

Gathering Our Voice

Interview with Ethyl Poole

Interviewer: Nancy Warner

January 14, 2011

Transcribed March 7, 2013 by Marlana La Paz

Nancy Warner: This is Nancy Warner. I'm here with Ethyl Poole in her home in Mansfield and the date is January the 14th, 2011. Ok, once we got through that, that's always the hardest part of the interview. (Laughter) Remembering what year it is! (More Laughter) 'Cuz it all moves so fast!

So, I just would like to start, Ethyl, with a few questions about, umm, your background that we ask everybody when we do one of these Gathering Our Voice interviews. And this interview that I'm doing with you is, is, for our Foodways and Byways project. So, we're trying to learn more about, ummm, how people have harvested, preserved, and distributed food in the past because we think that some of those successful practices would be useful going forward as we try to create a stronger regional food system.

So, that's the purpose of the project and that's the focus of this interview but (pause), if you could start by telling me how long you and your family have lived in North Central Washington that would be great.

Ethyl Poole: My family lived here since, umm, 18, (pause) 1889, a few of us, when my Dad came here.

NW: Ummm, ok

EP: And my, ah umm, from Scotland, my mother came from Scotland in, umm, (pause) about 1900.

NW: Ah! So, they came, they came separately? But then -

EP: Yes.

NW: Where did they meet? And how did they -

EP: In Bridgeport.

NW: They met in Bridgeport?

EP: Umm-hmm.

NW: Ok

EP: She, ah, she came... she was 18 when she came left home in, ah, Scotland with her uncle J. B. Valentine which he was the Douglas County sheriff at that time. But, ah, he was her uncle and he brought her to, (pause), to Washington to Wenatchee and they boarded the boat. Don't know the name of the boat was, but it was the boat from Wenatchee to Bridgeport. And, ah, she lived with him in

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

Bridgeport until she and my Dad were married in 1906.

NW: Ah, so her last name was Valentine?

EP: No, her name was, ah, Stone but her mother's, maiden name was Valentine.

NW: Ok, ok.

EP: So, ah, it was her mother, I shouldn't say brother, nephew that brought her to Bridgeport.

NW: Oh, ok. And so she came up on one of the, umm, riverboats?

EP: Right.

NW: Ok.

EP: Yes.

NW: The one that came from Wenatchee to Bridgeport.

EP: Umm-hmm. Yes.

NW: Ok. So, we could probably find the name of that and get some pictures of it.

EP: Well, my son has pictures of it because, we figured it was the same one probably, because he found it in umm, Cashmere -

NW: Oh!

EP: At the museum in Cashmere.

NW: Oh, ok

EP: He, he saw this riverboat that (pause), took, took freight that hauled freight between Wenatchee and Bridgeport.

NW: Oh, ok

EP: So, he, he has pictures of that boat.

NW: And he lives here in town, doesn't he?

EP: Well, just two miles south.

NW: Yeah, ok. So, then your, your father, did you say, came here -

EP: Yes.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: earlier... quite a bit earlier -

EP: Uh-huh. Yes.

NW: And so, what brought him to Bridgeport?

EP: He was..... (pause) um, lookin' for land.

NW: Oh, ok.

EP: Fur, fur what, what do they call it? I, I -

NW: Homesteading?

EP: Yes.

NW: Oh.

EP: He and, he and a brother, his brother, came from Scotland and they, they had homesteads together six miles north of Mansfield and the farms are still in the family.

NW: Ok.

EP: Yes.

NW: All right.....

EP: A hundred years -

NW: All right.....

EP: In the same family!

NW: Yeah, that's neat! I, I didn't know that Poole was a Scottish name....

EP: No, no – Meerson.

NW: Oh! I see....

EP: See, my Dad's name was Meerson.

NW: Ok, ok.and then you married a Poole.

EP: Yes.

NW: Is Poole English? What is Poole?

EP: Well, I'm not sure. I thought was (pause) sah Irish. Well, I'm not sure about the Poole.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Ok.

EP: Ah, the Fitzgerald's definitely were Irish and, ah, (pause), my husband's grandparents were Fitzgerald's.

NW: Ok, Ok

EP: And they were definitely -

NW: Ok so,

EP: Irish.

NW: Irish, and and then, Scottish.

EP: Yes.

NW: So, well, that's really interesting! All the way from Scotland to homestead in Mansfield and they, and you still have the farm in your family!

EP: Right.

NW: Wow! Maybe we could go out there when the snow melts sometime. (laughs)

EP: Oh, yes!

NW: That would be fun!

EP: Sure.

NW: Yeah, ok

EP: I mean - and, uh, as I understand it, and I think I'm right.....ummm, they lived in a dugout for I don't know how many years. But he and his brother lived in the dug-out. It's still there. It, I'm sure it isn't now. But when I got, as I was a teenager, probably, in 20 years old, that dugout was still there.

NW: Wow...wow!

EP: On the place, you know.

NW: So, that was before he married your Mom.

EP: Well, that was where my uncle whar – that , that particular dugout was.....My uncle and my Dad built houses close together – real close in the valley.

NW: Ok

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

EP: So, this dugout was on my uncle's property. But my nephew lives there now so it, the whole thing, is still in the family.

NW: Wow, that's great! That's great! Do you have any, you probably don't have any pictures of that dug-out, do you, or....?

EP: No. No.

NW: Yeah. It's not the kind of thing people take pictures of but it -

EP: Well, in those days they – cameras were few and far between.

NW: Right.

EP: Everybody didn't have a camera.

NW: Right.

EP: Ummm, oh, in Mansfield – there was – in Alexander they came through and, and most of the pictures that we have in, ummm, museum were taken by this Mr. Alexander. Because cameras weren't that popular.

NW: Right. Right. Yeah, that's -

EP: And then, a box camera, which I remember they first had - (apologetic chuckle) – you know, was not the best to put up, you know. Sometimes you got pictures, and sometimes you didn't -

NW: Yeah, yeah.

EP: Type of thing.

NW: Yeah. I know you, you probably do have some pictures that would be fun to look at. I think we talked about that earlier. Ummm, and maybe they're all at the museum already. But it'd be fun to look at the pictures from your family's -

EP: Oh.

NW: history here. Maybe not today but.....

EP: Well, I have one in on the, uh, uh, on a wall there above the TV that shows the farm.

NW: Oh, ok! Ok, let's look at that when we're done -

EP: Yes. Ok

NW: I'd like to see that. That'll help. So, so what year do, did your Mom and Dad get married, then?

EP: 1906.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: 1906, ok.

EP: June, 1906.

NW: So, so, then – when were you born? What's your birthday?

EP: Ahummm, 1918 – May 1918.

NW: O k

EP: But I had a brother and two sisters before me.

NW: Ok, ok. - 1918. So, what's your birthday? In what -?

EP: Umm, May 16.

NW: Oh, May 16th. Oh, ok. All right. So, yeah, it's great that you can talk with me because that's a really good memory, I mean, you, you have a lot of knowledge in your head about this place.

EP: Oh, well, I do but I don't feel like - I mean, my, I guess what I think is – my brothers and sisters could have given you much more - (laughs)

NW: (laughs, too) It's a team effort!

EP: (laughs) Because for a long – you know, for years – I've just let them take care of it. (laughs embarrassed)

NW: Oh, yeah.

EP: It was – (laughs)

NW: Well..... (laughs)

EP: (laughs) Yea, if you know what I mean - I just kinda – didn't think too much about anything cuz they were, (pause) they were in the forefront rather than me. (laughs)

NW: Yeah, they had all that. So, what were their names, your siblings names?

EP: Oh, my brother's name was George. My older sister was Ellen. Then there was Mabel, then there was me, Ethyl, and then my younger sister was Margaret.

NW: Oh, so there are five of you!

EP: Uh-huh.

NW: Ok

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

EP: And, I, I hope this is important but it, it shows what people used to do. Ah, (pause) my siblings were all named from family.

NW: (softly) Um-hmmm.

EP: They used my uncle's for, from my brother. His name was George. Well, my uncle's bro, name was George. See? So, they used him because he was my aunts brother and his near, middle name was Arthur, which was my Mom's brother. See what they do? And that went all down through that family. The na - Ellen was named from the wife of my uncle cuz her name was Ellen. And then her middle name was Florence which was my mother's sister's name. Mabel was named Mabel Elizabeth because my Dad had a sister by the (laughs while talking) name of Elizabeth. And, and they used my Mom's name for me. My mother's name was is Stockton, same as me, so, they named me the. Then when Margaret came along, the names for the family'd run out. And as I remember, now my sister don't remember this, but I had to be only 4 years old but for some reason or other, I (laughs while talking), remember sitting around the dining room table. We put names in a hat and we picked her name by drawin' that name out of the (laughs while talking) hat. (laughs)

NW: (laughing) That's good – that's a great story! And it's a nice name....Was she happy with it?

EP: Oh, I think so. And were, there were relatives in Scotland with the name Margaret - was a common name in Scotland, so.... The names they had in the hat was probably Scottish. (laughs)

NW: Oh, ok (laughingly)

EP: Or, or had some, you know, there were probably family names in that hat, I, I'm not sure.

NW: (soft questioning sound)

EP: But I, I couldn't understand why, if I was 4 years old, why can I still see that, have that picture in my mind? Where my older sisters, they said, "We don't remember that." Well..... I remembered it - (laughs)

NW: Yeah....

EP: (laughingly) so many (garbled by laughter)

NW: Yeah? (soft sound)

EP: So, if it wasn't – it had to be true, though because where did the name come from?

NW: Why I bel – it seems like it's very feasible. And, and, umm....

EP: (laughs) Yes!

NW: No one's here to argue with you....

EP: No!

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: (laughs)

EP: As, ah, but in my mind, I can still see the setting, even. At that time, in our dining room, I can remember my Dad having that horn land hat with the names in it! In the dining room!

(Horn land hat is a three-cornered, western-styled, hat:

http://www.exchange3d.com/3D_catalog_page_6_lookfor_k%20horn%20land%20zoo%20black.html)

NW: Yeah, that's neat!

EP: So..... (laughs)

NW: (laughingly) That's a neat memory and we all remember different things. That's why it's great

EP: (laughing) Yes!

NW: to interview so many people about a community....

EP: Yes! Oh, ah, two people won't remember the same thing -

NW: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. But a lot of people will remember some of the things the same.

EP: the same. Ah -

NW: So, that's kinda what we look for as patterns. But also those fun little things like you just said; those are, those are interesting little windows into how people – ummm – (tsk) what traditions they

EP: Well -

NW: brought with them and so on.....

EP: Eh, eh, yeah. I, I th - I don't think that our family was the only one that used family names for to name people that time. They used family names - I see now in my friends, too.

NW: (soft sound)

EP: But that was the way it was, ah, in our family - I could see a pattern where they used all the family names from, from before.

NW: Umm-hmm?

EP: (laughs)

NW: (tsk) So, umm, got a question here about what brought or attracted your family to the area? And so you just told me it, pretty much, it was homesteading. That ah -

EP: Oh, yes.

NW: The opportunity to have land and farm.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

EP: Oh, yes. Yes.

NW: Were they farmers in Scotland an, and, ah, Ireland?

EP: Well? I wouldn't, I really don't know. They were from Fres, Fresferng – that's right on the water. Umm, we've looked it up on, year lately, you know – years later. We looked it up on the T. - on the ummm, (tsk), computer and, ah, it's right on the water. But there was three boys, the two that came to the state of Washington, to the US. The other one went to Australia because he liked, he was a captain on, on a boat hauling – they said – coal. Something anyway, umm, from Warward to Australia. So, he, he went to Australia 'stead of comin' here. But we have been in touch with those. He went to Australia, and was married twice, had eight kids both times. (laughs)

NW: (laughs) He - hey, he left a lot of evidence. (they both laugh together)

EP: And we have gone to Australia and looked up some of them, and, fact there's one that still keeps comin'. He loves to come to the state of Washington.

NW: Oh, that's neat!

EP: Yeah.

NW: Oh, that's neat!

EP: I just talked to him the other day.

NW: Oh!

EP: But he has come. He can, and when he was married, he-n-is, he brought his family.

NW: (softly) Oh.

EP: And, ah, (tsk), so, ah, so we do have connection with them.

NW: Yes.

EP: With (pause, chair squeak) most of their family. Of course, they're, if not too many of 'em left.

NW: Hah – that's interesting.....hmmm. Well, how have you made a living over the years? You personally an, and then your, your family?

EP: Umm, farmers. My husband started out, and you know, his first job was workin' with the Standard Oil Company deliverin' gas to the farmers. Until he had an opportunity to - one of the farmers, George Hosier, wanted to retire. So my husband took his farm. And that's when it all started.

NW: So -

EP: We had three boys and they took to farming; they all went t-to college – degrees. They made one

Suggested citation:

big circle and came right back. Now they, they've been farmers here in the local area in Douglas County and Okanogan County. Ummm, I have to say, they are big farmers.

NW: Big farmers?

EP: Big farmers – the three of 'em.

NW: Uh-huh.....

EP: I don't think anyone would dispute my word or think it was... (pause), mean, I'm so proud of 'em! (chuckles)

NW: (softly) Hmm...

EP: That they – farming was uppermost important thing in their life – even if they did go off to college and we thought, 'Give them a college education and get 'em out of Mansfield.' Well, that was fine. They made a great, one great big loop and they came back! (laughs)

NW: Hmmm, yeah. That must be pretty satisfying for you to have all three of 'em.....

EP: All three of 'em, they're right here yet,

NW: Ahhh.....

EP: And, umm, like I say, they're farmers but they, they had their share, they, more than their share of - the – but, but they've, they made, b- they made good. They've done very well. (sniff)

NW: So, and then – you grew up on a farm.....

EP: I did and you know (laughs) I grew up on the farm in, ah, our late '20's when – well, my Dad had to out on, he had to go help build Rock Island Dam because he couldn't make a farm – (sniff) ah... Three bushel wheat, three bushel an acre at, ah, .25 cents a bushel, wouldn't, wasn't too little of it...

NW: Oh...

EP: But that, that's actual what it was!

NW: Three bushels an acre? Wow!

EP: I remember one harvest, a neighbor came in and cut the, the wheat – we didn't get anything because he, he had, ah, my Dad had paid him for cuttin' it and there was nothing left! He probably didn't get full, full pay.

NW: Hmmm.....

EP: There wasn't enough wheat to even pay for the harvesting. So, I guess what I started to say, eh, was, I doubt I'd ever be a farmer's wife! (laughs) Cuz I was only, probably, six to, between six and ten maybe somewhere, ah - it was early.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Umm-hmm, that you saw that in the '20's....

EP: I, I could see that.....

NW: Umm-hmmm.....

EP: and, umm, I, I didn't, I just couldn't see a reason be a farmer's wife. Um, but that's what I ended up being'. (laughs)

NW: Yeah, well, farming kinda changed though between the '20's and the time that you got married, probably.

EP: Well, yes – in '34, it started picking' up. My brother bought a new car in 1934 and that was after he took over the ranch. Ah, he and ah, bankers from Spokane, you know, they made some kind of arrangements so he could continue to farm. And that's how come it stayed in, in the family's name.

NW: Oh, ok, that's good. Got through the '30's then -

EP: Ah, I receive it – yes.

NW: The '20's and -

EP: The '20's and the '30's. I, like I say ya, I was just a kid....1928 I would have been 10 years old. So, we was in there probably about, I was probably about 10 - between 10 and 12 when it all happened. I remember those bankers comin' out from Spokane to talk to my Dad, about makin' arrangements for George ta, to farm.

NW: Ah - huh. Oh.....

EP: And, ah, I don't know what they put up for collateral. (laughs)

NW: Yeah, well.....

EP: But it those, and then, like I say, then in 1934, George had farmed probably for two or three years, by then, and he was able to buy a new car, in 1934.

NW: Oh, yeah, that would stick in your memory. That would be a really, big advance.

EP: Oh, that was a big deal!

NW: Yeah.....neat!

EP: Yeah!

NW: So – got through some kind of a big hurdle -

EP: So, the, eh, then, then it's started up.

Suggested citation:

NW: Mmm-hmm...

EP: I mean, as far as – as far as my family, local people – but all over the country, when I hear them talkin' now about – what are people doin' to come out of it that soon? Apparently, from what I understand now, it was probably closer to the '40's before other people began to feel the, the change.

NW: So, do you remember what they were growing besides wheat? Were they also doing cattle?

EP: Oh, yes – cattle, pigs and ah, ah, everybody had a garden. And every farmer's wife had to can everything in sight. (laughs)

NW: (laughs)

EP: Even, they canned the meat! You know, so, a big garden was just accepted – corn, and, ah, vegetables – big gardens.

NW: So, you could grow all that here? You had enough water and everything for a big garden with corn?

EP: Well? You know, they, mmm-uh, they must not have because maybe they would spi, pick the spot for the, where the most moisture was out in the field. But there was no irrigation or anything like that. They just -

NW: Not even for a household garden?

EP: No.

NW: Ok, ok.

EP: It just had to be.... (chuckles), very little rain. Actually, I don't know how they, it produced as much as they did under the conditions. But you know, at that time, I wasn't paying that much attention. I mean, I just knew that's, that's what happened. They raised tomatoes, canned the pickels (?) and everything!

NW: Green beans and... peas....

EP: Oh, every – yes! Everything!

NW: Shell beans? Did they grow shell beans and dry them?

EP: Oh, yes.

NW: So, did – were there any old varieties of seeds that have been passed down through your family? That were just passed - saved from the garden each year and then re-planted? Non-hybrids?

EP: I don't think so.....

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Yeah, ok. Yeah. I just wondered. Umm.....Did you? -

EP: You know, ah, ah, in those days, things were - you just did with what you had. So, whatever, whatever (laughingly) seed you had, that's what you used. (laughs)

NW: Yeah, yeah.

EP: It wasn't important the brand or what it was – it was just seed!

NW: Right! Right, right. So, do you think, on that topic, would you get seeds at the store in Mansfield, or where would? -

EP: Well, ah, apparently.

NW: Ok, yeah. Just garden seeds.....

EP: An, and – I'm, yeah. (coughs) Yes. I'm, umm, some of these dedicated farmers may have saved their own seed - I don't know.

NW: Mmmm.....

EP: I, I don't think my family did but some of 'em may have..... (coughs harder)

NW: Umm-hmm.....Do you need to get some water, or somethin'?

EP: Umm-mmm, that's ok.

NW: I can stop it if you ever want to – just let me know.

EP: Ok, ok.

NW: Ok. Ummm, so, so, before we go a little bit deeper into the food, I just kinda wanted to ask you a, a little bit more about Mansfield. And we talked about some of this when we did the museum interview – we talked specifically about the museum.

EP: Umm-hmm.

NW: But now I'd like to ask you to think a little bit more broad, and what are you most proud of in, in the community of Mansfield? That, that you've been as somebody who's lived here all your life - what is there about Mansfield that, that you feel really proud of?

EP: (clears throat) Probably the community life. Everybody being interested with, in other peoples. And, ah, (coughs) taking care of each other probably, is basically, what I mean.

NW: (softly) Umm-hmm....

EP: I've always said, if you needed help all you had to do was tell somebody, anybody – you'd get help! (laughs)

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Has it always been like that?

EP: Oh, I think so.

NW: Ok. Yeah, that's pretty neat. That's a pretty special thing!

EP: Eh, and, let's see, back in the '30's, umm, you know, doctors weren't plentiful. However, there were doctors here when Mansfield was, you know – in '15's, 1915-16, umm, everybody had money. There were several doctors, I guess. But then pretty soon, you know, they all left. So, then we ended up with the county nurse. And, I guess she was certified, she must have been. One of the ? here in town pretty much took care of everything, all the health problems like, ah, quarantining a house for small pox or measles or any diseases you got a red umm, poster on your front door cuz you were quarantined. (chuckles)

NW: Oh!

EP: For three weeks. I remember very distinctly she quarantined me for small pox. I don't think I ever had smallpox but I had to stay in for three weeks. (laughs)

NW: Woh! Oh, and so she was the county nurse?

EP: Well, eh, I don't know if she was county nurse but she had something to do with the county. (clears throat)

NW: County Health Department, maybe.....

EP: Eh, eh, yeah.

NW: So, when was that? In the '30's? Be -

EP: Well, actually it was in the '30's and 40's. Because she then was kind of midwife if anyone ever needed a midwife and, umm..... (chuckles). My husband went to get her one time when our third son was born cuz we had to go to Wenatchee and he didn't want to be alone so he went and got her. And she went with us, so, it was that type of thing.

NW: Oh, wow! That sounds pretty helpful.

EP: And then, umm, the next day my friend from across the street, she thought she was gonna have her baby first. Well, when my husband called her the next morning and said we had a boy that – she went oh my fen day but she also took this midwife with her because the midwife didn't getta home 'til after midnight the night before, you know, from bein' with me. But she went the next day with our friend (laughs) to Omak. (laughs)

NW: Oh.....Gosh, that was a busy period, there!

EP: So, I mean, that's the kind of help we had.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: That's interesting. Yeah, that's interesting! Hmmmm..... (tsk) Umm....So, ah, what do you think has contributed to that sense of community here? The isolation of Mansfield, or....?

EP: Oh, probably just getting' to know everyone so easily because you were with them all, all the time. So, you know, there was just a closeness, of, ah, knowin' each other very well.

NW: Umm-hmm. Eh, through school and church and all kinds of -

EP: Umm-hmm. Yes. Of communik -

NW: community things.

EP: Ummmm.....eh, eh, umm, the community down where my folks lived, they had big picnics! I mean, I have pictures of the, that picnic of which I think they did quite often but there was probably thirty people easily, maybe more than that! So, they'd have picnics and school functions - I remember goin' to the school..... Well, the country schools would have programs and dances and things like that.

NW: Umm-hmm....So, there were a lot of social events you could get to know people and...

EP: Umm-hmm.

NW: And did that help when it came time to, umm, borrow equipment or, or ask help from

EP: Ask for help?

NW: someone? Or something? Umm-hmm.

EP: Oh, yes. Because everybody knew each other. And they knew that, what kind of help you would want.

NW: Umm-hmm. Umm-hmm. So did you have – were there people in the community in your, after you got married and you were, umm, a farmer's wife..... (laughs)

EP: Umm-hmm.....

NW: Were there people in the community that were particularly, umm, sought out by others to help you learn - what you needed to know about canning or anything like that? Or did you already learn that from your own family?

EP: I think everybody pretty much grew up with it.

NW: Ok.

EP: It, it just came naturally.

NW: Umm-hmm, umm-hmm. (softly)

EP: You know? Ever- ah, umm, all of our fff, I mean, my, my mother – People in that day and age,

Suggested citation:

naturally, they canned everything – fruit.....So, it jest was expected of us to can peaches, apricots, whatever. Because it would jest - expected.

NW: Umm-hmm.....

EP: If you were here – well, any of these, un – any of these country, you know, like Waterville an..... Eh, and not only here I'm sure but....come in Midwest and those farmers back there – they probably did the same thing. (clears throat)

NW: Did you have a root cellar where you kept things besides canned things?

EP: Everybody – and if you didn't, you were up a crick! It would be just like not having a 'fridgerator! (chuckles)

NW: Umm-hmm.....

EP: Cuz that was the refridgerator! Yes!

NW: So, what did it look like? Like when you were a little kid and you used to go in there, do you have really good memories of what was in that root cellar?

EP: Oh, oh, oh yes! When I was probably 10, 12 years old, particularly when up here, my friend – ah, her folks had one and, ah, it was just kinda out of the back door. And it was, it was just a hole dug in the ground and then, I suppose, they, they had to build a roof-type-thing and then covered that with dirt. So, actually it was all enclosed fill. And you'd have to go down and that, and have to be six foot tall, you know, fer....wezin get in there. So, it had, it would have to have been a pretty good size hole. And then they'd have steps that went down into the, into the door. And that's where they kept their milk every day, the butter...umm, well, anything – reddn vale? I remember my ff, friend, her folks always had a root beer in a barrel in that - we used to call it cellar – whatever you call it. (tsk) Ummm, so you kept this – that was the cold rick. (chuckles)

NW: Root beer? Oh! Hmmm....did you ever make root beer?

EP: I never did – but they did.

NW: Oh! How fun to go into the cellar and have a glass of root beer!

EP: Yeah, (laughs) well, that's – (chuckles)

NW: Yeah.....

EP: But everything was – after Amelia had to take everything back to that – down outside, down the, that - just like a refridgerator.

NW: So, even in the winter.....?

EP: Ah, yeah – umm-hmm.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Cuz that would keep it from freezing but it would keep it cold. Hmmm.....

EP: Yeah.

NW: So, all those jars and everything -

EP: Course, now sometimes- (laughs), some houses they probably didn't have to take 'em to the [cellar?]. It was probably cold enough in the - some back room... (laughs) -

NW: Right! (chuckles) Yeah. Hmmm....so, the canned meat was in the cellar, too?

EP: to keep it. Oh, yes.

NW: Ok.

EP: Yes. That was pretty touchy if they would up - I mean, all the people didn't want it. It was risky and a lot of people didn't.....you know, they didn't want to t, take that responsibility. It was kind of a touchy situation to can meat but a lot of them did it – my sister did. And, umm.....

NW: So was it beef mostly that she did?

EP: Oh, I think so. Yeah, they might of canned some pork. Of course, they smoked the pork.

NW: Hmmm.... Made it into ham and

EP: Yeah. Yeah, my Dad did that. I remember we'd do that. I remember them makin' the sauerkraut.

NW: Oh, I was gonna ask you about that! So your family did do sauerkraut.

EP: Yes, at one time – yeah.

NW: Umm-hmm..... Do you remember it while you were a little kid growin' up

EP: Umm-hmm.

NW: to ever havin' it a lot? Sauerkraut?

EP: I just remember them makin' it. That was enough for me. I think it made me sick! (laughs)

NW: (chuckles) Really? (laughs)

EP: (laughs) You know, they had to, umm, they had a, umm, big slicer out on the back porch. (sniffs) And they would, uh, you know, cut up this cabbage ugh – can almost still smell it! (laughs)

NW: Oh! It can be a little strong when there's a lot of it.

EP: Ya - and knowin' they were makin' it. And, and they made big quantities – lots of cabbage! And, umm, I remember one of the younger neighbors comin' to help my Dad do that.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Umm.... Well, so, once – do you remember – once

EP: But it was just expected.

NW: they got it all cut up and everything did they, did they put it in big crocks and then put a brine over it?

EP: Yes. Yeah, it had to sit for so long, ah, I don't remember how long but I know it had to - mix. Yeah, that's the way they made 'er.

NW: Did you have any jobs when you were growin' up? Like did you have to stir the sauerkraut or did you have to do anything to it, or just cover it -?

EP: Not me!

NW: Ok, you didn't do that. Ok.

EP: Not me. No. See, I had two sisters older than me. (laughs) So, they pretty much took care of the work. (laughs)

NW: (laughingly) Oh, ok, ok. Yeah, that birth order makes a big difference in what you end up doin' - Yeah. Well, so, what, what was your, umm, how did you, ah, function in the family?

EP: Yes! Yes!

NW: Did you have specific chores? Did you feed the chickens or anything? Was there anything? Or did you ever -

EP: Oh, yeah... it all been, but it was just kind of expected, umm, where, ah, whoever wanted to do it then that's what they did. My sister was a real farmer – Mabel. And, ah, she loved to do the chickens. I must of fed the chickens some time or other cuz I remember they took my picture in the middle of this group of chickens was all around me, so – (laughs)

NW: Hmm.... (murmur)

EP: But I think Mabel – she milked the cow and I always said as long as she milked the cow, I always said, well, mom - I did not want to milk that cow! (laughingly)

NW: (laughs) So, after you got married, you didn't have a cow?

EP: Yes, we did.

NW: Oh, ok.

EP: But I didn't, I still – pretend like I didn't know how! (laughs)

NW: And that worked, huh? (laughs)

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

EP: (still laughing) It worked!

NW: (still laughing) So, your husband milked the cow or your -?

EP: Uh-huh!

NW: Did you teach, did he teach your children?

EP: Yes.

NW: Ok, so, they grew up (blurred sentence ending)

EP: The oldest one did, an he -

NW: Ok.

EP: But he was like me - he did not like to milk that cow. But he did. (laughs)

NW: Well, so I'm tryin', tryin' ta, you said earlier that it was a really kind of good times like in 1915, 1916, so before you were born. And you, you were referring to there being doctors in the area and everything and -

EP: Yes.

NW: and then, and then the drought of the- was it the drought of the '20's that kind of -

EP: Yes.

NW: turned things around?

EP: Now in, mm, mm, eh, goin' back to '15 and '16 it must have been in there - '14, '15, '16 - before my, before I, I came along at the wrong time. But before that, my two sisters an my brother; my Dad gave them every opportunity. They had musical instruments and he had built this house which was exceptional - you know, it's still there! And, umm, I always, er my sisters, I always said that he was, he liked the nicer things in life - he must have. Because when he built that house what was available at that time, probably, was the best that he could get. Ah, and he liked, like I say, they all had musical instruments - he was musical. He played the, the accordion and sang his Scottish songs. So, he liked to have them join him, you know, when they got - and George played the violin. And, ah, George inherited that musical, umm, ability from my Dad because my Dad played that accordion by ear! In fact, he taught himself to be a carpenter. And he was a good carpenter and helped build Rock Island Dam. And he did a lot of carpenter work around here. And, and, it shows on the house he built down here.

NW: Oh, hmmm. I'll have to go look at that house - I'd be interest -

EP: Umm, well, I have a very good picture of it but he had ringers, you know. Big, round, ringers back up behind the house. The whole place was painted yellow and white. I mean, he liked things nice. He had an orchard, he had a car - you know - umm, I say he spent his money that way and his neighbors

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

saved their money. (laughs)

NW: (laughs) So, then, tae, things got rough around here and before you were born, an, doctors left town and sounds like maybe sometimes -

EP: Well, they probably left town in the early '20's.

NW: O. k.

EP: Maybe, maybe, 20 - well, I, I guess there were doctors, hmm, by the time I was ten years old there were still doctors in town - doctor Bridgerman. And, ummm, but, eh, by 1930 things began to go to pot or, ah, the late '20's.

NW: So, I wanted to ask ya, Ethyl, if, if, you remember this, or, or know it - ummm, (tsk) I'm just thinkin' about people like your parents who came here to farm and you, you weren't sure if they had farmed in, in, umm, their home country.

EP: (chuckles)

NW: Would, I was just startin' to ask you, umm, about how people learned (tsk) uh, all the skills it takes to take care of yourself, umm, after people came here with some skills that they probably brought from their countries where they grew up and their families. And, but if you didn't have those skills, ehh, did you just learn them from your neighbors, and -? When did 4-H and things like that start, you know, those sort of more structured learning experiences?

EP: Ummm, (clears throat) that started within the school. Not, I shouldn't say within the school, it was it, one of the school teachers. Umm, home economics teacher that started the 4-H. She was, you know, ah, a home economics teacher, so, she started 4-H.

NW: When was that? Do you think, was that a '30's that it started?

EP: Yes. Let's see, I can pretty much see my sister Red Wing 27, she would have been here '26, '27, when that started cuz she was high school teacher.

NW: Hmmm....

EP: And I remember my sister Mabel, she was, she joined the 4-H and when that end homes. And, ah, then, ah, one of them - Mrs. Miller - then, helped her. Then she took over when this teacher left town, when the teacher got married. And, ah, so, then this Mrs. Miller took over. She was just - she had a daughter and of course the daughter was in 4-H. And then it just started from there and it was pretty much the high school kids that, ah, was just kinda like another classroom. They had a nike and I remember this, umm, this Mrs. Miller taught us to make bread. We went to her kitchen, her house, and ah, she showed us how to make bread. And, and, it was just like that. It started and how we met in the homes and, umm, then in about 1930 - let's see, I would have had to have been 9 years old - so, by '28, probably 1930 - somewhere in there, '29 maybe - the 4-H kids each made a quilt. And there's a picture in the museum of this group of women. Umm, in fact, one of the ladies decided went south is still alive. One of the older ones, she was a senior, she's 98 years old. She still lives out here on a farm. (laughs)

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Well, great!

EP: (laughs) She was one of the 4-H'ers that made a quilt.

NW: What's her name?

EP: Cora Norby.

NW: Oh! Ok. I've certainly heard that name and I think I may have met her.

EP: Ya, umm-hmm. You could have.

NW: Some years ago. Yeah. Cora Norby, I sure know that name. Huh. Umm, well, that would be interesting to see that. So, then county extension didn't really come along until after World War II, did it? County -?

EP: Oh, no! It, there was a county agent, ah, in, ah, at this time when this was all farming. His name was Harmes, Eugene Harmes. He worked out of Waterville... He was the county agent.

NW: And name? '30's? Ok.

EP: Well, I say this 4-H must have started at least by '28, before that! Cuz Cora, Cora graduated in '30 - she and my sister. So, it had to be before that....

NW: O. k. So..... How -

EP: And then, this teacher was teaching when my older sister was in school, her name was Mrs. Singerboll - Singer, somethin' - (laughs). Jeepers sumpin'! Boy that just wouldn't -

NW: (laughs)

EP: That was just a flash! (laughter) But it was a funny name! Singerboll, I think...But anyway, she was in school when my older sister was and Elm graduated in '27. So, she was there. So, she would have had to have started that 4-H probably in '27 or '28 and Eugene Harmes was the extension agent.

NW: Ok.

EP: Because my friend and I, he took us to Yakima to judge fruit. And that, Leann and I, that had to have been - oh, gosh! We were young... umm, probably '32. The state fair was in Yakima.

NW: Hmmm....

EP: And that - the county fair was in Cascade Hotel, in Columbia, the hotel. That was the, the first fair that Leann and I went to for 4-H but it was the -

NW: In Wenatchee?

EP: In Wenatchee. It was the county fair. It was - Douglas and Chelan County had their fair (tsk)

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Really?

EP: And eh, uh, all it was, was just a display, mostly canned food, which that's what we were judging. And, uh, it was in the lobby of the Cascade Hotel. And then we won that (laughingly) judging contest cuz nobody else judged, I think! I mean, it was, um, just one of those things! But we did get the trip. And Eugene Harmes and, umm, a lady from Waterville, umm,she just passed away not too long ago.... but anyway she, she was from Waterville. And they were the county agents and they took us to Yakima in their car.

NW: Wow! That must have been quite an adventure!

EP: To the state fair. Oh, it was!

NW: My goodness, that was a big journey then!

EP: Oh, oh yes! But then at the same, the same time period in June, we went to Tacoma! When we were, ah, so - I was ten years old in '28 - I, I must have been older than 10 but not much, maybe 12-when, when we went to Pullman. And this Mrs. Miller, well, whether she was the - and this Harmes, he went as the Douglas County agent. And one of the farmers here in town, in order to get us all to Wenatchee to the train cuz we had to go to Pullman on the train, Walter Le Mantz loaded us all up in the back of his wheat truck and took us (laughingly) to Wenatchee in that wheat truck! And let us out at the railroad station. And we had to stay there in that railcar until then we left sometime in the middle of the night like one o'clock or sumin'. But we had to stay in that car. We couldn't, you know, actually what well, we were too scared to go out on the street anyway so there wouldn't have been that problem. But we just waited in that, uh, car at the train station 'til the train came and hauled us off to Pullman. (laughs)

NW: Interesting experience! Wow, that's really interesting -

EP: (laughs) So, my 4-H started long ago!

NW: Ok. That's interest -

EP: And I was a leader for 18 years! After my kids grew up - moved up.

NW: Wow - that's great!

EP: And, uh then, they were all 4-H'ers. They won diploma to the conferences and, yeah.....

NW: So it was it pretty important in passing on, uh, skills and - teaching new skills?

EP: Oh! You wouldn't believe! And, how much - (pause) You know what I mean by demonstrations?

NW: Umm-hmm.

EP: Ya, you know when they have to do a demonstration every year, those demonstrations meant so much! When, when my kids got older and they all went to college, every one of 'em will tell you, they couldn't have done that if it hadn't been for 4-H.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: College? They weren't daunted by college because they'd been through 4-H?

EP: Umm-hmm. Uh, uh, getting up in front of a group. And they did very well. They could all

NW: (softly) Ok.

EP: get up in front of a group but, an' talk. After they got older, ah, um, um, Tom, the one that

NW: Ah!

EP: let the house down here 2 miles, ah, he did a lot of - well, he, he went to Tucson and got his master's degree. An he, he and Misty(?) and his, he had his kids go to 4-H for that very reason. Because he knew what 4-H experiences did for him.

NW: Hmm. Umm-hmm. So, let me ask you this just while we're on the topic of learning how knowledge was passed on. Umm... (tsk) There's informal learning, just through your family and through your neighbors, and then there's this more structured experiences like 4-H and.....

EP: Well, too, in my ca- in our case - ah, they had a paper route. So, they had to learn responsibility right there. They had to get up and take that paper. We did that for 18 years.

NW: (softly gasps in surprise!)

EP: Cuz it started out with the oldest one, the two older ones, which they were only teenagers when they started. And it went right down through all four of 'em. By the time the, eh, the daughter had to go off to college, we'd had that paper route fer 18 years!

NW: And so, was that - what paper? Was that the Wenatchee World?

EP: The Spokesman Review.

NW: Oh, Spokesman Review!

EP: It was just the Sunday paper! But they, they jest - but they had to get up Sunday morning

NW: Oh.....ok.

EP: and go down to Bridgeport junction and pick up the papers and come back and deliver it.

NW: Oh, ok, wow!

EP: But they had a business. You know, they had to do their collecting... They had to

NW: Yeah. Right.

EP: ah, handle, pay the Spokesman, they had to - they had bank accounts right from the beginning.

Suggested citation:

NW: Hmm....

EP: And that in itself seems simple but it was a learning.

NW: Oh, yeah! Very! That's a lot of continuity - 18 years! And then people looked to your family to deliver that paper.

EP: Yes.

NW: So, it was kind of a responsibility and expectation! (half-chuckle)

EP: And, uh, if, if I could say - their reputation was, was built on that. And they had a good reputation. (chuckles)

NW: Well, that's great!

EP: Yeah - we were proud of 'em!

NW: (tsk) I was just gonna ask you if you could not thump the table when you're talking because this

EP: Oh, I see!

NW: picks it up. That's ok. Umm, well this is interesting! So, the other thing I

EP: Oh, I'm sorry!

NW: I want to ask you about in yer, yer experience here in Mansfield, your life-long experience - tell me about the Grange and how that figured into learning and the social network. How important was -?

EP: Oh, very much so! Ah, they would have, the Grange would organize meetings for the farmers so ah, the farm, eh - and everyone belonged to Grange. If you were a farmer, uh, and jest - you were expected ta, you know, it was just one of those things that you did. So everybody belonged t' Grange. But they had umm, a good program so, ah, um, eh, to help the farmers that time. And then the social - oh yes! Grange was a big social, umm, social club, I guess you might say. Every, everybody attended there. Well, I shouldn't say everybody attended the meetings but a lot of people did. But they, they had a lot of them, umm, (tsk) social times. And mm, most everybody joined in.

NW: (softly) Umm-hmm. Well, so, what was the program? Did they have educational programs in sorta crop advancements?

EP: Yes! Yes.

NW: Ok. So, umm, so were they, so they, they weren't government, umm, although they were, it was a -?

EP: Well, it must have been - ah, that, ah, you know - it was basically county locally. But it all came - didn't it come from the government?

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Well, I think its quasi-government. Kinda like conservation districts? But I still need to learn a lot about the Grange. But I was really interested in how it functioned in your community. So -

EP: Well, they had, umm, ah, they had their own, umm, facility ah, umm, sorta like a store. Gas - they sold the gas, and oil, and, ah, tools and that type of thing. So, the farmers could, to go to, could go to the Grange to buy - well, everybody could go out and buy - gas, and oil, and - but they sold other things, too.

NW: Oh! So then, the money that they made doin' that went back into the Grange?

EP: Oh, oh, yes. Oh, yeah. Yes - uh-huh.

NW: Ok, so, it was run like a business, then. Ok, well, that's interesting.... and, and then they offered health insurance? And, did they, was there some kind of health care program through the Grange? Maybe that came later.....

EP: I think - it must have come later. I can't remember if it - oh, sure they had an insurance!

NW: Umm-hmm....

EP: Umm, I don't know if it was - it was probably health insurance. I know they had, ah, farm insurance. Like common equipment an' on the crops. Yeah. In fact, they still do.

NW: Umm-hmm. Ok, o. k. So, that's when - Yeah, it was Jim Hemmer that told me years ago that, that the Del Rio Grange?

EP: Umm-hmm...

NW: Used to be kind of, you know, they used to provide health insurance for the families; he told me that. And so maybe that was in the '40's, '50's, '60's?

EP: Umm-hmm....it would have been.

NW: Yeah, ok. So, the Grange probably changed during those years, I mean, when did it start? Does it go back to the - before you were born?

EP: Well, no, I don't think so. Now, in my memory, I think I remember when they started the Grange to come down here. Ah, which would have been - my guess would have been - probably at least '28. I remember my, at the night my brother joined. And they met in a building right on the Main Street, next to the restaurant that burned down. It was a, ah, building there and they met there and, and, umm, I, I'm sure that was the beginning. And then, ah, at that same time, they formed the juvenile Grange for the kids. I assume so that they, you know, they would'a had to take their kids in, in order to go to the (laughingly) Grange meeting. They had to do somethin' with the kids. And there wasn't such a thing as a babysitter in those days. (laughs)

NW: (Laughingly) Yeah.

EP: So, I think they formed the juvenile Grange so that there'd be some place for their kids to go!

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Yeah.

EP: But we had, umm, (tsk) mm, they had a juvenile Grange. I was a member of it.

NW: Huh! Oh, ok.

EP: And there was, there was quite a group of us. It was, it was active!

NW: So, you had a lot of things to belong to. You belonged to 4-H, juvenile Grange,

EP: Umm-hmm. Umm-hmm.

NW: and, of course, you went to school.....

EP: Yes. Then we had ah, ah, I guess you might call, ah, a sort of an organization, ah, in the church. We went every Sunday night at 6 o'clock to, ah, Epworth League.

NW: What was it called?

EP: Epworth, Epworth - not sure how to spell it - ah, League. Which was ah, within the church.

NW: Which church? Is it a Methodist church where - Oh.

EP: Yes. At that time it was Methodist church.

NW: So was that kind of a, umm, (tsk), a charity group, or what did you do in that, do, league, do you remember? That church league? Did you give -

EP: I don't know if we actually did anything accept visit. And, oh, but they had officers. It was a regular organization. So, really, it taught us to be organized.

NW: Umm-hmm. (laughingly) Yeah! Here you are! You helped start that museum which is a lovely

EP: Yesss!

NW: institution. See, all those, all that training early paid off! (laughing together)

EP: (laughs) Oh, goodness!

NW: (laughingly) That it's a really good example of how that early training can pay off! (laughs)

EP: (laughs) Oh, oh! It, ah, and, umm, it was the beginning, you might say, of the 4-H but it - it did! It was a learning process. And, ah, this community really benefitted from, from all those organizations - the Grange? Oh, yes! Yeah.

NW: It just kinda sounds like the sort of place where, where everyone would have been involved - everybody in the community. Yeah. And, also, it doesn't seem like there was, it doesn't seem like

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

EP: Yes. Yeah.

NW: You'd be bored as a young kid if you were involved in all these things.

EP: Well, I really don't think we were only, you know, we didn't know any different at the time.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

EP: We wouldn't have known what it meant to be bored.

NW: Right.

EP: So, if we didn't have anything to do - well, (chuckles) but, but in those days, the simplest little thing was a lot - was a big deal! Even if you would, ah, if we'd only in the park, it was a big deal. Eh, but that's all it amounted to. Jest, you'd go to the park and visit and - teenagers-type-thing, you know. And, ah, I remember one of them, ah, families, umm, over there next to the park, they had a croquet set for their yard and they had these two little twins - twin boys. And at that time, they hadn't been in town very, very many years. And these little boys were probably 5 or 6, 4 or 5; they could get around, they could, they could be played with, you know. Well, we'd go to their place and, and play croquet in their yard. And be a bunch of kids, that's where they end, end up. And those two little twins were there and, of course, they couldn't go out and play croquet but they loved to have us there and, you know. It was jest - they grew up right here, those twins;

NW: (softly) Umm-hmm.

EP: Everybody grew up with 'em. (laughs)

NW: Umm-hmm. Yeah. So, just kind of, umm, fun neighborhoods and then knowing people and you, you'd just make up your play. Yeah.

EP: Yep. Umm-hmm.

NW: Ok. Well, very good! Umm, I've got quite a few more questions here so, I guess we'd better get -

EP: Oh, dear!

NW: back to - I'm straying a little bit. But it's not you, it's me. I was, I'm interested in

EP: (laughingly) Yes.

NW: this Mansfield community and you're helpin' me understand, understand it.

EP: Well, let me, while I'm thinkin' about it - well, you, if you're interested in the community I just did some research on the community club.

NW: (tsk) Oh! Uh-huh....

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

EP: I, you know, I was supposed, I was nominated for, they asked me je-ah - for this next project we have comin' up, you know?

NW: Uh-huh...

EP: All the, umm, the clubs in town are, is gonna be our next display?

NW: Oh! Ok.

EP: And they have a whole list of organizations that everyone's been assigned. Well, I was assigned the community club. And (laughingly) I really found some interesting - which jest surprised me completely! Cuz I had no idea what, what I was, what I was gonna find in the research! I was jest gonna go by my memory, you know. Ah, I can remember years ago when it started and I jest - how it actually got started, I had no idea! Well, it just happened that one of the members found something in her mother's closet pertaining to the community club. Can I get it? Or I could-

NW: Oh! Yeah, or I could look at it afterwards, maybe, when we look at the photos.

EP: But it, umm, it was when it started. And it's all written out. And (sighs) amazing - it started in 1915 from, umm, women's club back in Iowa I think or somewhere; a farming area. But it was called the Squaseek? What, what do you call the German symbol?

NW: Swastika?

EP: Swastika Club. That's wha - Yes, that's what I

NW: Wow! (chuckles) The meaning changed a lot over the next -

EP: And guess what I found out when we researched it on the internet? I got Maria, our general's wife, to do this for me.

NW: (softly) Kay.

EP: Cuz I hit, we talked about it one day. About this, the community club starting with this symbol. So, I said, called her the next morning and I said, "Why don't you look this up on your - see what you can find on the Internet." Oh, you couldn't believe what she found! It told the, this club was found in Iowa somewhere. And it met to care for the orphan and the widows and the, it, and the elderly and the needy. That's what that club started out as in 1915! Well see, then, apparently when, ah, World War II broke out, somehow or another, the Germans took that symbol, I guess. And that's what we remember as that symbol!

NW: Right! Wow!

EP: And that's what everybody thinks about it. But that started way before that!

NW: Oh, yeah! That's a great club! So, did they help -

EP: So, then it even told in this information that was, that my friend found - it's all written out. This

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

particular club started in 19 - well, let's see - they joined a state federation in 1926 and then another federation in another year. So, that was the beginning of that club! And I remember that club very well because my mother belonged to it and, I mean, I used to do hair for the elderly people. And before these club meetings these elderly people would have to have their hair done! So, I would go do their hair with this goopy stuff and what - yy, you probably don't even know what I'm talkin' about. But they had a, a gel - that was thick -? Yes! And green?

NW: Oh, I remember that! Dippity-Doo! Yeah!

EP: Well, that's what I used on these elderly (laughingly) women to do their hair! And, ah -

NW: Umm-hmm...

EP: It's eh, so, I definitely remember the community club.

NW: Ok. ...

EP: And then I, I remember when they made the quilt cuz I helped my mother do her part on that quilt that's in the museum.

NW: Well, so, one of the questions that we are asking people in this interview, is, is, umm, how did you care for people in need, you know? People that needed food? And it sounds like this community club might have been -

EP: Well, they didn't really do that in those days so much. If they needed health care this county nurse, or whoever she was... I think she was act - But they did have a county nurse that would come regularly to the school and checked the school out. But then she didn't live here in town. So, this, this, maybe that I'm referring to, is the nurse. She had nurses training somewhere along in her lifetime, she had nurse training. So, so, she was - after those doctors all left town - that's all we had!

NW: Umm-hmm....

EP: But to actually take care of the needy.... I don't, I don't know who did. Cuz I - I couldn't remember a lot of people at that time that could have used some help. But I don't think anyone ever helped 'em. They, aa, was, they were jest kinda on their own.

NW: Hmm. Maybe they jest had to look to family for help or something....

EP: Well? They jest had to do the best they could.

NW: Huh...

EP: And, actually, everybody was doin' that!

NW: Umm-hmm.....

EP: You, you couldn't hardly afford to help anybody else cuz you were doin' all you could do to take care of your own!

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Hmmm. Yeah. Yeah.

EP: You know... So, it wasn't that they didn't want to help but it, everybody had ta shift for themselves.

NW: Right. So, umm... taking it back to food, although this is, this is very relevant, you know, how, how food was shared in the community and everythi - everything - ah, we're also, asking people about umm, (tsk) food from the wild. You know, if it was hunting....did your family gather berries, or, or, or hunt or fish? And

NW: Then, if you had excess, did you share with people? How did that work in your family - your experience?

EP: Well, my particular family had nothing like that.

NW: Uhhh.

EP: But I remember our neighbors would go fishing down to Mason Lake. Down by, eh, which was where Chief Joe Dam is now. But he jest, an' if he fished (chuckles) he didn't share it with anybody but thi - we didn't expect him to!

NW: Umm-hmm....

EP: You, ya jest didn't expect. You, you knew you were on your own.

NW: Well, he probably wasn't bringing back a great big harvest of fish. Yeah. Yeah.

EP: No. No. And, and he was probably doin' moreless for pleasure than anything.

NW: Yeah. So, people, did they go to, did they off to the Methow deer hunting together or anything like that or down ta Moses Coulee, er -?

EP: Well, not at that time. Not at that time. Maybe later, rr, in the late '40's people, men went

NW: Ok.

EP: out to hunt but us for pleasure. Well, to get a deer for winter. But it was more

NW: Umm-hmm. Yeah.

EP: for pleasure than it was for the meat to eat (chuckling) for bringin' home. However, they used, they'd use the meat but, but it wasn't, umm, (sniffs) somethin' had ta do.

NW: Umm. Umm k.

EP: Well see, there was no berries or anything in this area. You know....

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Service berries you didn't use those or anything? Yeah.

EP: No.

NW: You have to be right there to get them before they get all dried out. They do dry out fast. Umm, and then, did you ever make trips up to the mountains? It would be kind of a big journey for you to go after huckleberries or elderberries.

EP: Well, that's what - umm, we didn't, my particular family. But I'm sure there were people that did.

NW: Umm-hmm. Umm-hmm..... Were you -

EP: We would, we would go to the mountains in the '40's, in early '50's. An, well, jest on a Sunday afternoon fishin' trip. An, and we'd take a picnic along, you know, and that type of thing. But it was more or less for pleasure than -

NW: Umm-hmm... harvesting....

EP: fer..... um, right!

NW: So, where would you go? Would you go up by, like, Alta Lake? Or, what were your destinations? Do you remember?

EP: Oh, we went to a lot of places. Umm, Blackpine, which is clear up above Twisp....

NW: Oh, I love that place!

EP: We used to th, um, was quite a group of us that would go up there camping and just

NW: Oh! Uh-huh...

EP: to fish and spend the fourth of July weekend. We would go there and then, ah, twen-

NW: Oh! Yeah.

EP: umm, 25 Mile Crick up Chelan... Umm, Beaver Crick, crick out of Twisp, we'd

NW: Oh, uh-huh. Umm.

EP: go there, and then to Republic ah, for camping and.... fourth of July

NW: Umm-hmm.

EP: weekend.

NW: Yeah, you're in a pretty good location here fer hittin' all those good spots.

EP: Well, in the, in those days, you know, gas wasn't a problem. Of course, you know, in

Suggested citation:

NW: Mmmm....

EP: comparison it probably was but we didn't (laughingly) look at it that way! I mean in that, in those days, a dollar was a lot different than it is today! So, if you paid, ah, .25 cents for a gallon of gas but if your only made a dollar - (laughs)

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

EP: But, but we still went. An, and gas didn't seem to be a problem. (sniffs)

NW: Well, I had a couple a more questions here and I don't want to keep you too long today - (I might have to come back) - or because - cuz we're gettin' in deeper on some of these

EP: Oh! Well...

NW: things than - ah, and it's all really interesting, so... Umm, but let me ask you a couple of more questions. One that is on my mind, and I guess it's cuz I did an interview with Darold about livin' in Mansfield when he was a kid, you know, I mean his sort of junior high experience when he first met-Mary Ellen. He had a real different experience than you but,

EP: Yeah, he had a different view of it than I.

NW: umm - and then, also, I did an interview with Gene Weimerskirch a few years ago. And.....

EP: Oh, yes.

NW: So, I wanted to ask you about (tsk) umm, when you were, let's say now when you're an adult and you're, you're, you're married to a farmer. And it sounds like you had - I had forgotten that you did hair for quite a number of years, didn't you? Or was that just sumpin' you did on the side? Did you -

EP: Oh, I just did that on the side. Oh, no. I was jest, ah,

NW: Oh, ok, ok. So, you were, you were - But you didn't have a

EP: Oh, no. It was jest - it's all these poor women

NW: beauty shop. Ok, ok, ok. You were just -

EP: what they had! There was no (laughingly) beauty shop! (laughing harder) Right!

NW: (laughingly) They had Dippity-Doo and you! (laughing together)

EP: (laughing)

NW: Ok. (laughingly) That was nice of you! That was nice of you! So, here's my question: my question has to do with, umm, how did you get food here that you would, that you would, umm, buy directly, umm, from vendors or from the store? How did food get here if you didn't raise it yourself?

Suggested citation:

You know, butcher your own meat, raise your own chickens and eggs, grow our own garden, eat the things out of your cellar that you had canned and preserved - where did you get, where did, how did you get other things like fresh fruit and milk and - ?

EP: Well, we'd depend on the store downtown.

NW: The same one that's there, then?

EP: Yes. Yeah. And, of course, everybody would go out of town sometime, you know. And, umm, now, some of Darold's or Mary Ellen's' family they lived down on Darry Hill - they shopped in Bridgeport. It jest was - and it was a bigger market in Bridgeport than there was here. So, they would go to Bridgeport and, of course, people here would go to Bridgeport due to the fact that was more of a market but we depend on the store.

NW: Ok, so the trucks that furnished the store with bread and so on would just come through as part of their -

EP: Umm, your, I can remember what I, when I was probably ten years old, my uncle used to send us downtown if we'd go to visit him in the afternoon. He'd send me downtown to the tavern to get a pint of ice cream for four of us. (laughs) And, ah, so...

NW: Yeah.

EP: Metamore Dar - I guess what brought that to my mind was, at that time, was Metamore Dairy from Wenatchee. And then the cream that the farmers would send, it went on the mail stage to Wenatchee.

NW: You called it a mail stage? It was a mail truck?

EP: Yes - mail truck.

NW: Well, that's interesting you call it a mail stage cuz I guess it probably was a stage at one time.

EP: Well, I guess we used to call it a stage but I don't know why we call it a stage but sometimes it -

NW: Well, cuz it probably was a stage at one point and then it became a vehicle, you know, a car, a truck -

EP: Yeah. Who - whatever the guy, whoever took the job, whatever kind of vehicle he had, that's what he'd bring the mail in. But he'd also take the cream out, so, so he usually had some kind of a truck.

NW: Well, so that is a cool system and that makes a lot of sense. If you're bringing something out to then take something back. Umm....

EP: Oh, yeah.

NW: So, that was a good system. So, then he'd take the cream from like your farm?

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

EP: Well, we didn't ship much cream but - cuz my Dad was a carpenter. So, he went, if we needed a [undistinguishable] lunch he would do carpenter work rather than, you know... cuz if you had those animals you had to have hay and you had to be out there feedin' 'em. So, which a lot of people did the, that had this cream. They had milk cows and they'd save the cream. Five gallons or ten gallons, whatever they would ship every week. And that was their, basically, income, probably. But it was Metamore Dairy.

NW: And it would go all the way to Wenatchee?

EP: Umm-mm. After, comin' from Del Rio, for how many days did it sit in the house until they got the [undistinguishable]?

NW: Wow! Maybe they used that stuff fer makin' the buttermilk or somethin', huh?

EP: (laughs) I don't -

NW: (laughs) Huh? That's interesting. I don't know how they - how did they keep things cold in, in transit, then?

EP: Ah, they didn't!

NW: They jest -

EP: They, ah, the farmers would bring them that cream in and put it out there on the sidewalk at the back door of the Post Office until the guy, the mail guy would pick it up.

NW: Wow!

EP: Of course, they'd bring it on the day that they knew the mail truck was gonna pick up.

NW: Yeah, but in the summer time it could be gettin' pretty warm.

EP: It sure did!

NW: Wow! So, were there any places around here that, ah, processed milk and cream that made cheese, or -

EP: Oh, not here! Metamore Dairy in Wenatchee was the closest place.

NW: Ok. Metamore Dairy in Wenatchee was the hub, umm, and that was in the '40's, is that right? That, no '30's maybe?

EP: I'd say '30's.

NW: Ok., '30's. So, what happened before then? I mean, I know you were only born in 1918 but -

EP: Well, I don't think - See, the town was fairly new and those things just hadn't come to town yet.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Oh, ok, ok. So, umm, maybe on individual family farms they were using what they produced on site.

EP: Yes! Lots of people made their own butter, you know, so they'd use their own cream to make their butter.

NW: Umm-hmm. Yeah, Gene Weimerskirch told me that his mother would make butter. Of course, they shipped their things down to Coulee City.

EP: Yeah.

NW: So, I'm also kind of interested that you got the Spokesman Review here instead of the Wenatchee World. Was that - what's the break-off point for that? Umm, you know, I'm interested in why some, some -

EP: Well, you know, the Spokesman Review tried to, ah, to get a daily to their route but it just wouldn't work. So, then they offered just the Sunday paper. But, still, my family had to go to the junction there in Bridgeport to pick it up. Because they would drop it off at that service station down there. And then my boys would pick it up and bring it home and deliver it.

NW: Oh, ok. Well, that's interesting. That's another whole way to look at, at North Central Washington, how the papers were delivered.

EP: Yes!

NW: And, jest, how the cream was picked up.

EP: Oh, yeah! (laughs)

NW: Yeah, these networks! So, umm, so nobody really came through Mansfield selling fresh fruit off of a truck?

EP: Oh, yes.

NW: Oh, they did?

EP: Oh, yes.

NW: Ok.

EP: But then, on the other hand, the Mansfield people - you know, Bridgeport had a lot of fruit that, you know, they had orchards, apples, and, mm, most of the apples - peaches. And, ah, people had their own orchardists down there that they would buy it from every year. But, yeah, they, they would deliver here in town.

NW: Ok., so that they'd come around to houses as well as the store?

EP: Yes. Yes.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Ok., yeah, ok.

EP: Ah, a private farmer, private orchardist, you know, no company or anything. Jest is this farmer from Bridgeport that would bring his food up here to sell and people ready to buy. Oh, another thing I thought of the other day that I should tell you, too - I don't know if anyone ever has. I meant to do a little research on this before you came last time, I forgot. Talkin' about re Fridgeration and how it all came about. After the, the dug-out cellars that, that kept the butter and cream in. The fellow from Jameson Lake would spend his, ah, winters cutting up ice blocks about so big that would fit in these old ice, ah, what did they call 'em? Ice box. It had to be a certain size but he would cut his ice to fit in this ice box. And he'd come around every week and we'd get our chunk of ice.

NW: Was that J. W.?

EP: Uh-huh.

NW: Oh, that's great!

EP: But I, I, I was gonna call and talk to Paul - how do you think cut that ice? How did they make these chunks jest to fit in this ice box? And how did they, how'd they cut that ice in the wintertime? And that lake had to freeze, you know. They had big chunks of ice!

NW: Yeah, that's a good question and I was jest thinking the other day that he would be interesting to interview. So, maybe we could do that together.

EP: Uh-huh. Yeah, I, eh, was gonna -

NW: That would be neat!

EP: And, and jest for, you know, for my information only, I jest was gonna ask Paul - how did your Grandad cut that ice? He must know, he must have heard how. He, because he had a dug-out down there then at the lake that he would keep it in the summertime in sawdust. But it was the same type of a dug-out or cellar or whatever you call it. But it must have been pretty big because he, he had a lot of ice in there that he sold to every - every week.

NW: That's interesting, yeah, we'll have to ask him. They did the same thing up the, the Methow Valley - cut ice from the river and so on fer - And so they -

EP: Yeah. But that must have been some job!

NW: Oh, yeah. It sounds really hard, doesn't it?

EP: And how did they do it without fallin' in the lake? (laughs)

NW: We'll have to find out. Cuz that could be a (laughingly) useful thing to know!

EP: (laughter) Yes!

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Ok. Umm, let me see how we're doin' here - probably, I'm jest gonna kinda ask a couple more questions. We've hit on some of these and, ah, particularly we've talked a fair bit about learning. One topic we haven't talked about though, Ethyl, is, is - uh, we talked about how you learned to, umm, prepare food, how you learned to sort of preserve food, how to cook, some of those things. To forage and, and so - But how did people learn, umm, to care for the land? How did they learn about stewardship?

EP: Ah, oh, I think jest from experiences.

NW: Were there any kind of learning? Did they, were there, was this a part of a Grange? Where, where they would -

EP: Well, I'm sure the Grange helped. But, umm, I don't know how you would say they learned. For instance, when my Dad would weed a field, and even I remember this in, in ah, early '30's. When George first started farming, I think he had this thing - a weeder. It was jest a bar and there was a plank that came out what, a plank was fastened to this weeder. And the weeder was, the horses were hooked up to this weeder. It's kinda hard for me to explain. But anyway, this plank was where the operator stood. Well, he'd go down the field but if he hit a rock, it would throw him off of it! Now, somewhere along the line, in the '40's, they improved that weeder. But how'd they doin' it, it was jest - it was a [undistinguishable] from the farm implement places. These weeders, these new weeders became available to buy. So, they didn't have to use the plank anymore.

NW: Wow, that does sound tricky! Sounds really tricky. So, so the Grange Store sounds like a source of new technology.

EP: Oh, yes. Yes.

NW: It was right there handy and it was in every - [undistinguishable]

EP: And they could order. See, through them, they could order these different machineries. But then there was people all, all comin' through the area sellin' this stuff. I remember I worked in the telephone office, well, when I was junior and senior high school and I ended up - my husband and I lived there and I was the chief operator. But at that time, the early 40's, I remember when these guys from Wenatchee, Book Tractor in Wenatchee, and it would be the same salesman that would come every week. They were, they were pressuring these farmers to trade in their horses fer this, fer these machines. To get rid of the horses cuz they had this machine to, to sell. And that's where the, where the change came. From the horses to the tractors. He was sellin' tractors - you give me your horses and I'll -

NW: Yeah, so, what, wh, what year was that, roughly?

EP: Ah, (pause) the late '30's. I was married in '38 and the, and those guys would come in and make their phone calls to Wenatchee and I could hear 'em, you know. I knew who they were dealin' with. And I could hear the, the deals they were makin', you know. He'd call Wenatchee and say, you know, ah, umm, Allen Buster has six horses or ten horses, or whatever. And, and he'd make the deal - check 'em out with Wenatchee. Wellson wager, umm, whoever was in Wenat - Wen Tractor was a big company in Wenatchee that, that made a lot of this - they had these tractors for sale. So, they'd trade in that - get the horses, an' - of course they'd take them and sell 'em, you know. So, that was the transfer [indistinguishable] from the horses to the tractors. I would say, in '37 and '38.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: So, by the time, umm, people started goin' off to World War II, were the farms around Mansfield all converted to tractors or were there some -

EP: Oh, yes.

NW: Oh, really? It was a really quick change that - ?

EP: Oh, yes. Oh, yeah.

NW: There weren't any hold-outs that ss, kept their horses for [indistinguishable] - ?

EP: No, they might have kept their horses but everybody - you had to have a tractor. I mean, and it got to the point where they had to have a tractor. Horses, you know, time-wise, expense-wise...

NW: (softly) Yeah.

EP: (softly) Yeah.

NW: So, I wanted to ask you also another influence on, on all this. It was when you got electricity. When did electricity come into Mansfield?

EP: In the '40's.

NW: In early '40's?

EP: Umm-hmm.

NW: Cruz it didn't come to Douglas 'til like 1948.

EP: Yeah, probably. But here in town - see, the farmers got it later. The farmers got it later than, than we did here in town. We, we had electricity because in '45 - and at that time, you had to, umm, turn your name in. You know, the war was gonna be ending and this stuff was gonna be available. Like the hardware store downtown, they sold this stuff, you know, ah, stoves and refrigerators and stuff. They, they were just starting' to get in the business. And, ah, you would put your name in to them (pause) but they'd have a list. You might be fifth on the line, you know, for a new stove, a new refrigerator, or whatever - even a car! My husband had his name in, in the Ford, at the Ford, umm, Motor Company in Waterville for a car. His name finally came up and the same with a stove. I think I got my electric stove in 1945. But we had to have our name in, on the line. And he could only get so many, the hardware.

NW: That's interesting.

EP: And, so see, it came in kinda slowly.

NW: Yeah.

EP: But all at once, where everybody had electricity was kinda the same thing the, ah, that was

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

between the horse and the tractor. It happened fast.

NW: Hmm, yeah.

EP: And when these stoves and refridgerators were available everybody wanted one. Yeah.

NW: You've seen some pretty big changes in your life.

EP: Oh, yes.

NW: You have and these rapid changes but that's really - that must have been somethin' ta - it musta been -

EP: Well, even, even the difference between refridgeration and not refridgeration....umm, that was a big leap. It's hard for people your age to even comprehend how a lot, how people could have survived in those days. In fact, I, I think back in the 1900's, I don't know how those people survived with the things they had to do.

NW: Well, they were very, very busy and, I guess, when you sat down to eat you were pretty hungry.

EP: Well, (laughs)

NW: (laughs) It seems like it -

EP: But it was hard to find somein' to put on the table to eat. They had to eat the same thing about every day, probably. And I know my Dad, being a Scotchman; he couldn't live without his mush. (laughs) If he could have his mush, he wouldn't care how many times he had a day he had to eat it if that's all he had to eat he'd eat his mush.

NW: Really?

EP: Yeah.

NW: Simple, simple needs.

EP: Yeah.

NW: Oh! So, oatmeal, you mean oatmeal.

EP: Yes. But they, that was just the way of their life.

NW: Umm-hmm, yeah.

EP: He didn't think he was being deprived of anything. It was just the way it was!

NW: Yeah - kinda nice, really. Yeah, simpler, simpler needs.

EP: (laughs) But, but you can see how things changed then.

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Oh, yeah.

EP: See.... (pause)

NW: Yeah, and now it's like instant gratification! Havin' to wait for anything is just completely unheard -

EP: Oh! Oh, yes!

NW: So, ah - hmm. Interesting.

EP: They can't understand if there's one thing in a grocery store they don't have - (laughs) they can't understand why they don't have it. (laughs)

NW: Yeah, huh! So, let's see....we've talked about, umm, sharing food quite a bit, umm, and we've talked about how that seems like that pretty much happened within, ahm - you, you took care of what you needed within your family. And everybody was kinda livin' pretty tight. Not a lot of excess.

EP: Oh, no.

NW: Yeah. And...

EP: And you accepted because that's the way it was.

NW: Yeah.

EP: Ah, you could do that. Now, ah, to me, Nancy, you haven't mentioned fer - did we mention transportation?

NW: No, let's talk about that a little bit. Umm, that's what I was tryin' to get at with the dairy and the newspaper delivery. I'm tryin' to get a sense, but -

EP: Oh, I was, eh, I was even goin' back before that.

NW: Ok. Yeah, go back as far as you know! And stories you've heard.

EP: Well, the mode of, mode of transportation in the '20's, or even - in fact, I don't even understand how my Dad actually got the lumber to build that house. Cuz he, he got nice lumber. The woodwork in that house is still the same as it was the day it was there and it still got the same shine. It, it's ah, ah curved stairway and that - I don't know what cha call it. I'm gonna call it, railing - on that stairway looks like - I swear, it looks like the same thing as it did the day he put it in.

NW: Wow!

EP: And, and, and she never retasted it. She, it's never been redone. But, but the stairway that he made and, you know all, umm - I don't know what you call 'em - (pause)

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Those things, those slats in the [indistinguishable] -

EP: Yes. And then like the bathroom upstairs, Nancy, it has the same ceramic tile on the wall that was there in 1900!

NW: Wow!

EP: Or 1906 when he, he built - the whole house wasn't built at the same time. He had to keep at it, you know. So, the bathroom, I would say, maybe was more like 19 - and they were married in 1906 - ah, some, a few years after that he put in the ceramic. So, it would have been early 1900's. That ceramic, it's white about this wide, about this long - that ceramic is still in that room.

NW: Neat - that's neat!

EP: And it's up about four ff, four feet on the wall. And that, that ceramic has been there all those years.

NW: So, do you think things like that came up on the boat? The riverboat?

EP: Well, there were three, there were three, ah, at least three lumberyards. Maybe more 'n that but I remember three in town at that time. And I don't know how they put got their material. But now, my sisters, ss, they, they were older'n I was - they seem to think that he hauled that lumber from Coulee. It's hard for me to believe that! Why wouldn'ta he have bought it from the lumberyards here in town? So, that's always been a question that we haven't really - resolved.

NW: Resolved. Well, I remember now, you talkin' about all those lumberyards here. And that's interesting cuz it was kind of a building boon, you know [indistinguishable]

EP: Oh, yes! All these houses were built, and these older houses were built in 1915-'16.

NW: huh.

EP: Somebody is - some young girl that - there's a house down on the second, second street down from me - and it's a, and it's a good sized house. (laughingly) But anyway, I heard her say in the tavern, or in the restaurant, or somewhere - (pause) and she's just a young girl, jest newly married. And she said, "Oh, my house was built in 1946."

NW: Oh! (laughs) Oh, yeah, you told me about this!

EP: Oh, did I? (laughs)

NW: (laughingly) Yeah, you did tell me about this! It's, is people don't have that perspective and so that's a good, good thing for the museum to help foster. Is that understanding of how old the town is?

EP: (laughingly) I remember that grey house myself. We lived - my sister had a little apartment next door to that house. And there was a doctor that lived in it in 1928 or '27 when Elm graduated from high school. So, it was probably built in 1915-'16 like they all were!

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice 2011, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

www.irisncw.org

NW: Yeah, that map of town and, and when things were built that you were talkin' about doin', I think that would be really useful. Well, I think I'd probably better, umm, turn this off for now. But if - I'm gonna think of more questions. And I know you will think of other things that might be helpful for tellin' the story - kinda helping, you know? So, so let's both vow to think more about this and then we'll - let's get together. And maybe we could get together with Paul Wittig.

EP: Oh. [indistinguishable]

NW: That would be kinda interesting because he could help - you know, I, I interviewed J. W. once but it was not a very good tape recorder and so it's not a great recording -

EP: Oh, he, he'd love to tell the story!

NW: Oh, he was great! And I, but I wish that he were still with us but since he's not -

EP: Yeah.

NW: Maybe Paul can speak for his Dad and share some of the -

EP: Well, he'd be the same position I'm in. It'd just be what he remembers.

NW: And that's fine! That's all - that's, that's what we're doin'. So, so thank you and I'll shut this off now.