

Interview with Eunice Becker Bentley

Conducted by Dean Bones & Students

April 25, 2002

Eunice Becker Bentley's glass is definitely half full . . . this lady is so very positive and upbeat! She was complimentary about everyone she talked about and had a great memory. Dean Bones)

DB: *If you would just say your name, including your maiden name, and today's date, which is the twenty-fifth, I think.*

EB: Ok... my name Eunice Becker Bentley, and uh... this April the twenty-fifth, 2002.

DB: *Ok... (to students... and if you just keep... I'll watch it... some kids found out that a plug came out or something, so then if you watch, then that won't happen)... Ok... so you attended which school?*

EB: Beaver Grade School, we called it, Beaver Grade School... it was right in this general area... and the front door of the two room school faced east... we had about four steps up to the entry.

DB: *Now is that the building that actually sat out here by the road, or is that the one that was the old gym?*

EB: No... before the old gym.

DB: *Ok.. so the one that was out there by the highway.*

EB: Yes... uh, huh ... uh, huh.

DB: *And the main door faced east... I didn't know that...*

EB: Yes... ya... in fact... did I... I ... I... now that I think about it, I don't know if I brought... it shows pretty much the front porch area, but it has...

DB: *Did it have a class on it, or just alone?*

EB: Uh... the.. there are some kids there, but you can see... and... see... well, I had been down there and rode the merry go round with my sister, and I was probably thirteen... and she said, "Well, let me take your picture", so the school was in the background, so you could see it at an angle like this.

DB: *Do you also have a picture of the merry go round, too?*

EB: Ya... well, I was settin' on it...

DB: *You're the only person I have talked to in three years that has a picture of the merry go round, and you're the only one that has a picture that isn't a professional picture that they have of a whole class...*

EB: Oh...

DB: *I've had people ask me what the front doors looked like... they've seen it behind classes, and such...*

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EB: Yes, that's about the only place you can see it right now.

DB: *You'll see what we do with photographs...*

EB: Oh...

DB: *.... if there's a chance that you could bring it, we could just copy it and give it right back to you.*

EB: Ya, that'd be fine.

DB: *I'll show you how we do it.*

EB: All right... all right...

DB: *Awesome!*

EB: Ya!

DB: *Um... ok, so, if you would describe for us what the building looked like on the outside, and then tell us what the building looked like on the inside.*

EB: It had a peaked roof... like this...oh, it was like this... and, um.. when you walked in, you just walked to the left, and that was called the little room... first grade, second grade, third grade, fourth grade... 'cause the first grade we probably had six or eight kids, and that was down that row... the second row was the second grade, the third row was the third grade, and the fourth row was... fourth row was the fourth grade. And you know... maybe eight, for a max, maybe three... I don't remember exactly how many kids... and then you came out of that room... like this... and that was a drinking fountain there, and then the door that went into the big room... and that was such a big thing, you know, to get to go to fifth grade, same thing... fifth grade, sixth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade. And maybe five or six kids per row.

DB: *I didn't realize they sat by grades in the rows... that's...*

EB: Ya... because, then my sister, my younger sister... I've got a younger sister that, uh... lives in California... and she took the second and third together... which was really easy, 'cause she could hear... you can hear the other classes all the time as they're being taught. And so she got to skip.

DB: *So, when the teacher taught those kids, did the kids go up to the teacher's desk, or did they stay in the row...*

EB: They stayed in the row as I recall. Ya... Uh, huh (yes).

DB: *So you could listen in on all the rest of them...*

EB: You could... Mrs. Warmouth...

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DB: *And... did that help, do you think, to be able to hear the lessons, or did that bother you at times...*

EB: Do... I don't recall that it bothered me.

DB: *Uh, huh (yes).*

EB: You just tune it out, and....

DB: *So thinking about those rooms again, the building, as we look at it... it looks like the upper grade rooms went further back than the little one... did it do... did they go...*

EB: Ummmm.... no, don't think it did that. The only thing that I remember, then, in the little room is that the windows were, like eight feet high... you could not see out. So it had plenty of light uh... shining in, but you... the kids couldn't see out... but in the big room, you know, the big windows were right down... 'bout like this... this high... and you could look out on the Blaine Road.

DB: *Oh, in the front... was it on this side, or... where the Schulmerich's, too, or...*

EB: No... uh, ya... let's see, here...no, I don't think there were any windows on the Schulmerich side.

DB: *Ok...*

EB: Betty Schulmerich was in my class.

DB: *And... we heard that there was no bell... is that right?*

EB: That's true... there was no bell... but there was a chimney... a big square chimney... because on the back side.. which would be the south side of the building was a small building that was a wood shed, and all the wood in this picture that I have is all the wood is stacked outside because we had a fire going.

DB: *????*

EB: Ya...

DB: *Who brought the wood?*

EB: I have no idea. My dad had a buzz saw thing, you know, that he would cut wood for a lot of different people... I don't know... I called my brother, Lloyd, in Seattle to talk to him about it, and he said, "Well, you know, remember when the water stopped running?" I said, "What!?! No, I don't!" (laugh) He said it would trickle, and trickle, and trickle, and finally it would stopped, and we had to haul water in... we had to pack water in ...

DB: *From where?*

EB: I don't know... he said the water system was three miles up the road here... up the Blaine Road.

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DB: *Oh, it was? So it wasn't your dad's water system?*

EB: No, 'cause that's the time that my dad got to thinkin', Beaver's gotta' have a water system, and we had the... we got our.... water up there in the canyon, you know, so dad put that in, and he it...hmmmm, twenty years, probably.

DB: *So the water was three miles up....*

EB: Ya! I said, well, where in the... and he said, I don't know, but that's where it was.

DB: *Ok... that's interesting... we'll check in to that...*

EB: Ya... ya!

DB: *Uh... play shed... do you remember any, uh... play shed?*

EB: Never had a definite play shed.. um, it wasn't too long that we built the new gymnasium... and the, ummm... either the floor... probably the floor wasn't finished, but we could rollerskate... that was so exciting... every noon hour, all noon hour long... everybody got their rollerskates on.

DB: *So you brought your own rollerskates?*

EB: Yes... oh, yes. Yes. And everybody got to go 'round and 'round... it was a noisy place... (laughing)

DB: *It sounds fun.*

EB: It was.

DB: *So what did...*

EB: Now, on nice days, we'd play baseball... we'd play workup... and if it happened to be like today, and we had an hour for lunch, we'd go out and play, and the teachers' see that we were having such a good time playing, and they let us go over the hour! (laugh) That was so fun!

DB: *Did you go out back, to the south or to the east.. where did you play?*

EB: To the east... right out here... it was all open out here... Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *Clear to the firehall?*

EB: Yep.. I'm sure it was.

DB: *A group of us went to the courthouse yesterday and found out that that land used to belong to the Free Methodist Church...*

EB: Oh.. I never heard that.

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DB: ... who sold it to the school...

EB: ...Really?

DB: ...when the town was deeded...

EB: Oh, that's interesting.

DB: I didn't realize that, either. Uh... bathrooms... were they in the building, or not?

EB: They were in the building as you went ... you went up the steps like this, and just to the left here was... uh... I think, uh... the boys were on that side, and the girls were on this side.

DB: So, over by the...

EB: The little room... uh, huh (yes)... right. And they had one other little room... uh.. the little room, the big room, and then at the end of this long hallway area where you walk in, was another room, and that was for all the books... we were so excited when we got through reading one book, then we'd ... one or two of us would go with the teacher and get the new set of books... and we were just tickled to death to go in there. (laughing)

DB: So, books, you mean novels to read, or...

EB: No... study books...

DB: Study books...

EB: Uh huh, uh huh (yes, yes)... and some... some story books.

DB: Now I'm on eight, if you want to do that... (to student)

Student: Please tell us from where to where the students lived who went to this school.

EB: Um.. we didn't have a school bus... in fact, I'll tell you this... uh... my brother is a year older than me... and that's Lloyd... and, uh... 'cause we lived up here.. I don't know if you know where the Nicholaus place is... it's just this side of the bridge up here, with this pretty yellow house... and we had a two story old farm house... but during his whole first year... when he was just a little, bitty six year old.. had to walk clear down here to Beaver School, every day to school... there was no bus... my dad was already gone to work... nobody could drive him... I thought, how could they ever do that? I said, what did you do in the snow? He said, it didn't snow. He said I looked into it, and I checked, he said for eight years there was no snow in Beaver. I said, that's unbelievable! We have.. I mean when we moved into our house up here in '68, we had two feet of snow... Ok.. and then the next year, I started school.. second grade... he was in second, and I was in first, and um... we had a panel-like truck affair... pickup affair... and, uh... it had, you know, long brown sides... I remember it was brown... Mr. McPherson was our driver... and they put a bench along that side the back of the panel, and one down this side.. just like a car, you know... but, uh.. we would go down to... um... probably the cheese

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factory house.. you know where that is? The end of Bunn Creek Road there... we called it cheese factory house... houses... still the same house us kids took piano lessons in... anyway, picked up the Harpoles, Darrell Nicholas lived in this general area, and then, um.. the third year is my... next... next youngest sister... she started school, so there was three of us in school then, first, second, third grades... um, and Ro... and that was about all.. oh, then we picked up Joe Haines, who lived in, um... Roger Bentley's parents' place... uh, the Masons lived right there by Jim Fox Grocery, and that house is still standing, and he was crippled... he had MS, and uh.. Lloyd said he could remember getting out and helping him, 'cause he always had crutches.. I can remember him getting on the high school bus, too... but, um... then he'd ride in that panel to school... and that was the extent of the bus service.

DB: *So... the Beaver district went how far south?*

EB: Uh... we went to, ummm....

DB: *Past the 101 Camp?*

EB: Past the 101 Ca... just climbed the hill, right there.

DB: *Oh, ok...*

EB: And then up to Fox's...

DB: *Oh...*

EB: The Fox's was the dividing line between us and Hemlock...

DB: *So they were in Hemlock...*

EB: Uh, huh... yep

DB: *Ok...*

EB: ... and I don't know how far it went this way... I don't know how far down Blaine came... and, see this... when I went to school I don't believe there was anything at Wolf Creek, or Brown School, or... or... only the Blaine School. Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *Ok... Joe Haines ...*

EB: Uh, huh (yes)...

DB: *... went to Brown for a while...*

EB: He... oh, they must have lived up there then.

DB: *Wonder which he did first?*

EB: I would s....

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DB: *We have pictures of him going to Brown, but I also have pictures...*

EB: Ooooh.... I don't have a picture of him, so could have been after, I suppose.

DB: *Huh. We have a picture here of him going to Beaver, too.*

EB: Ooooh, interesting. Uh, huh (yes).

DB: *Ok... so you mentioned the... we have a picture of the panel truck, and I'm curious to see if that's the one you rode in or not...*

EB: And I don't know how many years after that that they got a bus... I just... I just don't remember that.

DB: *Ok...*

EB: I know Bud Jones bought 'em all for a long number of years there...

DB: *So kids walked, and then they had a panel truck... is there any other way they went to school? They weren't riding horses to school, then, were they...*

EB: Did not ride horses... and I didn't ever see any bikes.

DB: *Parents probably didn't drive their kids to school much, did they?*

EB: No.... um.... huh... my dad was already gone to work by then, you know... 'cause school didn't start 'til nine o'clock.

DB: *That was the next question. So it started at nine....*

EB: Nine to three thirty...

DB: *Ok...*

EB: Yep...

DB: *And you got how much off for lunch?*

EB: Whole hour... twelve to one...

DB: *To eat and to have recess...*

EB: Have fun... right... uh, huh (yes).

DB: *What were the days during the year that students did... did not attend school?*

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EB: Only at Christmas... we had three weeks off... we did not have spring break...

DB: *What.. and then, Thanksgiving?*

EB: Just that Friday.

DB: *Ok..*

EB: Uh, huh (yes).

DB: *So... from the moment you left home until you arrived back, would you just describe a day for us?*

EB: Oh, man... we... course, had to do the salute to the American flag, and then we sang My Country 'Tis of Thee... always... always did that... every single morning... and then sometimes we'd sing some of the old... uh, Stephen Foster songs at that time... and, ummmmm... boy, ummm... some of... some... eh.. well, I know one thing we got to do every Friday afternoon... we got to draw... at noon, after we got back in from noon break, and then we... at one o'clock we had all afternoon to draw whatever we wanted, or paint, or cut, or... cut out things...

DB: *Did you look forward to that?*

EB: Loved it! Just loved that time... a free time, sort of... do whatever you want... uh, huh (yes).

DB: *Was that primary grades, or was that upper grades, or both?*

EB: Ummm... we were never all together... we were at... um, recess... and at noon, we did have recess.... oh, boy... I don't know how long that was... probably twenty minutes, I s'pose.

DB: *And... Eunice, when did you start first grade? What year was it?*

EB: That was, uh... 1936.

DB: *Ok.*

EB: Uh, huh (yes).

DB: *I had another question, but I can't think what it was.... so, the regular curriculum... what did you learn... what was taught?*

EB: Oh, boy... um... we had to do spelling, by rote... and learning to write from the little primary grades, you wrote over and over and over.. just kinda' of a...

DB: *The Palmer Method?*

EB: Yes! Yes... to get the right flow of the... the, uh... the, uh... letters itself, and then we, course, had to learn the alphabet, and they were all lon... lined all around the walls, and uh, we had phonics, and

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had to sound out all of those... and I said to my grandkids when they got in... even my own kids... you're gonna' learn to read.. if you don't learn to read, you're not going to get any of the other subjects... English, spelling, reading, geography, we called it... you're... an... 'cause if you can't read the instructions, you're not gonna' get 'em... so you gotta' learn to read. And I did that with my grandkids, too... you gotta' learn to read first... very important.

DB: *What was your favorite subject?*

EB: Oh... hum...

DB: *Gotta' check up to Adams....*

EB: I didn't like geography, but... (laughing)... I probably... I like it more today, but...

DB: *Were there any extracurricular clubs or sports or anything.. activities?*

EB: Nope. Never got to go on any field trips of any kind... um... never left the school grounds for anything.. we stayed right there.. right here at the school.

DB: *Was there ever much homework?*

EB: Never! No.

DB: *Huh...*

EB: No.. can't remember....

DB: *As you.. while other ... while the teacher was teaching the other grades, you had a chance to work, and you worked probably..*

EB: You did. Uh, huh (yes).

DB: *And.... do you ever remember anyone misbehaving at school, and if they did, what were some punishments that might happen to a person?*

EB: Hmmm... well, I know that, um... one of the teachers would hit my brother on the hand... and uh...

DB: *With her hand, or...*

EB: With her hand, uh, huh (yes). Ummm.. my brother Lloyd said that right out here... let's see, where we at here... right out here, on the way to the big gym, there were three huge fir trees, like these over here at Schulmerich's.. and he said, I would go out there and I'd be in the... in the second grade, or third grade, and I'd climb up clear to the top of those and then I'd come clear down.. and you know how they come down there and swoop like that... and I get ahold of one of those and I follow it clear to the ground! Just loved it. Well, then, the teacher didn't like that... she just knew he

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was going to break an arm or a leg or get hurt, you know, so she contacted the school board and said you gotta' do something with those trees... they cut 'em down! Just because of kids...

DB: *Now, I heard that story about Charley Monroe, uh... doing that on the branches, but I didn't know anybody else did that...*

EB: That's Lloyd... he did that.

DB: *Really!*

EB: Um, huh (yes)...

DB: *Did your paren.... What would they would have thought of that if they would have known... would that... would that have been ok to go that high up, and...*

EB: They did it at home all time...

DB: *Really?*

EB: ...ya... and in fact, Ray and Rollie, when they were little up there, they'd go back in the back property here after the house where they lived recently and, uh.. do that.. and one time they decided they... it... they couldn't get the alder limbs to bend or get down that close to the ground, so one of the boys... I guess it was Rollie.. said, well, he'd get the saw, and he'd cut it off, and Ray could ride it down to the ground!

DB: *(Laugh)*

EB: *(Laughing)* It knocked him out just as cold as could be, and he went... ran quick and got the wagon and loaded Ray up in the wagon and pulled him to the house... and says... something's wrong with Ray!

DB: *How old do you think they were then?*

EB: Oh, I s'pose they were second and third grade.

DB: *(Laugh)*

EB: *(Laughing)* So... but nothing happened... he was just... that was just... came to... it just knocked him out.

DB: *Were parents ever involved in discipline for school behavior, or...*

EB: Don't recall that at all.. nope... we always a wonderful Christmas program that all the parents were invited to...

DB: *What did kids do in the program... what kind of...*

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EB: We had all learned pieces, and then we would have a skit.

DB: *Ok...*

EB: And... and of course, the songs, and usually the songs that are in your hymnals today.

DB: *Did the... did other community members come, or was it mostly parents that came to ones...*

EB: I would say, mostly parents, but the.. then the last day of school the whole community was invited, and I miss that today... I really do.

DB: *So like a picnic or something?*

EB: Yes! Yes. Ya... 'cause it would be about the fifteenth or the twentieth that school was out... of May... yes... and it was usually a very nice day.

DB: *Where would you have the program in the old school, because there wasn't a stage, was there?*

EB: No, there was not... ummm... that... 'cause they must have built that... Lloyd said that he got to help put the first ceiling in that...

DB: *Oh, in this one?*

EB: Uh, huh (yes)... and, boy, you know... nope, 'cause there was not another building that I can think of...

DB: *And that probably had a stage, though...*

EB: It did... very nice stage..

DB: *Ok..*

EB: Uh, huh (yes).

DB: *Did you go to school when, uh.... when they converted that to a school?*

EB: No.

DB: *Ok... that was later on...*

EB: Uh, huh (yes)...

Student: *I was going to ask... when did your school start back up after it got out?*

DB: *You mean after the summer... when did it start in the fall, you mean?*

EB: It was the first of September, or maybe the seventh of September...

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DB: *Around Labor Day, or so...*

EB: Yes... uh, huh (yes).

DB: *Ok.. did the school have a phone that you remember?*

EB: Nope... don't remember that at all.

DB: *You re... you mentioned...*

EB: ... or the office, or.. ya...

DB: *Ok... did you write with, like, a regular pencil, or was a bigger pencil...*

EB: Yes. No, it was not a big pencil.

DB: *Ink pens at all?*

EB: No. No ink pens, uh, huh (no).

DB: *And... tell us the names of any teachers that you remember.*

EB: Well, there was Mrs. Warmoth and Mrs. Erma... I can't think of her first name... Thelma! Thelma Warmoth, and Mrs. Erma Gilbert...

DB: *Ok...*

EB: And then there was Mrs. Lowry... just loved Mrs. Lowry... what a sweet lady... I'm trying to think... um... then there was Betty McElroy... she taught here for a while when I was in the, uh... probably, um... sixth grade... sixth or seventh grade, and she lived in the... Schulmerich cabins here.. and they just recently burned 'em down, or took 'em out of there, you know... and then she was caught smoking, and they fired her, just like that.

DB: *Smoking here on grounds, or somewhere else...*

EB: I don't know where it was at... we never...

DB: *Would it have mattered if she was smoking somewhere else?*

EB: I wonder... I wonder... ya... they... that was absolutely against the rules... a teacher was not allowed to smoke.

DB: *Huh.. that's an interesting story! Tha... you know... That's one of the things all the way through here that... we're really looking for stories... not just the facts, but if you remember any incidents that happened that stand in your mind... like that, we'd like to hear those.*

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EB: Hm...

DB: *What were the games you played at recess?*

EB: Well, ummm.... some of the kids played the marbles, ummm... shooting marbles down... 'cause there was a lot of dirt around.. they'd make a big round circle of... of the smooth dirt, and then we played hopscotch on the dirt, also... you could usually find a broken piece of glass somewhere... 'cause that was the one that would always stay when you'd throw it on the hopscotch.. and, ummm.... just... hmm... just...

DB: *Some people have mentioned Annie Over...*

EB: That's what Lloyd said.. he said, don't you remember when we played Annie Over, we could hardly get the ball over? (laughing) It was so high... the building was so high... long ways.. long ways around.

DB: *Any other stories that you remember about things that happened at school, or concerning school?*

EB: Hmm... oh, boy, let's see here... hmm...

DB: *Ok.. if you think of any while we're talking...*

EB: Ya... ok...

DB: *Just interrupt us..... So, I'm gonna' change the subject a little bit, and just talk about you... when... if you don't mind... when and where were you born?*

EB: I was born in Portland... Lloyd and I were born in Portland.. dad lived in Portland.. they lived... in fact, I just looked at the little house they lived in in Portland, and that was in.. Lloyd was born in '29, and I was born in 1930, and then right about that time, my dad couldn't find a job... he would, uh... mom would make him a lunch in his lunch pail, and he'd walk the streets of Portland trying to... 'cause he had been... before he got married.. they got married in 1928... uh, before they got married, he had been down to, uh.. California, and saw a big, big construction project and he had stopped there and did some work on that new building... and so he had been learning the carpenter trade.. so, then, he came back home, and, uh... my grandfather had this property up here of the Nicholauses, and so he said, Ben, I think you need to take your family and go to Beaver and live, because there you could have a garden, you could have cows, you could have all the food you could eat, because you could butcher, and you wouldn't hurt for things to have, and... mother did not like that.. she was a city girl.. even though she grew up on the... on the plains of North Dakota... um... from the time she was, like, about two until eighteen or nineteen or twenty.. then they came out here.. all the Horn family... there was ten children.. actually nine living... and my dad's family had ten children, and they grew up around Happy Valley after they moved... da... my dad was born in Michigan... my mom was born in Norway... and then, umm... so then they met, because they all went to church every Sunday downtown SW 12th and Main in Portland there to the Nazarene Church.. and so then my grandfather said, Ben, I think you ... so then he said, ok... so mom finally decided that she would move down here with dad in 1931... and that was in February of 1931... and, uh... then there were fo... the rest of the

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four kids were all born here... the two younger boys were born at the house, and Shirley was born in, uh... Washington.... Lois was born at the house. She's a year younger than me.

DB: *How did your grandpa get this property?*

EB: You know, I don't even remember how come he had that property... umm... his, umm... older... my dad's older sister, Hannah... the Muffets owned some property where the Kellows live... and they had some property up on the hill, too... and I don't know when that.. how far back that went... maybe I'll have to ask Lloyd that, 'cause he's...

DB: *So, how did it come about that your family moved that place to that... where they... where you lived?*

EB: Well, then, uh.. dad was getting older and it was too much... he didn't want that big of a place... it was almost a hundred acres there at the Nicholauses... and then he found out that, ummm, Mr. Tom Nicholas... uh, Betty's father-in-law, would like to have that property, even though they... he only had one son... Jerry Nicholas was an only child... and so, then, dad and mom said, well, this is a newer house, let's move down to that one, and we'll... we'll finish it. Mom did most of the carpenter work in that house.. she did... 'cause dad was doing carpenter work... and by then.. by then they had put in the water system for Beaver and he had to keep that up.. and then he had built these four cabins right up here, so he had to keep those up.. and had a few cows, so he took milk to the factory every day.. so had those four jobs to put kids through college. (laughing)

DB: *Did you have chores when you grew up?*

EB: Oh, yes... had to go to the barn and milk..

DB: *By hand?*

EB: Yes.. oh, ya... my dad never did have a milking machine...

DB: *How long did that take you?*

EB: Oooh... I s'pose, uh... not any more than a half hour... maybe an hour...

DB: *Did all of your brothers and sisters.. did they have a chance to work in the...*

EB: Yes, they did.. yes... and as the boys got older... 'cause Lloyd was the oldest, and um... then the two younger boys got old enough, then they would go, and then the girls didn't have to go to the barn as often.

DB: *But you probably had chores in the house?*

EB: Oh, yes, yes.. we had to dishes every single meal... and... and uh... we always read the Bible and prayed before we caught the bus, and we'd tell dad... Dad, hurry up, you know, and hurry up... because, uh... the bus is gonna' come, the bus is gonna' come.. well, this is the verse that we learned... Uh... just a second here... can't think of it... but it will come to me... so, anyway, umm....

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Le... this is the way that it goes... "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer", because church was a very big part of our lives.. we... we never missed a service... I ... just thank the Lord today that he gave us such health! One time we didn't have good health, and we all got the whooping cough... and mother taught us the lessons from school for six straight weeks, 'cause all six of us kids got the whooping cough, and we had this... did it in the... in the living room, there... boy, that was a hard time.

DB: *You all had it at the same time?*

EB: We did.

DB: *Oooh, (laughing)... ok...*

EB: But we got over it!

DB: *What were your favorite games or sports or books or hobbies that you have, or did?*

EB: Well, I... we took piano, and so all three of us girls... mainly us two older girls would practice the piano.. had to practice an hour every day, so that took a lot of time, and uh... 'cause lessons were always on Saturday for learning new things... from Reed... Reed and Margaret Farris... he was a cheese maker... lived in the cheese factory house...

DB: *And she's the one who gave the lessons?*

EB: Uh, huh (yes).

DB: *Are you... as you look back on that, are you angry you had those lessons...*

EB: Oh, no, I'm very happy about that... ya... I'm not... I'm not the pianist that my sister was... Lois.. she was the really... the excellent pianist that... a concert pianist, I suppose you might say... just could play anything... transpose anything... down or up... is that too high?...da, da, da, da... and then ... oh,... da, da, da, da... (laughing)...

DB: *But you have done a lot...*

EB: Oh, ya, I... I do... ya...

DB: *What have you done with it since that...*

EB: I've given lessons... I gave lessons to some of the Chatelain kids... Bobby... uh, Bob... Bobby at that time... Bob and Jerry Chatelain.. and, ummm.. Kepharts...

DB: *But you also play for church...*

EB: I do... all the services...

DB: *You have for...*

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EB: Oh, ya...

DB: *About how long?*

EB: Fifty years.

DB: *Ok... Are there any books that you remember reading?*

EB: Hmm.. I didn't like to read a lot... um... we did read... we'd try to read the Bible every day, but the books.. the secular books we didn't have a lot at the home, but we would get 'em occasionally and bring 'em... but we never had any, like any library service that came here.. no.

DB: *What do you remember most about your mother and your father?*

EB: Well, they were very caring, and very interested in anything that us kids would do. Um... cautious about what we listened to on the radio.. um, mother sewed all of our clothes, so that...and that was awesome... she always had a very clean house... we didn't have the best house in the neighborhood, but we had a very clean house and we'd help do that.. and the one thing that was so neat.. we didn't have to do dishes on Sunday. After Sunday dinner.. .we got home from church, you know, mother made a great big Sunday dinner... dad and mom did the dishes. (laughing) That was awesome.

DB: *What was the best advice.. or, or... that you... that your parents gave you... your mom or your dad, or what.. what lessons did you learn from them? Most important lessons?*

EB: Oh, man... um.... to be... to be on time for appointments, to be... if you have a job, be there on time or early... if you are committed to a task, carry it through... uh... hmm... we always stopped and picked up kids on the way to church... always had somebody with us on Sunday for dinner... we just reached out to other people all the time.. yes, we did... I think it's important...

DB: *Ok... so... occupations during your life... jobs that you've had, or accomplishments...*

EB: There used to be the, um... King's lockers... which were right over here where this house... right across from the Beaver Firehall... and he would... just moved in to town, and opened a little grocery store there, and so, uh... he talked to my dad and wanted me to help... come down and clean, before he opened up the store. So that was probably my very first job... and then I cleaned house for... oh, dear... John Dostal's mother... that old... no... no... John and Neva Dostal lived there in recent years, but it was her mother and father.. she was the clerk of the district... and so I would go in there and dust... and, uh... the house was not really dirty, but I would just dust and sweep and straighten up things, and... worked there... what else did I do? Hm... then we were janitors... me and my sister, Lois, were janitors of this Beaver School during those late years...

DB: *While you went to school...*

EB: Yes... ya... uh, huh (yes)... and then uh... then after... after I graduated high school then, I went to work at the bank.

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DB: *The... and... the bank was the First National Bank.*

EB: Yes, it was at that time... oh, I worked at Stranahan's cleaners before that... 'cause dad says, uh... oh, Eunice I think you need to go put your application in at the bank... dad, I'm too scared... I just... so scared to go and do an application in a great big bank, a big business, you know, (laughing)... but I did, and they called me... I worked right out of high school from June to about November, and they called me... wanted me to come to work... and we got to wear bobby socks to work... at the bank! Can you believe that, in the bookkeeping department? (laughing)

DB: *So... I don't think people understand what a magnificent bank that was, as far as the....*

EB: Oh... we were the only bank at that time.

DB: *Oh, you were?*

EB: Yes, we were.

DB: *Wasn't it an incredible building?*

EB: Yes! Oh, wonderful old building.. it was a shame it had to catch on fire... but that was... just a very few years, then, they opened the Commercial Bank, which later changed to the US Bank.

DB: *So, tell us about your own family.... husband and children.*

EB: Hm... well, let's see.. my dad wanted me to go to college, first of all, after I graduated from high school, and I had already been dating my husband, Vern, for two years... almost three years, I guess... and, um... I said, well, I... I don't think I'm going to college... course it would be NNC, up at Northwest Nazarene College, where all of us was supposed to go... according to them... dad and mother never went to college... my mother didn't finish high school, neither did my dad... and I think that was an incentive that they really wanted their children to go to college... so I said, well, you know, I think I'll go to work, and he said, ok... so then I went to work at the bank, and I worked one year, and then we got married, 'cause I graduated from high school in '48, and in '49 we were married... and in three years we had our first daughter, and that's Beverly, and then Gary came along the next year, and in three years Mervin came along, and in four years Charlotte came along... so I've got two boys and two girls.

DB: *How many grandchildren do you have?*

EB: Had five, now I have four... uh, huh (yes)... ya... lots of fun years.. it was so neat to live next to mother and dad, and my younger siblings that... just thought it was just so awesome to have a little baby around... (laughing)... 'cause they didn't have any more grandkids close by all the years... I was the only one of our six kids that lived here... 'cause Lloyd went to work in Boeing, and Lois went off to college and then lived in Idaho, and Shirley married a preacher and... and they lived in Eastern Oregon, now they're living in California.. they're still pastors... and, uh... Ray has worked for the Northwest Natural Gas, still does.. and Rollie has been a pastor and is a carpenter now... (laugh)... all of them can do carpenter work.

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DB: *So you mentioned, uh.. church activities.. is there anything else that you'd like to add about community or religious activities?*

EB: We always went to camp meeting every year, which was a big highlight in our...

DB: *Where was that?*

EB: It was out in Milwaukee... Clackamas area.. ummm... we spent a.. usually a week there.. mother would take all six of us kids and we'd stay in a tent... dad would take us out on the Saturday before, and then he'd come out on Sunday, and then we'd go home the next Sunday.. and for all the services.. children's meetings, lots of scripture learning.. it was just an awesome time to be... was... just wish it was still there.

DB: *So if there's any... pretend that you're sitting here and these are your grandchildren sitting with you... and they want to hear some stories about the old days.. what are some stories that you might want to make sure that they hear? So, you're sitting here with your grandchildren, what are some things that you want to make sure that you tell your grandchildren.. some stories... and it could be some stories about your childhood, it could be what you heard from your parents or grandparents or ancestors...*

EB: Well, one thing that I feel about ... and this doesn't happen to all families.. but there were six of us kids, and we never, ever ran out of things to do... 'course we didn't have a tv, either... in fact, did you know that this was National Turn Off Your TV Week? And so, I decided that I would do that... it's been very difficult... (laugh)... I thought, but really it's good for me... but, if you... if a person is always going to be positive, be kind, be thoughtful of others, and find something constructive to do without watching the tv, or listening to the radio, or the records, and all the other stuff that we fill our minds with, but.. get out and walk, get out and have fun with other kids, and ... I, uh.. we slept in the barn... it was so fun! (laugh) Kids don't have that privilege today much, do they? But, uh... I just think that, um.. to be.. to get a project and work on it, and do it to completion or learn a trade... learn how to play the piano, learn how to play the guitar, learn how to do the horn... do... like you play the flute, don't ya'?

Student: *Clarinet.*

EB: Clarinet... ya... my brother played the clarinet.. all of us kids played something.. Shirley had the accordion, Lloyd had the clarinet, I played the piano and the violin, my dad played the violin, the two younger boys played the coronet or the trumpet, and so we had an orchestra right in our own family. Loved every minute of it.

DB: *So you all played together?*

EB: We did. We played at church... every service... ya, Sunday morning, Sunday night... yep... that's just a... I very... have a very happy memory of my childhood, ya.. very wonderful.

DB: *You mentioned your mom's ancestry.. I think you said Norway, didn't you?*

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EB: Uh, huh (yes).

DB: *What about your dad? What's your ancestry on that side?*

EB: Dad was born in Michigan, and they had ten kids, and then they moved out here, and they had a big berry ranch.. always picked all the berries in the season and took 'em to, uh... downtown Portland with a horse and buggy.. and they had to pick strawberries.. this was all for making money, you know, for their big family... I don't recall that they ever milked cows.. I... I just don't believe they ever had COWS...

DB: *'Til they came out here?*

EB: 'Til we came out here... uh, huh (yes)

DB: *So, Eunice, you've given us a lot of good information, and a number of the things that you've talked about, other people haven't mentioned.*

EB: Hmmm... Wow!

DB: *But, if you think of any stories later that you might write down or mention...*

EB: OK...

DB: *... they'd be wonderful for the kids to have...*

EB: ... sure they would.

DB: *We've developed an archive here at school, so we...*

EB: Oooh, fun...

DB: *We are keeping biographies on people...*

EB: Hm....

DB: *... and we are listing them on our website, so that anybody in the world, if they wanted to....*

EB: Ooooh...

DB: *So, if you dad... they... they'd punch in his name, and say do you have any information about him....*

EB: Oh, dear...

DB: *We would tell, well, yes, Eunice Bentley... uh... interview...*

EB: Wow...

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DB: *So it's pretty exciting.*

EB: You gotta' look at these pictures... oh, here it is... here's the picture right here... see here? But see, somebody got their finger in the way... here's the wood shed, right here, and then the steps went up right here... about four steps, right there...

DB: **I've never seen that.. any picture of that...**

EB: And this is the big room, called big... which is on the other side of this... 'cause on this side is the little room.. the restrooms were right here...

DB: **So this is the front of the building, on this side?**

EB: You know, I never have really figured out how... 'cause this could have been...

DB: **I thought the Schulmerich's was on this side.. but maybe I'm wrong...**

EB: Schulmerich's was on this side of this one...

DB: **Really...**

EB: Uh, huh... uh, huh (yes, yes).. oh, here's the.. here's the only pic... picture of the merry go round.. you can barely see it... see...

DB: **Ya...**

EB: 'Cause there's the front of the school right there.. that's me and... about 1943... ya.... but this... and this is, uh... the old gym that was made... in fact, it's still here... you turn to the left when you come in here.

Can you find me? I'm in the middle.

DB: **Guys, when you interviewed Betty Schulmerich... that's her right there.**

EB: Oh, she was... she was here? Ooooh.... and my brother Lloyd's in this picture, and my sister, Lois, and me... and Mrs. Gilbert's up here...

DB: **Now, why does that look like Lloyd?**

EB: Nope... that's

DB: **That's Lloyd...**

EB: Nope... nope... nope...

DB: **That's not Lloyd...**

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EB: Nope... nope... nope...

DB: **Are you littler...**

EB: No, that's Joan Julian...

DB: *Where are you!?*

EB: I'm in the middle... yes, that's me.

DB: *Where's your brother? Oh, here he is right there...*

EB: This is Jimmy Dahl... this is Jim Dahl, and I don't know her name... I need to get ahold of Quentin, I guess...

DB: *Ya, what we're going to do in a few minutes, is we're gonna' take you in...*

EB: Oooh... ooooh...

DB: *... because we have these pictures... and we're missing some names, and you can help us fill in the names...*

EB: Oh... ok... I got all of these except her... this is Ted Allen, Helen Thomas, Jimmy Dahl.. oh, and I don't know him... he's a Fowler, that's Quentin, this is a Harpole, Betty Schulmerich, this is the Goldenstein girls, Jane Trojan, me, Darrell Nicholaus, my brother Lloyd... Gloria Nicholaus lives in the Beaver Trailer Court... Rita Meink, Joan Julian, Billy Speece, my sister Lois.

DB: *So, we're gonna' go in, and you're gonna' tell us those in a few minutes, and we're gonna' actually get 'em down... is there more in here?*

EB: This is a little bit older,

DB: *Oooh....*

EB: ...because my youngest brother, Rollie, is right there, and that's why I want it...

DB: *You guys... you'd ... you... were you in there when we copied this picture from, uh....*

EB: 'Cause this is Pearlle...

DB: *Right... but I don't think that we got all the names, so we're gonna' get that from you, as well.*

EB: Ooooh, 'cause I called up Lee Parks, and I said, you're in here! Who's this boy? And that's ... John Zimmerman, Terry Thompson, Merwin...

DB: *He's being interviewed next week.*

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EB: Ya, he said so.

DB: *How many more do you have?*

EB: And this is just.... see, I wanted to tell you here... oh, when Lloyd would walk home from school, Alex Walker used to be cheesemaker... would pick him up on a real stormy day and let him ride home with him... rode the limb... carried water... helped with first ceiling... ya... the ceilings were... the windows were fourteen feet high... ya, I guess I told you all that... and this is all six of us when we were little...

DB: *Can I copy that picture today?*

EB: Sure... and this is my whole family after we grew up... and this is my mom and dad's family... my grandparents... Grandma and Grandpa Becker, Grandma and Grandpa Horn, my mom and dad, my dad's brother, my dad's sister, my dad's brother there! Ya... so that's the only time left when I was growing up mother and dad were right there...

Other voice: *Oh, isn't this wonderful... ooooooh!*

EB: Oh.... (laughing) isn't that awesome...

Other voice: *I love it... I ab... I love it! And... that... there you guys are.. and then here you are.... little ones! Are these twins?*

EB: Oh, no... no, this is me, and she's a year younger... and these weren't twins either, they were a year apart. In fact, the people in Beaver here always said Raymond and Rollie were twins, but they're a year apart... they're a year apart.

Other voice: *Love it...*

DB: *(giving instructions to students...)*

Conversation going on in background.... end of tape

Transcribed by Darleen Creecy Cole