

Interview with Mrs. Emma Youngstrom Boklund January 11, 1978 conducted by Laurie Ann Radke

Tape #64 - Transcription by Laura Wadsworth 8/5/2003

LAR: Interview with Mrs. Emma Boklund, January 11, 1978 about the history of, is this area called, was it called Garwood or, did it have a name?

EYB: This section here? Oh, just Coolspring Township, I don't think it had ever had another name, oh they had people call it, you know, like we always called it Clear Lake down here. This little lake. But now they all call it Swede Lake. I don't like that as well, because I still call it Clear Lake. But if anyone mentions Swede Lake, it's this one right down here and you can see it through the trees now that the leaves are down, otherwise you can't see it. But umm, we didn't get very far on there, did we?

LAR: No, you're talking about the Swedish settlers in this area?

EYB: Yeah, well, most of them came from the same section in Sweden, and I don't know why they, Oh, I started to tell you that this man said it looked so much like their homeland, so that's why they prefer, but I don't know. My father was very Swedish; he stuck to the Swedish customs as long as he lived.

LAR: Did he, he migrated over from Sweden?

EYB: Oh, yes. And um, he uh, they built, there were so many of them and wherever Swedes congregate, there's always a church. Not that they are so religious, but they have an awful lot of respect for religion. And, uh, so they built this little chapel down here. Down near the Garwood Orchard, it's called Carmel and the little cemetery there. That I understand was built in '73 so you see how long ago that was. And uh, they had, what was I said these people, after they had cleared the land sufficiently, why then they farmed it, and did general farming. It must have been tough to plow these hills with uh, two horses hitched to a walking plow, but they did it and then afterwards when they could get riding plows, it eased it, but it still was a tough job. I know, this path out this little field up here, had a pretty good crop of alfalfa on it, and it seemed a shame not to use it, so, of course, we didn't have any tools or anything, so Bill told a man that worked at his shop said, well if you can cut it, you can have it for free, you know just take it. But he said I'd like to have the whole field cut, and if you...and the man said sure he's glad to get it, because he had just a small place, and I guess he had a horse or two or something. Well, anyway, after he cut this he said, gee, had he seen those hills, he'd have never tried it. Because he was scared to death of them. Well, you take, you have, I know my brother in law lived across the lake and I guess he tipped over twice with his tractor in the hills, and he was lucky, he didn't get hurt. I guess when he started going over, he jumped the other way. So, uh, but, there was an awful lot of, the HJ Hines company used to have a pickle factory in LaPorte, you know, and every year most of these people around here contracted and we raised the pickles, then it was hauled in to. And how everybody hated to pick pickles because they have a juice that lands on your hands, and they get so stiff and it gets so thick on there. I've picked pickles since I was 7 years old, I suppose. But, uh, it was something that had to be done, and they hauled them in. We picked every other day and then took them to town, and we watched the people from all around here, you know, that went by our place, they didn't all go

past our place and, of course it was principally a Swedish job, I don't think any of the mostly Irish ever... that were around here. But the Irish had been smart; they bought up all the good land you know the prairies and then they sold the stuff to the dumb Swedes.

LAR: When did your father come to this area?

EYB: 1867

LAR: Did he work as a lumberman for awhile, then, or...

EYB: Um hmm (affirmative answer)

LAR: There was a sawmill?

EYB: Yeah that was Mr. Barnes sawmill. When the Barnes family...Mr. Barnes moved to Texas, but I knew his family, I knew them well. But they're all gone now; the whole family has been wiped out.

LAR: How long did it take to clear this area?

EYB: I haven't any idea.

LAR: Do you remember it as being very forested, or do you remember the farms more?

EYB: I remember the farms more. Because by the time I was born, most of it had been cleared. We had a, we had one field, uh, one patch of land. You see, my father bought the land, our farm was all scattered, we had 135 acres at one time, but he bought what he could, don't you see, and this was a wooded section, and it had a lovely lake in it, about a mile, mile and a quarter up the road. And that was the last field, I remember they used to rub the stumps out, where they had cut the... and I remember the first crop that they had there was potatoes. They planted potatoes in that.

LAR: Was that the usual crop around here for the farms in the hills?

EYB: Oh they raised potatoes, and they raised the best ones I've ever eaten. I am not so fond of these, uh, of these slithery things that come from California. And, of course, I'll say that Idahos make a good baking potato, but I don't like them boiled. Of course that may be just a notion, but well, they used to have kind of a russet potato here. And it was good. You know it was funny, we had uh, this little place out here where the cherry orchard is and then the other part was all apple, an apple orchard, and the apple orchard went up beyond where the old barns did, and that was, uh. We never had to spray, and we didn't have worms in the apples. We had beautiful apples. Of course we had the old varieties, which you can't get anymore, because they say it takes too long for the trees to produce. But we had the Northern Spice and the Green ones and the Baldwins, and the Maiden Blush and all those, lovely apples. But nobody grows...I guess down at uh, oh what's the name of the place, umm, oh, they're Polish....

LAR: Pavolkas?

EYB: Yes, they have some of the old fashioned apples. I know they have Baldwins and I know they have Northern Spies, and uh, I know we had 20 ouncers, I don't know whether...I guess that was the name, but those apples got about that big you know, they weren't a good eating apple, I grant, but they were wonderful for cooking and they were tart. So, and that's the way it was (undecipherable) You saw those things, we didn't have bugs or anything.....much. But they all came in from someplace, heaven knows where, but they did.

LAR: You said too that they planted pickles, you know cucumber crops?

EYB: Yes

LAR: And you had to help with picking pickles?

EYB: Oh, sure, we all picked pickles. We weren't any taller than the buckets. We all picked. Well, you see, we wanted to get through by noon. We usually had an acre, but an acre of back bending now, that was, uh, course there were several of us, but we wanted to be through by noon so they could take them to town. But, I know that if you, during...let's see, we started to pick in July the last of July and then we picked all through August and usually the first week in September, but after that, we didn't. The only thing that we went out then for was to get some of the big ones that had gotten overgrown you know, those big yellow fellows. And my mother used to make pickles out, pickle them. She did these big pickles, we called them slumps. But, uh, I know when they went to the pickle factory, of course there was allot of people around other places that brought them, but they'd be a long line, they sorted them there, but we were very careful. My father was very particular, and he insisted on sorting. I don't think they ever had to re sort ours because we made the small ones about that long, and then the larger ones and then the bigger ones. Of course, they wouldn't take the big ones.

LAR: What time would you have to start picking and when would you go out into the field?

EYB: The last of July.

LAR: No, in the morning.

EYB: As soon as it got dry. You know, in the summer time, at that time about 8 o'clock.

LAR: What other kind of chores did you have?

EYB: Well, we milked cows, and I always helped with milking.

LAR: Do you come from a large family?

EYB: Yeah, we were seven girls and one boy.

LAR: Wow.

EYB: But, uh, we had... we never grew many berries outside of cherries, we had allotted of cherries. And I never could figure that out.

LAR: Were there very many wild berries around here?

EYB: Oh allot of the blueberries and blackberries, and black raspberries along the roadside, you'd find them all over. But now they're all sprayed and you never see any of them. Did you ever eat a dewberry? Well, it's more like a boysenberry then anything I've seen.

LAR: Is it the same size and color?

EYB: It's about that long, only about the size of my.....well 'round about like that.

LAR: Your thumb, wow.

EYB: And they were oh, delicious. But almost any wild fruit was awfully sweet. And there was a huckleberry marsh up here. That was between Wozniak road and 700 I guess. And that was....I guess that's been turned into sort of a national park hasn't it?

LAR: You mean the bog? Yeah.

EYB: Um hmmm. There were alot of huckleberries there. I never was in it. No, I never went picking, but some of the family did. But, uh, I tell you we were always afraid of snakes, and there were snakes. I remember I had one sister, she was a little older than I was and she was just scared to death of them. I was afraid of them, but I wouldn't run away from them, you know, because they run the other way. I, uh...we weren't supposed to lift up the pickle vines. But towards the end of the season we did, seemed every time she lifted one up some snake would run out. The little garter snakes, you know.

LAR: You couldn't pick up the pickle vines because it bruises the pickles?

EYB: Yeah, tears the vines out, too because it breaks them, because after all they are fragile, you know.

LAR: What other, you said you were afraid of snakes, kids today are still afraid of snakes, what other kinds of things were you told not to do, or you were afraid of?

EYB: Well, we weren't afraid of much of anything. When I was a little girl, I was afraid of Gypsies. There used to be a lot of Gypsies through here, you know. And they used to tell us, I don't know if it was true, I don't think it was true, they said they used to kidnap the children and they'd get money from the parents to get them back. Now I don't know if that was true or not.

LAR: Did they used to come through this area?

EYB: Oh, yes. I know one time they'd come up and tell your fortune, or begging and then while they'd be filling their corns, uh sacks from the corncrib, I remember that. Stealing, you know, well that's the way they

lived, I guess. But I haven't seen Gypsies in years. Now they travel in automobiles they tell me.

LAR: Yeah, they do travel on roads in (indecipherable)

EYB: And tramps and there was a lot of tramps in those days. Now you never see anybody, but they'd stop and ask for something to eat, you know. I don't know where they came from. I think maybe they came from the railroad mostly, you know they'd ride the....

LAR: Boxcars?

EYB: Well, you know how they do, and ride the rails, I guess they called it. I think they had the houses marked where they got food, because my father never turned anybody away.

LAR: Growing up, were your parents strict, were parents of that time?

EYB: Oh, yes. Nobody would stand up and talk to their parents the way they do now. Oh, no. Well, I guess it was just as well. Well now, when I taught, that was later than the period I've been talking about. I never had any trouble with discipline. I taught for 7 years, but you couldn't hire me to teach now. The things I hear that the kids do I'd feel like (indecipherable) animals. And I never had any trouble with children. We always got along just fine.

LAR: Where did you teach?

EYB: I taught at, my first year I had 7 grades out at the Winship school, that was out on 421, within Coolspring township. I had never heard of the school. Scared to death the first day I went down there. They told me to start on Labor Day, and I went out there and there was not a soul turned up. I just sat there. I didn't know where I was going to stay or anything. Well, I was just a kid.

LAR: How old were you?

EYB: Seventeen.

LAR: Did you go to school to become a teacher?

EYB: Oh, yes. I, we had to. I went to Tri-State. Out in Angola.

LAR: How long did you have to go?

EYB: You had to have 12 weeks for your first one. And then you took your summer courses after that. And now I have a nephew that graduated from Tri-State a few years ago. Two years ago, I think. And that was, they wanted me to come out there for the graduation because I had been there, I had been a student there. So, I went out and oh the place was crowded you know. It turned out to be a very fine technical school. I don't know whether they do any teacher's training there now or not, that I don't know. So when I was there, oh, my nephew finally found me a seat and I was sitting beside a woman and then she moved over and she said wait a minute, she said, I'll fix it so

you get a better seat because at that time, I was quite lame. And so....I said 60 years ago, I was a student here. She says you were. I said yeah. I was here when General Hershey was here. And she said, oh, he's here now, she said you must go and talk to him. I said no, he wouldn't remember me. Because you know he had become very important. You know, he was the head of the draft. She says, I'll bet he would. Well, I said no I won't go. I'm a little shy that way. But, uh, afterwards, they...the vice president of the college, who was a good friend of my nephew's, came up and he said, you know Hershey is signing autographs and I want you to come up and talk to him. So then finally, he got me up there. Hershey said he remembered me, but I know darn well he didn't. He was just nice about it. But I had my picture taken with him, and it was put in the yearbook. I know that, because uh. He was loads of fun. He used to save a seat for me. There was nothing romantic, because heavens, if he had a date, he had 7 girls. But we had a lot of fun together. He saved a seat for me and another girl by him every day in one of the classes we took, and that was the only class I took with him.

LAR: Did going to school at Tri-State really get you ready to teach?

EYB: Oh, yes. They had a good teaching...they had good teachers, they had excellent teachers. There was a Mrs. Fair....Mr. Fairfield was the psychology teacher and Mrs. Fairfield was our teacher, she was an odd piece, but she was very artistic and she was good. They're family was interesting. They had one son, he must have been very clever, I knew him by sight, but I never talked to him. Though one of the girls I met with used to date him. But he was very musical. But, you know, years later, when I was in Chicago working, I went to some sort of a musical... one of the theaters there. I don't recall which one it was, but, I noticed that his name was on the list as one of the writers of the thing, so he must have been good or he couldn't have done that. Because it was one of the good theaters in Chicago. Now they're all gone. We had I think 7 schools in the township, then afterwards, I taught one year at Winship, and then, I don't know why Mr. Farmer was the superintendent and he wanted me to take the primary grades at Waterford, so I taught down there the next year as well. But then I quit teaching, I didn't intend to, I went to Chicago for the summer, but I had two sisters up there, but I got a job there and I got as much in a week practically as I got in a month they didn't pay anything, teachers, when I started with \$46 a month. And that's what burns me up so much now when they say they get 6, 7, 8 hundred a month and kick about it and say they're under paid. Well, maybe they are, I don't know. You couldn't hire me for a thousand so I guess....

LAR: Did you used to board with families or...

EYB: Oh, I had one boarding place. The place where I ...there was a lovely farm family where I stayed the first year I taught. But they're place was sold for the I-94, so you don't hardly know where it is.

LAR: Where was the Waterford school located?

EYB: Well, it's on the Johnson Road. Do you know where the firehouse is?

LAR: That's where the school was? And it was eight grades?

EYB: Yes, and the high school when I started there.

LAR: Oh, it was the high school too?

EYB: Just three years. It was just all down at the principle. I guess all the others that have taught there are dead. I believe they are, with the exception of Ursula and myself.

LAR: How many children did you have in your classes?

EYB: Well, there were I think there were 13...36 in my room, but that was three grades, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, don't you see. They were nice little kids. When I think, I had one little girl, who, I don't think should have been starting school, and I should have had skin on my nose and refused to take her because she was only 4 years old. But she was as cute as a button and she was a very clever little artist. I think I have a valentine that she made. But she was good. And the whole family was very good. In fact, there was a piece in the paper last summer written about her brother. She was the youngest in the family and he was one of the older ones, it was quite a large family. But he had made a name for himself in California with his art, and there was quite a piece in the paper about it. And I thought, yeah, I must go down and try and see him while he's here. But you know, you don't go the day you think of it, and then he went back to California and just a little while after he went back he died. But, Melba was only, well she was nine years old when she died. She was a cute little bug. But she was 4 1/2 to tell the truth when she started and she was too much of a child...a baby really, to be in school.

LAR: How old were most of the kids when they started?

EYB: Well, 6 years... they were supposed to start before they were 6

LAR: And you didn't have any disciplinary problems with the kids?

EYB: No, never.

LAR: What was the worst they would do?

EYB: Well, I don't know that they did....oh sometimes, in my room the worst they ever did was spitball....you know. I had one little fellow, he was shooting them around, and I had some wax paper, quite a large sheet, and I said go ahead and make them and he got so tired of making spit balls he never made another one, and none of the rest of them ever did. But I remember in college, they always would make the punishment fit the crime and I thought that was the best handle on that. But I never had any trouble with discipline. I know I thought this was cute, and I think I have that too. One little boy, he was 7 years old, he did something and I don't know what it was, but I just looked at him. He saw I didn't like it, but I didn't say anything to him. So after awhile, he put his head down on his desk, you know, and he said I guess he thought I'd come down to see what was wrong, but I just went on with my work, whatever it was, I had another class. After awhile he came up to the desk with a folded piece of paper, and I think this is one of the cutest things. He wrote Dear Miss Youngstrom I am sorry, I will never do it again. This is one of my tears, and there was a wet spot. Wasn't that cute?

LAR: What kind of subjects did you teach the primary grades?

EYB: Oh, well we had art and we had music, and reading and spelling and writing and all those things, you know. There was some played with it, would do always half that. I... I do think that every primary teacher should be able to sing and I can't, so I think they lost out on that. And they had their sand table where they used to make their pictures and stuff, or you know.

LAR: You had a sand table?

EYB: Um hmmm.

LAR: I never heard about that before.

EYB: Oh, we had a table about that long, oh, I think the janitor made it. One about that long and about that wide, and it was about this high. They had little chairs they could sit on, and then it was full of sand and they could make mountains, and whatever they wanted, Indian villages, or whatever they decided to do. The first houses here were log houses. Of course this wasn't a log house, this was a frame house from the start. And, uh, there was down here around the lake, there was no set way of uh, you know they didn't have...this field was along this road and this one, they had a lot of little houses in there I was told. There were the log houses where families lived, and then they began to buy the land and buy farms and then they moved them. And of course, they laid out the roads, I know. My father helped lay out this one, I know. But they had to take into consideration where the people had their houses and their barns and so on. And, uh, they...there's two (indecipherable) of interesting, and he may have something on that, I don't know. About two miles up the road from here, you have to get a little East of uh, I think it's East, I know directions up there, I know that's East, but and there was what they called Log City, have you heard of it? Well, that's older than Michigan City, and there was a quiet little village, and they had a sawmill, and I understand that they had a store, and they...and there was a railroad going down there and if you...my brother worked with the surveyor here when he lived here. He showed me once where you can see where the (End of side one)

Side two Tape #64 Interview with Emma Youngstrom Boklund

EYB: ...it lost out to Michigan City, Michigan City had the harbor, and then LaPorte came too, so. And I suppose it was principally logging and that sort of thing, well, you know, that dies out too.

LAR: When you were growing up did you get into LaPorte or Michigan City very often?

EYB: No, I went to high school in LaPorte. But as a child once a year was about the extent of my, or any of it. We'd beg for weeks to go and then they'd take us.

LAR: You said that you used to go to school yourself down...

EYB: At the Garland school they called it.

LAR: And that was on Forester?

EYB: No, no, it was down here on Small road, the corner of Small and Goldring. That land was given by Mr. Garwood for a school. He had quite a large family, too, and uh, he wanted...but the stipulation was that when the school ceased to be that they'd uh, the land would revert to the Garwoods. Then of course, that became the Small Estate because Mrs. Small was a Garwood. And Mr. Garwood gave each one of his children a big farm. Oh, and he was uh, and the money he had, I guess. But he was a good man. And, uh, they tell me when he built that house up there, that was quite a mansion. That was built in the early '80's, I guess.

LAR: That's a beautiful home. They're remodeling it now, aren't they?

EYB: Well, I think they're bringing it back to life, I don't know that they're changing it much...but restoring it. But, uh.....let's see what else do I know.

LAR: What did the Garwood school look like, do you remember...you said it was a one room school?

EYB: Oh, yes, it was just a one room school. Haven't you ever seen a one room school?

LAR: Yes, but they differ sometimes. Some of them have a raised platform in the front...

EYB: Well we had, not a very high one, but we had with one door, a big, heavy door with a key that was about that long, double, you know it folded. And, uh then they had a long hall across the front and two doors...one on each side and there were four rows of benches. I don't think we were ever over...I doubt whether we were ever over 30 people when I went there, I doubt whether there were that many. I suppose I could count them, but I....

LAR: How many were in the first grade class?

EYB: Well, I was the only one. But the trouble was, I was the youngest of five other girls, so I could read before I went to school. Not because I was so smart, but because they taught me, you know. And there's no reason a five-year-old can't read as well as a six-year-old. There isn't enough difference in the two. So my first year in school I just sat there and swung my feet mostly, because, well, when you only have ten or fifteen minutes for a class, and that's all they had, the teacher devoted her time to those that needed it. So.

LAR: How long was your school day?

EYB: We started at 9, and got out at 4, we had an hour noon and two fifteen minute recesses, one in the morning and one at two in the afternoon. I remember when I was in the first grade an insane man was reported.....escaped from uh, what was the name of that insane asylum used to be....oh, gosh....well anyway, he was supposed to running loose around here someplace. Well we had to go home for our lunches, because we lived here and the school was there and all of us resented it, the others had no lunch boxes. But we went home at

noon and at noon they mentioned at home that this crazy man as he was called was running loose. Well, we kids would get out, the little ones would get out at, oh, half past three and then we wouldn't go home, we'd play around until our brothers and sisters went home, so we were out playing. Maybe there were five of us, six perhaps, in the first and second grades, and uh, then we were playing alongside of the fence and we had two big sticks, like this...and there was a tall man, we didn't know him, and, he took a hold of the fence and he was going to jump over it, and I yelled I was the only one that knew about it because the others didn't go home so they hadn't heard it. I said well, that's a crazy man so we all ran into the schoolhouse. Well, he jumped over the fence and came and he tried to get in and oh, Miss Willhelm was just scared to death, we were all scared, you know. Maybe he wouldn't have hurt us, but we didn't know, we just thought every insane person was vicious. But I think this was sort of a harmless fellow. But he walked around the schoolhouse and then he went up the road, that way on Goldring, and Mr. Holland owned all that land there, and he had a lot of sheep, and this man went and let the sheep out. Mr. Holland saw him and went over to him and said what are you doing, and he said I'm putting the sheep in the barn. Mr. Holland says, well, they happen to be mine, and he says I still want them in the field, but it was getting late, you know, so he said go ahead put them in. But he talked to him and kept him interested. He realized that he wasn't right. But, I know Mr. Wilhelm came out and got his daughter that night, he used to do that sometimes, you know, drive back and forth. And he took all the kids that went up that road, up the road, he had them either walk beside or to ride in the buggy. Of course, there wasn't room, but I guess they managed to get about four of them in the buggy, or walk beside it so that they were safe. But that was kind of a funny experience. It was written up in the paper, you know, about this man's escape and everything afterwards. I still remember his name.

LAR: You said you came home for lunch?

EYB: Yes.

LAR: You never got to play any games?

EYB: Not at noon. Oh we just tore our cans to get back. But we didn't have to do anything, you know, when we got home we could eat and run, which we did.

LAR: What kind of games did you play on recesses?

EYB: Oh, mostly tag or prisoner's base, or...

LAR: How do you play prisoner's base?

EYB: Well, one side, there are usually two on it, and all the others, and they ran from one place to the other, and then the ones that were it would catch them and put them in what they called their, where the prisoners were, and the others would try to get them out. Oh, it was a lot of fun. And we played.....

LAR: You were telling me about a rock before?

EYB: Yes, that was where they hit the rock, you know, off another big stone or off a post. That was dangerous. And during the winter we used to go coasting and skating, there was quite a low spot in the yard there in the schoolyard, and when that was frozen over, they could skate on that. Few of them had skates, most of them didn't. We'd just slide, you know.

LAR: What kind of games would you play at home when you had time?

EYB: Oh, we played outdoors, we played London Bridge and Hide and Seek, we couldn't play Hide and Seek really well at school because there weren't any places to hide. But that was an evening game with us. And croquet, we had croquet set. Oh, we would jump rope.

LAR: Was there other families close by to you?

EYB: Well, down here where Palance lived. But there, they have...it was rather funny. There were some older people that bought that, but their grandchildren would come out, but they were about our age so we played with them. But they were three boys and, uh, then Grandma Nicholas lived up here and her grandson would come out and a friend and they'd come down and play. So we played mostly with boys to tell the truth, but it was a lot of fun. Jump in the barn, you know, in the hay. Taking the cows to pasture. See our fields were scattered and we had to take them after the milking in the morning and go get them at night, or in the evening.

LAR: You said before that the Swedish customs were very strong in this area?

EYB: Oh, yes especially the holiday customs. They celebrated holidays just the way they did in Sweden they'd start early in the season and they had their Christmas and they had a lot of festivities, you know that people would get together for, meals, you know, feasts really. And there was a school program down here that was always a big thing. And then down at Carmel, we went to Sunday school there, and we only had Sunday school every other Sunday. Then we had a big program and everything at Christmas time, on the 26th. That was the 2nd of Christmas, it was called in the tradition so they used that same term. It was funny, you'd have thought it was a grand opera or something because they came from miles around to attend that thing. Well, there weren't that many things to go to then.

LAR: Was it done in English, or....

EYB: Well, at first it was all Swedish, but then they began to mix the English, and finally it became English entirely because the younger group couldn't speak Swedish.

LAR: Was the Sunday school in Swedish?

EYB: Oh, yes I learned all my religion in Swedish.

LAR: But the regular school always taught English?

EYB: Oh, yes. I guess at one time that had been a pretty tough school down there. They said that there were two sets of boys there. You know they didn't come until after the harvest, and along about the first of November they

would start school and they were bigger than the teacher. I know one incident, they would change teachers about every week for awhile, and one fellow that went to school was telling about it and he said so one day a young fellow came in and he had a gun and he put it on the desk, and one of the kids, one of the big kids said Oh if it's gun play you want we'll start it right up and he started to shoot around his feet, you know. That this is actually a real incident. And of course the teacher fled, he went back to town and he never came back. But the following week they got a big man a Mr. Boyer, and he came out there and I understand he was a large man and I guess he wasn't afraid of any of them, so when he called the class, you know, he'd call the class and the kids would come up, and this kid didn't come up, it was the one that had the shooting incident, so the teacher said I called you to come to class and he just sat there, and Mr. Boyer went down there and he got him by the collar, and he pulled him out and he pulled the desk loose. He was strong. Maybe the desk was kind of loose, that I don't know. Anyway, he brought him up to class and that was the last of any trouble. They all respected that guy. Anyone that could do that do Hawk as they called him, they thought they better respect. But you know, the next year they had another teacher and they never had any more trouble after that. I often wonder whatever happened to the old organ that we had down there. I wish I had it.

LAR: They had an organ in the school?

EYB: Yes, most schools had an organ, and uh, you know, one of these old parlor organs. And we had a bookcase I remember we bought that with the high social money. Every school had a high social every year to raise money, you know.

LAR: When was the high social held?

EYB: Oh, usually on a Friday evening.

LAR: How did it work?

EYB: It worked very well.

LAR: Everybody baked a pie, or...

EYB: Yeah, they'd pack a box of some kind and it wasn't just pie, and they'd pack the box and they were auctioned off, you know. And if there was some special girl that was popular with several fellows well, it would be that the auctioning got to be kind of interesting, but, uh, oh, it'd make as high as \$25, which was pretty good. And that went far, I know we bought, for down here they bought one of those, oh, a longstrom bookcases, you know, well, they didn't have a glass door, because it was divided this way and they pulled it out. Yeah, those were nice, I wish I had that thing. I wonder what they did with those books. Some of those books I just loved. I liked to read anyway. In fact I read one book yesterday and I've read another one today already. Well, those were those, did you ever read The Little Flock of Don Camilla, did you ever see the movie A Bell for Adano? Well, those... that was written about this, it's usually a conflict between a priest and the leader of the communist party around the Pope Valley in Italy. But they're charming books and they're cute. And, of course, it's easy reading.

LAR: You said before that you wouldn't teach today, even if they gave you a thousand dollars a month.

EYB: No.

LAR: What do you think has happened to the education system here?

EYB: I don't know, but I know that kids can neither read nor write when they come out of school, and they can't add. And they can't spell. Now what's the matter with it? We used to have spell downs that was part of the, you know, we'd usually come down, maybe in the last fifteen minutes of the school day once in awhile, the teacher would have a spell down, two sides were chosen, you know... and all the kids could spell. And they learned to write, I don't say that they were all beautiful writers, but there were a lot of very good writers among them. And, uh, and they could read. Most of them could read reasonably well, I know I caught up with a kid, in my, you know...because I was alone in my class and then when I got in second grade he was there too. Now, I don't know whether he could read yet.

LAR: How were you taught reading?

EYB: Well, we were, I don't know, I just learned. Later it was phonics, you know. Phonics is a good way to teach kids to read.

LAR: Is that how you taught when you were...

EYB: Um hmm. And the funny part, the children loved phonics, they would love to sit and make those sounds. I would always use the terms this letter says thus and so, and they got so they could recognize them all and they could figure out what a word was.

LAR: Do you think consolidation helped, you know, getting rid of all the small little schools and putting everybody...

EYB: That's what I...I've been thinking about that a great deal. Now, either we kids were awfully smart and had excellent teachers, or the ones in town were awfully dumb, because I know when I went into high school, here I had gone to this school, I don't think I ever had a class... the classes never lasted over fifteen minutes, and the teacher had to do a lot of work to get a class to get something taught in fifteen minutes. Originally, reading was the first subject of the day with most of them. And after the recess the first class was arithmetic, and then they had grammar, English grammar or language whichever applied to each class, and history and geography and physiology in the afternoon. Once in awhile the 7th and 8th grade could be combined on something like that, and the 5th and 6th grade often were. I know the 5th and 6th grade had English history. And, uh, but, uh, we...I don't think any of us that I know feel that we got into high school, though they had had the best of teachers, because the minute our teachers got awfully good out here, well, then they'd take them to town and put them in one of the town schools. That happened to almost every one of them. They, uh,...but....and I don't think any of us were outstanding, but we at least kept up with the others and some of us got on the honor roll, but...So I guess they had pretty good teachers. But then, in order to, I don't know, I guess we all liked to study, you know. We liked our teachers and we liked the work, so.....

LAR: Do you have any ideas on what could be changed today?

EYB: Well, I think the kids should have to learn to behave at home. There are so many people, you know it only takes a few to stir up a lot of trouble. I think most children are good. They'd have to be, or the world be oddly upside down. But there are always a few that are pretty good little trouble makers, you know, and then the others are just follow you leaders, you know. But a lot of people don't even know where their children are. Have any idea. That's.....

LAR: Would have never happened when you were growing up?

EYB: I don't know of any, there'd be kids run to their parents, some all the time. And the father and mother never went to any places where they couldn't take the kid. Now, they send the kids out to play or to the movies or something....I don't know what the answer is. I suppose I'd have a good job in the school system if I did.

LAR: Do you think this area...how much has it changed since you've grown up out here, you know, physically?

EYB: Oh, very...a lot of new houses have been put in and a lot ofI'm the only person out here that lived on the same place that their parents did. All the others have changed, sold or torn down, or whatever. And now, instead of farming, this isn't really a farming community, you have to be a big farmer to farm. 'Course I know Mr. O'Conner over here is, and the Olsens up here, and I think the Krammers do pretty well, but you know, you have to be a big farmer because it takes...farmer's equipment costs so much. When you have to take \$10,000 and up for a tractor, you know that takes an awful lot of money. And everybody used to have their own chickens and their own...they don't even have their own gardens anymore. They buy it at the A & P or someplace you know. And you never see a flock of chickens in the yard anymore, do you? Matter of fact, we never see...you never see a place with 2 or 3 cows. We always had about 7 or 8 ourselves. Mother made butter and sold it. Sometimes you had customers, sometimes you just took it to the store.

LAR: Which store did you go sell it at?

EYB: Well at that time we went to Dray's. Do you know it was? The corner of Tryon and Lincolnway, that's uh, I think a liquor store now, isn't it? And then it got so people began to sell their milk to the big dairies you know, they'd come around and pick it up. But we never did that you know, we never sold milk or cream as long as my mother lived out here, she made butter.

LAR: Did you used to have help with that kind of chore, too?

EYB: Oh, yes. Oh we did everything. And never thought anything about it. Not that we were angels because we weren't and we'd quarrel among ourselves to beat the band. But we knew our jobs and we did them, nobody ever told us to go wash the dishes. After the meal, we knew we had to wash the dishes and so it was done. I guess we all learned to cook very young because there was always so much outside to do, mother took care of her milking and her... all that sort of stuff and so...and her gardening, she always had a nice garden. And then in the summertime, they'd uh, down on the sand, well the Goldrings and the Sherrills, they didn't grow anything, they all raised berries, you

know, and they'd come around long about...well it got so they came the last of April. But before that they waited until later. They'd hire us to come pick berries.

LAR: Strawberries?

EYB: Strawberries and blackberries and raspberries. Both the red and the.....

LAR: How much did you get?

EYB: We got 25 cents a crate for picking the strawberries and the black raspberries and the blackberries, but the big raspberries we got 2 cents a box and that was 32 cents a crate so....

LAR: When you were a little girl growing up what kind of dreams did little girls have? Did you always want to be a teacher?

EYB: Yes, from the day I started school I wanted to be a teacher.

LAR: What other kinds of careers could girls go into?

EYB: Well, stenographers, that was becoming a popular thing, and nurses. That outside of...oh I guess then the telephone was coming in so that they were having telephone operators.

LAR: Having lived in LaPorte County all your life, what would you say is your favorite part about it or we're trying to document what is so special about LaPorte County.

EYB: Well, I like this area here. Of course, I've always lived here, and it's beautiful and it has...it's tied up with my whole life practically and my folks and I just, just love it.

LAR: Well, I want to thank you.

(at this point, the tape reverts to an old recording)