

Interview with Eva Jones

Interviewed by Amy Belanger

Date Unknown

Amy Belanger (AB): I am going to tape record, this is for my class. Okay, now like with, when Archie died were you still there?

Eva Jones (EJ): Archie your grandfather?

AB: Yeah.

EJ: Sure he died in Detroit.

AB: He died in Detroit?

EJ: Yeah he and Adele and your father and Bobby, they moved to Detroit they were there, I don't know about six months maybe? And he died of, he dropped a wrench on his hand and he got blood poisoning and that was before penicillin. So he died in Detroit.

AB: Oh I see, and now I had heard I don't know if this is true maybe you can help me out with it but I had heard that he had asked John to take care of Adele and the boys, meaning Dad and Uncle Bobby, and Grandma.

EJ: I don't know about that, I can't tell, no he couldn't have because he died before John got there,

AB: Oh he died before John got there,

EJ: Yeah John was on the boats, you know he was a sailor, he was on the ore boats and they called down and told him his brother was dead and he came to Detroit, so he couldn't have.

AB: Oh okay. So that is one myth that is unreal, ok [laughter].

EJ: He never met your grandmother before then either.

AB: He didn't?

EJ: No not until Art died. We called him Art I don't know, his name was, I think my mother wanted to name after my father but she wanted the diminutive of it and she called him Archie so on his birth certificate I think it was Archibald.

AB: Because I was looking through like the, I found the 1910 census and it's got Thomas as the head, and it had Jenny and Eli on it, but there is no mention of you know Arthur on there, so you know I was looking through the county but,

EJ: We thought he was born in September but then his sister said no he was born when certain bury wasn't, so that put him in July, but we always thought he was born in, she said no you weren't born then that was Aunt Clara. And I heard that Jenny wasn't really Jenny it was Jenne [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] with an accent over the e but of course they put it Jenny.

AB: Jenny, it was Jenne with an accent. Okay, now I have another question to ask. Do you, let's see, do you know his father's name was, I can't make it out.

EJ: Argel.

AB: A or E?

EJ: Urgel.

AB: Ertel?

EJ: U.

AB: Urtel?

EJ: Yeah, and my oldest daughter Kathy found something as they were in New York and they were in one of the places there just recently, she came back with this, about, this name it was apparently near the Spanish French border and I can't remember, Patagonia or something, it ends with "onia" somehow, and this name was very common-ish, she kept running into it and apparently they were royalty and they ruled for hundreds of years and then finally they died out but this name was very common in there.

AB: Okay, and then his mother, what was his mother's name what was your grandmother's name?

EJ: I don't know, you know if I ever knew it I can't remember it.

AB: Okay, now talking about your mother, her mother's name was Closmire [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] correct?

EJ: Closmire LaDine [SPELLED PHONETICALLY]. And that that's all I know Closemire LaDine [SPELLED PHONETICALLY]. You could probably go up to the cemetery and find all of this out.

AB: Well soon I have actual proof now. That's great, so grandpa had like a portable saw mill, okay now, with the name of Beaver Grove, do you remember how we came about on that?

EJ: Yes and I wrote, I got it in here I'll send you this anyhow, the reason that it was named Beaver Grove is you know that school, I don't know if the school is still there or not I can't remember, it was catty corner from our property, okay. They suddenly decided they had to have a name for that school, so they said we will give you a prize, everybody is going to think of names you know. So we all put names in, and one of the Basel kids, she came up with the name Beaver Grove, so it has got that name and we think it was because old George Basel [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] was on the school board.

AB: That's how it got the name, okay.

EJ: But you know my father did have the beaver dam you know and he was going to make something of that, your father was quite a dreamer he went from one thing to another and dropped it and moved on to something else.

AB: Maybe that's where I get it from.

EJ: I don't know I guess we all got it.

AB: To a certain extent anyways. Well I am glad, my guess is this paper when I get it done should lay to rest some of the myths that have been floating around for the last 20 years.

EJ: Oh well longer than that huh?

AB: Yeah.

EJ: Because lets see I have been gone from there, well I was married to that man for 42 years and I was, I didn't get married until I was 30 and I was long gone from there, I guess I left there when I was about 19 or 20. I graduated when I was 19 from Baraga High. Not Baraga High, John D. Pierce.

AB: John D. Pierce?

EJ: Yeah.

AB: That is up here, is that up here by Northern, is that the one building they used to use?

EJ: It used to be the training school for Northern, for the college there.

AB: Oh okay.

EJ: They had 25 of us in each class. And they used us the student teachers used us for,

AB: Guinea pigs.

EJ: Guinea pigs.

AB: Let's see, okay, another this is let's see, well it must be your sister. Beatrice? Is that the one?

EJ: No Bernice.

AB: Okay I knew it started with a B, what happened to Bernice?

EJ: She died when she was 35 she died of lupus, which is supposed to run through families, I don't happen to have the gene but Louise says that she had, and I am waiting for somebody, I don't know which side of the family that it came from, but I am waiting for somebody to come up with it but you know nobody has, nobody in any of my relative cousins, anything it just seems like it was in this family, because I'm not quite sure that Clara didn't die of either too.

AB: So she died when she was 35. What was she like, do you remember?

EJ: Who Bernice?

AB: Yeah, do you remember what Bernice was like?

EJ: You probably asked the right person. Bernice had a bump on the back of her head where her, didn't really close up back there, and the doctor told my mother and my parents that she wouldn't live very long. So Bernice was spoiled out of the whole bunch, Bernice was spoiled. And pretty soon you know none of the rest of us could stand her, soon she was taken advantage of. It didn't dawn on me till I heard Clara and Louise talking about how horrible she was and she had her own way about everything and I would think to myself poor Bernice it's really the way they treated her, they should have treated her just like all the rest of us you know? But they didn't you know and they favored her and she was, she got her lump when they were back for a time.

AB: Can you do me a favor and run through the order of like your brothers and sisters?

EJ: Okay there was Closmire [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] we called her _____, then there was another child that was born not long after, my mother started having children when she was 17. Okay the other child was named Irene, and she died at 3 weeks, she died of pneumonia they often did that. And then her first husband was killed, and John was born after he died,

AB: And do you remember what killed her first husband?

EJ: Yeah he, the Chocolay, they had a blast furnace there and the blast furnace blew up.

AB: Oh and what was his name?

EJ: John. John Trudeau.

AB: John okay. Right so we have got Closmire [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and John, continue.

EJ: And then there was Art, that was your grandfather, and then there was me, and Clara, and Bernice, and then there was a little boy and he was born premature and his name was Lewis, and he lived 2 months, and then there was Louise, and then Bill.

AB: So Bill was the baby then?

EJ: Billy was the baby. And every one of us had nicknames.

AB: Okay, do you remember them?

EJ: Yeah well, I can remember Tun [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] that was Closmire, and I can't remember John, they called Jacket, and then let's see, Art was Archie, and I was Chissy [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] which is little girl in French, and Clara was Lonwayelle [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], that the dark one in French, and Bernice was pudding, I don't know why they called her that, only they called it's in French Putchin [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], let's see Louise she had a horrible temper and my Uncle pegged her with chilu [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] which is the wolf,

AB: Chilil [SPELLED PHONETICALLY].

EJ: Chilil [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] was his little wolf, and then Bill was boy I think, I think it started out with little boy and they just called him boy after a little while, but then when he grew up a little bit they called him Billy.

AB: Oh okay.

EJ: All those Frenchmen had nicknames, all the kids had nicknames, you know like that, they all ran with nicknames like that. And then my cousins you know Isaac Dupras' kids.

AB: They are just, so did your parents speak French a lot?

EJ: Yeah French was my first language.

AB: Oh so they spoke French to you then.

EJ: They spoke French, of course they'd both been to school here but they spoke French mostly around the house so French was my first language and then about that time they decided it was probably too

hard for us to go to school so then they started speaking English to me. The younger kids like we could always speak French and the younger kids couldn't understand us, like I guess Bernice, Louis, Gram, and it was of course Canadian French. I just about lost it there aren't many Frenchmen around there, I should switch it over to Spanish I guess or Vietnamese [laughter].

AB: It is almost the same thing, French is anyways. Oh so they all spoke French.

EJ: Well not all of them but I know that,

AB: Well pretty,

EJ: Well and also Pat, my Uncle Pat lived with us you know, and he would not speak English to us, so we spoke English to him but he spoke French to us so we understood you know everything that was said, but he would not speak English, I don't know he was way before our time I guess he thought we should be bilingual.

AB: So okay, now another thing is with your grandparents, alright assuming that Art and them spoke French, would you say or do you know if they were, I know that they were born in Canada, but do you know where about they were born or anything like that, like your grandparents?

EJ: No I don't, I know my father and mother were both born there in Marquette and I really don't, in those days we didn't pay much attention to our ancestors or anything.

AB: Okay let's see, what about when you were there what did you do for excitement? You know Beaver Grove isn't exactly a metropolis.

EJ: All of this family read a lot, an awful lot, and so we read everything that came our way and we had, my other and father had friends and they saved all their magazines for us and I remember that somebody I don't know who saved all of Sunday's funnies for us, and they would come in big rolls and we devoured all of those, even to and up to true confession and all, of course we didn't know what they were all about we were reading them before we were ten I guess, it took me 20 years to catch up, [laughter]. But they saved us all of these and then you know there was kind of a grape vine where all the people pass their magazines around and their books and they had a lot of ___ books going, westerns and books like that with western stories and I can remember reading those and then we joined the library in town after we got older we joined the Peter White library, is that there?

AB: Yeah that is there,

EJ: Yeah then then township or the county paid so much book that we took out and we took out and we cost them a fortune we did.

AB: Little thieves were you?

EJ: No no no, we had to pay 10 cents on every book we borrowed, oh no we always got them back,

AB: Oh I see.

EJ: On every book we borrowed we had to pay the county I can't remember where the county is that township had to pay 10 cents on every book we borrowed and we would go down there and we would get a dozen books each and we had then for 3 weeks and we would go right through those books.

AB: Well that is good, kids need to learn to read.

EJ: We learning to read all right.

AB: Not much else to do out there. Okay let's see, another question, okay I think of any more.

EJ: You know the original family farm was a Belanger farm, was about a mile up the road I don't know whether you know, knew that, from where we were raised.

AB: You mean the white farm house?

EJ: What white farm hose?

AB: Was that the, the...

EJ: IT was up the road and it was a log house that sat up on top of the farm and let's see I think Uncle, well the kids inherited it and Uncle Pat lived there with my Aunt Jenny until she got married and then he live there for a while and then he moved down and lived with us and nobody lived in the house anymore. Oh yeah your father, your grandfather and grandmother lived there for a while.

AB: Oh ok I will ask grandma about that. Offhand do you have, probably be a problem, do you have photographs of you know you with, by like the house or the property or anything like that.

EJ: Yeah I have some I am looking at right now everybody had one of the house, do you want me to send it to you?

AB: Yeah!

EJ: And I have more than one, everybody has one with the, they even got the horses out in front of it, the picture I got its in here leaning up against here, oh you know its white and they have got the team of horses out there and some people I can't see, I can't see who they are, now they got two teams of horse. That's the original house, that house cost about 1800 dollars to build, at least when they, they had 18 when they took it over when they took it over they had 1800 dollars to finish paying on it.

AB: When did grandma, when did your parents get married? When did even Arthur get married?

EJ: Well I don't know let's see, I was born in 1915, they moved to this farm in 1914 because I was the first kid born there of their kids, John was born there too, and your grandfather was 18 months older than I was so give him 9 months at least before that, I don't know figure it out.

AB: Oh I would say 1911 or 1912,

EJ: Sounds like it could be.

AB: Because if, let's see, John was 51 when he died I think he was born in 1910,

EJ: John? Yeah so it was between when your grandfather was born and then,

AB: So I don't know what a period of mourning that she went through,

EJ: I don't either.

AB: So offhand before I can check it out, well if you were born in 1915, Archie was born in say,

EJ: Art was 18 months older than I was.

AB: So you were born in what of 1915?

EJ: March of 1915.

AB: So he was probably born in September of

EJ: Whatever it was it was in September.

AB: September of 1913, so yeah they probably got married around 1912.

EJ: I don't think they wasted any time having children.

AB: Probably not. I had also heard, I don't know if this is true or not, I also heard that grandma's, your mother's parents were pushing her, let's see, when she was still young, she didn't have any kids she was going out with your dad and her first husband and the story was that they were pushing her towards grandpa Belanger.

EJ: That is not true, they didn't like the Gothiers [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], which was my father's and Belenger's, they called them black hearted Frenchmen because my grandfather, well my great grandfather I guess, my great grandfather Gothier [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] was, he was known for his jokes which sometimes weren't jokes anymore and he was very outspoken and they didn't like us and they don't like, they didn't like us till the day they died actually because my grandparents didn't have really much to do with them on her side. They called them the black hearted so and so's I guess.

AB: Okay, that is one thing that is down.

EJ: That is one thing down, but yeah when she was a widow well then that was a different joy just to get married, married anyone one because we can't have you,

AB: Hold on my tape is almost, it has a few more seconds on it, in other words your maternal grandparents had hardly anything to do with you,

EJ: No very little,

AB: That must have been kind of a shock,

EJ: Not really because we were used to it, this is the way things were, this was the way things were we didn't feel badly about it we just,

AB: Kind of,

EJ: Well then now I am thinking, why did they let them have the farm? Because nobody,

[END TAPE 1 SIDE A]

[BEGIN TAPE 1 SIDE B]

AB: Her parents had given to them, your grandparents your maternal grandparents, is that the same property that is located up on like on Maiden [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] Road, is that the property?

EJ: Is that Mangamo [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], no not mangamot [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], it's on 28.

AB: It's on M 28?

EJ: 41 and 28 we had that whole strip right there to Little Lake Road and we had acreage across the Lake Road, I got a map of it here I am sending you. And well he bought the property up on the highway on 41 and I can't remember why he bought it, I think when he was building his beaver dam dream or whatever, he bought that and he got it for very little, I don't remember how much it was, it wasn't very much the guy wanted to get rid of it and I can't remember who it bought it from either.

AB: Okay that's good, so they just kind of, nobody else wanted it so they gave it to even their family then.

EJ: Well they didn't exactly give it,

AB: Did they let her purchase it?

EJ: He more or less purchased it because they gave him the house in town, and then they gave him some many bushels of potatoes every year and they took potatoes naturally and then they sold them, and then they gave him 300 dollars a year, I can remember those 300 dollars and I can remember those potatoes setting there going down ___ and I suppose they sold it, the crop, and then of course he had to take care of, my dad had to take care of the house that they were in and oh and I think he supplied their firewood too, their heating, their firewood I think he had to supply that too. For as long as they both lived, but after a while I think she moved in with my, after my grandfather died, I think she moved in with Aunt Beana and then they just had to give her the money. So actually I guess they paid for it I guess they paid through the nose for it really, because there was always this thing about taking it back after they gave it to her, after the other kids turned it down then they decided that they would like to have it you know and it was one scramble to make sure that we had that payment and to get all the potatoes if we didn't eat they had to have it.

AB: When you were talking about the house on Craig Street that they had given, they gave that one to, even then to,

EJ: Well they traded it, yeah.

AB: Okay. Do you remember where the house is located?

EJ: No but your grandmother knows. When I was there last it was up for sale. I could remember it.

AB: Ok I'll ask Gram, sometimes you got to jog gram's memory a little bit.

EJ: Oh really?

AB: Yeah, she well Grandma has this thing of, "well I don't know anything out there" and then she was telling me these different things and I'm like grandma I never knew that you know it's like if I don't get the information down and written about, it is going to be lost.

EJ: Oh yeah, that is true,

AB: You know?

EJ: And I was writing this all down, I had a French teacher from high school here and she said well make it a record journal she says, I'll help you with it, and I said I don't think she wants to go into that deep.

AB: Yeah, to tell you the truth, anything that you think, even if it is off the wall, let me know because let me know even after this paper gets through I want to keep on digging into into, because there is a good, story,

EJ: Okay I'll tell you one thing, one thing that is very, been kept up, my father was a moonshiner up there you know?

AB: Grandpa was a moon...? Arthur Belanger was a moonshiner?

EJ: This is the little kid that was always reading and could understand French and English, he was always off in the corner reading and he and his brothers, I think Thomas and Eli and Uncle Pat were in it too, I can't remember where they had the still, it was in one of our barns but I can't, it probably was in ours, I don't know. But I know that a, two by the name Fine [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] bought all their ____.

AB: That's hilarious.

EJ: Yeah nobody knows that, just this little kid that was off in the corner reading you know?

AB: That is interesting, I never knew he had his,

EJ: I wouldn't have told my husband that because he is from Mississippi and moonshiners were [laughter] I wouldn't have told him that, I knew a few, there is one neighbor that bought my aunt Rose's farm that was next door, they were in the moonshining business and the Rose's were, I mean Clara's husband's family, that's all I know though I can't remember it too much.

AB: I see, can you give me maybe if you sit down and think about it, can you give me a thumbnail sketch about what Archie was like?

EJ: Your father?

AB: My grandfather yeah.

EJ: Oh your grandfather. Oh let's see, he is 18 months older than me, and he ruled the roost, he was your grandfather's first son and well he was kind of, I can't explain it, he just knew that he was the apple of their eye and he was cocky you know, and he pushed us around a little bit, the girls around. And then he grew up and he grew up to be a, nice guy and he was very good, I think he was a very good father and your grandmother had something wrong with her hands and she couldn't put them in water you know and everything and he came home and he said to my mother, he says somebody's got to come up and help take care of the baby, she says well your there you're not working you take care of him. So and that was, he really started taking care of, and he really enjoyed it too. Let's see they went to Detroit, he couldn't get a job there and they went to Detroit and he worked in Detroit for, oh as a mechanic, I think they went back when Bobby was 2 years old, no 6 months old, because your father was two years old I think or your grandfather, this little kid was your grandfather. And let's see, the one thing I remember your grandfather teased him a lot. We used to put, he used to put a feather, and he was scared of feathers for some reason, and he well he, he wouldn't go in the room, if they didn't want them in the room they would put a feather in the doorway [laughter]. He was a cute little kid you know, he was the first grandchild in this bunch and I am telling you, that kid didn't walk on the floor because he stayed at my mother's house, you know he lived right there with my mother and Lord we were all home at that time and everything that kid did was just wonderful [laughter]. Is he spoiled now?

AB: Dad? A little bit. Ma's got him spoiled pretty good.

EJ: Well, and he apparently got his grey hair from me,

AB: That's okay, oh I can't blame Aunt Eva because I have some grey hair too, we are not talking grey now aunty, we are talking pure white.

EJ: Pure white. Mine started turning when I was seven.

AB: You were seven?

EJ: And my father's family, it came from my father's side of the family because he had and Aunt that had grey hair like mine, by the time I was in high school I was really grey.

AB: I am not that bad, I find a few here and there but I pull them out.

EJ: Well my children are the same, well I don't know about my youngest daughter, my oldest daughter, I don't she is 40 what, 41? Maybe she had got a reason for it, but no she started turning gray when she was young too because I saw them naturally, she doesn't anyhow, she dyes her hair I guess, somebody dyes it. And the youngest one, I honestly can't remember what color her hair is supposed to be. But she had blue eyes,

AB: Maybe she had brown?

EJ: The oldest one has brown eyes the youngest one has blue eyes, and your grandmother has blue eyes and my husband had blue eyes, and it shows up in every generation or so I guess.

AB: Yeah I have got blue eyes, blue eyes and brown hair.

EJ: Well Terri 's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] hair was blonde and she keeps it more or less blond now I don't, I don't know she is 38, I can't remember, like I said I can't remember, I don't remember if I did would color her hair, and the other one keeps hers dark you know.

AB: So grandpa was a moonshiner, that's interesting, that really is, it's a little bit of gossip that I never thought, I don't know I just you know,

EJ: Well I think maybe I was just starting in the 1st grade or so because they were, and another thing that wasn't known, we didn't always eat beef you know and such some of ours were a little on the wild side, always we had. They figured they ___ the things why should they feed them for the horsemen out of Detroit, I remember that.

AB: So you used to eat what types of wild meats?

EJ: Deer.

AB: Deer.

EJ: Yeah we had it all summer there.

AB: Did you eat anything else like bear?

EJ: No, I can't remember no I don't think so they didn't eat bear.

AB: Okay.

EJ: I can remember my Aunt Jenne's, Jenny's husband he got a bear one time it was like pork.

AB: So, well that's good. Let's see, now, grandpa had a tree farm right? Your father had a tree farm?

EJ: On his second farm I think he planted trees in it you know that was a little bit after I left there, but he did plant, your great grandmother was not the world's best source of information because I had two nephews, Bill's kids that I didn't even know about until they were 11 and 14.

AB: Uh oh.

EJ: Of course they could be, but Pat wasn't all that crazy about our side of the family I think. Oh they had, they had all these,

AB: Little like, little family feuds in here,

EJ: Yeah little family feuds within the family you know and I always said I'd never do that I would just stay away from it, you know nice to them but,

AB: When did you, let's see, when did you last come back here?

EJ: Oh I was there when they had that family reunion in Detroit, I went, and then I went up north with Betty, stayed with your grandmother, I saw your father, your father came to see me, and I haven't seen you kids since you were, how old are you now?

AB: 24.

EJ: 24 years ago, you were just a young little kid, you just moved into one, into a house there, I don't remember if you are still there or now.

AB: Well let's see it was over, well ShopKo is there now, but it was over on Warner, just a small little house.

EJ: I know the bathroom was upstairs like through the kitchen in that direction or something,

AB: Oh yeah, we are still at the same house, in fact that is where I am living right now. Okay. Let's see what else, oh lord, the only thing I can ask is if you have got any, if you want to that would be fine, send them out I will get them copied, but if you have any pictures.

EJ: You know I had pictures of your grandfather and everything and you know Betty, you know Betty do you? And she said to me, and she was here, and she said to me she said, Aunty can I have a picture here of, in this, and I went through that thing and she stripped just about every picture out of my, after she left, and I was going to say something and I thought no I won't she has so little going for her that it makes her feel good to come and give these pictures to people, but she had some of your, I had some of your grandfather, and your father when he was, that was just before your grandfather died in Detroit and naturally I had a bunch of them, and Jerry, your Uncle Jerry, we were looking through there and laughing he says, I said she just stripped that thing and I didn't notice it until later and I said I didn't want to ask her to give them back to me because you know she was, like I said that's all she has got going for her. And she you know she bring these pictures and she would make herself welcome I guess but I don't

know what she did with them I guess, I don't know, no I don't think Art went to 8th grade even, because I was the first one to go to the eight grade in the family I went to high school too.

AB: You went for an education.

EJ: Well that was, I think your grandfather went to 6th grade, and your grandmother, no your great grandmother went to the 4th. But you know they read a lot, and your grandfather is really good with lumber, he could, what they call rogue, they hire him, the bigger companies would hire him and he would walk through the grove of trees and estimate how much lumber they could get out of them, that was one of his sidelines,

AB: So that was Archie, or Art?

EJ: Art. That was my father.

AB: Yeah your father, great grandfather, alright.

EJ: That was your great grandfather, and they had lumber, he would buy up lumber, a little 40 acres or so and then he would log it. And then I don't know what he would do with it after that I guess, I know that he had one of them and it was up beyond the Devos [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] you know the Devos [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] up there?

AB: No but I remember the name.

EJ: Well he had that and he had a running battle with them because they fenced him out and he would come along back and he would cut the fence and go right up there, he had right of access he though and he would just cut their fence down and go right straight through, he wasn't, he was a little bit, the people were a little bit afraid of him,

AB: Have a little bit of a temper did he?

EJ: He had a horrible French temper, and one time all, in that camp some people, on the weekend, some people came and stole his axes and things and he just grabbed his rifle and went and got them. And then, the guy, he got there, and the guy didn't see him coming and he was using one of his axes with his name on it, he had them burned in the handle, to cut wood. And he took all of his saws and his hammers and everything back, but then they had him arrested, and he went up to Ishpeming or Negaunee to court and the judge there didn't know theses of the people so I don't remember what it was, but oh they had a healthy respect for him.

AB: So your father had a hell of a temper?

EJ: Yeah he had a horrible temper, he was you know, he was good to us, boy I'm telling you we sure wore hazel switch, he used to hazel switch on the back our legs a lot of times. Like one time I let the cows out, I was supposed to be watching the cows and I got to playing with the kids, I was only a kid myself, I got to be playing with the kids and the cows got out on the highway. Boy had those stripes across my legs for a couple days

AB: Uh oh.

EJ: But you know we didn't care, we had it coming, we were just lucky he didn't catch us in everything that we did wrong.

AB: How, how would you rate your parents compared to your friends parents?

EJ: Oh they were are parents, my father was ____ my mother was kind of strict, you know and my father he flare up but usually he was good natured he was always playing with the kids and he never went anyplace where he didn't have two or three kids with him or anybody you know, like he would go on business or something and he would take us with him and we would sit in the car while he did this or that and he took us to the fairs, we always went to the fairs and saw the horse races, we sat up there and watch the horses race, I don't if he ever gambled on them, bet on them, but we watched the horses we just liked to watch the horses and oh let's see we went to boat races. We were really young you know too, and my mother she had all of these kids I suppose but she wasn't really all that much fun, she was strict with us.

AB: How was she compared when my dad arrived on the scene, when my dad arrived in the, you know Adele, and your brother, they had this baby,

EJ: Oh she was alright, she got along very well with you grandmother and of course Jackie could do no wrong, but she liked to, she did this to, I jumped her a couple of times about this, she would go in and take over your mother's role with the kids, even when they lived away from there with your grandmother you know, she would go in there and she would just do what she, take care of the kids, and I said you can't do that to her kids and she says well I was just trying to help and I said ask her first! Because your grandmother complained to me, and I said ask her first, I say you don't go in there and give the kid a haircut without asking her mother where she wants that kid to have a haircut.

AB: So in other words, your mother, my great grandmother, was an opinionated, somewhat say and overbearing person, is that basically the picture that you are trying to give me.

EJ: Well she was, she thought she was doing very good for everybody. She thought she was there and he was her son and naturally if the kid needed this, she was good to them as far as that went, but I told her you shouldn't go in there and do that I said you should ask first before you did that, I think she cut Gene's hair. Actually Gene had something, some kind of a,

[END TAPE 1 SIDE B]

[BEGIN TAPE 2 SIDE A]

AB: Most of Eva's kids, your mother's kids come in with "I love you mom, but we are leaving"

EJ: Yeah right. I went to Detroit, and well you know when I was growing up they didn't have women's lib and the boys got everything and I can remember working with the boys with the horses and everything and I was working right alongside of them and then when it came on Saturday they paid him and I said hey how come I don't get any money? And they said, my mother said, well she said because she says we want them to stay around she says you will just get married and move on and I said I am going to move out now, and I went to Detroit, and the boys they never stayed around anyhow so she probably would have been better if she would have been a little bit nicer to the, to the girls, because the boys were what, I was thinking today that one time I drove and I drove the horses and your brother your grandfather and I were working with my father and Uncle Pat and I don't remember what we were doing but we were working with them and we came in the house and my mother had set a lunch for us, more of us there, but I was the one that, we all came in at the same time, and I was the one that had to

set up this meal for them, and afterward's they all sat around and waited while I did the dishes, and then we went back and we worked again.

AB: Did you ever feel like slapping Art?

EJ: Huh?

AB: Didn't you ever feeling like slapping your brother and telling him to get up and help you?

EJ: No because I wouldn't slap him I would slap, it wasn't him that, this was they allowed it. But that night I got even with the whole bunch of them, I came and my mother and the other girls had gone to visit somebody and we came it we worked late because it was going to rain, and we worked late and I was supposed to get dinner for them, I was just as tired as they were I went upstairs and went to bed, my mother never forgave me for that [laughter]. But that is when I started putting my foot down.

AB: Sometimes, maybe you were too much alike.

EJ: I don't know, I don't know because I wasn't like her. I wasn't, they weren't going to push me around, I guess she got pushed around all her life. She came out here, she sold her farm and I tried to talk her out of it and then I thought well, coming out here because she wouldn't like it, I knew she wouldn't like it out her and she came, she sold her farm and she came out here she stayed 6 weeks and first of all she thought maybe I ought to go to work so she could take care of the house you know and do everything, I was 20 years into that marriage and wasn't about to go and turn it over to her, and besides my husband had had a heart attack and here she was, the way she was cooking with these fats and everything like that and I couldn't talk her out of it, and then she decided to go back there and I just kept her I supposed that was when we first moved into this house, that was in '68. And she went back and she stayed with her sister and then she stayed with us, but I told her before she came out I said maybe you hadn't better come out here this is all new to you, but then she said well if you don't want me, well it wasn't that I didn't want her but I knew she wouldn't, and I had one kid in college, one in high school, and the one in college left at 7 o'clock in the morning and she worked before and after school and she didn't come back until 10 o'clock and she was always talking about how she never did any housework here and well I never cleaned her room up either you know, whatever, she was always going to come in her room and I said no you stay out of it mom, and she said but she didn't make her bed this morning, and I said I don't care she never makes it. So we didn't get along as such and then she went back there and I hate to think of all the things she said about me but some of them ___ bad.

AB: I remember, okay about 1970, she was going out, did she live with Clara, about the last 5 years?

EJ: Yeah she lived with Clara for 2 years and then they put her in a nursing home, _____ couldn't handle her any more, well I couldn't help her because I had Hepatitis type B, and Louise couldn't because Louise just had surgery for breast cancer. Are you there?

AB: Yeah I am just having a few little problems with my phone, no problem.

EJ: And we felt guilty about it but Clara finally put her in the nursing home and she was the only one that paid out of the whole bunch of people and she was the only one that paid because the rest of them were all out of town an such and such,

AB: So when grandma, when your mother sold her farm you tried to talk her out of it,

EJ: Yeah I you know, I said well I thought maybe you shouldn't just, maybe you should come out and try it first, no no no she was going to sell. She was a very hard headed woman you couldn't talk her, she got into her mind to do something she was going to do it, and I said you might not like it out here, yeah I'll like it out there, well she didn't like it out here. And so then she had no farm to go back to you know, and I thought well maybe she was depending on Betty, oh not Betty, Catherine, and she was depending on your grandmother, and I thought well maybe they are getting tired of it and maybe they said something but I talked to your grandmother and she said no, she says no that was her own idea, and she found out that we bought this four bedroom house and she was just going to come out here, well when she came out here she was going to take over the place, and I had had enough of that when I was a kid let me tell you, so I said no I'll just keep right one doing what I am doing and so it wasn't long before she was tired of this and she would cry when she didn't get a letter and she would cry when she got a letter from back there, so I put her on a plane and send her back there.

AB: Okay I think Dad and my Mom, yeah I can remember because we brought her over to Aunt Deana's I can remember her. You know what my biggest memory about grandma is? Her and her cookies, grandma's sugar cookies.

EJ: Yeah she tried, she'd make cookies here and she would try to feed the kids cookies, we had a lot of little kids here but their parents didn't want them eating cookies you know, and they would take them very politely from her and then they would hide them before they went home and I didn't know what to do about it and I told her that their parents didn't want them to eat cookies like this, and oh kids like cookies, all kids like cookies and she just went on making them, she made cookies and she'd make bread and she made all these things and filled my freezer, and then well see my husband was on a very strict diet, well it hurt her feelings if he didn't, if we wouldn't eat what she fixed and you know, lord she went through all this bad stuff, fats and everything, grease, and we couldn't eat it and then it would hurt her feelings again you know and I would say you can't, and I would try, I tried to be diplomatic and everything but it didn't work.

AB: She was, she was what in her 70's then?

EJ: She was in her 70's. She was 25 years older than I was, and my father was 30.

AB: Alright, because I am just trying to get a background, but yeah if you can send, if you have extra's or whatever.

EJ: Pardon?

AB: If you have like extra pictures or whatever,

EJ: I will look around.

AB: Now, there is a house out in, okay you know where that store is? I think it is 480 intersects with 41? There is like a store and there is the first house, there is like a brown house,

EJ: Well that was one of his ideas too he built that gas station there in the corner.

AB: Oh so your dad built the gas station and that other house?

EJ: No he didn't build the house he sold the gas station he kept it for a while, he did this with everything, he went from one thing to another and he kept it for a while and then he sold it to a guy by the name of Ball somebody or other, I forget his name.

AB: Okay, but did he do a lot of carpentry work around?

EJ: Yes he did, he was a carpenter by trade actually, when he was, between the time he left home on the old farm and moved up to ours he was a carpenter.

AB: Okay well I probably picked your brains quite enough.

EJ: Well let me tell you it is getting empty I don't know of anything much, do you still want this letter?

AB: Yes, please.

EJ: I don't know, you got a lot more out of this than I would imagine on this. Okay.

AB: But you know, like I said this was a tape recording and it is going to be donated to the NMU Archives and that is just, they have information about everything, you don't mind do you?

EJ: Oh no, not at all I am a long time gone from there but I guess you always think about where you were born and raised.

AB: And well that is the thing is who else would remember different things about that period of time, that's like grandma, I have to talk to them, Adele there, but there is a lot that she doesn't know or that she doesn't remember.

EJ: That is true I suppose because I was in the family, what 18 years, I'd say she was 16 when she got married I was 18 I think.

AB: So you know you have about 18 more years of experience.

EJ: Yeah and she was from the city, and she was a town girl and we were country bumpkins, oh let's see you want to know what we did, we went to dances, and you know they were usually at somebody's house, almost every week we did that, and then when we got older our boyfriends had cars and we went to the movies and we went in the summer time we went to the lakes and we fished and we swam and we had picnics and we had, I guess we did a lot of stuff come to think of it. And we visited a lot on weekends, usually on Sundays we would visit some of the neighbors, my mother did every Sunday she was tied in there with all the kids and every Sunday she went off, she would get her hat and her gloves and everything on, go visit one of the neighbors. We couldn't wait until she got out of that house, all the kids, because as soon as she got out, my father would make use some candy but sometimes we had to eat it with a spoon but he would make candy and in the winter time my father wasn't always working and there wasn't an awful lot of work except doing the chores and so, if he was going to be there she would take off for a week she would go downtown, visit her sister and Deana and go to church a lot and then come back in another week. Let's see, she would stay a week and then she would come back and he did the cooking, it was mostly boiled dinners and stuff and such and she has always griped at him because he always but the pan off the stove right on the table. Of course we have plates and everything, oh I can remember that because I can remember being around him a lot.

AB: So you would say you were probably closer to your dad?

EJ: I was yeah, you know I had pneumonia when I was little and I was small for my age but I can remember when I was three years old I was running away from home, my mother had these other two kids younger than me and I would go down and find him in the field and he didn't know what to do with me, because he couldn't just let me wander around because he could have run over me with the horses so he would just throw me up on this one horse, old Bick, I think I grew up on that horse, and I would hang on to the hanes [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] you know where it came up there and then when I, he just turned the horse loose and the horse, there was a team, but you know those horses would come all the way to the barn and if they gone right into the barn there was a bar across there and it would wipe me right off of there, but they would always stop until he came and he would take me down. And then I never stayed in the house very much and then he found out that I could draw, that I could handle those horses, and I was seven years old and I was handling those horses, I couldn't harness them or anything, but I was handing them, I was driving them, but I wasn't all that big either, I am only 5 foot 11 and half now, and I weight quite a bit more but when I was seven years old I wasn't, but then I found out he was kind of proud, he showed me off because I could handle those horses as small as I was. And then neighbors couldn't understand him letting me handle those horses.

AB: Proud of his kid.

EJ: Yeah but see I never stayed in the house very much, I'd sneak out, I had chores to do in the house like making beds an that but I didn't stay in the house, even in the winter time I didn't stay there very much.

AB: So who would you say, a while ago you said Bernice was kind of like their Pat, did she favor any of the other ones more so?

EJ: Yeah she favored Clara, I don't blame her because Clara was her pride and joy, Clara could cook, Clara would cook, and but there was another thing too she said that Clara was her ugliest child so she favored her. And I know that this, my father's sister Jenny lived up, and she and Uncle Pat lived in the original old farm and I spent, I was up there most of the time when I was a kid, I was always up there.

AB: In your letter, can you give me like directions where the farm was?

EJ: You know where Little Lake Road is up? Okay, where, which farm are you talking about?

AB: You know you were just talking about going to the old farm and that Uncle Pat, Uncle Bill, the old Belanger farm.

EJ: It is a mile up the road, it was on both sides of the road, and the house was on the right going up, it was a log house and was up on the hill, a hill there, and they used to have two trees at the gate, I'm trying to think of what kind of trees they were, I don't know, some kind of an aspen or something,

AB: Okay so a mile up Little Lake Road, heading south,

EJ: Correct,

AB: Heading south would be where the farm is,

EJ: First of all you go down and then you turn that bend, Cameron [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] farm, and you go down there and you go past, that was past, well I don't know what is in there now, then there is that road that goes up on the left, just before you come to that farm, and it is to the left and it goes up, I

used to go up to, there was two houses up there, one of them was my Aunt Rose at one time and but you keep right on going and then there is a big white, just the next farm to it was the old Ashunut [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] farm and they had a big farm up on the hill there and they had a driveway and they had stone, stone between the lawn and the driveway they had stone, I can remember the stone, and their barns were to the, this was on the right side of the road, and the barns were on the left side of the road. I think they sold it to a doctor at one time and I think that same guy bought my uncle's farm, or our old farm.

AB: Did you ever show my dad, did dad know where that was?

EJ: He must have known where that was.

AB: Okay well I will have him take me there, see if I have visual aids in my thing it will be a lot, you can kind of see, at one time this place was log cabin,

EJ: I don't know if those maples, my great grandfather planted maple trees down the road, in front of the old farm, it is by the old farm on both sides of the road, some of them died out but they were pretty big when I was there I don't know if they are still there I can't remember. They were there and they widened the road or something and my father asked if they were going to take those out and he said no if we have to move the road he said we won't take the trees too, that was a long time ago too.

AB: Let's see, now I know that there was some property that was sold to the state,

EJ: Yeah that's the farm, the farm we grew up on was sold to the state,

AB: That is, let's see, there's like a lighthouse with a red barn on the lake and 480,

EJ: No they, they tore the house down, but we had as a root cellar there they still go that up there I noticed that the last time I was there.

AB: Okay, you know like I said there is a couple of different tracks when I looked through the records and I noticed that the state had bought it. Do you remember offhand when they started parceling that out?

EJ: Is it parceled out? I don't know.

AB: Some, let's see, well I was looking through the, I think like the 1962's there's the tax records, well John had property,

EJ: Oh yeah well that was, your mother and John, that was over on,

AB: That was on 41,

EJ: Yeah my father bought that later. And he intended to give it, he gave me a lot there and they gave Bill a lot there and the other kids didn't want any, and I sold mine to, I don't know in '78 I guess, '76 I sold it to somebody by the name of Trudeau but not your grandmother, Trudell [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] or something.

AB: Oh Trudell [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] well see this is a lot of information,

EJ: Oh yeah and I bought Bill's before that, so I had his and mine and I sold it to somebody by the name of Trudell [SPELLED PHONETICALLY]. And let's see, I don't know, and then of course I think you cousin lives on the old Trudeau place or does she still live there?

AB: You mean Pat? Aunty Pat still lives there, yeah that's a 1.5 acre little plot.

EJ: Yeah well I had, I don't about acres, it ran right down to the creek, and then your grandfather, there was a little piece of,

[END TAPE 2 SIDE A]

[BEGIN TAPE 2 SIDE B]

EJ: When you are not used to anything else it's not unique it's just the ordinary, everybody else around there was the same way you know? All the kids around there because we had lots of cousins, the Dupras, Isaac Dupras children we had a lot of cousins and then people that lived in between us was my father's cousin and he had a bunch of kids, and we were all raised the same way we had all the same things.

AB: So it was kind of like one big happy family out there.

EJ: Yeah it was an extended family.

AB: Extended, yeah. That is always interesting to find out.

EJ: And then there was the Frenchmen, there was this Frenchmen, then there was the Germans and later it was the Swedes and Finns and the Norwegians, not too many Norwegians we had one that worked for us at, Norwegian. But they never, in those days, they stuck to themselves you know? And now I guess they are all intermingled.

AB: Yeah.

EJ: I always laugh around here when they talk about different people you know and how they have no use for each other the black the Mexicans and everything, it doesn't make any difference where you are there, always this thing comes up. I can remember when I was a kid the worst thing you would call anybody was a Finlander. Or a Swede or something, I can remember the kids next door one of them was blond and the others were all dark and they used to call him a Finander. There is always this, no matter where you grew up or where you are there is somebody that they look down one.

AB: So you were growing up to get somebody to call them Finlanders, derogatory term.

EJ: Derogatory term you know it was, bigotry and such and such but you know really it just kind of makes me laugh around here when you know they say this and that about different races.

AB: I have another question. Were you little hellions on let's say devil's night, night before Halloween?

EJ: No we stayed in the house, it was usually cold, my brothers, my older brothers went out I think and they turned over a toilet and such and such but they didn't do an awful lot of that either. Halloween was not, they didn't pay much attention when I was growing up to Halloween.

AB: Okay.

EJ: It was the day before Saints Day you know. You concentrated on that. Especially if you were one of my mother's kids.

AB: So your mother had quite the iron fist.

EJ: She had the iron fist yeah. Some day you know and I keep thinking, well I keep thinking, she really needed it I suppose when you had eight children and her sister died, her two sisters died, and we had on and off we had some of them too.

AB: What sisters of hers died?

EJ: Mary, she was married to, oh dear my brain is getting lost here, she was married, they lived up the road, Mellet [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] she was married to Mellet [SPELLED PHONETICALLY]. Oh she had married and Irish man and he disappeared right after they were married and he never came back. They don't know whatever happened to him, and so then she went and kept help for this Mellet, Alquanc Mellet [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], and ___ children first marriage and she ended up with 21 children, she died of the flu, do you remember when that flu went through?

AB: Swine flu or something?

EJ: I don't know what they called it in those days it was I think about the time of the war, let's see I was four, I guess her youngest one and Ira were the same age I think I was 3 or 4 and that sister died, and then she had one that died in Munising, she was living in Munising and the two of them died so she had these kids, Tusena [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], his name was Tusena she was married to a Tusena [SPELLED PHONETICALLY].

AB: What was her name, the other sister?

EJ: Tilly.

AB: Tilly.

EJ: I don't know if it was Mathilda but I remember they called her Tilly, I don't ever remember ever seeing her. But I guess, and she was married to Tusena [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] I can't remember his name but I remember a cousin by the name of May, and Alfred still lives out there somewhere Alfred Tusena [SPELLED PHONETICALLY]. He was my cousin, and all the Mellet's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] were my cousins, not all of them, the older ones weren't, not his first wife but his second wife, I don't know they had a bunch of them too. Counting sheep by counting cousins if I can't sleep.

AB: You know I could do that. Since Ma was a Sweeney [SPELLED PHONETICALLY]. This is ridiculous I got cousins intermarrying with cousins, I am getting confused.

EJ: Well you can imagine how confused I was went I went up to see my mother and she had a bulletin board there and all these people and all these kids on there and my sister said do you realize that this woman is responsible for all those kids? And I said you mean to tell me they're our relatives' kids, they're our brother's and sister's decedents, she says yeah, I couldn't believe it.

AB: Well let's see, grandpa and grandma between Archie and Dale we had the two boys, between those two boys they have got four girls and four granddaughter four grandsons, two of the grandsons Don has,

you know Don has three kids, he's got two girls and a boy and so does David Belanger, Bob's kids. Bob's you know, he has got six grandchildren,

EJ: Bob is right here,

AB: My father, my dad's not a grandfather either, he probably never will be.

EJ: Oh really?

AB: No, not for me. Nope.

EJ: You much have read the same book my kids read, but I thought that was only in the 60's, we were talking zero population.

AB: See when I got into school in the middle to late 70's the thing was you know if you had, you had two, no more than two to keep a zero population. Actually I am thinking that a negative population growth is real good too,

EJ: You know what I always said to them,

AB: What?

EJ: Nature ___ vacuum, if you don't have the kids, we will get them from other countries, and you can believe that I was right, right? The oriental, the Mexican, everybody coming, there is a regularly tidal wave on the coast here.

AB: Where do you live at?

EJ: I live 40 miles east of San Francisco.

AB: Do you like the area?

EJ: Oh yeah, it's alright, I am on the other side of the Bay from them and then there is kind of a flat land and then there is what they call the coastal range, it's not very high, and then I live right in there I live in a valley, it is called tri valley because there are three valley's here, Livermore, Livermore you much have heard of Livermore they've got the lab out there, well I am not, 14 miles from the lab, west of the lab. And I live on 580 right on the corner if you have got a map you can look in the corner of 580 where it crosses 680,

AB: 580 and 680,

EJ: 580 goes east and 680 comes down,

AB: Oh maybe next summer when I make it up to see my friend down in San Diego,

EJ: We are a long way from San Diego,

[TAPE STOPS ABRUPTLY]

[End of Interview]

