much wire, you know, to make a rack to hold the roof [?].

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So, I can't remember, but...'course it was kinda in the middle, back a ways, so that it could collect people around it, and when winter was upon us, why, [uh], people wanted to cluster around the stove, and they did.

BL: Um-hmm. Was that a popular local hangout then?...to come into the market?

EA: Well, somewhat. 'Course some of 'em went to the other store. So, not...not the whole community gathered there ____?____.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: They did gather there. Summertime they gathered at the ____? _____. I don't know what you call 'em, confectionary [?], they had put in a freezer for ice cream and set up ____? ____ ice cream. Oh, ...they made milkshakes and served ice cream sundaes with different sauces, ____? ____ used to make simple syrups, and they'd get from the wholesale house, of course they'd get the different syrups, and then they would ____? ____ down with the simple syrup.

BL: And what is that?... ____? ____.

EA: Well, its just, ____? ____ can't remember for sure the proportions. I think it was three cups of sugar and two cups of water, and you brought it to a boil...and cool it, and it never sugared or slumped or anything.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And I had to do ____? ____ down ____? ____ store.

BL: And, at that time you had freezers in the store?

EA: Yeah, they had 'em. ____? ____ dad did most of the making under the instruction of the man that ____? ____ ice cream maker, and, [uh], kinda oversaw ____? ____ establishing of the ...the, [uh], ice cream parlor part of the store.

BL: Um-hmm. So, you did have an ice cream parlor in the store ...later?

EA: Yeah, after probably ____? ____ carrying, and this grew into a kind of...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...and, [uh], ...

BL: Let's ____? ____ just a little bit to before the freezer, when the ice was still being brought in.

EA: Uh-huh.

BL: Do you remember that? Do you remember them bringing in the ice and how...

EA: No, 'cause, [uh], I...I wasn't over at the store.

BL: O.k.

EA: So, I...I never...I don't remember ever seeing 'em bring in ice. Actually, [uh], the wholesale company delivered some stuff, but I don't remember...I remember the gasoline truck bein' there, 'cause they had a gasoline pump too.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, [uh], [clock chimes?].... 'Course that was left in the garage.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____? ____ [?So that was already there.?] [Uh]...

BL: ____? ____ kept that and ...and helped gas as well?

EA: Yes. And, I had to pump gas a few times.

BL: What was that like? [clock chimes?]

EA: Well, I didn't really mind it too much, except I didn't like the smell of the gas.

BL: [laughs] Um-hmm.

EA: ____? ____ I forgot once to put the cap back on the gas pump, so they came back for the cap ____? ____ where I laid the cap, ____? ____ [laughs].

BL: How many kinds of gas did you have to choose from?

EA: Oh, just Shell; just the one pump...

BL: O.k.

EA: ...and it was Shell. And then, the kerosene we got from Shell too, I guess. ____? ____.

BL: And, why did people buy kerosene?

EA: Well, [uh], some of 'em had kerosene to cook with...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: _____?_____ _____?_____ kerosene cook stove. And, [uh], mom had one in Ohio, and she had another one _____?_____ she learned to use the oven _____?_____ burner _____?_____ to do best for heating a oven and not burning things.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: It's quite a little undertaking once she learned how to bake a bread on the _____?_____ [?oil?] stove.

BL: Was there any cooking done in the store?

EA: No, not then. There was later, but not...not at first. And, mom had a hotplate, so not formal cooking.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Seems like she had a hotplate _____?_____ she used at the time. That's when I was back doin' the housework _____?_____ Gordon [?] and I had something to do and was goin' over a meal, she _____?_____ cooked something on the hotplate.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, that took care of that very well. And, sometimes we had a restaurant over there, a couple of times...three different times for a little while.

BL: What kind of food did you serve at the restaurant?

EA: Oh, don't remember. That was down and over, around the corner. [Uh], ...I don't remember what _____?_____ _____?_____ Too long ago, and I haven't even thought about it.

BL: [laughs]

EA: I can see the guy that did it, but...I, [uh], I think it was pretty limited, probably.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: It was never a going restaurant. _____?_____ Very short on customers. [laughs]

BL: What was the name of the store?

EA: The _____?_____ store or our store?

BL: Yours.

EA: Just "Gardner's." [?]

BL: Gardner's?

EA: Um-hmm.

BL: And was it al....It was Gardner's in both locations?

EA: Yes.

BL: It didn't change names?

EA: [Uh], ...I don't what it was called when they bought it...

BL: O.k.

EA: ...but it was Chadwick's [?], so _____?_____ just called Chadwick's. _____?_____ Maybe it wasn't even called a name. I don't know that _____?_____ have a name.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So, ...But somewhere _____?_____ the pictures got lost _____?_____ Gardner's store. _____?_____ a Gardner sign on it...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...somewhere. I think it was _____?_____, 'cause I don't remember _____?_____.

BL: _____?_____

EA: I wasn't around the store much.

BL: O.k. So, while all of this was going on at the store, where were you? What things were you involved in?

EA: Oh,

BL: You would have been a senior in high school?

EA: ____? ____ And, [uh], ____? ____ started a Girl Scouts, ____? ____ we, Catherine [?] and I ____? ____ were involved in that.

BL: And, who's Catherine?

EA: ____? ____ my sister. ____? ____

BL: Was she your only sibling?

EA: [Uh], ...no. I had another sister back in Ohio, but she didn't finish nurse's training until...maybe it was...the year we were ____? ____ ____? _____. I'm not sure. I think she finished that year, because I think she was finished when ...she came to Cove the first time.

BL: So, you and Catherine were the only ones in the home when you first moved here?

EA: Um-hmm.

BL: ____? ____.

EA: ____? ____.

BL: So, Senior in high school you were doing Girl Scouts?

EA: Yeah. I had Girl Scouts, and I went to...to, huh,...that's funny... ____? ____ ____? ____ ... ____? ____.

BL: In a choir?

EA: No. Oh dear, gone with the wind!

BL: [laughs]

EA: Anyhow, I sang in that...singer in church choir, too, but ____? ____ don't remember when choir practice was that year.

BL: What did you do in Girl Scouts?

EA: Well, I did some beading. I remember that, but I don't remember the name I had in the Scouts, and I beaded a headband for myself with my...my Girl Scouts name on it, but I don't remember what it was—or what it meant even, now. ____? ____ one of the teachers, ____? ____ ...got that started.

BL: Heilman? [?]

EA: Um-hmm.

BL: So, did you meet weekly?...at the Girl Scouts?

EA: I really don't remember. [truck sounds] We cleaned what had been a pool hall and guys had evidently spit on the wall...

BL: Ohhh.

EA: ...and we ____? ____ high as could reach...we lugged over hot water ____? ____ water in the house in the spring, and that's when we were doing it ____? ____ spring. We lugged a milk can of hot water to wash the walls with...and, [uh], get it livable for us, and we met there.

BL: Did you wear a uniform?

EA: No. I don't ...remember havin' uniforms. I don't know about Girl Scouts. Did they...They wore headbands, I think, but I don't think they ever wore uniforms, do you?

BL: I think they do now.

EA: Hmm.
BL: I don't know how long they have been doing that, though.
EA: Well, I don't either, 'cause I sure don't remember it.
BL: Do you...Did they give awards or, [uh],...
EA: I can't ...
BL: ...badges?
EA: ...that part either.
BL: O.k.
EA: ____?____ actually remember doing the beading and my headband. I can't remember Catherine or anybody else's really, but we all, I think, made the headbands.
BL: Did you ever camp out?
EA: No. We did a progressive dinner once, and we had some part of it over at our house, Catherine and I, ____?____ for that particular section [session?] I don't remember ____?____ ____?____ I was just home two years, and then I was married.
BL: Um-hmm. ____?____ You said you also sang in a choir during that...that year while you were in school?
EA: Did what?
BL: You sang ____?____ with the choir?
EA: Oh.
BL: With the church choir?
EA: Yeah, the church choir.
BL: What church?
EA: The Methodists.
BL: Methodists. Was that located in Cove?
EA: Yes.
BL: O.k.
EA: ____?____ still there, but it's a different one, ____?____
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...____?____ I don't know the ____?____
BL: What was your connection in the Methodist Church then?
EA: Umm, just a member. Went to Sunday School and church and the youth meetings.
BL: Um-hmm. Do you know what you did at youth meetings?
EA: Well, ____?____ father led us. It wasn't a regular ____?____ ____?____ was Bible study, and, [uh], ____?____...I lived [?] over in Eagle Valley for six ____?____ and they conducted business meetings and did the usual le...type of lesson with the kids ____?____, you know, and, [uh], I didn't particular like the ____?____, because I didn't think that was the way it oughtta be, but that's the way it was.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: So, [uh], my dad ...sang...Well, I guess he would have been in the choir there...right away. Then, ____?____...____?____ my own dad started leadin' the choir, 'cause ____?____ father led it...for a year or two ____?____ [end of tape 1, side 1]

Eleanor Antles, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
September 9, 2004
tape 1, side 2

- BL: O.k. We were discussing your...your involvement in the choir. Did you only sing at church?...or did you do outside, [uh], events or ...
- EA: No, just at church.
- BL: O.k.
- EA: We had church Sunday night ____?____ time, and so the youth kinda did the ____?____ ...They didn't have a regular choir at night. ____?____ The youth sang...on Sunday nights.
- BL: What did you sing?
- EA: Oh ____?____, I don't remember ____?____ of the hymn books, [uh], whatever they wanted.
- BL: Um-hmm.
- EA: People kinda chose, as I remember...quite informal, Sunday nights.
- BL: Um-hmm. So, you didn't practice?...for that?
- EA: Not at all. But, I cant remember what ____?____ we did Sunday morning. I don't remember we ever did anything but just the hymns...
- BL: Um-hmm.
- EA: ...but we probably could. And, after dad was leading us, once a year he, [uh], had a practice ____?____. ____?____, I don't what we called it.
- BL: Was Sunday morning more formal then?
- EA: A little. Um-hmm.
- BL: And, then Sunday night was for the youth?
- EA: Well, it was the youth that did the singing, ____?____,...
- BL: Um-hmm.
- EA: ...performed ____?____ choir ____?____ [or chorus?[, whatever. [Uh]...
- BL: Did you meet during any other times?...of the week?
- EA: No. ____?____ special. We had ____?____ evangelistic meetings now and then. I don't ____?____ they did once a year or not. But us kids, we'd go down to ____?____ in, [uh], lower Cove. We'd go down there for sumptin' to do, you know. ____?____ depression, and, and, [uh],...there wasn't very much money floatin' around. There wasn't work for boys...or girls, and...
- BL: What is "Frosties?" [?]
- EA: Huh.
- BL: You said you'd go down to "Frosties?"
- EA: That was the name of the school...
- BL: Oh!
- EA: ...down in lower Cove.
- BL: Um-hmm.
- EA: I think it's...I think the building's still there. I think there's sumptin' in the, [uh], Observer about it not too long ago. I can't remember it now. Yeah, we'd go down ...it was the American Baptist Association, I think it was, ____?____ once

a year. And, the evangelist would come and ____?____ me down there...just something to do.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: [Uh], ...So...

BL: So, you mentioned that, [uh], this was during the time of the depression. What was it like at...in your home during those times?

EA: Oh, ...We just got things from the store ...and carried on carefully. We didn't spend a lot of money. [Uh]...We took care of our affairs, and that was...____?____ ...about it. Make the bed. Wash the dishes.

BL: Did your sister and you share the store?

EA: She liked the store better'n I did, so she, [uh], ...I think it was during the noon hour when my f...dad was sick, she, [uh], took care of it alone...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...and then went back to school. And, I went over there once, but that was ____?____ that ____?____ moved back down, and we were in the home there, and...I was sure helping our ____?____ mom in the store after my dad was gone. [Uh] ...

BL: Why didn't you like the store?

EA: Well, part of it was because when the folks would come home at noon, why I'd hear about people that didn't pay their bills, and...and this would mean that...that I'd just...plain didn't like that part...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: I didn't like ____?____ to do with it.

BL: So, did they close the store at noon?

EA: No. ____?____ open, and...and some of the boys from school liked to come down, and they like to lift a few things that weren't theirs.

BL: Oh. ____?____

EA: And, I was there was noon, and this boy was puttin' 'em inside his jacket, and I was very aware of it, but I didn't know just how to approach him...about it, ____?____ so the thing now, how many of these ____?____ valentines that you took do you want to pay for? You know, instead of being wise, I...just let it go. ____?____

BL: Did you tell your father?

EA: No. Don't call him my father...

BL: Your stepfather.

EA: ...He was my dad.

BL: Your dad. [laughs] Did you call him dad?

EA: Uh-huh, but not father; never, never ____?____ . I think I told you before that was reserved for my father.

BL: For your biological father?

EA: The main man...____?____...is, [uh], a label.

BL: Um-hmm. And, your biological father was ...Davis? [?]

EA: Yes.

BL: What was his first name?

EA: Charles.

BL: Charles Davis?

EA: He was Charlie Davis. Most...Most Charles are Charlie ____?____...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____?____ Charles Millard. [?] I never heard anybody ever call him Millard [?], but that was his middle name.

BL: Um-hmm. Now, had he and your mother divorced?...or had he...

EA: He died.

BL: He died. So, when your mother remarried...We'll talk about blended families here for a moment...[uh]...What was it like during that time, to be in a blended family, where there was a stepfather?

EA: Well, we just kinda fell into it, I guess.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Just like you do. That's the way it was, and, [uh], ...I was the one that my mom ____?____ told us about...[uh]...I was the one that said no! That wasn't loyal to my father...for her to get married again.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And so, that was the one they worried about...a little. Catherine didn't...didn't bother her one way or another, I guess. And, Mary was the item, because she'd had had dad in school ____?____...

BL: ____?____,

EA: ...and, [uh], she taught ____?____ ...____?____ So, [uh], she was very pleased, and, [uh], so, ____?____, dad did...____?____ So, [uh], it wasn't too many months after they were married that...mom and dad...kissed ____?____ good night when they...kissed good night to my mom, and...and, [uh],...____?____ Quite wonderful, actually.

BL: Um-hmm. How old were you when they married?

EA: [Uh] ...When they married...let's see, I was...going on 15.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Or, no; I was going on 16.

BL: So this was just a little bit before you had moved to Cove?...that they had been married?

EA: [Uh] ... Yes.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Over a year. 'Cause we were in Eagle Valley eleven months.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And then they went in to Cove. ____?____

BL: Were there any other activities you were involved in in school?

EA: Oh, yeah. ____?____ There were...I don't know exactly what there was. The same teacher, that ____?____ worked with us on the Girl Scouts, also had some other little groups going on. One of 'em was, [uh], he did little series on table manners...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...and she just led little...little groups of us in different things like...____?____...I can't remember ...____?____

BL: Was that for the [interrupted] ____?____ ____?____

EA: ____?____ ____?____ I don't remember any boys in the table manners. Of course there ____?____ with boys. Then, they had plays, ... [uh] ...and I was in,

I think, the first play they have...was...senior class gave a play every...or, I think maybe it's the whole high school...did it; I'm not sure. Anyhow, I was in it.

BL: Do you remember what your...your part was?

EA: Yes. I had a ...____?____ ...kind of a biblical name as I remember, ...was it Jeremiah?...something like that, I think, and...I remember I was supposed to take him by the ear...something...lead him around, or he needed leading around 'cause he was kind of ____?____ man or sumpin', I cant remember. It wasn't a senior play, but I was in that, too, and I don't remember what I did in the senior play. Hmm. Yeah, we hadn't been there too long, and ____?____... had the play; it must have been before Christmas, so maybe they had two plays a year—I don't know.

BL: Was it easy to make friends?...when you moved to Cove.

EA: Yes, I believe it was...quite...quite easy. First night we went to church...youth went to church...youth meeting, Sunday night, [uh] there were lots of boys that night, [laughs], but that didn't ever happen again. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: They came to see the new girls.

BL: The new girls.

EA: Two new girls.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So, the boys worshiped...____?____ , and the teachers were the, [uh], high school teachers were there Sunday morning service, and they never were there again either [laughs] ...that I remember. [laughs] And, the...One teacher came to me ____?____ I ____?____ ____?____ . “Oh, you're the Gardner girls.” “No, we're the Davis girls,” [laughs], and then when I went to school, Monday morning, she, [uh], wasn't particularly nice to me; I had insulted here. But, I ...It never entered my mind—of course I wasn't a Gardener girl! Catherine wasn't a Gardner girl, so I was just telling her the truth, No!, not the Gardner girls; we're the Davis girls. And, that's true; we were. We were always Davis girls, never Gardner girls.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: But, I'd insulted her when I tried ____?____, and why she was a little less than ____?____. [laughs]

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Then she got ____?____.

BL: Do you recall the importance of religion in town?...during then?...because you talk about going to youth group right away and going to church. Was that common for most families?...during the time, to be involved in some sort of religion?

EA: I think the majority of people here.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____?____ course ____?____ always go to ____?____ ...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...but I think the majority of people who're our friends were with, [uh], some people ____?____...____?____. And then there ____?____ several older people...____?____ seemed to always be older ____?____ around.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...[?displaced?], you know, lots of widows.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: 'Cause women lived longer than men.

BL: Um-hmm....Tell me about graduation.

EA: Hmm. Well, let's see, we had baccalaureate service in the Methodist Church that year...when I graduated...in '31, and...____?____ decorated for, and I don't know...It was early spring, and I don't know if there were lilacs out yet or not, so I just don't remember how we decorated. And then, for high school, ____?____ ____?____ was our graduation speaker, [uh], a valedictorian...student...gave, [uh], ...valedictorian speech, and he came on the stage, started to look at his notes and...excused himself; he had the wrong notes. He went out to the...back to the dressing room to get his notes and came back. I've always felt that that took a lotta of ____?____ or something, that, [uh], most senior kids wouldn'ta had, ...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...but this boy did, ...and ____?____ come back and do that, go ahead with his speech ____?____ planned that way. [laughs]

BL: What was his name?

EA: Harold Blank. [?]

BL: Harold Blank?

EA: He's still out in Cove.

BL: Hmm.

EA: He thinks he's quite the historian, but sometimes he's not right.

BL: [laughs]

EA: Anyhow, ____?____, [uh], and, [uh], Clair Roberts [?] was the valedictorian, so I think she had to make a little speech.

BL: How many were in your graduating class?

EA: Fourteen.

BL: Fourteen.

EA: Or was it fifteen? ____?____ ____?____

BL: I don't think I asked you where the high school was located.

EA: They're all on the main drag. When you go into Cove, when you get up to, [uh], the big bend—you've been going east toward Mt. Fanny—and then you get, [uh], far enough, y...the road...the highway makes this, [uh], real...well pretty direct, [uh], turn from going east to goin' very south, and just right straight into...and like you're going on in ____?____ if you didn't the street ____?____ the bend, make a right, and that's the main drag—____?____ on down...____?____...and, [uh], ...

BL: It was the same building now?

EA: No. It was an old, [uh], wood building...and not brick.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, they built it in the depression with the help of whatever the programs were, ____?____ lost the programs after Roseveltdt became president, and, [uh], so the, [uh], WPA, I guess, was the ____?____. ____?____ [sounds of cars passing on the street] W-P- ____?____ [pause] I don't think those are the right letters.

BL: Workman's?...Public?...____?____

EA: ____?____. [thump] ____?____

BL: And, that was group that...that funded the high school building?...or that just helped?

EA: It was a government program that, I think, the school board had to ... contact the powers-that-be, somehow, and get permission...authority...whatever it took...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...to get ____?____. [Uh] ...Might have been PWA, Public Works, I think it was, PW, [uh], ...going there.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, [uh], ...

BL: So, how large was the school?

EA: Well, I don't know; we were one of the big classes ____?____. [Uh]...Arch [?] graduated in a class of five.

BL: Wow.

EA: And, [uh], I don't know how many were...[interrupted] ____?____

BL: Were all the kids in the same building?...or was it only high school?

EA: No. It was the whole school.

BL: Kindergarten through...?

EA: Well, not kindergarten. They didn't have kindergarten at all—not then...not in Cove. I don't think they even had it here in La Grande or ...in the valley at all, ...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...probably. [Uh] ...Though, when they built, [uh], the first of the Mormon Schools, ____?____....

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...they had a room that was for kindergarten...____?____....They had little bathrooms for it...a cute little toilet, and everything was smaller, you know, and...It was interesting to...to see when you're not used to those miniature things.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____?____, [uh], ...

BL: Do you recall anything that stands out about the ...the school itself?...

EA: Well,...

BL: ...about what it...what I looked like inside?...or...

EA: Oh, it was pretty important ____?____. We had study hall, and we had wood stoves in the study hall, and so we hovered around the, [uh], stoves in the mornings when it was...when it was cold. We used to have cold weather, you know, down below...below zero, and...

BL: And, that was the only source of heat?

EA: Uh-huh. ____?____

BL: Who hauled the wood?

EA: Huh.

BL: Who hauled the wood for the school?

EA: Oh, I suppose...different people, but I don't...I don't have any idea, but, [uh], everybody hauled their own wood [musical tones], so, you know, it could have been...____?____...Oh, I think they...they hired somebody to do, or ...or they bought the wood.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: I don't know which...whether they hired somebody, or...or somebody sold them the wood.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: I don't even remember where it was piled. We were on the upper floor. The lower floor was the grade school, and the upper floor was the high school and the seventh and ...well, I don't know about the seventh. I think seventh and eighth were together. ____?____ on the upper...Well, it was kind of halfway between, as I remember. ____?____ the landing and the stairway and then... ____?____ ____?____. But, I never was in it...much...if at all.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____?____

BL: What was it like, as a senior, to be with all of the other children? Did you have much interaction with them?

EA: Oh,...not...particularly. We all had May Day together. And...I can't remember having much to do with the kids...school kids.

BL: Did they have a cafeteria?

EA: No. Although, [uh], we had a teacher, and, [uh], she, [uh], ...typing, bookkeeping department of the school, and she taught, and she had a class of boys...in her cooking school, and, [uh], they were good cooks, and, [uh], always cooked ____?____ my class ____?____ ...ahead of me for three years. Archer [?] ____?____ ____?____. The rest of the kids in his class were. I don't know why he didn't ____?____....he didn't want to.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: He didn't have to. It's the one he wanted to ____?____ ... ____?____ I think, [uh],...I think they cooked, and so they probably had school lunches.
[interrupted]

BL: So, before that....

EA: Maybe that's how she started them...with, [uh], ...started making soup or...or something like that... ____?____ for the lunch hour.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: But, we didn't eat it ____?____ ____?____

BL: So, did you go home for lunch?...or did you bring your own lunch?

EA: ____?____ ____?____

BL: Did most of the kids in school go home?...or did they pack a lunch?

EA: It was probably half and half ____?____. [Uh] ...I..., you know, I never was there at lunch, so I don't remember. I knew some of the kids that were supposed to eat there, but I ...I don't remember their lunch buckets, or...I suppose they were kept in the lock..., [uh], ____?____ [pause] cloak room.

BL: Cloak room?

EA: That's where we hung our coats and hats and...galoshes, whatever..

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...and I image the lunch buckets were there, but I don't know that.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: I can't really remember.

BL: Now, you probably walked to school, but did the other kids ride a bus?...or how did they get to school?

EA: Oh, I think they were on their own...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...____?____, and I'm not sure. [faint noises] Hmm.

BL: Would they have been driven in cars then?...by their parents.

EA: Yeah. They weren't...They were horse farmers...that they used and all, but there wasn't a lot of...sometimes, occasionally, some ____?____ with the horses, but no very much.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____?____ that was the '30's.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So...

BL: But you do recall having...[uh]...people use the horse and wagon in Cove?

EA: Yeah. We used to take the carriage down, horse and wagon, and Arch [?] got an old Model-T and fixed it up, and just hauled ____?____ down in it.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____?____...wagon ____?____ carriage [?] every year.

BL: Now, you've talked a lot about Archie.

EA: Archie was my husband.

BL: So, when to you meet Archie?

EA: Oh, at church, one Sunday night. [uh] [laughs], ...The first...probably the end of the first month or year or sumpin'...He'd been up in Seattle ____?____. ...the other...women...____?____.

BL: Was he still in school?...

EA: No.

BL: ...or had he graduated?

EA: He graduated in '29. I graduated in '31.

BL: So, you met him at church?

EA: Um-hmm.

BL: Can you tell me more about your meeting?

EA: Well, I was there, and he was there. [laughs] Made you laugh. So,... he was just ____?____. He was short, and he was called "Shortie," and I called him Shortie...until we ...was talkin' about getting married, and, [uh], I though I really probably shouldn't call him...my husband Shortie or...the father of a baby [laughs] ...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...Shorie. That wasn't what ...____?____ So, ...I started calling him Archie...before we were married.

BL: And, when were you married?

EA: August 18, in 1932. ____?____

BL: So, you had graduated from school?

EA: Yeah, a year. I stayed on a kept the house. Mom was workin' in the store all the time [interrupted] ____?____

BL: Um-hmm. Let me back up, [uh], ...just one more time...before we start talking about married life. [Uh] ... Did you ever come to La Grande?...when you were in school?

EA: Yeah. That's where we got our clothes when ...mom brought to town.

BL: Where would you get your clothes in La Grande?

EA: At Falk's. [?] ____? ____ [interrupted]

BL: Falk's?

EA: Um-hmm. It was a nice store then. ...deteriorated...They sold it to ____? ____ They called 'emThey called 'em New York Jews, I think. Well, of course, that's not the kind of language you use anymore. But, [uh], ...they called...and they, [uh], ...They brought in poorer quality, [uh], cheaper...stuff. Falk's would...had nice quality things. [Uh] ...So, that changed. It's not where I was goin' to school.

BL: Where was Falk's located?

EA: Where they're doing the remodeling—where they're doing the building, [interrupted] ____? ____

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Now...there on the main drag. That was Falk's.

BL: Were there any other shops at that time?...or did you only shop at Falk's.

EA: Oh, we had Penny's...and...I don't remember ____? ____...Yes, I think there were always Penny's and at least one other...ready to wear shop, ...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ..., but I don't remember the name of other ____? ____ . It was on the corner, there, I think, across from the Red Cross Drug Store—on that corner.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: I think that...that was the store that had clothes. And, then, there was another shop. Ann Johnson [?] was here for years, and she was...had good...nice clothes, too. And, [uh], ...She was...____? ____ down there ____? ____ [?now?]. ...might be, ____? ____, closer to McGlasson's, right close to ____? ____ just three or four doors from Falk's, and, [uh],...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...____? ____ . So, there were evidently three or four... ____? ____ shops. [interrupted]

BL: ____? ____

EA: It was alright for getting clothes.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____? ____ Some people liked to go out of town to shop. ____? ____ liked to go out of town, but...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...we never did very much.

BL: What other things would you do in La Grande?

EA: Well, we came to some things, of course. That's where we came to the movies, too. I don't think they were having... ____? ____ ____? ____ Cove. Once they had the ____? ____ ____? ____ to a program. That was ____? ____ ____? ____ we were married, ____? ____ ____? ____ ____? ____ ____? ____ [cars passing by on the street] And, [uh], ... ____? ____ ... ____? ____

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ... ____? ____, every once in awhile. And, we had grange. But, we didn't go to grange. Catherine and I didn't ever go to grange in Cove, but the folks did.

BL: What was grange?

EA: [Uh] ...It's a farm organization...actually...but...I think they take in teachers, probably, [uh], pastors, but I don't know that. [Uh] ...And, evidently, store people, because the...the folks were invited into it. [Uh] ...[uh] ...People used to visit, too. [laughs] I don't remember ____?____. And, they had to have a...a grange...the women did ____?____...spending the day with somebody, and my momma [?] had a shop, and they ____?____ ____?____ all day with her... [laughs] ...in that dirty water. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: My mother had...never done that, but they did use soap... ____?____ people, from, you know, ____?____ I never was ____?____ ____?____ much to ____?____ But, somewhere there was a little kitten that came in the house.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: But not ____?____...or cold [?], because the folks were busy.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Just whatever was now, we did, I guess. I cant remember ... ____?____ I read a lot. And, [uh], ...in Cove I read a lot. When my dad came home from lodge, and, [uh], ...he ____?____ ...mom came to the door. "Girls, turn off the lights." ____?____ supposed to be...[end tape 1, side 2]

Eleanor Antles, narrator
 Brenda Lawson, interviewer
 September 9, 2004
 tape 2, side 1

[clunking thump]

BL: So, you're...you're reading and...and you mother had come in and told you to turn the lights off.

EA: She did...just told us on the foot of the stairs...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ... "turn the light off and ____?____." She wasn't very happy with us. I did a lot of reading. ____?____ ____?____

BL: What would you like to read?

EA: Well, at that time, I was in kind of a Civil War thing. Dad had lots of books. He had a library in Eagle Valley, and...and, [uh],...so I was reading Civil War books.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____?____ Oh, on...and, [uh], ...there were some, [uh], cowboy...I think they're called...anyhow, there was cowboy stories...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ... ____?____ ____?____. I think I should know the name of it, but I ...I don't...a bunch of those magazines...reading those...quite a bit in Eagle Valley, along with the books. And, ...just ____?____ around.

BL: Did you drive?

EA: No. No, I didn't drive ____?____ ____?____ Quite awhile we didn't even have a car,... ____?____ ...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Yeah, we did. ...tin lizzy Ford.

BL: [laughs]

EA: ...and it ____?____ havin' so many problems that...I don't know what we finally did with it...actually. [tape interruption] [clunking sounds] [chair sounds]

BL: I'm here with Eleanor Antles for our third interview, and, Eleanor, we left off with, [uh], some fun things that happened in Cove. Can you tell me something about Halloween in Cove?

EA: Well, one time the kids, [uh], got a pole of some kind, and they tipped over the toilet behind a string of buildings there, that had the Post Office, and Logan [?] Anderson was the postmaster. And, he was in the toilet, and they knocked it over on its face, so, of course, he could not get out until they let him out. So, they had him begging "like a good fellow," they said, [laughs], and they did let him out, but I don't know how long he was there, but they had a great time over that.

And, then, another thing they did, and they worked hard on it, was ...get a neighbor...come down the Mill Creek Road with his manure spreader, and they got it on the building...roof...of the schoolhouse. And, I don't know how they got it up there, and I don't know how they got it down the next day, but they did. And that was fun; they thought. I wasn't here when they were doin' ...as far as I know...either one of 'em. But, [uh], they were still takin' toilets down and...doing stuff...on Halloween when we were there. And, the night I was in labor, they were playin' around. One fellow that I went to school with, [uh], had a motorcycle, and he was runnin' around. I don't know what he was doin', actually, but we just heard and saw him ____?____ his motorcycle there on the corner, in the real downtown part of Cove, and ...what else did they do.

BL: Did kids dress up?...for Halloween?

EA: I don't remember that they did. I don't think I remember that at all. You mean the little kids?...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...or the big ones? [clock chimes/] Well, I don't think there were any little kids downtown. So,...We lived downtown, so, [uh], I just don't remember any little kids bein' ...around. ____?____ I don't think, when we first went ____?____ they were doin' like trick or treating; I think that kind of evolved.

BL: Um-hmm. But they were certainly being mischievous?...the [interrupted]...the older kids?

EA: Well, yeah, the older ones. [Uh] ...I think they'd build fences across the road with ____?____ stuff. We did some of those kinds of things. 'Cause I remember there was something in the...in the road. I can't remember dad moving it, [uh],...He probably didn't need to get out in the morning, [laughs], after the night before.

BL: Did they get in trouble for doing this?

EA: I don't think so. They kept the, [uh],...what ____?____ you call the person...he isn't a sheriff...deputy...they kept a debudiv—deputy

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: —very busy...lookin' around to try to keep them out of mischief, but they...got away with some things. That was, of course, the name of the game, "get away with it."

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So, ...They had fun, and...I cant remember them ever doing anything about the clotheslines.

BL: What about the clotheslines?

EA: Well, there's something about them...the night before Halloween, I think it is, they...what is it they do the clothesline?...cut 'em?...is that a word for...I can't even think of it. [laughs] I don't remember that they got ours...____?____ they'd have to go quite close to the house to get back there, so they probably didn't. [laughs]

BL: So, they would cut the line in two?

EA: I think they'd just snip it, and, [uh], maybe just snip it and leave it, I suppose. I don't really...I can't remember the story,[laughs]...but there was something about a clothesline, and it was a common word, so I think it was...in this part of the country, anyhow, was done. I can't remember about back home. ____?____

BL: Why do you think there was a temptation to mess with the outhouses and turn...turn them over? [laughs]

EA: 'Cause it... looked so easy to do, I think. They could...something they could do. O'course they had help, a pole of some kind, to do it with. ____?____ You know, they always upset toilets. And, if they didn't like somebody very well, it was more fun...[laughs]...like Logan'd [?] [laughs] get after 'em. So, it was fun to, [uh], do something to him.

BL: Were these activities played out all through the year or only on Halloween?

EA: Just Halloween.

BL: Just Halloween.

EA: As far as I can remember.

BL: O.k.

EA: They went coasting down through town, and sometimes, [uh], somebody had a toboggan...they'd been coasting, and they came...there's quite a little incline in Cove. They'd come down the hill and come to the corner, and they just about didn't make the corner, somehow, and they'd get very warm feet because the foot's in between the metal toboggan and the snow...produced quite a bit of heat.

BL: Uh-huh.

EA: So, they got a little hot bottomed. I remember seen' that. But...

BL: So, the toboggan was metal?

EA: Yes.

BL: Was it quite heavy?

EA: I don't think so. I don't think they had it very long. Maybe it got hot...so much, they didn't like it anymore. I don't know. They could put several guys on it. I don't think many girls were on it ever. And, I don't think they had it very long. I think...I was gonna say I think it was a Sunday afternoon that they came down, but I really don't think it was, probably. They came a whoopin' down there with a car pulling 'em, and the car came around the corner, and the toboggan kinda...well, I think it made a very wide curve out of it. [laughs] And, [uh], they

all unloaded, [uh], after they got around the bend. It must have been five, seven, kids on it.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: It was quite a load. And, I cant really remember...They liked to go skating, and I never learned to skate.

BL: Ice skating?

EA: Uh-huh, down on the slough below town.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So, [uh], ...had a good time with that. But, I don't...

BL: Did you like to watch them skate?

EA: Well, not particularly. I wanted to do it, and , of course, I just...not good at learning to skate and never did learn to skate. So,...I think partly was my skate shoes, [uh], weren't conducive to skating. [laughs] Didn't fit, and couldn't get 'em on tight, and, [uh], I don't know what it was, but I know I had trouble. I never learned to skate. I never learned to roller skate either, so there's sumpin' wrong with my balance. [laughs]

BL: Did a lot of kids roller skate?...also?

EA: I would like to have, but I never had any roller skates. But, I tried to learn when we were visiting friends—Catherine and I went down and visited friends for probably a week. I got homesick, and I guess it was my appendix that was botherin' me, but they thought I was homesick, and that's what made me kinda sick, but I don't think it was; I think it was that appendix that I ...had to have out when I was eleven.

BL: Um-hmm. Sounds like you had a lot of fun in Cove when you were growing up?...when you were a young person?

EA: Well,...I don't know. I suppose, just kid fun, but I was a senior in high school, so I ...there were usually boys inbl...involved.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: [laughs]

BL: [laughs] And, speaking of boys, how long after you graduated was it until you met Archie?

EA: Well, it was just about six weeks after we got to Cove, so I went with him while I was a senior.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____? ____ ...That was the fall of '30, and we were married in '32, so I ... [interrupted]

BL: ____? ____

EA: ...was out of school a year.

BL: How did you meet?

EA: Oh, at church. He'd been up to Seattle with his brother and son-in-law. When he came, why, [uh], ____? ____ he came to church with his folks, and then, Sunday [thump] night, all...like I said, all the kids were, you know—most of the guys— [uh], came to the church that night, the only night we ever saw 'em there. [laughs] But...with me and Catherine both being there, why they had to come and see **two** new girls in town.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So,...Of course, we didn't realize that that's what caused all the commotion...[laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: ...until afterwards, when they weren't there anymore. ____?____ Catherine started going with...with Bob, [uh], ____?____ we'd been there more than a month or so, and they started going together. His mother was...one of the teachers, so she was there at school, and Bob chauffeured her back and forth. And,...he wasn't goin' to school, but he was around school a lot. He, [uh], liked to play games, so he ...liked to play at the basketball and...I don't remember—they didn't have a goal outside that I remember, so it must have been just throwing it...back and forth and stuff. But, he had a car, and they went ____?____ the valley and the...local area, like they went to, [uh], well sometimes they went as far as John Day, I guess.

BL: Wow.

EA: 'Cause that's where the, [uh], gold...gold dredge was, and I think they were over there and...different places around. Then, let's see,...We'd already been to Wallowa Lake the year we lived in Eagle Valley; we'd been up there for a weekend with folks and my dad, ...yeah. And, the road was narrow then, and I didn't much like it...on the grade...going to Wallowa Lake.

BL: [laughs]

EA: So, we were going to Lostine; we weren't going to the lake, ____?____

BL: Was that with Archie?

EA: Huh.

BL: Was that Archie taking you to the lake?

EA: No.

BL: This was with your family?

EA: This was with my folks and Catherine. But, dad took us once. We hadn't been there very long, and he took...after church we went up, I guess, because we took a dinner, and I think it was on Sunday, 'cause the store was closed.

BL: Um-hmm. Do you remember your first date with Archie?

EA: Yeah! [laughs] He walked me home from...from, [uh], ...the young people's meeting Sunday night, and, [uh], [uh], we went over and sat on the flour mill steps and gabbed awhile and then came home. [laughs] Because, the folks liked to warm when they got undressed for bed, and they undressed in the dining room 'cause we were upstairs, and, and they had the downstairs to themselves, so of course I couldn't take my boyfriend in [laughs] where their clothes were [laughs]...

BL: [laughs]

EA: ...scattered around! So, they had to change their lifestyle a little bit! [laughs]

BL: [laughs] Oh, that's funny.

EA: And Catherine and Bob were usually out in the car doing something, so they didn't, [uh], mess around the house as much as...as we did, and, [uh],...Some night Bob wo...He'd played the piano, and he was playing the piano, and we...Catherine and I were both standing around—I guess were singing—and, [uh], after awhile we...[knock at door] [EA yells] Come in! [clunking sound] [Uh] ...One night [interrupted]

BL: Hold on one second. [pause]

EA: One night I came home and opened the door to come in, and rattely rattely bang! They'd tied—my mom and dad—had tied all kinds of, of lids from the kettles on the screen, then tied it from a chair to the doorknob...somehow. [female or child's voice in the background] And, when I opened the door, all those lids clanged together, and rattely bang! I was kind of mad. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: They th...I think they ____? ____ thought it was lots funnier than I did.

BL: Uh-huh.

EA: [Uh]...but, [uh], that was the only time they did that. [laughs] I'm sure it was dad's idea, not mom's. ____? ____? ____?

BL: Sounds like they had a great sense of humor...[laughs] ____? ____.

EA: Umm, dad did. I don't think mom really did, very much, and, [uh], ____? ____ somebody else did it, but I don't think...I don't think she woulda thought up doin' sumpin' like that herself.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: I'm...I'm sure dad did it. And now, I'm not...not, [uh],...

BL: Did your parents approve of your dating?

EA: Yeah. They thought it was a good family, and it was o.k.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, Catherine the same.

BL: Now, did they discuss dating...things with you?...when you were growing up?

EA: Well-l-l-l, ...not particular dating, but just what we shouldn't do. And, she was a...____? ____ explained to us, [uh], how our anatomy worked, you know, about, [uh], sex. And, I was on the way years before, of course, [uh],...[clock chimes] Mary was five, and, [uh], she came rushing, [uh], in from play the summer before and said, "Oh momma! Wouldn't it be fun if our new little baby would be a little black baby!" [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: So, [uh], I ...always remembered that and think it's funny. And, I never did ask my mom what she answered Mary, but I just had a feeling that maybe they'd been to Cleveland, because they were born up at Summit [?] County, [uh], which was close to Cleveland. And, I thought, "I bet they were all in Cleveland, and she maybe saw her first black baby..."

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: "...and thought it was cute." But, I don't know that, 'cause I didn't ask her. But...

BL: Was there any black people in Cove?

EA: No.

BL: Any Native Americans?

EA: I don't think so—some partial, I think—but I can't even remember who.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: 'Course, now, there's quite a few Mexicans...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...They're there the year 'round. But, I don't know to what extent...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...really.
BL: So, tell me about your wedding.
EA: Oh, well,...We didn't care for the pastor that was at our church at that time, so we didn't want to get married in the Cove Methodist Church. So, ...we were married in the old La Grande Hotel, which has been gone ...many years.
BL: Can you tell me more about that hotel?
EA: Well, it was just a big...building, and it had stores...or shops in the bottom level...front windows that were on Fourth Street, I think. And, I don't know just how the hotel was. I think it was on the block now they're building on...____?____ where...where Safeway used to be. It was in that building that...I think the Hotel faced Adams Avenue, and then...what would've ____?____ done about the turn? I'm not sure.
BL: Do you recall what stores were in the bottom?
EA: Well, I remember one; it was Dr. Agers [?] husband's ...____?____...were a...Agers, Cecil Agers—I'm not sure, but I think that's right. And, he took my high school graduation pictures. And, I don't remember...there were other stores. They had big windows, you know, nice...[uh]...made a nice...place to exhibit whatever.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: So, I don't know; I really don't remember at all...just his...his studio is the only thing I actually remember, but there were others.
BL: Um-hmm. So, the wedding was in...the ... [interrupted]
EA: In the upstairs.
BL: ...upstairs floor?
EA: Uh-huh. And, [uh], quite a few of the employees were kinda gathering around [laughs] to see what the bride and groom looked like, I guess. And, we had dinner. 'Course it...____?____ The folks had to leave the store, so Charlie Hancock [?] stayed in the store...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...and, [uh],...
BL: Who performed the ceremony?
EA: Oh, [uh], Oscar Gibson. [?] He was....What were they going to do?...They were going to conference...or coming home from conference, so, [uh], whichever way he was going. And, I don't ...think they...stayed with them...that night...with my folks.
BL: Was he a minister?
EA: Yes. He's our...he was our Methodist Minister in Eagle Valley...
BL: Oh.
EA: ...the year we lived there.
BL: O.k. So, he was just passing through town ...[interrupted]
EA: Yeah.
BL: ...to do the ceremony for you?
EA: ____?____ ____?____ so that it...yeah...we could have everything come together.
BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, he and his wife... We didn't know her, because he'd been alone when he was at Cove.

BL: Was this a formal wedding?

EA: Well, I... Let's see, there was Archers ...sister and husband...is one couple, and his parents, and his uncle Fred. And, that was all besides my parents and my sister and Bob; maybe his mother came, too. I'm not sure; probably she did. So, that's all that there were.

BL: So, it was quite small?

EA: Yes.

BL: Did you wear a formal wedding gown?

EA: No. I wore the dress that mom made for me to graduate from high school. It was a white dress.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, [uh], our two sisters went to a...well, more a friend of Helen's [?] than ours, but we knew the kids, [uh],...her son and daughter-in-law, but...they weren't married...____?____ ...when we were. I'm not sure about that either. I guess they were...they were married. But, anyhow, it was...was Mrs. ____?____ ...grew lots of flowers, and so Helen, Archers sister, got the...flowers. And, I didn't carry a bouquet. [Uh] ...I don't know if I carried anything. And, ...I don't remember how...we did...whether we ____?____ stood up or what. So, it wasn't formal, I guess. [laughs]

BL: Did you have music?

EA: No, 'cause we were upstairs, and I don't remember if there was a piano or anything, and we just didn't think about it, I don't think, because, [uh], ...probably had been up there and looked it over, but I don't remember that I was.

BL: Was it a ballroom?...or an office building?...or a....

EA: No, it was just a hotel. It was the mezzanine floor, I think, but I'm not sure that it wasn't a separate...ballroom...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...or diningroom.

BL: Do you consider the wedding that you had...Was that traditional?...[uh]...for that time? Were other weddings similar?

EA: I don't know, 'cause there weren't really. It was the dep...depression, you know...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...in '32.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So, [uh],...I don't remember. People just went off and were married. So, I ...I suppose it was.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: 'Cause, I think if there were weddings, that they were at the home of one or the other.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: I cant, right off now, remember.

BL: And then... You mentioned that you had a dinner afterwards?

EA: Yes.

BL: Was that catered by the hotel?
EA: Yes, they did ____?____.387 And, mom had made name tickets for everybody.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: Well, she hadn't made the tickets; she...put the names on 'em and got 'em out. And, [uh], ...[pause] Well,...[uh]...____?____...To me it was nothing terribly special...because, [uh], ...that was just how you get married, I guess. [laughs]...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...I don't know. [laughs] But...
BL: Did your parents pay for the wedding?
EA: Well, they did if...I expect they paid Oscar, and....Yeah, and the dinner, yeah.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: Yep. And then there was a chivaree that evening up at Archer's folks, when we got home from La Grande...up on Antles Road. The folks...and I ...know my parents, [uh], provided the candy, [uh]...I think that's what they gave everybody was candy, but I don't know. Anyhow...
BL: Can you tell me more about that? What is a "chivaree?"
EA: Oh! Well, ...____?____ everybody gathers around and makes a lot of racket with tin cans, with whatever...they can pick up and [laughs] ...and carry up the hill with 'em. Some of 'em, I expect, walked, and...so there was quite a...gang around in the yard, and then, [uh],...they were invited in, I guess. Some of 'em couldn'ta gotten in very well, because there were too many of 'em. [laughs] So, I have a feeling they just candy and left, probably, after they...I don't know whether they did any singing or not, either...They could have.
BL: So, were there...Were they there to congratulate you?...
EA: Yes.
BL: ...for the wedding?
EA: Used to call it...Didn't they call it a "belling?" Olden times back home, I think they called... ____?____ "belling" is kind of awkward; it doesn't ____?____ ...whatever it was. "Chivaree" is a western term.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: As far as I know, I'd never heard of it.
BL: Did they bring gifts?
EA: No. No. They just, [uh], ...____?____ chivareed. I don't remember that we did it...handed out the candy. I don't remember that all. I don't remember what I even did or anything.
BL: Was it customary to take a honeymoon?
EA: In the depression? Nobody had any money to take a honeymoon. Well, maybe I shouldn't say nobody, but very rarely.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ____?____ ____?____
BL: So, you came back home after the wedding and...
EA: Walked up the...After the chivaree, we walked up to the house we were gonna live in.
BL: So, Archie had already purchased a home for you to live in?

EA: No. His folks had. It was another farm. He'd bought the other farm, so, [uh], Archer was gonna work with his dad on the ____?____ cherries. At that time, [uh],...everybody was raisin' cherries.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, so,...most everybody. And, so, they had cherries...on both places...and some apricots and peaches on the Antles place. Our place had some prunes. I guess it had had berries when the Delaneys [?] lived on it, but I ...don't think it did after the Antles bought it. When we went up to it, it didn't have any berries. Had an apricot tree! And, I love apricots! [laughs]

BL: Did you harvest any of the fruit?...for yourself?

EA: Yes, for canned apricots. And, then, [uh],...put in a garden, [uh], the next spring [end tape 2, side 1]

Eleanor Antles, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
September 9, 2004
tape 2, side 2

[Note: The September 9 date above may be in error—quality of recording changed on tape 2, side 1, where interviewer noted it was the third interview – see tape 2, side 1.]

BL: So, you canned apricots?

EA: And corn. I don't remember about the beans; we probably did.

BL: What was canning like for you?

EA: Well, it was hard work. I, [uh], ...I didn't wanta can with my son-in-law or mother-in-law because they didn't cook the corn, and my mother always cooked the corn in boiling water, a couple of minutes or so, and, [uh], was very careful with it. And, [uh], mother Antles had some very, [uh], funny taste to the corn because it had gotten a little sour because they....they didn't cook it; they just let it lay after they husked it, and they...didn't cut it off and get in a jar, get in the boiling water fast enough, and it, [uh], ...sour. So, I didn't want to can with 'em. I wanted my own corn done like the fresh ____?____, and it ____?____. So, I had not done very much canning but a little before...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...I was married. And at the shower they had for me, [uh], [uh], my folks ____?____ gave me a...a square ____?____ ____?____ that I could can in, and heat water, too. But, [uh],...they...

BL: They did have a pressure cooker?...or just a water canner?

EA: Just a...[door chimes?] water canner, a boiler, and then they gave me the wracks...to hold each jar individually, and then you dropped...had a handle on it...____?____ wire. The wrack, each rack, was made of wire and had the wire handle, so seal it up and carry it boiler and drop it in, and...And, then you had to fire up the stove, of course, wooden stove that had the cooker on it, canner on it,

and all that. So, it was...it was hard work. At the end of the day, you'd be ready to quit. [laughs]

BL: Did you have electricity in your home?

EA: Yes. We didn't have any electric equipment, but just, [uh], ____?____ 034. We didn't even have chandeliers in that house, it was just a...a cord, and, [uh], the lights with a switch ____?____. It dropped down with a bulb in it, and...that was it. And outlets...had an electric iron. That was the...that's the only equipment. My father-in-law suggested that I just, [uh], use a flat iron, but I absolutely didn't hear him. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: I wasn't about to use a flat iron...no way.

BL: When you were married, was it, [uh], ...did you know what you were expected to do?...what your role was expected to be?

EA: Yeah, I think so.

BL: And what...Can you explain to me what that was?

EA: Well, a wife just did the cooking and the cleaning and the laundry and canning, whatever there was to do, and, [uh],...so...I don't...I don't know, I think just...at that time just grew up...did what your mother had done, pretty well.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, of course, [uh], the mothers' did things differently, so...I, [uh],...did some changing, I'm sure. But, basically, I just...did what was done at home.

BL: Um-hmm. Did you ever question your role at all?

EA: No, never...that I remember, no. I just never thought about it; it was just what you did, and that was that with me.

BL: Did you have children?

EA: Just one.

BL: Uh-huh. When was he born?

EA: He was born in the...November the 2nd of 1933, about, [uh], about 14½ months, or sumpin', after we were married.

BL: Um-hmm. And, where did you have your son?...in the hospital or at home?

EA: Yes, at the hospital in La Grande. And they sold 'em apples...to pay for...It cost \$35 for the hospital, delivery and all, and \$35 to the doctor...seen me through, [uh], my pregnancy and delivery, ...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...thirty-five for each. And, I worried about paying for it; I didn't want the baby not paid for...that was too important to me. So,...they...Archer and his father took apples to the hospital...and...he wasn't...wasn't quite all paid for, but it wasn't too long, and I don't remember how we how we paid for the rest of it; maybe all apples, but I don't think so.

BL: Was that common?...to barter for things?

EA: Oh. Well, yeah, if you had fruits...stuff...you...traded. If...if that were available. But, of course, lots of things ____?____ 077 it wasn't; they didn't want it!

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: They wanted money.

BL: But the apples then were used for patients in the hospital?

EA: Um-hmm.
BL: O.k.
EA: Baked apples, [uh],...In fact, I think I had a baked apple for lunch after Arden [?] was born. He was born in the...oh...nine or ten o'clock in the morning...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA:and, I had a baked apple...____?____ 082 that was about all I ate...[laughs]...was the baked apple, but...I think it was probably one of ours, 'cause I think it was a banana. ____?____ 084 another...Another word that went with the banana, I think. B...Banana was one of the words on the apple, and they were quite big apples.
BL: Um-hmm. What was your room like when you delivered Archie?...or, I'm sorry, what was your son's name?
EA: Arden.
BL: Arden. When you delivered Arden, what did your room like?
EA: Oh...well...Of course I was in surgery, and my sister was with me, and...she was an RN. And, one thing I said...to a nurse that was giving me a shot, "Oh, you don't that as nice as Mary!" [laughs] And, my sister was standing on the other side of me, and she gave me some ...couple of good thumps.
BL: [laughs]
EA: [laughs] I'd had enough either that I said...silly things [laughs] that I shouldn't've said. She wasn't a bit pleased with me 'cause I said that. [laughs]
BL: Why were you given ether?
EA: Well, because the doctor wasn't there, and they were keeping me from being ____?____ 100 with some ether, so, [uh],...And, they finally found the doctor; he was sittin' down in his car...drinking with somebody, and ...
BL: [laughs] Oh no...
EA: ...and, [uh], they didn't find for awhile. Evidently somebody looked out the window...saw him down there...so, boy!, he came a rushing up...and, [uh], Archer and mom were sitting out in the waiting room, and,...and, [uh], he came rushin' up the stairs! and hanging on with his hands as he went around the corner of the building, running to get [laughs] Then they had to let me come out of the ether, so I could have some more labor pains, and...pushed the baby out!
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: So...
BL: Do you remember what your room looked like?
EA: No, not really. That was ____?____ ____?____ 112 I was on the delivery table, and...and...then I got back into the ward, and there were...maybe only one, but it seems to me there were a couple of others, but I remember the one. The doctor that was her doctor didn't come to see her like the doctor that was my doctor did. He came ...twice a day...for three days, and then 'cause Mary was going to take care of me at home, I was allowed to come home in three days...
BL: ____?____
EA: ...in the ambulance. [Uh] ...And, Mary was with me on the ambulance. She held the baby, and, [uh], we had the first snowstorm—those three days I was in the hospital—[uh], the first snowstorm of the winter...one of those three days,

evidently,...I can't remember, but it was just a little snow, not very much.
____?____ [interrupted]

BL: What was the name of the hospital?
EA: Grande Ronde.
BL: Grande Ronde Hospital.
EA: The old one.
BL: The old one?
EA: Um-hmm.
BL: Where was that located?
EA: Well, you know where the white, [uh],...it isn't white fir, it isn't white pine,...white birch...White birch ____?____ Birch Apartments are as you go out of town?
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: Just, [uh], on ____?____ 133...left side of the street there, where that building is, that apartment building. That was the old hospital...and that's where Arden was born.
BL: Now, wha...[uh]...When you took Arden home, ...when did you go to work for the first time?...or did you stay home with him when he was a small child?
EA: ____?____ 140
BL: O.k.
EA: Went to my folks' home, 'cause that's where Mary was staying, of course. So, I was there until I was able to go...go home, and she ...helped me g...get to bathin' the baby, you know, and all. I didn't like that the first few times; I was scared... [laughs]
BL: [laughs]
EA: ...just kinda scared...naturally,...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...I think! But, at that time we stayed in bed two weeks.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: And, she was goin' to let me up, I believe, in ten days, and I developed a little elevation, so...temperature elevation, so I had to stay in bed...a couple more days, and then...then they took me home, and, [uh], ...I was home with the baby.
____?____
BL: Was Archie still farming at that time?
EA: Yes.
BL: Farming cherries?
EA: Yeah. They had, [uh],...We had one cow up at our place in our barn, and the folks had, I think, a couple of cows. [motor sounds]
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: And, then we traded the cream...got our butter...I can't remember; I think we just got our butter, [uh], maybe...maybe just a ____?____ 162...I don't know that part, but we had butter...for the cream. And, then we ____?____ 164 the same...The same truck driver, that picked up the cream, also dropped off the butter,...of course. And, [uh], we always had butter. And, we drank some skim milk. We had to borrow a separator that we...separate the milk. For awhile we...I had to skim cream off the milk, and, of course, I didn't like that because

you just...you get milk in it, or at least I did! I probably wasn't a very good skimmer!...

BL: [laughs]

EA: ...The truth of the matter.

BL: [laughs]

EA: And, we got mice too, I remember that. And, [uh], ...I can't remember how it went, 'cause I can't remember any milk sittin' around, and we had mice, yeuch. But, at one point in time, I...I remember, when I'd catch the mouse, and...put a pan of water with a paper—strong, quite heavy brown paper...probably from a sack, grocery sack or sumpin'—and I tied it with a string around the pan, so it was high, you know, and I'd make a slash; ...I think a three ____? ____ I'll say three-corned one,...I think it was two slashes, crossed slashes, so that when the mouse got on there, he would fall into the water and drown, which he did.

BL: [laughs]

EA: And, ...We always had milk around, so I...I'm ____? ____ 191 But, we did have ____? ____ milk sitting around, and...'cause we didn't have any refrigerators...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...ever!

BL: You never had refrigerators at home?

EA: No. No, never.

BL: How did you keep things cool?

EA: Well, we had a spring house out in the front yard...there was a spring house. And, [uh], it had springs in it, and they made that in there...and we just set stuff in there, and the water kept it...cool.

BL: So, these were natural springs?

EA: Huh?

BL: ____? ____ 200 [talks simultaneously]

EA: ____? ____ 200 [talks simultaneously]

BL: By springs do you mean water?

EA: ...out to the front of the yard, and there was a spring house, and kept meat...and stuff, ____? ____ ...in that spring house. Then, in the spring, we had snakes around. And, when Arden was bigger, ...how big was he?...[clunking noises] Mom had had a little playpen made for him that I used when I was down at their house awhile, when she was in the hospital, and I went down to cook for him and her dad and Catherine—she was a senior in high school...yeah, that year. And, [uh], I went out to check on Arden, and here was ____? ____ 215 of a snake goin' through his playpen.

BL: Oh no. [laughs]

EA: Oh no, I just won't touch it, won't bother it, and it'll just go on out...I think...and it did.

BL: [laughs] Did Arden see the snake?

EA: No, he was sound asleep.

BL: No. Oh, he was sleeping!

EA: [laughs] Layin' on the floor on his blanket or whatever I had for him there.

BL: Do you know what kind of snake? [clock chimes?]

EA: Garter snake.

BL: O.k.

EA: _____? _____? _____ little kids... _____? _____ ... _____? _____ wasn't _____? _____
224 _____? _____ That was...when we were down at the store... _____? _____
_____? _____ mom in the store. [Uh]...He came in one morning; I remember I was
watching...and I wondered, did I launder _____? _____ pants he had on? I can't
remember that, but, [uh], ... _____? _____ I was washing, it makes sense that
probably I did wash ... _____? _____ ... _____? _____ in the wash. Anyhow, here was
this cute little snake in his pocket, and I thought, "Oh, that's cute! He's a real
little boy!"

BL: [laughs]

EA: [laughs] _____? _____ _____? _____

BL: Want to stop?

EA: Yeah. [tape interruption]

EA: [clunking sound] So, that was my story about Arden and his little snake. It was
just _____? _____ 241 snake. And, I...I didn't want him to be afraid of snakes, so I
taught him snakes were o.k., 'cause the garter snake, you know, wasn't poisonous,
and ...they can play with 'em. But, [uh], I don't think he ever did much—maybe
because the other kids who he played with didn't want to play with snakes; I don't
know why, ...'cause he played with crawdaddies once. And, [uh], ...

BL: Where did he get those?

EA: Well, in the creek that ran besi...behind this old place, and, [uh], it happened to
be part of the spring that, [uh], ...the city's water...for Cove...came out of, and,
[uh], ... _____? _____ 253 little stream down through the folk's place. And, [uh],
...We played with the crawdaddies, and he was so put out with two, [uh], old
bachelors that lived with the lady next door—they're her borders—and they went
down and...and used the ground, [uh], there as a toilet. And, of course, we didn't
particularly like it, and I suppose Arden heard us grouchin' about _____? _____ 262,
so he developed his prejudice and had his chance, and so we took crawdaddies out
of this little creek and put 'em on their bed. And, of course, he shouldn'ta even
been in their apartment; he had no business doin' that, but, [uh],...I think the
one...of those brothers...told me about it, and oh he was mad. I could see the
anger in his eyes, and...and he was really mad, and it scared me. I didn't
w...[uh]...trust him to not hurt Arden, and so when I was telling other neighbors
about it, I said, "If he'd touch Arden, I would call the sheriff," 'cause I was really
afraid. And, of course, he didn't touch Arden, so I didn't have to. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: But, [uh],...And, of course, Arden got into trouble at home for doin' that, 'cause
it...he had no business doin' that. It's kinda funny too! [laughs]

BL: [laughs] How old was Arden when he did that?

EA: Oh, ...four or five.

BL: Oh.

EA: [laughs] ...He soulda known better...than go in that house. _____? _____
[interrupted]

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: He coulda put 'em in their yard and...their doorway or something...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...but no, he put 'em on his bed. I don't know where he got that idea, but he had it.

BL: Were you involved at all with Archies work?...with the cherries?

EA: Oh, only to ride with him to town...to...to, [uh], ...well, to take 'em to the ...now I can't...express; we had railway express, and his dad had gone back to Nebraska and had—I think it was Nebraska...that he had the customers—and they'd home pack nice cherries and send back there...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...every year, [uh], ...I don't remember how many times they sent loads of cherries back there.

BL: How were they packed?

EA: Well, just like they do at the packing shed. His mother knew how, learned how I suppose, 'cause she didn't have cherries in Nebraska. [Uh]...We had...had a little boxes, I would say...mmm....12 or 15 inches...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...between that, somewhere...by 8 or 10 inches, and...I believe there were two layers...of cherries, and, [uh], and they expressed 'em back to...to Nebraska. And, his...Well, probably both sisters, as long as Nita [?] was home, and then Helen, I think, came up and helped her mother when she wasn't working at the packing shed. They...they packed cherries out, and that's how cherries we sold until they got their, [uh], ...selling to a contractor ____? ____ 319 that...that canned and made Marachino [?spelling] or ____? ____

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...different things with 'em. But, at first, they sold 'em in a smaller...boxes. And, I worked at the shed one y...[uh]...year I was married. [Uh]...And, they [clunk sound]...I...My job was just to fill in the upper layer. They spaced...the...cherry boxes so the top layer, when they'd open it, would be the prettiest cherries.

BL: Were the stems still on them?

EA: Oh yes. Oh my yes. They don't keep very well without the stems.

BL: Oh.

EA: So then, after the cherries were packed, they turned ...[faintly] no they didn't...They packed the cherries, and then there was all that space left, and they just bulked the cherries in after the top layer. And, my job was to roll the cherries around and level 'em, so that the lids would go on and not damage the cherries.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So, I did that for...a week or two or three. Made a little money to buy a cupboard or ... some of the furniture [laughs] we had.

BL: [laughs]

EA: And, [uh], ...Archie's folks did that. I never did for them.

BL: Did the cherries have to be washed or cleaned before they were packed?...or did they come straight from the tree into the box?

EA: Huh, I never thought about that. I really don't know! But, I think they just went from the tree.

BL: Uh-huh.

EA: Yeah.

BL: Did Archie pick the cherries, or did he have a crew who picked?...for him?
EA: He had cherry pickers.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: But, Archie picked cherries, too. What he picked, they didn't have to pay somebody else...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...you know. And, of course, we needed the money too. We picked cherries that first summer we were married. I was pregnant. But, [uh], ...We picked 'em up here ____?____ 358, up here—at Cove it's up here. [laughs]
BL: [laughs]
EA: [Uh]...[motor sound]...in Hidden Valley—you've heard of Hidden Valley?—why that's where this place was that we picked cherries. We camped and picked cherries up there. I don't know...about his folks. Oh, that was after the freeze, and probably we didn't have many, you know...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...[uh] ... his folk's place. They lost a lot of their trees. It, [uh], frosted, and the trees burst, cracked open.
BL: Hmm.
EA: So that was the end of their packing to sending...cherries away. And then his, [uh], ...dad's health got bad, too. Don't remember how soon that was. Huh. I guess that wasn't until quite a bit later... 'cause Arden was four, and, [uh], ...and...his grandfather's health got bad.
BL: Um-hmm. Did it require any special equipment?...to harvest the cherries?
EA: Not that I know of. Needed good ladders. But, [uh], ...They used whatever buckets they wanted, [uh], and, [uh], boxes to put 'em in as they picked 'em, that they...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...had...got...whatever. I don't think so...[pause] [car sounds on street] We didn't have a lot of cherry pickers, but we always had cherry pickers in Cove, and they...some of 'em camped out of their cars.
BL: Where did they come from?
EA: Oh, ...A lot of place, I think, but, [uh], a lot of 'em ...but there weren't a lot of Mexicans then, but they were...poor people, and then they had, down at Cove, below this building where they upset Logan in the toilet, [uh], behind it was a loft, where the Adventist Church is in Cove now. You know, where his daddy grew up?
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: That...whole area would be the cars then that the people camped in. And, [uh],...'course they didn't have refrigerators, so they had to go to the store to get their milk every day, and their bologna for sandwiches, you know, they had to have service...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...often. And, [uh], ...then up in the homes, they kinda lived about the same way. They'd, [uh], cook in upside down old sinks, for instance. It would be the, you know, ____?____ 418 ...their cook stove. And, [uh], then they got to...the

state...got to, [uh], requiring that they had legal standard, [uh], facilities and water...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...and so they got to having quite...respectable camp, [uh], quarters...
[interrupted]

BL: Do you remember seeing those camps?

EA: Huh?

BL: Do you remember seeing the camps before...the state mandated those new rules?

EA: Oh, yeah.

BL: What were the living conditions like for those pickers?

EA: Well, they used the same toilet...there was just toilet ____?____ [?strings?]
behind this...building. [Uh]...And, they all had to use the same toilet. And, I think
there was one water spigot, probably, but I don't know that.

BL: For how many people?

EA: Oh, [interrupted]

BL: ____?____?

EA: I had no idea, really. I know there was one family there. And, one year we got
smallpox in Cove...

BL: Umm.

EA: ...from the cherry pickers, too, because, [uh], these were poor people usually,
because, [uh], if there was anything with the weather, they couldn't pick, you
know, if it was raining or, [uh],...and then...they were, [uh],...____?____ 451,
'cause they were...they were traveling pickers of fruit.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So, ...____?____ work was ____?____. I think was be a term that would work.
[interrupted]

BL: Were there a lot of children in the camp?

EA: There were some. They had to take their children with 'em, or else their woman
didn't work, and she needed to work ...with her husband to...They needed the
money.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So, I think...Archer and I did, when we were up in Yakima the year that we
picked, [uh],...hops. Oh! That's a horrible job! Those hops are...are itchy-
scratchy-causing...things. Oh! [faintly] Wasn't any fun, [uh], but, [uh], cherries
better than that. But, ...you needed somebody able to set ladders up to pick the
cherries....

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...get into the trees. So, but I picked cherries that...that summer. That was the
only time I ever did, ...I think... 'til we got to picking just for ourselves...a few
years later. But, [uh], ...quite a lot of years later, we went to Cove and picked
cherries for our own use.

BL: Um-hmm. [clock chimes]

EA: And, it was nice, 'cause we did it at night when it was...you know, not late night,
but it was...it was nice.

BL: Do you recall any Gypsies coming to Cove?

EA: I don't remember. I remember Gypsies back home, when we were kids, and mom was always afraid of 'em [end tape 2, side 2]

Eleanor Antles, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
September 15, 2004
tape 3, side 1

BL: O.k., we were [clunking sound] discussing Gypsies.
EA: Well, I can't remember that they did anything in Cove; they just drove around. I don't know what they came in the stove for...[uh], I don't know whether they were begging...whether they thought they that, you know, get food at the store...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...beg for food. I...I just have...no conception at all about what...they were doin.'
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: And, I don't know why some other times. I remember the gals usually wore big-rimmed hats...summertime. They were dark...____?____
BL: The people were dark or the hats were dark.
EA: The hats were dark.
BL: O.k.
EA: The people were a little dark, too.
BL: O.k.
EA: And a little fat, too, so they were fat. [laughs]
BL: [simultaneously spoken] ____?____. How long did Archie work in the cherry...business?
EA: Oh, well, not very long actually, because we went down to the store...not long after... arrived ____?____ 015 dad was killed, ____?____ helped her for a year, I guess.
BL: Um-hmm. And, your dad was killed...?
EA: December the 7th in 1934.
BL: 1934?
EA: Um-hmm. Um-hmm.
BL: And, so then your husband went and helped in the store?...and then did he take on a new career after that?
EA: [Uh], yeah. We came back to town in '41, and he worked for a ... ____?____022. And, we dressed chickens, and they had a feed store...grain, [uh], ...yeah, all kinds of farm animals, I suppose. And, I don't know, I think they did just dress the chickens for [uh] meat shoppers.
BL: Um-hmm
EA: But I ...I really don't know.
BL: So, had you moved out of Cove?
EA: Yes. We moved to La Grande, fall of '41.
BL: In '41. So, after your father died in '34, you still were in Cove until '41?
EA: Um-hmm.
BL: O.k. Helping with the store during that time?

EA: Yeah, that's what Archie did. And, I did when...the days that mom came to town to get groceries...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ... ____?____ 031 if Arden...Archer needed to go to the toilet or something, I had to work at the store.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, [uh],...

BL: Were you involved in any other activities during that time?

EA: In the store?

BL: Or anywhere in...in town.

EA: Oh yeah. I didn't go to church terribly regularly, just fairly...and, ____?____ 036 starting ____?____ PTA the last couple of years here in Cove.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, I was getting involved in that.

BL: What was your involvement with the PTA?

EA: Oh, I wasn't or anything; I just went...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...and attended it, and, [uh], we had discussions ____?____ 040, I guess, because I remember we were talkin' about sumpin,' and I was involved in that. I don't know what it was now, of course, but...____?____ 042...PTA.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And,...And, I participated in the...in the church, dinners and things...____?____ 045 ["I did that" or "after that"?] And,...____?____ 046 Pinochle Club for awhile.

BL: A Pinochle Club?

EA: Um-hmm.

BL: Was that for couples? or was that just you?

EA: Well, one of, [uh], of each. [laughs] There was a gals and a g...[uh], couples and so on.

BL: Did you play in homes?

EA: ____?____ 050 had a party one...one time, and I had one of the parties. And, one time I had to...guess it was a woman...had a Christian service for the women...of the church. That's...mom and I had that at our house...her house...

BL: What was that called again?

EA: Women's Society of Christian Church. It was the Methodist women's organization name at that time...

BL: Uh-huh.

EA: ...now it's the United Methodist Women.

BL: O.k. And, so what did you do in those meetings?

BL: Well, we...we usually had a program, and we had a lot of literature. I can't remember whether it was ____?____ 061 books usually. I just don't remember what the program was.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Were you involved in community service?

BL: [Uh] ...

EA: Or was it a group more for fellowship with one another?

BL: Well, I can't remember. The folks belonged to Grange, but I didn't. [pause] [Uh] ...I guess just a meal ____?____ 068 One...time, I believe, the PTA put on a meal for a money-raiser. I helped with that. [pause] I never belonged to any of the Bridge clubs or...like that.

BL: Was that common?...for...for women to be involved in...card clubs and different things like that?

EA: Well, I, I don't know proportion of 'em. I...wouldn't say that, but some of 'em. Archer's sister was...and husband, both; they had a ____?____ 078 place, too; they had couples. ____?____ they had to...____?____ club.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So...But, I cant remember any...As I said, I was ____?____, and money was hard to come by.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: We just didn't have money. Real hard to even have money enough for a party.

BL: Um-hmm. So, in 1941, [uh], Archie left the Cove store...

EA: Um-hmm.

BL: ...and he moved to La Grande, ...and he just, [uh], ...just...dressing the chickens and, and did some things like that?

EA: Yeah, just...handled the feed, I'm sure...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...sacks of...grain, and I suppose...processed food for stock...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...during times.

BL: And, was that at a grocery store?

EA: No...

BL: Or, it was...it was a feed store?

EA: No. Out on Jefferson...can't remember...what it was called, though. [pause] Just doesn't come.

BL: And then, he worked in another store...McClay's [?] Grocery Store?

EA: No, I did.

BL: Oh, you did! O.k.

EA: ____?____ 096.

BL: So, when did you start working at McClay's?

EA: Well, I think it was the summer of forty...[uh]...two, but I'm not...no, not '43, no.

BL: Was McClay's located in La Grande?

EA: Yes. It was down on...on Adams Avenue, just beyond, you know, the Island City ____?____ 101...strip comes in...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...to town. Well, it was on the up side...of ____?____ of Adams there...could look over at the railroad ____?____ ...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...that area. And, I worked from summer 'til spring, so...it was probably between eight and nine months in that ____?____.

BL: What was your job?

EA: Just...grocery clerk, filling shelves, waitin' on customers. I was good with names, so that helped. When I had my day off in town, I went ____?____ 108 line up of people, and a lady was there...could not remember names at all, and they were so busy...I'd been to town payin' bills or something of that sort. Anyhow, I just went behind the counter and started getting' books and ____?____ 112 names and...

BL: [laughs]

EA: ...filling out their slips. And, [uh], ...helped out, because it really was a ____?____ 114...

BL: Uh-huh.

EA: Then, during the war, Mrs. McClay worked in the store along with her husband.

BL: [Uh] ...Tell me about filling out slips.

EA: Well, since I knew their names, I just wrote their name, [uh], down the line. I was writing ____?____ 118 whatever they...they bought, because, [uh], she had a...a big charge, [uh], business.

BL: Um-hmm. So, you would mark what they were buying?...

EA: Yeah.

BL: Would you go...

EA: You wrote down what they were buying [interrupted] ____?____ 121

BL: Would you go down the aisle with them?...as they shopped, or were all of the groceries behind the counter?

EA: Well, they just went, [uh], up and down the store and bought ...picked 'em up. I suppose we had carts, but I cant remember a cart.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: [laughs] I remember weighing out the meat...and...I think I filled shelves when I wasn't waiting on customers, and, [uh], I helped take inventory, too.

BL: Did the groceries arrive by truck?...or by train?

EA: Oh, always by...truck, but I...by delivery. The, [uh], creamery brought milk and cream and cottage cheese...No, we brought the cottage from a ...a sales representative. [clock or door chimes]

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, I think Mr. McClay picked up the groceries at the wholesale house.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Most of 'em. But, I don't remember...trucks coming in ____?____ 138.

BL: Now, once people charged on the account, [uh], did you have to mail out billing statements, or did people just come and pay their bills?

EA: Yes. I think we had a good bunch of customers. I don't think we had...trouble. We had some nice young folks, too,...because the war had started, and, [uh],...So, a lot of the people went to Portland to build boats, you know...ship builders. And, we had several...and the railroad was hiring quite a lot of people, too, so we had some of the young couples that the husband was involved...being a railroader.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Either a hog-header or brakeman...something.

BL: What's a hog-head?

EA: The engineer is a hog-head [laughs] in railroad slang. [laughs]

BL: Did Archie work for the railroad or did he leave for the war?
EA: [Uh], no. He never was in the war. He, [uh], started railroading, yeah...it was '42 that I started the place...summer. He was workin' for the highway at that time. So, he worked for the highway in...started in the spring of '42,...and...then...mother came, and he was on the highway crew. He drove trucks...with the hot asphalt in it.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ____?____ 162. And, then that job was gone, and, didn't really want to ...do that, I guess, in the winter, or else they just laid him off. I can't remember which way it was. And, up 'til then he'd just go railroading...in the fall of '42.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: And, at that time they had to...take their own hotel and meals while they were training...to be railroad ____?____ 170 the train. Then, later, the railroad paid for that time...for the hotel and meals. I don't remember how much or however they did. ____?____ 174 [?But, not for trucks.?] So, he started that...I think...in November, when he got his credentials for the, [uh], railroad trainman.
BL: While he was working for the railroad, I understand that you were involved in the...the trainmen's auxiliary?
EA: Yes.
BL: Can you tell me more about that?
EA: Well, it's just a...a social...thing, really. [Uh]...We did...one year...I still belonged to it...We entertained it for the region or state or whatever it was...at the annual...probably called it, I don't know [laughs] don't remember. But, [uh], ...we met in a building that had, at one time, had the Odd Fellows meetings in it. Oh, it was the Y, [uh], MCA, too, and they had a train crew in that building. Where the train crew had been, I believe, is where we had our meetings. And, [uh], ...I don't remember what our ____?____ 194 I can't remember,...I don't remember anything about scholarships. I don't think ____?____ 196 scholarships. [there have been significant speed fluctuations in the tape recording]
BL: Was it the women's club?
EA: Um-hmm. The auxiliary was.
BL: Um-hmm. Do you...Did it have a name for yourselves?
EA: Just the auxiliary.
BL: Just the auxiliary?
EA: ____?____ 198 What was it, united?...I don't know, the railroad worker's union...United Railroaders...I don't know.
BL: Now, what was...The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen...What was that?
EA: Yeah, that's it.
BL: Is that the name of the auxiliary?
EA: Uh-huh. The auxiliary of...The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.
BL: Do you know how often you would meet?
EA: I...think it was every...month.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: I think it was month, but I don't know.
BL: Now, would you meet for lunch?...or, [uh], of some...

EA: We met in the evenings. Well, let's see now, once...once in awhile...we met once a month, then we met once a week, or...I don't know. Anyhow, we had pot luck. ____?____ ____?____ 212

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, we ha....We met in The Neighborhood Clubhouse ____?____ ____?____ 214 couldn't meet at the Odd Fellows ____?____ ____?____ at that clubhouse, and it's down here on Sixth, [uh],...is it Sixth?...____?____ ____?____ I don't remember.

BL: O.k.

EA: And, [uh], and, [uh], ...____?____ 223.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ____?____

BL: How long did Archie work for the railroad?

EA: Oh, for 23 years. ____?____ '42. He had the accident in '66. So, then, he couldn't work for the railroad anymore... 'cause they have to be able to hold onto the ____?____ 228 bars on the...on the ____?____ boxcars.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: So, [uh], ____?____ ____?____ ____?____

BL: So, he had lost part of his hand? ____?____

EA: ____?____ ____?____

BL: Um-hmm. Now, how long did he work for...McClay's Grocery Store?

EA: About...eight or ten months.

BL: Um-hmm. And, then didn't he take another job?

EA: No. ____?____

BL: How long ____?____

EA: Well, from then until...probably...fifty.

BL: Uh-huh.

EA: ____?____ ____?____ We sent him up to...Vancouver Island, British Columbia. ____?____ tried to make ____?____ for...a couple of years. ____?____ ____?____ And, [uh], ... ____?____

BL: So, then you went to work for a creamery?

EA: Yeah, for two years. ____?____

BL: What was that like?

EA: Well, I was ____?____ with people. And, I had a...a rented...freezer locker...and, I...I wrote the cream checks ____?____ figured out the checks ____?____ And, [uh], ...I wrote the checks, and I waited on the customers. ____?____ bookkeeper, had been for years ____?____. I worked ____?____ ____?____ April ____?____ to April ____?____

BL: So, the local people brought in your cream?...

EA: Yes.

BL: ...or someone picked it up?

EA: Well, [uh], a little of both. We had trucks that ____?____ 255 to ____?____ I believe, ____?____ ____?____ was the one that went up the branch. And, we had a... cream station up in, [uh], Enterprise. And, we sold ice cream ____?____ ____?____ ____?____ took cottage cheese up there or not.

BL: ____?____ cream ____?____.

EA: Well, 'cause _____? _____? _____? _____?

BL: _____?

EA: ...and traded it _____? _____? _____ 268 you know, _____? _____? _____ ice cream, butter... _____? _____ And, [uh], ...And, then I _____? _____? _____? _____ Then, when he was [loud clunk] _____? _____ they could. They _____? _____? _____ and, [uh], _____? _____ farmer's co _____? _____? _____? _____ co-op. So, _____? _____ 1st of April, so I had January, February and March. But, _____? _____ actually, I was working for the son, _____? _____ Tyler [?], who owned the creamery when I first _____? _____ there.

BL: Um-hmm. And, the main creamery was located here in La Grande?

EA: Yes. You know where that _____? _____? _____ in the blue and black?

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Yeah, that was one of the walls of the creamery.

BL: On Washington Avenue?

EA: Uh-huh. _____? _____ 286.

BL: How big was the creamery?

EA: Well, I _____? _____ something to compare it with... _____? _____? _____ fairly tall, because they had ... _____? _____? _____ I think there was a _____? _____ _____? _____? _____? _____ at that time.

BL: _____? _____ 293

EA: Well, the boxcars were made so we could put ice in 'em.

BL: Oh.

EA: We had a... _____? _____

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: We had a _____? _____? _____ 298 _____? _____ come in at night. And, _____? _____ the ice, and they'd go out whenever it was, day or night.

BL: Um-hmm. So, how...Did he make his own ice at the creamery?

EA: Yes.

BL: _____? _____? _____? _____? _____? _____?

EA: He had _____? _____

BL: ... _____? _____ [?livestock]303

EA: I _____? _____ I, I _____? _____ can't remember. _____? _____ can't remember. I know it was something called a _____? _____ [?poi? Bowie?] knife _____? _____ _____? _____ They must have had...a vault or something. _____? _____ _____? _____

BL: [perhaps says something here, but _____? _____] 308

EA: I honestly _____? _____? _____ never watched him do it, I guess. _____? _____ I just plain don't know.

BL: _____? _____ _____? _____? _____? floor

EA: Um-hmm.

BL: How many floors were there?

EA: Just the two.

BL: Just the two. So, they _____? _____ had ice in the bottom _____? _____? _____?

EA: _____? _____

BL: _____? _____

EA: We kept the cream at the front of the building, _____? _____? _____? 315 and a lot of _____? _____ people _____? _____ in there, where _____? _____? _____? _____? _____ the [?sawdust?] _____? _____

BL: _____? _____? _____? _____? _____ creamery _____? _____ 320 ice cream _____? _____

EA: _____? _____ ice cream

BL: _____? _____

EA: Huh?

BL: _____? _____

EA: Yes. _____? _____? _____? _____ cream, whatever.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, then _____? _____? _____? 323 _____? _____? _____? _____ office, and then there was the wa _____? _____? _____? _____? _____ and _____? _____ had _____? _____ 327 _____? _____? _____

BL: _____? _____? _____

EA: Yes, and then _____? _____? _____? _____? _____

BL: Um-hmm.

[the remainder of the tape continues with wide speed fluctuations and is generally incomprehensible, and frequently one cannot even tell who is speaking.]

Eleanor Antles, narrator
 Brenda Lawson, interviewer
 September 22, 2004
 tape 3, side 2

[rattling/rustling sounds]

BL: Hello again, Eleanor.

EA: Hello, Brenda.

BL: I want to talk to you today about some of your volunteer activities in the community, and I want start by asking you, [uh], what...what were some of the reasons why you decided to volunteer and to become involved in so many extra activities?

EA: Well, I got into the ...Gray Lady because I ...liked what the Red Cross did, ...and I took my courses of training under Lucile Lumsden [?], and, [uh], then I Gray Laded... We actually started down at Hot Lake, when Dr. Roth had the ...retired people. Wasn't there ... just a nursing home...I think he had different stages of ...that happen to us in our retirement years, differen't mn...dementia and just peculiarities that people get hooked up in at times. And, [uh], they had...[uh]...Somewhere in the game, there was a tape player, and the girls got some of the patients that hadn't been out of their room, but very little, to dance with 'em, and as time passed, brought 'em around and made 'em more social, hopefully into a more enjoying person there...at Hot Lake. And,...

BL: How often did you go there?

EA: Every week.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: [Uh] ...

BL: And, the Gray Ladies were of a part of Red Cross?

EA: Yes.

BL: O.k.

EA: Um-hmm. And, where now the auxiliary is oriented to the institution, we were oriented to the patient; like we were supposed to listen to 'em if the they had complaints...and, [uh], ...write letters for 'em and read to 'em and...as well as...I...I don't dance anyhow, so I couldn't dance with 'em. [laughs] But, we had some girls that were real good at gettin' 'em ...the patients out to dance, and, [uh],...

BL: Do you know why you were called Gray Ladies?

EA: No, I don't. Our uniforms were gray at that time, but now, [uh], a good many years they just had the same, two piece dress, and it was blue, as I remember, but it's been so long since, [uh] ...The Gray Ladies worked at the blood drawings, too. And, [uh], ...did different jobs, [uh],...Mine got to being, [uh], ...what did I do?...I handled the...the blood,when they brought it in; I guess that was it...the blood bags...'cause I Yeah, I think I had to put 'em, then, in the...in the ice chest. 'Cause I'd always give them...tended to always get a little blood, be a little blood, on 'em...somewhere, and sometimes the hose, too, but it was connected to, [uh], the person and then to the...to the bag...would, [uh], somehow leak a little, handling ____?____ 051 the blood...on me, which meant lots of washing for my uniforms. But, it was nice fabric; it didn't have to be ironed. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: ...but not very much, anyhow.

BL: When did you start that project?

EA: Oh, in about fifty...fifty-six or...so. Then, [uh], ...Then we quit...or I quit, went to the hospital instead of goin' out Hot Lake. [Uh]...I think we still had some Ladies going out to Hot Lake after I was goin' to the hospital. And, then, we kind of...traded hospitals...go to Grande Ronde one time and...St. Joseph the next...and then St. Joseph was closed, and ...and then they started the auxiliary, and...just didn't seem like we had much to do. And, [uh], ...It seemed kind of a wasted cause, ____?____ 066 kinda quit. Didn't kinda, we clear quit. We just quit! [laughs] But, we...we'd worked at it...I don't know...a couple of years.

BL: How long had the Gray Ladies in existence before you joined them?

EA: Well, we started it. Lucile Lumsden really started it.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, [uh], did the first training, and...we had quite a lot and then kept getting new ones, and...and, [uh], ... 'Course we had some ladies that did things they weren't supposed to. We weren't supposed to put on our uniforms and go to...just to be friends with somebody. We'd do it, and this gal would put on her uniform, 'cause she liked wearing our uniform and cap, and, [uh], but she was doing it to the lodge and not...

BL: Ummm.

EA: ...for the Cross. 'Course she, [uh], was instructed that, under those circumstances, she did not wear a uniform. We weren't supposed to smoke. We had some that were...were runnin' around the fair grounds one year, and she was smoking, and as long as in uniform, she wasn't supposed to be smoking!...no matter where she was.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, of course, she w...running around the fair grounds in uniform when she wasn't on duty, wasn't exactly what she was supposed to be doing either.

BL: [laughs]

EA: So, she was instructed, too.

BL: What kind of training was involved?

EA: Well, we learned about...for instance, things we should and shouldn't do in our uniforms. And, we learned that we were not to...[uh]...let...take mail and mail anything out because it...should be overseen by somebody at Hot Lake or the hospital, because patient's can do an awful lot of reputation building by what they write in letters and get families upset sometimes, and give...the institution a bad name, of course. And, we learned about that. And, ...we were supposed to listen to the patient and...tell the nurses if there was something...like...We had one patient, and he was...quite unhappy. He said the doctor told him that he was supposed to have...I think it was hot packs...a couple times a day or more, and, I... don't remember that part, and, [uh], so I reported it...to...I didn't know which nurse it was...to blame, so I didn't want to report it at the nurses' station, so I think I reported with a girl that I knew at the front desk...and thought she would know who to talk to...whoever was guilty, because, if the doctor ordered something, this person should have had it, and it should've been corrected. So, I ...that was something I should have reported. And, [uh],...just things in that nature, you know, to do, [uh], a respectable...job...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...what I was supposed to be there for.

BL: Were there specific training classes for handling the blood?

EA: No. We just picked that up from whoever had been doing it before,...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: or ...or the nurses, the RNs that were with the...with the team...and boys that...[uh]...could teach us what...what we needed to know, which....

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...you know, at the blood drawing or...too much. The nurses did a...needing to be sterile and that kind of stuff, and, [uh], so, [uh], mostly, [uh], common job was being there and helping 'em on and off the table and, and, [uh], ...____?____ 128 A man brought this little...little boy along, and I could tell the little boy was goin' to get in trouble! He was just clouding up, and... so I went and picked him up and carried him over to where his dad was. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: And,...he was comin' of it, but he had felt terribly neglected, I guess, he just felt terribly alone without his dad.

BL: What was the most common place for a blood drive in La Grande?

EA: Well, let's see, at that time...we went to the old armory...quite a lot. We went to the building that isn't on the campus anymore. think that was the...first time I gave, was at the...campus...building. I think it was a classroom. It was a building that had been moved over. It was wh...when we had cadets here, they brought it over, and I think it was a classroom for the cadets. We had cadets here during World War II. And, [uh], so, they lived at the Sac Hotel.

BL: The cadets did?

EA: Huh?

BL: The cadets lived at the Sac Hotel?

EA: Um-hmm. And, Arden just loved them, and, [uh],... 'Course they went up to Ackerman for classes.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: And, [uh], ...and they...had...had to take art and...something. Anyhow, I was in school, and here came the cadets. And, I started to go out, so I hit the other door, 'cause those doors were double, you know, and they came double file, so I was stuck! [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: And, some of the guys were getting' kinda funny, and it made me kinda mad, and I'd like to have...swooshed over and given 'em a great big...kiss in the middle of their face so everybody would laugh at 'em, or something.

BL: [laughs]

EA: ...But, I didn't. [laughs] I just stayed ____?____ 161 back as far as I could, but...Arden always said, "Oh! Mommy! If you just buy that dress, the boys will all whistle at you," or something. I was always insulted by it, and he thought it was great! [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: The boys liked his mother, you know. ____?____ 165 uniformed boy was very attractive to him.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: He was...[door or clock chimes]..ten, probably.

BL: Um-hmm. What were the cadets doing in La Grande?

EA: Well, they were training. [Uh] ...Cadets were...Were they air force?...I think, some ____?____ 171...going to be air force people, but I'm not positive. And, the train at that time...People volunteered...and different churches took a session of being responsible for, [uh], home-baked and stuff...of, [uh], the train. When the trains would go through with the, the, [uh], soldiers, why they, of course, stopped in La Grande, and, and they could get out...get off the train...and, [uh],...So, Arden just loved to go and...when I'd be takin' food down there, why he liked to go, because he loved to see the soldiers. And, one soldier...asked...whoever was running the little building down there—I don't know where that building came from, but it was just a little shelter—and that was where, I think, the Salvation Army kind of ran that, took the responsibility for it, and then they were ____?____ 189 [interrupted]

[Female voice announces over public address system, "Good afternoon, residents. The Nazarene Church service will begin at two o'clock on the main floor in the large, [uh],

dining room. The Nazarene Church service is about to begin...downstairs in the large dining room.]

EA: O.k. That's the end of that.

BL: [laughs] [clunking sounds]

EA: [laughs] [Uh]...He asked...No. I went back. What'd I go back for? Anyhow I ____?____ 195 [loud clunking sound]...[other sounds] [incomprehensible voice]...for something or other, and...anyhow...and, [uh], ...I got back to where this guy was. He, [uh], said, "Are you married?" And I said, "Of course." And, [uh], he didn't say anything more, but he sure thought that pie was good.

BL: [laughs]

EA: 'Cause I remember it was butterscotch pie with merangue.

BL: How often did the soldiers come through?

EA: Well, you never knew. But, we did know; they let us...they let, [uh],...I wonder if they did? Hmm. I think that, [uh], Salvation Army...ran...that little building...knew when the train was coming through, because we wouldn't know when to get our food there...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...if we didn't know, so we must have...we must have known. But, at the same, they didn't want to advertise when or where they'd be, you know. So, I ...I ...don't, [uh], understand. [laughs] So,...

BL: Was it a short stop?

EA: [Uh]...I think they fueled. And, at that time, [door? slamming in background?] it was oil. I think, but I'm not sure, I think it was right after the war that we...changed, and I think it was...that we went from coal to diesel, so I think we were still on coal. So, that took some...shoveling coal.

BL: Now, were these soldiers on their way to war?

EA: [Uh]...

BL: To duty ____?____ 223 [interrupted]

EA: They were moving from one...____?____ 224...Hmm ____?____ somethin'...[uh] ...Now, we send the National Guard here to thither and yon, but I don't remember we called 'em, anyhow, the soldiers' stations...they had training. And, I think, [uh], [uh], some of the boys had been in war and were just moving to another camp...there it is, a camp!...

EA: Um-hmm.

BL: [laughs] And, [uh], ... 'Course...we didn't get injured soldiers, you know. We didn't have any hospital trains.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: Any of that. Just moving 'em. So...But, they'd have sometimes a whole train of 'em, sometimes just a couple cars...always different. And, of course, there'd always be, [uh], boys on leave...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...for awhile. [pause]

BL: [speaks with simultaneous clunking, incomprehensible] ...fun to have that interaction with the soldiers?

EA: Oh, ...

BL: Or, rewarding anyway?
EA: Not always. I...I...was really offended when they whistled and stuff at me. I just felt and told 'em I wasn't that! kind of a girl, [laughs]
BL: [laughs]
EA: ...and I was a married woman...with a child, too,...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: So, [uh], ...No, I was glad when the cadets weren't around anymore. [laughs] I volunteered to ta...I took one to Cove to the swimming pool, once. Of course, we didn't get to run around because we were, [uh], ____?____ 252 But, [uh], I took one out with us; he was goin' to Cove. Evidently we'd saved enough gas that we could go, 'cause it wasn't any particular thing...or maybe it was. Yes, it was! It was Memorial...that I was goin' out for Memorial Day, and Archer was railroading.
BL: Did he have family there?...in Cove?...the soldier?
EA: Did, [uh], ...Did I?
BL: Did the soldier have family in Cove?
EA: No. He was just....
BL: You were just taking him...him there, 'cause they just [speaking simultaneously, incomprehensible]
EA: Had the day...evident...free of...responsibilities for...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...the cadet. [loud knock at door] [faint female voice, incomprehensible] Come on in! [tape interruption]

EA: And, [clunking]
BL: So, what other, [uh], volunteer activities have you been involved in?
EA: [pause] Just the things I went to. ____?____ 272 I told you it was ____?____ auxiliary and the church thing. And, [uh], 'course...I can't remember any other [clunking] soldier feedings I was involved in, but that's whatever it was...
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: ...down at the station.
BL: You've had a lot of experience and a lot of a lot of, [uh], memories in Union County. Is there anything...that...that you've kind of thought about as we've been taping that you haven't shared yet?
EA: No, not really. [Uh] ...Just day by day, just did what needed to be done.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: Or, what I thought needed to be done.
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: Whichever way it was; both ways, I guess. ____?____ 288
BL: Have you enjoyed living here?
EA: Oh, in this valley?
BL: Um-hmm.
EA: Yes. It's home. When I go back to Ohio, that's back home, and when I'm back home, I thought about out home. [laughs]
BL: Back home and out home!
EA: Those two different di...descriptions to...identify my home.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: But, Oregon's been my home since 19...29. One year and eleven months in Eagle Valley, and '30, the fall of '30, until the present time. Home has been here in the last, be 11 years the 6th of October, it's been Grande Ronde Retirement Residence...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...has been home. And, [uh], Cove, the first 11 years, since '41 to...to, [uh], '93, [uh], ...we were at, most of it at 1104 Second...two other houses here in La Grande. In '41 we left Cove and came to...to, [uh], La Grande.

BL: Well, I have certainly enjoyed listening to, [uh], stories and your, [uh], ...have appreciated your contribution to what happened in Union County over the years.

EA: Well, [laughs], when I was working at the m...creamery, [uh], one afternoon, I don't remember how many of the fellows from the creamery went over to meet our President, Harry Truman. And, he came out on the...what did he call that back end of the train?...operation car, I guess. He came out on that, and, Ava Gregory [?]. ...presented a armful of roses to...to the Truman girl. What the heck was her name?...I don't know. [laughs] I don't remember. Anyhow,...

BL: Well, that must have been exiting!

EA: Yeah. And, ____?____ 329 and Truman didn't say "La Grande" right or was it "Ground Ronde Valley." [Uh]... I think it was La Grande. You know, there's usually some brave soul; he piped up and told him how to say it the right way. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

EA: But, [uh], ...But, Mrs. Truman wouldn't come out. I can remember her name was Bess.

BL: And, he was President during...during the time of his visit?

EA: Um-hmm. I s'pose he was campaigning...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...to be elected president. I don't even remember what years those were, but it was between '50 and '52, 'cause that's when I was at the creamery, and it was...I think, first year...must have been '52 election he was campaigning...

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...for. I think...he was campaigning. But, I don't know. He might of just been goin' over the country, 'cause the...[uh]...in '41 there wouldn't've been a war...well...But, he wasn't President until there was a war, because the war started when, [uh], Roosevelt was alive,...so...

BL: Did a lot of people come out to greet him?

EA: Yes. There were a lot of people around, ...several places of business, I think [tone beeps], either let their employees or closed down...people...So, there was quite a lot of people, and I don't know about the ____?____ 360 people. 'Cause, of course, we didn't stay very long. And, I don't know that they were in town a very long time. But, there're a lot of people around.

BL: Did he go anywhere?...in the valley?...or did he stay at the train? [clunking]

EA: Oh, he stayed on the train....

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: ...didn't ever get of the train. So, ...____?____ 368...I think they weren't ...here ...very long. I think there was something about it in the paper, just fairly recently, but I don't remember what...it was. Anyhow, I remember that lovely bouquet of roses that Ava Gregory had. [laughs] I think that would've been the Chamber of Commerce ____?____ 375.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: I think it was.

BL: Did you take any photos? Did you take any photos of him?...during his visit?

EA: I think there were a lot...You said photos?

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: I think there were a lot of snaps goin' on, but I...No, I ____?____ 383. Yeah, probably did have a camera, but, of course, I'd gone to work, and I didn't have my camera.

BL: Um-hmm.

EA: I wasn't much of a camera...what to they call 'em?...shutter eye, or something. [laughs] [Uh] ... not eye ...[clunking] [end tape 3, side 2]