

KLGO Oral History Project

Evelyn Meyer

Skagway, AK 12/4/2009

This is Stacey Carkhuff interviewing Evelyn Meyer with Karen Brewster on camera, December 4th, 2009 and we are in Skagway, Alaska.

S. Carkhuff: So what I was going to ask you Evelyn is, when did you come to Skagway and tell me a little bit about where you were born and why you moved here?

E. Meyer: I was born in Sheridan, Wyoming. I lived there most of my life and then after I got married we moved to Montana and from Montana we moved up here. My husband got a job teaching school in Sitka so we were in Sitka for three years and then we moved to Haines and then to Juneau and from Juneau we came here in 1970, January of 1970, and we have been here ever since.

S. Carkhuff: What did you think as you were travelling up to Alaska, once you saw it?

E. Meyer: We, oh, you mean the first time?

S. Carkhuff: Yes.

E. Meyer: Beautiful. Too much water. Wyoming doesn't have a lot of water. Otherwise I have always enjoyed living here. Sitka was a little, confining, Wyoming has open spaces, but no we've always wanted to live in Alaska. We got the chance and we moved here.

S. Carkhuff: Excellent. So what is your husband's name?

E. Meyer: Edward Meyer.

S. Carkhuff: OK. Had he always been a teacher, or he just decided to come teach?

E. Meyer: No, he had many, many jobs throughout his life, but he decided that teaching is what he wanted to do so he went back and got his degree and then applied for a job, three jobs, one in Ketchikan, one in Sitka and one in Anchorage. They called and asked him if he would like to work in Sitka and that is how we first came to Alaska. Then when we moved here though, that

was when the Wickersham was running then, the ferry the Wickersham, and it, because of the Jones Act and all, no one could get off the ferry. So, my husband was able to though because he was coming to work with Customs and they were able to get him off, but when we pulled up, my first thought was "What has my husband gotten me into this time?" I mean back then in 1970, the town was definitely different than it is now. None of the buildings had been fixed up yet and it was a very, very old fashioned western type town with unfinished buildings and the whole bit. The changes in this town have been truly dramatic in the last, what, 40 years, almost yeah, going on 40 anyway.

S. Carkhuff: So what would you say some of those major changes are since you came here?

E. Meyer: Oh the biggest and most radical change is the number of stores we have in this town now. Back then we had, we had Kirmse's and Richter's and the Trail Bench, which was a furrier store, and Dedman's and Keller's. That was it for the stores in downtown Skagway. But then we only had like two ships coming in during the summer. Then other ships started to come in. I remember one of the first ships that came in was a Russian ship, one of the first of the new ships that started to come in to town. Since then, Skagway has just been completely overrun in the summer time by cruise ship passengers.

S. Carkhuff: Do you think that has helped Skagway or do you think it has been detrimental?

E. Meyer: Oh, no, it has helped Skagway. Skagway without the railroad and the park, Skagway would be in a world of hurt.

S. Carkhuff: So speaking of the park, the National Park Service, you have been an employee since 1989 until the present, and you mentioned that you were in attendance for the dedication of the building. Can you tell me when that was and what it was like?

E. Meyer: Oh, golly, no I really can't tell you what date it was, but I want to say '78 but I'm not sure. It could have been earlier, but anyway. They, I mean it was a beautiful, sunny day that day. I do remember that because no one had to wear raincoats and they encouraged the town to all dress up in old attire, old clothes, which a lot of people did. The high school band was at full force out here. They had a lot of dignitaries here but I don't remember which ones.

S. Carkhuff: So it was an interesting ceremony and well worth it?

E. Meyer: Ah ha, yes it was, yeah it was.

S. Carkhuff: So they have completely renovated this entire building since it was dedicated, I assume.

E. Meyer: Yes, yes. It took them several years to do that.

S. Carkhuff: So what has it been like working for the Park Service here in Skagway?

E. Meyer: Interesting. Fun. I've enjoyed it. I have had about three or four different jobs here and so each one has been very unique and I have enjoyed them all. I have had a lot of nice people to work with over the years and many, many because of all the seasonals we have in the summer time that are only here for a short period.

S. Carkhuff: Well I was wondering how did you get involved and interested in applying for a job with the Park Service?

E. Meyer: Well, I was working at the bank at the time and the circumstances just happened to come that they were advertising for a procurement clerk at the time. I applied and I got the job. I've been with them ever since. I was only going to stay five years but I've stayed a lot longer than that.

S. Carkhuff: Why did you stay so long?

E. Meyer: Because I've enjoyed all of my jobs. Like I say, I started out as a procurement clerk and then I went to an administrative assistant and then I filled in as the acting AO (administration officer) when we switched people and now I am the budget analyst and I do enjoy that very much.

S. Carkhuff: So in terms of what the Park Service has done for Skagway, since you've been a part of the Park Service for so long, I was wondering if you could talk about what the Park Service does for Skagway.

E. Meyer: OK, well the main thing they have done, is to fix up and renovate buildings because when we first moved to town, the Mascot is a good example, there were little bushes and trees growing out of the side of the building. If you looked in the window, you could see where they

were sprouting through the floor too. So, just the revamping of all the buildings in town has been a true help. I know a lot of people still expect to see old buildings that are unpainted and everything, but this has made the town, in the terms of looking like a real town again. They do a lot of good things. They are always very, very helpful in working with the school. My daughter is a teacher there and so she brings her kids every year. In their curriculum in the school they have to do work like this and so the kids get a lot out of it. We are also, one of our employees here is beginning to bring students in to work with him and for him in the resources. I don't know, they just work well with the city, the borough now, and I don't know, they just add a different element to the town.

S. Carkhuff: A good element?

E. Meyer: A good element. Yes. A very good element. Another good thing, they have put people to work here too. Particularly when the railroad closed, a lot of the crew that worked on this building were people, men from the town here. So they probably, and they still employ a lot of locals, as they can.

S. Carkhuff: So there was a transfer of men, and maybe some women when the railroad closed to the Park Service?

E. Meyer: Well, women not so much as men. Back then even, women didn't seem to work in the same jobs that they are doing now. Because in the summer time, we have, well we've got permanent women, two employees in maintenance and so it has just been a big change that way too in who works for the park even and the jobs they do, which I find good.

K. Brewster: Can you talk a little more about that? Examples?

E. Meyer: Well a good example would be the trail crew. They work hard. They work long hours because they're on a back to back, four ten hour days and so they do actually they are doing eight all at once. The work is hard and strenuous, but we have one woman on the crew now and I think she will be returning this year. In the past years we have had women on the trail crew too. Talking to the supervisors and even the people, the other men that they work with, they are always real positive about having women on the crew and they can pull their own weight. You normally don't think of women, and again here I'm probably showing my age, but

you don't think of women doing a lot of physical work but they are able and very capable too. Our head painter, the seasonal painter, she's a woman. She's also an artist too. She does, oh, carvings and paintings in the winter time and then she comes to work and paints our buildings for us. We, well actually out of our crew, we have got two women painters and our preservationist is a young woman here in town too. Her job is a permanent full time job. Even to go one step further, even our administrative officer is a man and one of our new employees here is a young man who moved here from Guam. He is now one of our administrative assistants.

S. Carkhuff: So kind of switching the roles.

E. Meyer: Yes, times are changing.

S. Carkhuff: Yes, they are but in a good way of course.

E. Meyer: Yes, all in a good way.

S. Carkhuff: So, since you have been here since the 1970's, I was going to ask you if there was anything else that has been historically dramatic. Things that you remember, things that you have experienced since you moved here.

E. Meyer: Oh golly.

S. Carkhuff: We'll take a break so you can have time to think. We'll be right back.

E. Meyer: Well, a couple of major changes here, since I've been here, the biggest one I believe was the closing of the railroad back in 1982, '81 or '82, because that is when, and the change, the school naturally lost close to a hundred kids immediately. I worked at the school too as a librarian for 15 years and we used to have a population of kids of over two hundred and that is something that is still ongoing and losing kids for the school count all the time. I think again that affects everything in the entire town. People tend to leave as soon as the season is over at the end of September and so their kids are in school here for a month to six weeks and then they pull out and return again in March, so none of those children are counted in for funding from the state or federal funding either. That was really a big change and again, like I say, the summer people coming and then just leaving. That really bothers me in a lot of ways. The summer people that

come here to work and then just leave, only because they talk, I've heard more than one of them talk very rudely to the tourists that come to town and they are always so you know, by July 4th there's a downhill slide and they just get nastier and nastier to them. That I think is because they have no real buy into Skagway except from the money standpoint. Let's see, some other big changes. The school and the White Pass closing were the two big ones. Again, when the park has grown so much too, that it has helped the economy in a lot of ways like that, because we used to have, oh probably eight to ten full time people, but our staff now is up to about 27, I believe it is, permanent full time people. We, in the summer time, at the height of our season, we quite often have, between our workers and volunteers, we have anywhere from 55 up to 60 or more.

S. Carkhuff: Are all those people locals or are some of them from out of state?

E. Meyer: Some are from out of state but there are locals that work and help out here. In fact, our two winter volunteers are both local people.

S. Carkhuff: Well Karen, if you wanted to ask anything.

K. Brewster: What is the relationship between the town and the Park Service? What is that like?

E. Meyer: There had been talk of a park here for many, many years, even before I came to town. When it finally got started, there were many people here in town who didn't want anything to do with the park because they were afraid that big government was going to take over their town. They definitely didn't want that happening, but I think though now people are used to the park being here and you don't hear nearly as many complaints about it. There were times when the city administration didn't get along with one of our superintendants and had difficulties, but all in all, I think that they are working together now and I think that things are running more smoothly between the National Park Service people and the city government here. In fact, this one mayor he was so funny, he cut a Christmas tree out on our property in Dyea, which is illegal, and after he finished using the Christmas tree, he put it in one of our pickups with a little note that said "Thanks NPS (National Park Service) for the use of your tree." This really happened. Another funny story, when I went to work here, an older woman here in town, she was definitely not a perky person, she hit me with her basket, she ran it right into me, her grocery basket, and she said "You're not going to turn into a Parky are you?" and I said "Oh no, I'd never do that."

S. Carkhuff: And here you are, 20 years later.

E. Meyer : Still here. You can have funny little stories like this. It's just human nature I guess. In fact we had an employee that worked here for three or four years, anyway she was so full of park. She had worked for White Pass and she worked here and she worked at the school and we used to get together and talk stories about different things that happened and just laugh.

K. Brewster: Do you have one of those stories to share?

E. Meyer: Well, without Pat here I can't really think of anything right off the top of my head. At lot of the times her story didn't jibe with my story, because it was a completely different perspective of what we both were there and had seen or something.

S. Carkhuff: So do you think the relationship between Skagway and the Park Service has gotten better once people realized the good thing that is has been?

E. Meyer: Yes and not only that, even the makeup of the town has changed the people and because we have almost a complete turnover of people that were here when the park started vs. the people who are here now, there are probably some of them that are a little more sophisticated and have been around or visited other national parks so they are more accepting of the park being here. Not only that, but the park has been here ever since they have been here too so that makes a big difference too. They never knew when the park was not here. But all in all, I even feel that the old timers have come around and accept the park as part of the town. There are a few holdovers that don't but that's OK too.

K. Brewster: So back in the time when they first started the park, were there protests or anti park signs or things? I know that has happened in other communities.

E. Meyer: No, I don't recall ever seeing a protest sign but they would go to council meetings and they would voice their opinions there. When they held meetings around town, they were more into going to the meetings and voicing their opinions there.

S. Carkhuff: Do you think maybe the changes in superintendants throughout the years may have had an impact on that as well?

E. Meyer: Probably. We, one of our, our very first superintendant we had here, first off this park was run from Glacier Bay, in fact the first crew that came over to clear the trail and start working on the Chilkoot Trail were people, rangers from Glacier Bay, who came over. In fact, Scott Holme was one of them. I don't know if you've talked to him yet, but he may be a good one to talk to too. Then finally did get a superintendant in here and then when he left, they got another one and he pretty much checked out, this was definitely his retirement park. Then we got another one, our third one, and that was Clay Alderson. He was the one who was here when I first started working here. He had only been here about a year before I started working here. I think he did a good job for the park, because by then they were even starting to expand a little bit more and added more employees and this type of thing. It was really interesting that one, well I was here working at the time, but he and his wife went to work at a national park over in Mongolia just for the summer. We got a woman down from Anchorage as our acting superintendant and you know, the city council loved her. I mean she was a real nice lady, but for some reason the city council just thought she was perfect, which is good. Then Clay came back and spent a few more years here. In fact it's really interesting that except for one, all of our acting superintendants that they bring in here have been women and we even have a woman superintendant now. Once again, I think again that all of our superintendants, well I can't say all, the beginning superintendants stayed long enough that they were here long enough to do a lot of good for the park and for the town. Even ones that were here a shorter time were definitely working for what good things the park could do for the town and for the people here.

S. Carkhuff: So even though it is a pretty high turnover rate, they still are doing a really good job?

E. Meyer: Yes, I think so.

K. Brewster: Given the high turnover rate with park employees, does that set up a difference between people who come here from outside and work for the park for a few years and leave vs. people who have made Skagway their home? Is there a separation there?

E. Meyer: Yes, there is some separation there. Even me, I work for the Park Service and I've worked for them for years now, but I've never felt that I was a true Parky, so to speak, because I was a local hire, and local hires cannot be transferred to other parks. You have to apply for any

and every job you want but your local hire experience does not count toward being able to move on to another park because you are hired mainly because of your expertise and knowledge of the park. That has been changed now though which is good too. That's a good change. Because I knew that all these other people, when they got tired of living here or they felt they had done all they could to help the park and the town, they could up and move. They could find another job with the Park Service and leave, so it creates a little bit of, I wouldn't want to say ill will, but just knowing that they are only going to be here a short time. Then we've got people though that this is their little niche and this is their retirement park which is good too, because these are people that are here for the duration, so to speak.

K. Brewster: But there are ones who come and as you say that this is their niche and they have made Skagway home. They came from other Park Service jobs.

E. Meyer: Yes, they've come from other Park Service jobs and continued on. We've had people in the community that have retired from the park here and have stayed on because they count this as their home.

S. Carkhuff: So a lot of the people that left and moved on weren't doing it because they weren't enjoying it, they just thought that they had completed the job they intended to do and moved on.

E. Meyer: I would say so, yes.

K. Brewster: I'm sure there were some who probably did not like living in a small town at the end of the road though.

E. Meyer: I'm sure of that too. If you are used to a place with a theater, lots of restaurants, I mean coming here, I can say that coming even from Juneau when Juneau was even smaller than it is now, it was hard getting used to being here, because other than the ferry the only way out was by plane if you were travelling or if you wanted to go north you could take the train up to Whitehorse. So, yeah, well you can drive now, but it's still hard to get in and out of here.

K. Brewster: What type of person do you think can live here and is able to make a go of it here in Skagway? What type of person does that take?

E. Meyer: Someone with a lot of gumption. No, someone that is truly going to appreciate living in a small town, realizing that their fun and their entertainment, so to speak, they are going to have to make it for themselves. You aren't going to go out and do a lot of grocery shopping, especially if you are into fancy foods or delis or anything thing like that, because it always amazes me how people, that's dinner, a roasted chicken from the grocery store and something like that. It takes getting used to, living in a small town.

S. Carkhuff: So I know in the early 70's obviously there was radio and a little bit of TV but there wasn't the amount of entertainment that there would be say in the Lower 48 or Anchorage. What did you do for fun?

E. Meyer: Well, at that point, I was working at the school and my daughters were in school. They were into the plays, drill team, band and so I did a lot of sewing back then, making costumes for all these things. Again, if you're a person that likes meetings, we have a lot of organizations here that always meet once or twice a month. They have activities too, dances and things like this. You definitely did not have TV here. They would send in tapes and we used to get our Christmas shows which would arrive probably late January or February and we were watching Christmas shows then.

S. Carkhuff: When was it that TV came to Skagway?

E. Meyer: When they got cable it had to have been probably in the maybe in the 70's, late 70's I would say that they finally got cable. Now I think everybody has those two little dishes on their house for TV now. It was interesting because it was played out of a woman's basement here in town, when she would remember to change the tapes. Sometimes you had no TV for two or three hours in the evening because she had forgotten to go down and change the tape. It was fun.

S. Carkhuff: You had to make your own fun.

E. Meyer: Also, a lot of potlucks and things like this, people did too. They went to each other's houses a lot more and I mean even we used to do the parties where you had hors d'oeuvres at someone's house and then you went for salad and soup at other people's houses. What are those called? Roving dinners or whatever, but anyway, we did a lot of those and we always hosted a lot of people. Back then the Skagway Fine Arts Council was really big here in town and it was

one of the teachers that really was a push for this. We had marvelous, marvelous programs. We sold a family type ticket for the whole season. One year we had a, well they came back a couple of times, I think it was a folk family band that came up from Virginia or West Virginia and then we had an opera singer once. We had Spanish dancers here once and then we just had all kinds of entertainment like that through the winter too.

S. Carkhuff: So do you think not having access to TV or anything like that, the community was closer knit and you did a lot more things together?

E. Meyer: Yes, I would say so.

S. Carkhuff: So that has changed?

E. Meyer: Yes, that has changed a lot. They are trying to get Skagway Fine Arts Council going again, but I mean that was a job in itself to do that.

S. Carkhuff: There still are a lot of community activities though in Skagway.

E. Meyer: Yes, there are probably, well yes, there is. The recreation center has a lot to do with that. They do a lot for the community, you know in exercise classes and this type of thing.

S. Carkhuff: So we were going to ask you about clicks. What was it like for the different groups of people who worked for different careers, like railroad or the school, how did they interact with each other?

E. Meyer: Well, their interactions were fine. They were always pleasant to each other but there were definitely groups of people. Like the school people were kind of close and they kind of stuck around together and the same way with the railroaders and then the different groups of railroaders inside, like the engineers and their crews might hang around and then the office people again would be another little click. Then about the time that I came here, people must have been of an age that they were ready to retire, because by the time they did retire, a lot of them retired when the railroad closed in 1981 I believe it was. Then that was when a lot of the young people moved out too, because there was no work for them. Then naturally you always have your store owners too that are always kind of hanging out together.

S. Carkhuff: So would you say that some of the groups are still in existence today?

E. Meyer: Well I would say so, maybe not as strong as they were back then, and I think that that is mainly because again there are really not that many permanent, full time, year round jobs in this town so you still have your little clicks going on. Again the Park Service people have kind of split that too because they have made so many friends here and they are into these different little groups of people and seem to make friends real easily. Again I think that that's from their travelling and other places they've worked. Did that answer the question?

S. Carkhuff: So you can be members of different groups and not be mutually exclusive.

E. Meyer: Yes, they kind of move around with their different groups so to speak. I'm not quite sure how else to word it.

K. Brewster: When we were off camera, you mentioned people from Vermont.

E. Meyer: Yes, when I first came to town here, we had some many Vermonters and again, I feel that where people were born and raised and how they happen to get here and all of this also kind of gives them a sense of belonging to a group or a click of people. I've really, well I've thought about it but I've never really figured it out, how the Vermonters came here, but one came and everybody came. We had a family, a really large family from Montana. One came and the entire family came, like ten kids or so. So I think it just kind of snowballs. One person comes and they bring a friend up, they bring a family member up and the next thing you know, it's a marvelous place to live, so they have all their friends coming up. Not only that, they probably didn't have much in the way of jobs back there and a lot of that could have just happened. Recessions happen all the time in small places where you don't even know that they're going on. Don't get me started on that one.

S. Carkhuff: So there's a lot of opportunity for people to come up here, especially in the 1970's?

E. Meyer: Yes, in the 70's there definitely was.

S. Carkhuff: You mentioned that you were a school librarian. Can you talk about that for a bit? Why you became a librarian and some of the things you did?

E. Meyer: Well, I didn't have my degree but when I was in Sitka, they saved me a job at the Sitka public school because again there they tried to save some jobs for wives or husbands of

their new teachers. Anyway, they saved me a job at the junior high as half days in the superintendant, yes he was the superintendant of the school, in his office and the other half days in the library. When Ed and I moved over the Mt. Edgecombe, I worked over there too as the library assistant. When we were in Haines, they put me on the library board there and then I worked a couple of days there and substitute taught at the school. When we got to Juneau, oh I worked there too, but I worked for GSA, General Services Administration. When we moved up here, I could work with the superintendant at the time in Sitka, he was a teacher over there and he asked me if I would come to work as a librarian in the fall of 1970 and I said sure. I worked there until 1984 I think it was. That was when they lost so many kids at school and they started cutting positions and mine was one that they felt could go. It was a small library, then they built on a new room for the library and two rooms upstairs, two classrooms above it. They gave me money galore and I ordered books. They gave me, and back then you got to remember that \$5000 was a lot back then, but they used to give me \$5000 or \$6000 a year to order books and magazines for the school. I built it up from probably, it probably had maybe 1000 to 2000 books and by the time I left, they had over 8000 books. It was a nice collection they had there. I also was a chairperson of the Library Board here in town for many, many years and I was in on the planning of the new library here. I know when that first went up everyone called it the Pizza Hut. If you haven't gone by, be sure and look at it. Back then it even did look more like a Pizza Hut building than it does now because they added on to it. Then they put me in charge of the museum too, the Museum Board. I was its chairperson for years and years and years.

S. Carkhuff: What did you do for the Museum Board?

E. Meyer: We had meetings and then in the winter time, we would accession a lot of the material that they had that people had donated and it had never been accessioned into the collection. We used to do a lot of that and back then, the museum was mainly, no I don't remember now if it was volunteer or not, but we used to hold those jobs for older, widowed women here in town that needed just a little bit of, no they did pay them because that was the income that they got that tided them over through the winter.

S. Carkhuff: It was something to do to keep them busy. Did you enjoy working for the libraries?

E. Meyer: Yes, very much. In fact I keep telling Teresa here that if they ever get a librarian, I'm applying for the job, but I think that's way down the road.

S. Carkhuff: So you said that you didn't have a degree, but did you acquire it later?

E. Meyer: No, I never did get my full degree, but I went to school whenever, well I went to Sheldon Jackson College and then well we moved out one year for my husband to get his master's and that was in Corvallis, Oregon. We moved there for one year and came right back to Alaska though. I went to Oregon State University there for a while and when I was at the library here, again we had a very active and larger teaching staff and then every time the teachers brought in a, well they used to do a lot of upper level classes because a lot of the teachers were working on their master's and I always took all those classes too.

K. Brewster: What is it that you liked about being a librarian?

E. Meyer: Well, books, reading just the whole atmosphere of the school and the kids. You get them interested in a book and it's amazing what you can do with a book for those kids.

S. Carkhuff: So that's what kept you there for 15 years in different schools. Was there any particular place that you taught at, you mentioned you taught in Juneau, Haines did you like any place better?

E. Meyer: I just kind of followed Ed. Where ever he went, I went too.

S. Carkhuff: Well I'm glad that you had such a good experience following your husband.

E. Meyer: Yes, ah ha.

K. Brewster: What is it that makes Skagway special for you?

E. Meyer: Oh my, I truly cannot imagine living anywhere else. It's home and part of that I guess is because I've lived here longer than I've ever lived anywhere else, even growing up, so it truly is home. Having my grandkids here and my one daughter here and one in Juneau, it's just nice to have them close by too.

K. Brewster: It seems that lots of people come and they work in a place like Skagway and they retire and go someplace else. You've been here a long time and you've made this home so there

must be something that has kept you here. You and your husband didn't pick up and leave after five years.

E. Meyer: We had a chance but we didn't. Well, I guess it was because we built our first house here too. When they wanted to transfer Ed out to a another town, I told him, we moved up here half way through a school year and I already told him that I would never do that to a kid again, is transfer them. It's too hard on the kids. The friendships, the clicks, whatever you want to say, have all been formed by the middle of the year and it's really difficult on kids to have to come in to a completely new setting with little to no friends. I mean it's hard on them, and so when they wanted to transfer him, he said no thanks. He went up and worked on the North Slope for many years and I stayed here and worked and kept the home fires burning.

S. Carkhuff: What was he doing up on the North Slope?

E. Meyer: He worked in security up there, and I could tell you lots of funny stories about that, about being here alone. Oh, and again, back then the husband always did everything, I mean it seemed like, and we had a furnace that was, I swear it broke down every week, anyway, I would call him practically in tears. Here he is on the North Slope and I'm down here in Skagway, there's nothing he could do to help me and he would say "Well, get a hold of Bill Hines or get a hold of someone and have them come look at the furnace." Then one time I ran out of gas, out on the Dyea road and it was the middle of winter and someone stopped by to help me, in fact it was Frances Rose and she still laughs about this because she says "Evelyn, you were so sad. You were even in tears." which I was and all I could think of is Ed didn't fill up the car before he left to go back up to the North Slope. It was like, OK, don't you know what that little F means and then the E.

S. Carkhuff: So you were very dependent on him?

E. Meyer: Oh yes, very dependent. You know that I think was one of the hardest things on a man, is all of the sudden I wasn't calling him except to chat. I no longer had furnace problems. I figured out that I could call somebody without first calling him. I was able to do things for myself and I mean, as silly as it sounds, it's kind of like you get so dependent on a person and expect them there to do things for you and then all of the sudden you are going, well I can do that

myself. It was hard on him because he was definitely of the old school where the man was a breadwinner so to speak.

K. Brewster: It sounds like it maybe was good for you to learn that independence.

E. Meyer: Oh yes, oh yes. It has been very helpful.

K. Brewster: Do you have anything else that we haven't asked about?

E. Meyer: No, I hope this is helpful.

S. Carkhuff: Oh it is.

E. Meyer: I can't think of anything else.

K. Brewster: Well this has been fun. Thank you very much for taking the time.

E. Meyer: Oh, you are entirely welcome.

K. Brewster: I'm sure we'll think of something as soon as we leave.

E. Meyer: Oh yeah, that always happens.