

Interview of Elizabeth Schultz
interviewed by Aaron Lane
May 2, 1993

A: So I guess we can start out um, just, tell me your name an'- things like that uh, where you were born, whenever you'd like to begin,

E: yeh - My name is Elizabeth Scholtz, *Schultz*

A: Okay

E: and I'm...eighty-five years old! (laughter)

A: uh-huh, where were you born at?

Jewell
E: I was born in Jule (sp?), Iowa, north of Ames, and, uh, I've lived different places, quite a few places, until I came here on the farm, then I stayed put. (laughter)

A: uh-huh, How - how'd you, how'd you get to the farm?

E: Well, in 1927 I came out here to teach a country school, and met my husband,

A: uh-huh

E: and got married, and settled down,

A: uh-huh,

E: and been here ever since.

A: uh-huh,

E: (laughter)

A: How - how'd you meet your husband?

E: Oh, over at the Trinity Lutheran church, (?), right over there

A: What was your, um, you were born in, in Jule, Iowa, or..

E: Mm-hm

A: What was your, um, family like, uh, did you have a lot of brothers and sisters, or..

E: Oh, I just had..two sisters, and then finally a baby brother

A: Mm-hmm

E: (laughter)

A: How old were you when he came around?

E: Thirteen! (laughter)

A: Oh! (laughter)

E: so he was always quite a bit younger, um...

A: Hm. Um, how 'bout your parents?

E: Well, my father ran a grain elevator and a lumber yard, and things like that, he was always in that kind of business, 'n, they were - good parents (laughter)

A: Yeah, what was that - what was the home life like? Just - got any -

E: well,

A: - good stories? (laughter)

E: (laughter) We didn't seem to have all the troubles that people have now-days. (laughter)

A: Yeah.

E: (laughter) I think our home was peaceful 'n, we - read 'n, we didn't o' course have radio 'n television 'n all those things in those days so, we uh, read books 'n, things like that..took music lessons o' course, (laughter)

A: Yeah, what did you play?

E: Just the piano.

A: 'Kay.

E: Little bit.

A: Yeah.

E: (laughter)

(Pause)

A: You took your schooling, just um, at the at the high school, or, was it a - like a one-room school-house, or..

E: Well, no, I've - my folks moved around quite a bit we'm, we've lived in different towns in Iowa 'n, I think I've attended ten different schools! (laughter)

A: Oh, yeah, so that was kinda hectic, hm?

E: I graduated up in Illinois, so, but I went one year at East High school in Des Moines, an', uh, an' graduated out in Walnut, Illinois. Then we came back to Iowa again n', an.. o'course I had to find jobs 'n, finally ended up as a school teacher, (laughter)

A: yeah - wo..now- you said you moved around a lot-where were the different places that you lived?

E: Well, Independence, Bode, Roland, (laughter)

A: yeah,

E: 'n, Iowa, an', Mendota Illinois, 'n, back to Des Moines, 'n, out to Walnut Illinois, 'nd,

A: mmhm,

E: back to Des Moines again. (laughter)

A: yeah - did your um, the whole family moved around - (?)

E: mm, hm, mmhm,

A: yeah

E: my dad - sorta like to change places 'nd, start up in a new place 'n, so we just - traveled around, (laughter)

A: yeah,

E: (laughter)

A: Did he start a, like a grain elevator at each different place - is that...(?)

E: Well, sometimes he was - running fr - one for himself and then other times he was a hired manager for a farmer's elevator,

A: uh-huh

E: an', uh, then he'd - get tired o' that and he'd wanta do it on his own and, he'd - start up for himself, (laughter)

A: yeah... how 'bout your mom?

E: Well, she was just a housewife -

A: mmhm, that's okay,

E: - stayed home (laughter)

A: mmhm,

E: she was a good cook!

A: Yeah, yeah,

E: And..she was a good seamstress, she always was sewing an', making our clothes 'n, things like that,

A: mmhm

E: with our four kids, she was kinda busy --

A: Did you um, learn a lot - I mean, did she teach, teach you all the -

E: oh yeah,

A: - crafts, as I understand -

E: well,

A: - you like to do a lot of crafts

E: oh yeah well, we had to sew an', cook an' (laugh), clean an'

(laugh), help with the housework an' everything like that -- nnuh.. I guess she did - teach me some-well, I started sewing doll clothes I think when I was eight years old! (laughter)

A: oh really? Did you have a big collection?

E: Oh no. No..hmh, but uh -- managed to keep, going, (laugh)

A: mmhm. Do you remember a lot about your grandparents?

E: Well, yes,m, my mother's father lived with us, in Jule, his wife had died 'n, he was in the Civil War, so, he had a lot of war stories an' things like that an', an' he had some - buddies downtown that he - uh, played cards with an' things like that, uh, Decoration Day was really a big day in those times,

A: mmhm

E: an' uh, we'd - meet at the school house an' all the girls'd be dressed up in white dresses and everything-

A: mmhm,

E: -and we'd parade down Main Street to the cemetary

A: yeah

E: (laughter) an' my grandpa always carried the flag, at the head of the parade because he was a Civil War veteran. An' my parents' folks lived in Hubbard, er my father's folks lived in Hubbard, Iowa. He was a retired preacher, an' uh, they had quite a big house. Looked big to us li'l kids anyway (laughter)

A: yeah

E: an' uh, that house is still standing up in Hubbard, I've seen it lately.

A: uh-huh

E: But um, it had the first indoor plumbing that I ever remembered. (laughter)

A: Oh, (?) pretty fancy (laughter)

E: Yeah, seemed real marvelous (laughter) And uh, and then later they lived in Des Moines an', and uh, grew to be quite old

A: hm. Do you ever remember um any stories about like um, like coming over from England or -

E: Oh, no

A: - Germany or France or something like that?

E: No, my grandparents all came from Switzerland.

A: Oh! Switzerland.

E: -the German part of Switzerland, so everybody talked German.

A: Oh, I see. Do you remember any?

E: No,

A: no -

E: -they tried to teach it to us kids, and we didn't learn it!

A: yeah, (laughter)

E: huh, um, but when they di' wanted to say something that we weren't supposed to hear, then they'd talk German! (laughter)

A: Oh, right, yeah, birthday presents or something like that.

E: Mmhm. But uh, I had uh, my father had five sisters and two brothers, and my mother had a sister and a brother so I had those, that many aunts and uncles, and there were twenty-two of us cousins,

A: wow,

E: (laughter) - on my father's side, then there were eleven more on my mother's side, so we had lots of cousins. And we would visit with them, we'd visit back and forth an', and I got to know my

cousins - I think people now-days don't even pay attention to their cousins. (laughter)

A: yeah, I've only got two, so it's easy. (laughter)

E: And uh, (pause) Well, I got out of highschool and I didn't have any training what-so-ever for a job, and there weren't that many jobs for girls, see I graduated in 1925,

A: mmhm

E: and, so, my uncle got me a job at the telephone company in Des Moines, and, that was in the days before dial-phones at all,

A: yeah

E: and you had to push the plugs in, an'

A: yeah

E: - push the button to ring the bells, and ask the number please, (laughter)

A: uh-huh, yeah my grandma worked for the telephone company when she was nineteen years old, she she

E: mmhm

A: yeah, I remember hearing all these stories about,

E: what town?

A: uh, Wichita Kansas?

E: oh, mmhm, well this was Des Moines, and there were four different offices I think, they sent me to an office close to my home so I could walk back and forth.

A: uh-huh

E: but I had to work split hours, then I had to walk home on East 9th Street at ten o'clock at night! (laughter)

A: oh, was that kinda scary?

E: I was afraid most of the time, but nothing ever happened.

A: yeah

E: It was safer in those days anyway,

A: yeah,

E: now-days a girl couldn't do that at all (laughter) But uh, then, I wasn't satisfied with that job, I, didn't like it, and I wanted to be a teacher so, in those days, you could be a s- country schoolteacher if you passed the county examinations, so I went down to the courthouse in Des Moines and took the examinations an', passed it well enough to get a second degree certificate. An', then I didn't know what to do with it, (laughter) but I met a girl, working in Des Moines, who came from Malcolm, and she says, "oh well I could get a country school any time I wanted it, but, she just knew a lot of people that knew a lot about country schools. I said, "well gimme a director's name so I can write to him. An' she gave me F- Mr. Fred Litke's name out here. I wrote him a letter, and put my picture in it, and he wrote back and hired me.

A: mmhm

E: Sixty dollars a month, (laughter) and I think it was only the fall term, which was two months,

A: mm,

E: they always took you on trial, you see, but I managed to stick out the whole year, and the second year, (laughter) and uh, had to walk to school o' course, number 63 was just gravel,

A: uh-huh, now what - which w- which road was six, number 63? That's highway si-

E: mmhm

A: or that's the one that just goes-

E: mmhm, north

A: -north.

E: I lived at the p-, at the church personage with the preacher and his wife, when I first came out here, you had to board and room someplace, five dollars a week (cough) (laughter) and um, first thing I met the parents of my pupils, an' uh, they seemed to like me all right but, I, met my husband and I decided to get married so I quit teaching, and girls didn't work after they were married then, we were supposed to stay home. (laughter) An' uh, but we got married in 1929, just shortly after the fall of Wall Street, you know, an' the Big Depression, (laughter)

A: Yeah

E: And, times were kinda tough, um, everything was so cheap, um, farm products were cheap, an', money was scarce, but we managed, some way or other (laughter) On the farm, we always had our own, a lot of our own food, so we weren't as hard up as some of the people in the cities at that time. But uh, my folks, uh, my husband's folks had lived on this farm since their marriage in 1901, and, but they were going to move to town and let us have this house. Well they did move to town, but uh, didn't like it, so they said "if we build you a house out on the farm, can we come back to the farm?" (laughter) So they built a little house next door,

A: You let 'em come back -

E: for us, for us to live in, and they lived here until they passed on. An' then we moved back over here to the big house. So. We raised our two children over there in the small house, I think it was twenty-five years or more we lived there, an' then in 1956 we came back over to this house an' lived here ever since! (laughter) 63 years I think it is I've lived on this farm. (laughter)

A: yeah, lot of memories I bet.

E: An' o' course we always went to church over here at Trinity Lutheran

A: (?) is that?

E: Oh, about a mile and a half north. An' uh, took an active part in all those things. In 1944, I took on uh, the work of being a 4-H leader. Uh, a family here in the township wanted me to start up a club for Malcolm township. And so in a little country school house over north here one evening we organized the Malcolm Worth and Mirth 4-H club, which is still going. (laughter)

A: wow!

E: And uhm, I worked with 4-H for ten years as a leader of the girls and then 5 years on the county committee, and worked with the 4-H fair an', an', went to 4-H camp several times, there was a good camp up by Madrid, 4-H camp where the 4-H kids can go every year. (laughter) An', that was lotsa fun. So, but, after 15 years that's about enough of that too. So, I don't know what I did after that. Well, my kids got married and they started having grandchildren, that's what happened next! (laughter) My son, I, we talked our son into living in the small house here on the farm, an' helping us out with the farm an' going into partnership with his dad,

A: mmhm

E: An' they lived there, an', had six children. (laughter) And

um, I was busy, helping with them, sewing clothes for 'em, they would run in and out o' my house all the time. (laughter) And um, 'course they finally grew up too, and got married, and had children. (laughter) So now I have 19 great-grand-children!

A: hm, That's a joy

E:(laughter) don't see them all very often, but uh, there's nineteen of 'em. Guess the oldest one's sixteen now. And the youngest ones are three. Three years ago I had three grandsons born in the same month. (laughter)

A: wow!

E: One was a pair of twins! (laughter)

A: Mm!

E: So.

A: What are you, oh, I, sorry, (laugh) I was just gonna, um, wonder if you could tell me a little more about the country school that you worked at.

E: Well it was just one of the older buildings in the county, at that time there was a country school every two miles, throughout the whole state, I guess, so that the child wouldn't have to walk more than one mile to school. He would go to the school that was closest to his home. An' o' course I had to walk a mile and a quarter from the, from the parsonage up here where I was staying, through the winter and everything, and I don't know how I did it! (laughter) Um, had to build the fires, had to sweep and clean the school house after the kids had gone, an' uh, in the middle of the winter sometimes the mothers would bring us a hot cup of soup or something at noon, and we'd have a hot lunch, otherwise we just ate out of a lunch pail. And uh, course we had programs, Box social, they tell me how they kidded my husband-to-be about buying my box at the Box social o' course, (laughter) I guess he had to pay a good price for it! (laughter)

A: yeah

E: But uh, people did things like that in those days. We didn't have electricity, we didn't have indoor toilets, we didn't have running water or anything, we had a well outside of the school house so we had drinking water, and uh, I was lucky, I didn't have too many pupils, I think I only had seven the first year. But I had one beginner, we called 'em. Had to teach her how to read and write you know, all this and that, (laughter) and, I really didn't have much training for the job but I managed to get along okay. They hired me for the second year, so that was proof that I..(laughter)

A:...doing something right.

E: An uh, this girl that I started out in the first grade is living down in Brooklyn right now, her name is Mrs. Horace Davidson.

A: oh!

E: and uh, I can always remember how small and tiny she was, an', how good she was in school, (laughter) how quickly she learned, an' everything. The boys weren't too bad, you know, they always talk about the boys causing the teachers a lot of trouble but,

A: mmhm

E: the boys I had didn't, not too much. (cough) Course we had to sing, just had a little pump organ to play music on, and uh but, we could read the Bible and we could say a prayer in school in those

days too, an' so that was really, usually our opening exercise, to sing, and and pray, and something like that. But uh, the schools are, almost all gone now, they just tor@ down the country schools, you hardly see one anyplace.

A: Mhm

E: But uh, we have restored one up in Grinnell you know,

A: yeah, um, ? told me something about that, the ? 4-H crafts?

E: Mhm, it used to be down here, on the way to Malcolm. And uh, a group of us decided that it was worth preserving an, and showing what the schools really were like in those days.

A: Mhm

E: Course this was a much more modern one, much better than the one I taught in, but uh, I helped with the work of it an', an' un, am interested in that sort of thing.

A: yeah.

E: Now we've brought in a church an' a log cabin, have you been out there?

A: Oh, no, I haven't seen those.

E: Oh? Out at the 4-H fairgrounds.

A: yeah, it's been a while since I been out there.

E: Mhm

A: I 'member them before though.

E: This summer we'll have to work on the log cabin I s'pose we, we've got it but we don't hardly know what to do with it! (laughter)

A: Yeah!

E: Needs a lot of repair.

A: Mhm.

E: But we think it's worth preserving -

A: definitely.

E: - things like that for, well, the school children especially from uh, Middle School down there, like to come out to the country school

A: yeah

E: An' we have them come, an' sit in the seats an', an' we call them up to the front for recitations

A: yeah

E: -just like we were doing a country school day, (laughter)

A: Mhm,

E: an' they get a big kick outta that.

A: yeah

E: An' especially writing with a pen and ink,

A: Hey.

E: Just a pen dipped in ink to write with. (laughter) And slates, we have some slates that they think are, cool I guess! (laughter)

A: Yeah

(Pause)

E: But uh,... an' I, we've always gone to church over here, and I think I have had every office of the women's organization-

A: mhm

E: -that there was to be had,

A: mhm

E: This is about the first year that I haven't had an office over there, I just decided it was time to let somebody else do it.

A: (laughter)

E: But, I think for, oh at least twenty years, I taught the adult Bible school, uh, Sunday school class. An' then for ten years I taught the Bible school classes that we had during the summer. Sometimes we'd have fifty children over there at our church, uh, out in the country that was quite a few.

A: mmhm

E: We'd pick up the neighbour kids an', an' all of us teachers would bring our children an' we'd have Bible school. But uh, so I managed to keep busy in that way. (laughter)

(whisper)

A: How did the, how did the war affect ..(?)

E: You say war, now

A: I meant World War II

E: yeah, yeah, (laughter) I'm writing a, down some memories in a book, and it asks for my memories of history you know, my history goes back to World War I! (laughter) I was in the sixth grade during that time, and I can remember the very first Armistice day, November 11th, 1918, up in the little town of Bode they really celebrated, they had the Kaiser strung up on the flagpole, an' (laughter) burned him up later, and so on and so forth an', and um, then let's see, World War II.

A: Well you can talk about World War I if you like,

E: (laughter)

A: all the memories that you like, here, (laughter) that's what we're going after,

E: yeah. Well, um, I was in, I said I was in the sixth grade, they taught us to knit string washcloths, for the soldier boys, and all of us had to sit and knit, (laughter) and that's where I learned to knit, so I was glad I did. An' uh, an' o' course we had to buy war stamps, save your pennies and your nickels and buy a war stamp, and when you had five dollars worth you got a big stamp out of it, and so on and so forth, and that was very patriotic,

A: yeah,

E: (cough) Um, we were in a Norwegian town at that time an' we were the only family of German decent,

A: Ooh,

E: So we just had to kinda keep it quiet because everyone was so antagonistic you know to the Germans that uh, Kaiser Bill was something terrible. (laughter)

A: yeah

E: so, but World War II, um, I, I heard the news on the radio, while my husband was out doing chores an' I can remember him coming in, and discussing it and everything, we thought maybe he'd have to go, um, but he was a farmer and he was a married man, so he wasn't drafted. But um, think there were twelve boys from our small country church over here that went into the service at that time, and they all came back alive! (laughter) One of them was held a German prisoner for some time but, but they all came back. And uh, then they just went on into other wars then the, I think David was about, David was drafted, my son was drafted then, and, when he got to be eighteen he had to sign up right away, and he was sent as a medic over to Germany, and drove an ambulance. But there wasn't any active war in Germany at that time. But he was right next to

the Russian line and everything, and uh, served his two years.
(laughter)

A: How did you see Grinnell change I mean er, the surrounding towns, I mean, both during, what are some of the big changes that you noticed, since,

E: mmhm

A: ei, either the first war, er, or the Depression and World War II, just, did you see attitudes change and, just um, social life change, or something?

E: Oh, I s'pose so. Um, course our address was Malcolm at the time, and so, but, and Malcolm used to be quite a nice little town, it had a big drugstore, an' a big grocery store, an' and uh, Main Street was full of stores. Now there's hardly anything left. They've taken down some of the old stores, an', but uh, oh, Grinnell, used to have a big Broadway store, they called it, on Broad Street which was a dry goods store, and then there was Mac Murray's Clothing store, over on the other corner, 'cross from Prestons, cross from Boklada I should say. (laughter)

A: yeah

E: 'Course that was always Preston's store in those days. And we had a big Penney's store, an' a, there was a grocery store where Ben Franklin's is now, we used to take cream and eggs to town, when we did go, usually on Saturday,

A: mmhm

E: and that amount of money had to buy our groceries.

A: Oh!

E: (laughter) So, we didn't buy things and have things like you do now-days. Um, I saved a lot of our children's clothes, an' made do with what we had. (laughter)

A: What'd you do for um, like for fun, like to go out on Saturday night or something

E: Well we didn't go out on Saturday nights.

A: or, or whatever -

E: yeah, I know,

A: (?)

E: We had, we had quite a gang of young married people our age, and we would have square dances.

A: Oh! Wow.

E: yeah, but, we'd uh, they had dances in people's homes, I don't know how they ever did it, but they'd roll up the rugs and they'd have a square dance. (laughter) An' um, one year we had a square dance in an actual great big barn, hayloft,

A: oh,

E: (laughter) which was very much fun. An' uh, an' uh, different things like that. We even went roller-skating, and bob-sledding down hills in the winter time. (laughter)

A: yeah

E: And uh, we had this group over at church that met one Sunday night a month, for a potluck supper, and uh, and, I think sometimes there must have been forty of us over there, with our children and all, and we'd play games, and socialize, and have fun that way. Once in a while we'd go to a movie, but movies didn't cost as much as they do now either. (laughter) But we had some good movies.

A: What were some of the titles?

E: Oh, I don't really remember, but (laughter) I can remember back to when Mary Pickford was the main star! (laughter)

A: yeah,

E: And um, Jackie Coogan, and um, Charlie Chaplin! (laughter) But that was long ago. And, I can remember...(tape ends).

(?)

E: We, we bo- we didn't have much new furniture, our, my husband's folks gave us a few pieces and everything, you know an', but we didn't even have electricity the first year we were married. But um, we did buy a very special radio carved doors and everything, uh, stood up it wasn't set on the table, an', that was the prize piece of our whole house (laughter) an' then we used to um have uh, what we would call soap operas now-days it just reading or acting, just vocal, on the radio. Mother Mohaham (laughter) and her Painted Dreams was my story I had to watch, listen to it every day.

A: What was that about?

E: Oh, a family, an' their troubles, and their, (laughter) just common, but uh, no violence and stuff like that, nothing like it is today. But I can remember sitting there, with my babies (laughter) listening to that story. And then TV, was unbelievable, we just couldn't believe that you could see pictures. (laughter) And, then I think we were about one of the first to have colored television. We had been in the habit of going back and forth with another couple on New Year's Day, and the year we got our colored TV I wouldn't go to her house on New Year's Day 'cause I had to stay home and see the Rose Parade in color. (laughter)

A: mmhm

E: So, that was really something to see that. And it is, to see all of these events, when they're actually happening, you know, it's, it's marvelous. I couldn't get along without my TV. (laughter)

A: yeah

E: You can see I sit here an' (laughter) right close every day,

A: yeah

E: every evening. Hm. But uh, and cars, we started out with a, my husband had a Chevy coupe when we dated, and then for our wedding I guess his parents gave him a Model T, blue, Ford coupe. (laughter)

A: fancy!

E: Then, 'n, we had different cars. I can remember the first car with automatic transmission, you know, that was, another big, wonderful thing,

A: yeah,

E: not to have to shift those gears

A: yeah,

E: I didn't learn to drive until after I was married, our folks never had a car or anything. So but I was determined to learn how to drive so that I could go places (laughter)

A: yeah

E: and um, my husband would trade cars every once in a while, it usually turned out to be a chevy, but once we had a Buick, (laughter) and uh, now I have a Chevy Cavalier that suits me just fine. (laughter)

A: yeah, (?)

A: What do you, what do you remember about the winter of '36? I hear that was like, a real doozy.

E: (laughter) yes, it was. Snowbanks, where you could just open it up enough for one car and there'd be banks as high as your car as you went through the tunnel, on the way to town. When the roads were bad you just stayed home, you didn't go anyplace.

A: mmhm

E: But uh, in between the two houses here there must have been some big drifts. My daughter was only about two years old that year, and I have a picture of her sitting up on top of a big high snowbank. (laughter) i don't think we had snowplows and things like that either at that time, they didn't work the roads as quickly anyway. Uh, '36. I s'pose I even had a coal range yet at that time, and sometimes we would burn ear corn in it instead of wood or or coal because ear corn was so cheap, and uh, everybody was doing that. But uh, that coal range was very nice on a cold morning, (laughter) but in the middle of the summer it was terrible! (laughter)

A: yeah, yeah

E: Was it the summer of '36 then that was so terribly hot? One summer it was just awful hot. so we bought a two-burner kerosene stove so we could cook on that instead of heating up the whole big range, in the kitchen

A: yeah

E: and uh, no air conditioning, at that time I didn't even have running water in the house I guess, an'

A: mmhm

E: we did have electricity, I guess we did have an electric fan, but uh, (laughter)

A: how'd you keep things cool?

E: Lots of times we just took it down to the basement, can you imagine? (laughter)

A: Did you have like a spring house, or,

E: Well, it was always cooler down there, an', we had a little cupboard we put things in, some people had a contraption that they could lower into their well outdoors, and then crank it up and bring it up, when they wanted to use it, but, I think i was about the first one uh, out here that got a resting house refrigerator. That was when my daughter was a baby, and she had to have sweet milk, so we had to have some way of keeping that milk for her. And uh, my in-laws thought it was a terrible extravagance to have that refrigerator running all the time, (laughter) that took electricity, you know, so, but I've had a refrigerator ever since. (laughter) But, that was a big 'n, new invention, too you know, a big convenience, compared to, well, i guess we just had to throw the food out, you know, just if it wouldn't keep we had to throw it out. (laughter) We had chickens all over the farm, they would eat it up.

A: yeah

E: mm, we always raised a big garden, 'n I learned how to can vegetables, 'n, we would even can meat. When i first came out to live on the farm, butchering was a big deal. (laughter) They would maybe slaughter two hogs at a time, and then here would be all this meat, 'n they had to take care of it. They knew how to

put all the hams down in brine, and then they smoked ham out of 'em, 'n then we would grind up all the sausage, 'n render all the lard, 'n,

A: what does that mean? To render the lard?

E: cook 'n boil it, the white fat out of the hog you know, you have to boil it very carefully so it don't scorch, (laughter)

A: oh,

E: 'n then there was a lard press you would put it in, 'n you would turn the crank and squeeze it all down 'n the lard would run out into jars, 'n you'd have your own lard. We used lard instead of vegetable oil (laughter) and um, but, uh, I was from the city, and having all that meat was just like, ten Christmases. (laughter)

A: yeah

E: an' it was so good. Then we had a smoke-house out in back, my husband knew how to, uh, make a hickory wood fire in there, and make smoke, and we'd smoke sausages, and they were mighty good too. (laughter) So. But we don't do any of those things anymore. (laughter)

A: What do you do on the farm now?

E: Just live here. (laughter)

A: yeah, I mean like, what are (?)

E: yeah. Well, I rent out my land now, and some other young boys up by the farm are doing all the work.

A: uh-huh

E: and they raise corn and beans an', have a pasture full of sheep in the summer-time. And that's about all, we do- I have one cat. (laughter) No chickens, no dogs, or anything, (laughter) One year, we had the whole barn full of hens, we just, went into hens in a big way. (laughter) And I would have to pack those at, gather them in the first place, gather the eggs and then pack them into crates to be picked up, there was a man that went around through the country picking up your eggs in those days. And the next week he'd bring you your check. but sometimes I'd have seven thirty-dozen egg cases in a week! (laughter)

A: Geez, wow

E: and that kept me busy. You'd have to see that they were clean, and if they weren't clean you had to wash 'em. (laughter)

A: Did you have to hold them up before a little candle thing?

E: No, I didn't, we didn't do that. We put 'em down in the basement right away when we gathered them an' they were always, fresh I guess. (laughter) So, well, one year, i even ran some incubators and raised baby chickens. That was over in the small house, too. Uh, my mother-in-law, set hens. She had a whole system of boxes and things out in the back building, to set hens and put eggs under 'em and hatch her chickens naturally that way, you know. Well I, I couldn't get on to that, I didn't like setting hens. (laughter) So we decided we'd run incubators. And we purchased some second-hand ones and put 'em down in our basement. Gathered our own eggs, an', picked out the nicest ones and set 'em. Then you had to watch the temperature an', you had to pull the trays out every day and roll the eggs, like a mother hen would roll her eggs you know, while she was hatching 'em or nesting 'em. So we had to roll those eggs, every day, and I think I got about five hundred baby chickens outta that. (laughter) But then they got

sick and i only raised about 200 of 'em. (laughter)

A: mmhm

E: And then we bought a brooder house too, used to be that they would just, not have chickens until it got warm enough to have them in a chicken house you know. But, lot o' people were having brooder houses with a stove in 'em, a hover that would keep your baby chicks warm, so we went into it that way too. And uh, quite successful, and I would have fries for sale, so we'd put a sign out in front, "fries for sale," an' people'd stop in and want a chicken.

A: what's a fry, is that, just a

E: a chicken to fry!

A: Oh! I see. Okay. (laughter) Not a french fry. (laughter)

E: No! (laughter) And one year, I would sell them for a dollar apiece, alive. I had a big long wire hook that i could go out and catch one alive and hand it to the fella and he'd gimme a dollar bill. (laughter)

A: uh-huh

E: But, then, toward, in several years, you couldn't even, kill 'em, and dress 'em, and wrap 'em up an' take 'em into Grinnell and sell 'em for a dollar. They'd want you to bring 'em delivered for 75 cents.

A: hm.

E: And I just quit. (laughter)

A: yeah. When was that, about,

E: Oh, oh, we were still over in the other house, so it must have been in the 1950's. (laughter) Early 50's. But uh,

A: And then were, how did things ha- change, like after the war in the, did things get better or worse, in terms of like the farm and stuff?

E: Well, I don't think we noticed too much difference. The prices go up and the prices go down, and, when you had things to sell the price was usually down. (laughter) And um, but, we never bought anything on time, and we never had any debts, we'd just uh, course, my husband was an only child, so we inherited this farm, free and paid for, an'

A: yeah,

E: so we never had big debts like that to worry about.

pause

E: But my husband, got emphysema, for some reason or other, I think it was working in the hog houses and the chicken houses, and everything, it's hard on farmers' lungs, and so he was in and out of the hospital, we'd share the time, and finally died when he was only 61 years old, which was, twenty-two years ago. But um, in 1956 we moved over here, and then that summer my mother was up in her 80's, and she was a widow, and so we brought her out here to live with us. And my mother lived with us for about ten years. And, that left me free to do my 4-H work o'course and things like that, she was a big help to me. But finally her health failed too and we put her in the Brookhaven nursing home in Brooklyn, but she died the same year my husband did, so,

A: Do you have any, what are your, some of your, fondest memories of, the farm, any big celebrations, or anything, family togetherness...

E: Oh, my family would come out here, they expected us to come to Des Moines more than they came out here I guess, and my husband being an only child we didn't have that many, uh, rel, well, he did have some cousins an' we'd, get together, but, uh, Grinnell would, we'd usually go to Grinnell for the, 4th of July celebrations an' things like that you know it was, an' the state fair, we always had to go to the state fair every year, (laughter)

A: mmhm

E: and uh, (sniff) this, oh 'n then we uh, when my grandsons started, they had to go to, when they graduated from highschool they went into service,

A: oh, right

E: and, one of 'em went into the air force, an' one into the navy, 'n, two of 'em into the navy, an' uh, but there wasn't any actual war right at that time that they had to see any actual, service, warfare. Don't really remember anything special. (laughter)

Granddaughter: What were some of the names, like of your, brothers and sisters, and your parents and grandparents, your maiden name and your middle name, (laughter) (?)

E: Well my maiden name was Pfund, P-F-U-N-D.

A: Oh.

E: it's a German name.

A: uh-huh

E: In German I think it means "pound", and it's pronounced "pfoont". (laughter) But we were Americans, we called it Pfund. My father was Carl Pfund, 'n, my mother's name was Mel, 'n my husband's mother's name was Ella, so the first granddaughter's name was Nella. Took the two grandmother's together Mel and Ella.

A: oh, okay. (laughter)

E: People often wondered, "where'd you find that name for your daughter." (laughter) But she was the first grand-daughter, an' so she was Mel, Ella. Nella. (laughter) And um, I had a sister Ruth, who, traveled all over. She, she was something like my father, she had to be on the go all the time, an' she lived in different places. Finally, sh- well first, what got her started, she worked for the Rock island Railroad, an' she got free passes to take vacations and go on long train trips

A: uh-huh

E: and things, so she got to see a good deal of the United States. Then she got a job with the Department of Agriculture and worked for the government, and they sent her all over. She lived in Boise, Idaho, and Seattle Washington, and Auburn Alabama,

A: mmhm (laughter)

E: and Alexandria Virginia, and then they even sent her over to Amsterdam, and she worked in Holland for two or three years. Came back, and got married, no, she didn't get married, she got engaged, but she went back and lived another year in Amsterdam before she got married. Then she lived in Florida. But, my baby brother, (laughter) graduated from Aimes, as a electrical engineer, and then he went into the navy, 'n got out of the navy he went to school again and became a lawyer, so he's a patent attorney out in Boston. He's coming back to Aimes this summer for his 50th anniversary of his graduation from Aimes! (laughter) So, and I have one other sister that lives in Des Moines. She, lived there all her life.

(laughter) But uh,

A: what was her name?

E: Myrtle. Ruth, Myrtle and Charles. Shall I name the grand-children? (laughter)

Grand-daughter: That's probably easier than the great-grand-children, (laughter)

E: Oh, I could name them all too if I had too! (laughter)

A: Sure!

E: (laughter) (?)

A: It's up to you

E: I 'spose. Well there's Kenneth Scholz, uh, Scott Markem is the oldest one, an' then Kenneth, an' then Jay Markem, and Cloyann Scholz, and then Amanda Scholz, and then Jeffrey Scholz, (laughter) Terry Scholz, and Christine Scholz. And they're all married and have children of their own now too, so that makes the nineteen great-grand-children. 'n they all live around here but one, Jay Marken is in the ceremonial navy band out in Washington D.C.

A: Oh,

E: All he does for a living is play his saxophone. (laughter)

A: Must be pretty nice. (laughter)

E: But now he's been accepted in the Naval Academy at Annapolis to play in their band, so this summer he's going to change his location and go be in the Annapolis band. And, he likes it very well. They're all busy, (laughter) all healthy, (laughter)
pause

A: I don't know what else to ask, I, i just, (laughter)

(to grand-daughter) Is there any stories that you remember hearing that you would like to -

Grand-daughter: um, i guess, upstairs you have that china doll, (laughter) I just wondered where you got it, an', an' why,

E: Oh, well that belonged to my husband's mother, and she played with it I s'pose when she was a youngster, but she didn't play very hard because it's still in good condition. Do you want to go up and get it, Jenny, do you know this bedroom, right up here, an' it must be over a hundred years old, because, my, mother-in-law was born in 1875, and I s'pose she had the doll when she was about ten, maybe, that'd be about 1885, (laughter) so, an' uh, my husband being an only child, I inherited all the antiques from his family,

A: oh, uh-huh,

E: so I'm an antique hound, (laughter) I like old things,

A: yeah

E: an' uh, appreciate them,

A: mmhm, what are some of your famous, your favorite um, heirlooms, or

E: Well I have this walnut bookcase in here that belonged to my grand-father on my father's side, he was a preacher and I imagine he kept his books and things in that,

A: uh-huh

E: I inherited that from an aunt, (laughter) an'uh,

A: (doll arrives) wow,

E: leather, leather hands, and socks

A: uh-huh (laughter)

E: But they say the blonde ones are quite unusual, more so than the black-haired ones,

A: uh-huh (laughter) but you made the dress?
E: oh yeah. but some of her o- other things are, original.
(laughter)
A: oh. (?)
E: crocheted.
A: oh, crocheted?
E: mmhm, mm, hm, I always played with dolls. I had to have a doll, every Christmas. (laughter)
a: mmhm
Jenny: I'm gettin' new roller skates, Thursday or Friday.
E: you don't have a birthday...
Grand-daughter: she's spoiled
E: huh? Gonna get-
Grand-daughter: she's spoiled
E: Gonna get 'em anyway, huh?
Jenny: Carol's gonna buy 'em, ...
(?) ...
A: What are some of the other crafts you do?
E: Oh I knit, and crochet, and embroidery and, (laughter) I don't go in for these newer crafts like cross- counted cross-stitch, i never did take it up because I didn't think my eyes could stand it, fine, but I've done uh, needle-point, I like to read library books, that's my hobby, (laughter) I uh, usually have two or three library books on hand. An', raise flowers, I have a garden, so,
A: Do you quilt?
E: Oh yes, I've made, I've made, dozens and dozens of comforters, you know, just tied, instead of quilted, doesn't take so long to do them,
A: yeah
E: and I think everybody's got a comforter or two from grandma, (laughter) but I do quilt too, I like to piece 'em together, 'n, 'n uh, I have quilted one whole one, an then a wall-hanging, but it takes a long time to quilt a quilt, (laughter) so, but uh,
(door slam) ^{long}
E: be some noise stretches in your tape, (laughter)
A: yeah, it's not, it's not, it's just a
E: mmhm, mmhm, hm,
Grand-daughter:(?)... cups and saucers and spoons, (laughter)
(?)
E: oh, I think my sister sent me a cup and saucer, when she was over in Amsterdam she went to England I think, an', oh she went everyplace. But, that was at the time that Queen Elizabeth the Second was coronated,
A: oh,
E: and so they had a fancy cup and saucer with her picture on it and everything, and my sister ^{sent} me one of those. So then I just thought, well I'll, buy a pretty cup and saucer every once in a while. Then I started taking some trips, 'n I decided every state I went into, I'd get a cup and saucer for that state, well then my daughter went over to live in France with her husband in the navy, an' and she traveled around and she brought me a cup and saucer from Italy and Holland and France and, did I say Italy, Switzerland, well no I don't have one Switzerland, from Switzerland, anyway, she brought me back some cups and saucers. So

i think I've got fourteen foreign countries and about 34 states,
(laughter)

A: yeah

E: in the collection. Then I started gathering vases. I don't know when I started that, well, Mella had a, one of these blue vases in her house, in town, when they moved into an old house in Grinnell here was this pretty blue vase.

A: mmhm

E: So then I started gathering vases,

A: mmhm

E: wherever I went. (laughter) 'n, well, then there was a few, milk glass pieces here in the house that belonged to my husband's folks, so then I started picking up milk glass pieces, and they're different than just ordinary china. (laughter) So i have quite a collection of those. But you don't find them anymore you know. You, just some of those things, have sorta disappeared from flea markets and

A: yeah

E: places like that. But, an' I've got enough vases now I don't know where to put anymore, (laughter) so I don't pick 'em up so much anymore.

A: yeah (laughter) I heard you have a nice (?) up there.

E: yes, (laughter)

Jenny: I know where it is, too.

E: I um, my husband's folks had that here in this house before 1929, i don't know how many years before that, but I imagine it was at least five or six, ten....(tape ends)

A: go ahead and start over.

E: My husband would bring me home to this house while we were dating and then we'd play that player piano, that was a great source of entertainment.

A: uh-huh,

E: An' then o' course his folks had it until they died, an' then I, we inherited it,

A: uh-huh

E: An' it's always been in this house. And uh, oh maybe, ten years ago, Mr. Ford, can't think of his first name, he refinishes and rebuilds player pianos, that's his life's work I guess, is to fix up old player pianos. He lives in Grinnell.

A: uh-huh

E: and, so I let him take it, and he refinished the wood even on it and it turned out to be a beautiful walnut wood,

A: uh-huh,

E: and he put a motor on it so I don't have to pump it. (laughter) And so now when the grand-children down or the great-grandchildren, they all think they have to play music all day long. (laughter) Well then, up in the attic were boxes and boxes of music rolls, so I have a lot of the old, old-timers, that still play, and uh, some of them are much prettier than the newer ones. But, it's uh, sort of a novelty. i think the grand-daughters all learned to play music on that piano, I'd give 'em music lessons over here, an' (laughter) get 'em started anyway. (to Jenny) Are you taking music lessons too? Good!, Good! you'll have to play us a piece after, huh? (laughter)

A: Terry mentioned something...(?)

E: Oh, well there's a little entry to my house, and I had it sided with uh, paneled with barn boards,

A: oh,

E: and I call it my wood-shed. (laughter) An' I have antiques out there, an' one of them is a ^{sale} sail bill, from my husband's grandfather's sail. ^{sale}

A: When, when was that?

E: I think it's, 1912. (?) And he had, just a few pieces of machinery, just a few head of livestock, and yet he was a wealthy farmer.

A: uh-huh

E: He owned, three, at least three farms, and, this one, he sold to one son, and he had another son he sold one of his farms to, and he used to live up the road a ways, where, Dr. Weir lives, do you know, just a mile west here, is where Dr. Weir lives now.

A: Oh, Jerome Weir?

E: (cough) Uh, Hendricksons used to live there. There's uh, he had, uh, eight horses, ten cattle, 30 hogs, and this amount of machinery, and yet he was a rich man.

A: uh-huh, (laughter) yeah, (?)

E: This is a century farm, it's been in the ^{Schultz} Scholz farm, even before this fellow. So, but uh,

A: And what's this certificate here? This is a, marriage certificate.

E: That's the marriage certificate of my husband's folks. They were married in 1901, and they're the ones that built this house,

A: mmhm

E: kept this farm, and I s'pose they paid off the farm to his dad, but I s'pose it wasn't that expensive, (laughter) but they worked hard, they were awfully (?), they worked hard.

A: It's quite ornate. (laughter) What are some of your other favorite antiques out in the pantr-or, out in the wood-shed.

Grand-daughter: i think you still have one of your egg-crates out there, don't you -

E: Well, I put that away when I had a cat, I couldn't have it out there, my cat got into it -- I had an egg-crate an' I blew out some eggs, real eggs you know, and everybody thinks I have real eggs sitting out there,

A: oh uh-huh

E: but they're empty shells.

A: Oh, How do, how do you blow out an egg?

E: poke a hole in it, an' then, just shake it until it all comes out,

A: oh, okay

E: an' then the egg shell is whole,

A: uh-huh,

E: and, looks like an egg, (laughter)

A: yeah,

E: It was, quite a conversation piece. But last winter I had a cat, and I took pity on him and let him come in the house, just in the back part there,

A: uh-huh

E: and he got to playing with the egg-shells, so

A: oh, yeah

E: I took it out

A: yeah

E: and i didn't think I'd ever put up with a cat, but i like this cat, he's company for me now, (laughter) but he sleeps down in the furnace room at night, out doors all day now, but, you sorta grow attached to something like that.

A: Well it's probably not the, the most fun subject, but what are some of your memories about the Depression?

E: oh it was coming on I s'pose when I was teaching and then it happened just as I quit teaching, but we didn't, we didn't have fancy clothes or anything, I can't remember going to the store and buying any clothes when I was a teenager,

A: yeah

E: (laughter) And, I don't know how we got by, but, uh, and uh, well, I remember during the war, uh, they sold oleo, just white with a capsule and you had to break that capsule of color and work it into the oleo if you wanted yellow oleo to eat.

A: oh, uh-huh

E: And I remember telling my husband "I'm living on a farm, I'm not going to eat oleo!" (laughter) And so we would take our own cream and I'd churn butter and we had butter. (laughter)

A: Oh, uh-huh, do you still have the churn?

E: yes, I have the churn.

A: wow. (laughter) did you make the churn? or did you use...(?)

E: No, no, it's a glass jar.

A: oh, uh-huh.

E: when we have our festival days, out at the 4-H grounds, we churn butter and show people how it's made.

A: uh-huh, yeah, bet a lot of people don't -

E: just, whip it in that jar until it's butter. (laughter)

A: uh-huh

E: cream.

A: uh-huh

E: an, we used to have cows, so we had our own cream, milk, we used to just drink the plain milk, an' then, you know, first thing you know it had to be pasteurized, so we got a pasteurizer, and i think when the grand-children were small, we pasteurized the milk for them,

A: uh-huh

E: An' uh, but that was a, kindof a chore too.

A: yeah

E: But uh, gasoline was only about 15 cents a gallon, so we didn't nearly, course our money wasn't that much either, we were short of money, an', but uh, prices weren't nearly as high as they are now-days. An' uh, we didn't go that much either, we just...

A: yeah (cough) Did you keep a lot of money in the banks, or, did you -

E: I never even had a checking book, check book, until after my husband died,

A: oh, (laughter)

E: he would just hand out the money to me if I wanted anything, an' and um, and if he didn't feel like giving me any i didn't get any! (laughter) oh I usually got about everything i wanted, but um, but

I never had a check-book, never wrote a check until after he died. But we usually had money in the bank, and, and uh, when we traded cars we always paid for 'em with cash I guess, no, I don't remember ever having a time payment to pay.

A: So the Depression didn't like, you didn't lose a lot of money in the banks or anything like that

E: Well, his folks did, my husband's folks lost money in the Malcolm banks, some of the banks would close you know, and they lost money in the Malcolm bank but I don't think we ever did, but we, my husband had the idea that we'd keep money in two banks, and if one went broke, they, we'd have money in the other one, so i still have money in two banks, (laughter)

A: yeah,

E: just because we always did it that way. Hm. Now you really don't have to be afraid of the banks closing-

A: Hope not,

E: and losing your money, but his folks did, just shortly before we were married, I think they lost some.

A: mmhm

E: But uh, there's, there's just a 168 acres in this farm, which belonged to my husband's father. Well then his mother inherited land up in Sheridan township, from her father, and so she passed it on down to her son who was my husband,

A: mmhm,

E: so we've got two pieces of land (laughter) now.

A: oh wow

E: but uh, I guess there was quite a, oh I shouldn't tell this (laughter)

A: it's up to you

E: uh, my husband's grandmother died, well then his grandfather married again, but there were three children, and they put up quite a squabble you know,

A: uh-huh

E: and so this father had to sign a pre-nuptual agreement,