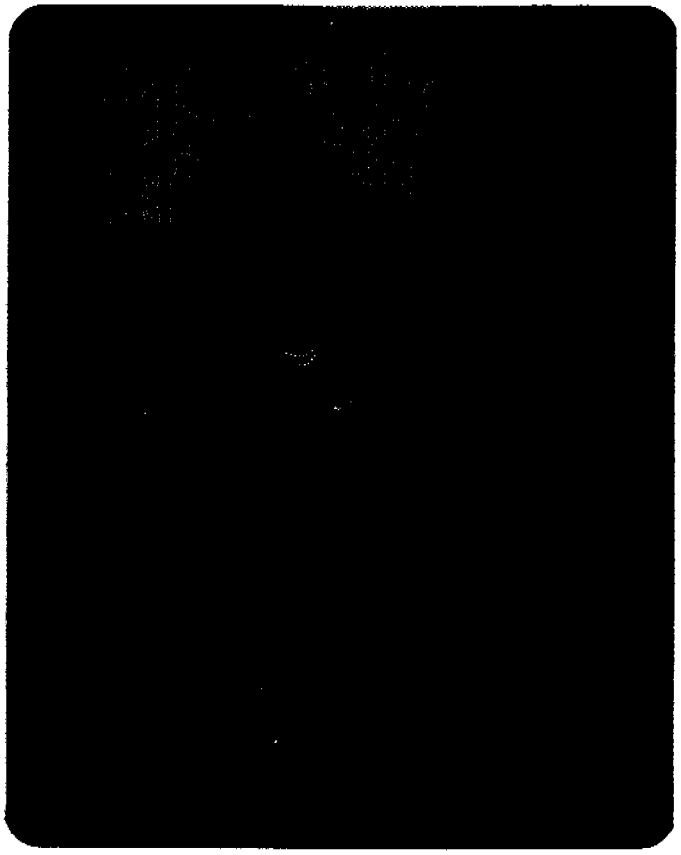

Mrs. Leland (Everett) Hall

Preface

This manuscript is the product of a tape recorded interview conducted by Elizabeth Canterbury during the Fall of 1977. Laura Doescher transcribed the tapes and Chester Rhodes edited the transcript.

Mrs. Leland (Everett) Hall was born on March 21, 1898 in Grange City, Kentucky. She talks of life in Athens, Illinois and various jobs she has held during her life.

Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Sangamon State University is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for views expressed therein; these are for the reader to judge.

Mrs. Leland (Everett) Hall, August 20, 1974, Athens, Illinois.

Elizabeth Canterbury, Interviewer.

Q: Let's start with your birth in Kentucky and bring you up to the time where you have spent most of your years in Athens. Will you start your early remeberances?

A: Well, I was born in the country, near Grange City, Kentucky.

Q: And when were you born and what was your birthplace like?

A: Well, I really don't remember. Just a little country house in a--out in the country, and we didn't live there very long [before] my grandmother died and we moved in with my grandparent, my grandfather, who had two uncles that were 14 and 16 and they--he owned a farm--and they farmed so that they had to have extra men sometimes. An extra man at least sometimes. He had to have somebody who could keep house and look after the boys. So we moved there. My younger brother was born--the next brother--that Floyd--was born and Raymond and all probably while we were there.

Q: Tell who all was in your family.

A: Well, I had four brothers besides my mother and father. Floyd was the oldest, and then Ray--who was a barber here for a long time--and Paul--he was a butcher or a meat cutter, he wouldn't like butcher--and Merle, who was a barber, too. Both of them worked for Jeff Camel. Merle always, as long as he was a barber, but Ray started with Dump Brookens who was a barber in the old . . . that old Mock Homestead that used to be where Odgen's office is now. It was a little old house there, but there was a barber shop in it and that's where Raymond learned the barber trade, in that.

Q: Okay. Now we'll go back to where you were born in Kentucky and moved in with your grandparents. Tell just a little bit of what you remember about life in Kentucky, maybe some of your schooling.

A: Well, my grandfather raised tobacco, and I can remember well that that was quite a time, when they had to wait for a certain season to set out the tobacco and at a certain time to cut it, put it in the barns and had to wait until it came in case, as they called it. When it was damp enough, they could separate the leaves and put it in hands. That was bundles of leaves that they took, you know, and they had the big sales at the tobacco marts. And then they--of course, he raised some wheat and that was another thing too we had (inaudible). But your not interested in Kentucky, are you? And I went to school, I think I said before, in a little log school house for the first two years. I started school when I was five.

Q: All right, tell about that.

A: It was kind of a long way to walk, but my mother's sister had a step-son who was about thirteen or fourteen--as I got tired on the way, he carried me on his back. Across the field into the woods if the weather was--of course, there it doesn't get muddy like it does here anyway. And we--the school we went to didn't have regular seats like they have today. They were long benches and then there was a shelf on the seat ahead of you that they put a stick under that raised it up so that about four or five of us had a desk like thing in front of us. And then I went two years there. Had a man teacher each year.

Q: What'd you think of having a man teacher?

A: Didn't know the difference, that was the first two teachers I had. Never had another one. Yes I did. I had one in Sweetwater when I finished school there. But finished as far as I went. And a . . .

Q: When then, did you move to Illinois?

A: We moved to Illinois in 1906.

Q: In 1906. Was there a special reason why your family came to this place?

A: Well, the two uncles had grown up. The oldest one had grown up and he came out here just to be, you know . . . well, wanderlust I guess. And he just loved it. And he came out here and worked through the harvest season and then came back home. He stayed through the winter, and then the next spring, he came back again and he took the other uncle with him--brought the other uncle out here with him. And they both liked it so much--and that was, oh when I was about seven I guess--and then the next year, after the two of them had come, Uncle Jim had come two years and Uncle Luther had come one year. My dad--my dad decided that since they were gone, you know--and then my grandfather married, was going to get married again, and we had to go someplace else so we came here too.

Q: What did your dad come to do?

A: He worked on the farm. He worked by the month on the farm for a Mr. Boing at Greenview and a Mr. John Blain, Carroll Jones' father--grandfather.

Q: Now tell what it was like being the child of a hired man on a farm in those days. What was life like?

A: Well, much as it is today. I don't see a whole lot of difference. We--I think there are not very many people that live in a house and work on the farm. But Mike does, over in Greenview, my grandson does. But of course, the advantages now, even for the farmer himself, is much greater. But we had--where Mike can if he needed to--he could borrow maybe a little truck or something to go someplace. Of course, he never does because he has his own car. They pay so much better now. Even according to what they . . . other things. Mike gets a wonderful salary. Of course, they specialize more now than they did then. Of course it was just general farming then.

Q: What was the salary and what were the living conditions?

A: Oh, thirty dollars a month, and we have our house and we had as much garden as we wanted. Of course, the people wherever you worked had a big orchard and you had all the fruit that you cared about and a lot of garden and . . .

Q: Did they give you meat?

A: Yes.

Q: What were you allowed?

A: Well, different times they had--it was always pork because they didn't much put your beef on for themselves, even the one's that I ever knew of. The only way that they butchered beef--they did have this in Kentucky, my grandfather and neighbors--they butcher one and everybody would share in it because we didn't have refrigeration and things like that then. And if they butchered a beef, you got beef too. You know, the hired man did. And the two places my father worked. . . . He worked for Mr. Blain a long time, and then Evers, the same Evers bunch that are over there and the same Blain bunch that are over there now.

Q: All right. Tell about gardening in your family.

A: Well, we always had a big one. And when--at that time there was, you couldn't can non-acid things. The only vegetables you could can would be tomatoes and green beans. We didn't do anything with them. The German people called--they put them down in salt--called snibbled, and my mother tried it, but we didn't like them so she didn't do it. Other people strung them on strings and hung them up and dried them. But we didn't like those either, so she never bothered with them. But she raised corn field beans. And they planted them in the corn and then she put them in a big sack. A great big--we had a great big old sack she made out of something and we kids--she put them out in the sun and let them finish drying, and then we'd romp on them, you know, play on them. And that shelled the beans out. Then we put them on a sheet or something and do like this, let the wind pick the chaff away. Of course, the rest of it we washed out.

Q: Then you had the dried beans the rest of the winter.

A: Had dry beans all winter, which she maybe raised two, a couple of different kinds of beans. However, soup beans were the favorite of [our family]. Corn field beans were like soup beans. And we made ten gallon of kraut. Always picked our cucumbers every morning and put them in salt brine that she had in a ten gallon jar. And we'd pick them everyday and wash them and put them in that brine. We kept them in the brine until . . . most usually until she got some empty jars--glass jars--that she could make--or another jar--that she could make pickles out of and she'd make different kinds of pickles. And of course, we canned green beans--I mean, she didn't can green beans, she didn't have green beans. Why, that was later. I don't know why I said that. She canned tomatoes and then she used to buy a tree if someone had one in the neighborhood, and we

didn't have enough. She'd just buy them on the tree, you know, and she'd either pick them on the shares or pay for them.

Q: Buying a tree is buying all of the fruit that's on the tree?

A: The fruit that's on it. Yes, or else you could pick it on the shares.

Q: Oh.

A: Yes, if apples or peaches or apricots or whatever, well, then we dried apricots, dried peaches, and dried apples.

Q: Now, how did you dry fruit?

A: Well, we had an old barn door or shed door that we kept for years and years and years. We moved it with us a few times. And she'd put that up on the something, maybe a shed roof. But they had a little--if the shed was low enough we could get to it--and then we had little posts up on the corner so that we had a netting, a mosquito bar, that we put over that so that we could turn that in the sun everyday. Covered it with an old sheet and then we'd put the fruit on that with the seed side, you know, the seed side up. Cut them in half, and they were--the inside half was up. Dried that half and then when that got a little bit dry, you turned it over and then you kept turning it everyday or so. And if it rained, you had to bring them all in. We dried peaches and apricots and apples.

Q: How did you dry apples?

A: Well, we peeled them and cut them in . . . oh, just slices and laid them, one piece at a time, all over that. And we'd have a flour sack full of apples and usually, if there was a peach--it seems like there was always peaches then. People had real peach orchards. At the Evers' place, there was a peach orchard right there. And of course, we always raised chickens. You could raise all the chickens you wanted to. We didn't go hungry at all. And bought flour by the fifty pounds.

Q: How often would you go to town?

A: Oh, at least . . . I don't know. We lived close to town, so we could go . . . we only lived about a mile out.

Q: So it wasn't any great treat?

A: It wasn't any great trouble to go to town, and if there was anything going on, we went, you know. Which it wasn't too often, you know. I went to town to school, in Greenview.

Q: From the time you moved over that way? Then you never did go to a country school?

A: Except in Kentucky, no. I went about two months when we first got here, to Big Road up by Middletown. Because we moved into a two or three room house, but some lady--well, Paul Downing's wife had died, and he just left the house. Stayed with someone else. He just piled all the

furniture in a couple of rooms and let us move there until my dad found a place to go, because we came in the fall and it was a little hard then, see. But a . . .

Q: What was life like in a small town school? What can you remember about school in Greenview?

A: Well, we had two grades to the room, and I went . . .

Q: When the roadgrader went by, you were talking about life on the farm as the child of a hired man when you came to Greenview. So let's take it from there.

A: Okay. We were talking I think about drying fruit and such. Well, I don't know how much more there is to . . .

Q: Let's see, you were talking about how you dried the apricots and the shed roof and how you dried apples and the kinds of food that you had during the . . .

A: Oh, we made our own hominy.

Q: Yes.

A: Yes, with lye and they took the outside of the corn off, you know, with--shelled it, of course--picked out the very best of the corn and then they shelled it and then they made the strong lye solution and put it in that hot lye solution and let it stand. And then they take it out of there and we'd have to rinse and rinse and rinse and rinse. We'd always take it out to the pump. My mother had an old fashioned round--they can't see the signs, can they?--sifter and we dip that up and put it through in that sifter, you know. And then drain it and then put it in more rinse water and just rinse and rinse and rinse. It was whole grain corn. Hominy, like you can buy in the can.

Q: Then how did she store if for the winter?

A: Well, we just let it freeze.

Q: Oh!

A: Just let it freeze. Just kept it someplace where it was real cold.

Q: All right. Now tell about some of the gardening. We'll get into this food thing, making the garden and how you had your seed.

A: Well, we raised pretty much the same things we do now. Lots of tomatoes and cucumbers, green beans. Everything that practically that we have now. I don't remember ever raising carrots, but turnips, yes. We always raised turnips, and cabbage and . . .

Q: Who had charge of the garden in your family?

A: Oh, the women and the kids. And my mother always planted her lettuce in Kentucky and here. In Kentucky, she planted it around the tobacco beds because they raised tobacco and they always have to raise their plants in a big bed. They usually plant them on the south slope of the hill because the sunshine gets to it. And they put fence rails all around the bed that they planted the tobacco seed in. If you had a lettuce bed in your garden, you did the same thing. You put rails around the--and you planted it in February. You could dig it up--you can here too, if you get the south side of a building. And mama always used to do that years ago, until they made so much fun of her that she didn't do it anymore. And then they covered these . . . covered it with what they called tobacco canvas. It was thicker than cheesecloth and yet, it let the light through. Around the edge of the tobacco field, she always planted radishes and lettuce. So we had that real early, you see. And when we moved to Illinois, she brought a piece of that canvas and always in the corner of the garden, why, every stick we picked up or anything she'd make us pick up all the rubbish that was around the yard that blew off of trees and things, and pile it on that and she'd burn it then, in February. And that would warm the ground and she'd dig it up, or maybe the ground would already be dug. She may have dug it in the fall. And then it would warm the ground and then she could plant the seed and put the tobacco canvas over it. And then we had lettuce earlier almost than anybody.

Q: Oh, just like planting it in a greenhouse?

A: Yes, I guess so. And on warm sunny days then, you'd peel the canvas back and let the sun to it right to it more. But you'd always have to go before it got too cold in the evening and cover it back up again. But it would . . . that was the way we had lettuce. Then in the fall, when we--everything was practically gone--if we lived anyplace where there was a bank with southern, you know, exposure, or sometimes we'd--any kind of a place where it would drain, even if it didn't have a bank--my dad would dig a pit and bank dirt around it, you know. And then leave one side open too, and they'd line it with straw and make a lot of corn stalks up around it. Make a corn shock, so that the opening would be to the south. Because usually the wind and everything was from the north and the west and the south and the east. We'd try to have an opening so that you could get in it in almost any kind of weather. And he buried potatoes and put them in this pit.

Q: Oh, that would be like a root cellar, wouldn't it?

A: Yes, only it was more outside. And we had a root cellar most every place. People had them then, but it kept better out there. And we had--what was that? Apples and . . . always had apples for Christmas, almost always.

Q: You kept it in that outdoor enclosure.

A: Yes. They'd put lot's of--inside mom ususally had some old scraps of rag carpet that she'd either throw over the top or maybe line it with gunny sacks or something, so that you wouldn't pick up a lot of straw when you picked up. And they'd pull the cabbage and beets up by the

roots. Well, and a turnip or two even, if we didn't eat them. I mean if you didn't put enough in to eat. You'd keep . . . that was the way we go seeds. We kept the turnips and a beet--of course, you couldn't set out cabbage, they would never hold through. And most always they would hold through and they would plant that in the spring. Set that out in the spring and then it would go to seed because you . . . a beet wouldn't go to seed from seeds.

Q: Oh.

A: Keep that and transplant it. And then that would give you your turnip seed and your beet seed and if you had any radishes, it would--of course, you can gather radish seeds in the fall for the spring. I don't think we ever had radishes. Grandpa Hall did that too. And he had winter radishes. Sometimes he did that. But those kind of . . .

Q: Did your mother plant the garden by the moon?

A: Oh, yes. Yes, sure, and by the signs.

Q: And by the signs.

A: Only thing I remember was she planted the beans when the sign was in the arms.

Q: Oh.

A: I don't remember too many of the signs. Only planted things that grow most above the ground, like lettuce and green beans and those kinds of things. And when the light of the--when the moon was growing lighter--and plant the things that grow on the ground when it's in the dark of the moon, going darker.

Q: Oh. All right then, what about the tomatoes? Did she start those from her own seed?

A: Yes. Always raised your own plants, tomatoes. We saved the seeds of the tomato and she usually at the end of a bean row or at the end of the pea vines, she'd set mark off six or eight or ten plants, and then we weren't supposed to pick those. Just leave those and let them go to seed. And those are what she used for seeds the next year.

Q: Oh, so you took the prime crop?

A: Yes. The very best, strongest plants. She'd just mark off a little row of them, and I did that this year.

Q: Going back to saving your own seed.

A: I did. I went back after I paid so much for seeds, and didn't have half come up. I thought, well, I had to plant beans a couple of times, I would just save the best ones. So I got seeds enough for me and for Linda.

Q: Good. All right, do you remember any other gardening tips that might be useful now?

A: I don't . . . not that I can remember right now.

Q: Did they mulch?

A: No. They didn't know anything much about that then.

Q: Or fertilize?

A: Well, it was always fertilized because they had animals and they always put manure on the gardens all the time.

Q: They did.

A: Yes. They fertilized all the time. Always had a good garden spot. And most all the places you get in the country, and when you were a tenant, you always got a nice big garden.

Q: Tell about some of the recollections you have of family life as you were growing up. Some of the relationships with your mother and your dad and brothers.

A: Well, it was just ordinary, like most families I guess.

Q: Didn't you and your dad have some special little ventures?

A: Oh, yes. My dad would--my dad liked nature. He would take his gun and take me with him and insist that I go. And we'd go to the woods in the spring and in the fall, but most especially in the spring. And he'd make me sit down on a log and be quiet, and he'd tell me that you would hear the most beautiful music in the world, and that you would see things, birds and things that you'd never see any other time, which is right. You do! Because they migrate and he knew the days that they migrated and as long as he lived, he went out and watched the birds migrate, you know, when they migrated. And always took his gun because he was afraid somebody would think he was a sissy. (laughter) He cared. I wouldn't have cared. But he did.

Q: What do you think . . . what influence do you think that's had on your later life?

A: Oh, very much. It's made me appreciate plants and things. But I don't know that anybody, either the boys, they didn't seem to. . . . Raymond, Raymond! He did more than the other boys did. He liked to go out like that, and not just for hunting or anything. He didn't care about hunting, he didn't even care anything about a gun. And of course Floyd, I don't remember that he ever did. He went along if somebody else wanted to go, but Raymond took more interest that the rest did. We always liked . . . we went together an awful lot, my brothers and Everett and I. We used to go to dances all together and I was accused of dating the two Neps, my two brothers. (laughter)

Q: Oh! All right, what were some of the things--now, this was when you're in high school wasn't it? About high school age?

A: Well, I . . . see, we didn't have high school. We had seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth grades, and just a few. . . . Because the teacher that taught the upper room at Sweetwater--that's as far as I went--and they taught the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth. And the other grades, the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth and tenth I guess. Or was it? No, I think five grades is all they--first room teachers . . . well, as I remember. I can't hardly remember for sure, about that.

Q: What kinds of dances did you go to with your brothers?

A: Oh, we went to those Greenview balls. See, I was married and they were grown up, and we went over to Greenview and we had the dance club here at one time.

Q: Now, that was after you moved to Athens?

A: After I was married.

Q: After you were married.

A: And lived in Athens.

Q: So, you had real close family relationships?

A: Oh, yes. We had good family relationships. We never had any arguments or fusses, whatever. Oh, yes! Ordinary, but no knock down or drag outs or any of that.

Q: You were a pretty close-knit family.

A: Yes, we were. We had to be because we had lots of trouble and lots of sickness and everything, and everybody pitched in and they helped everybody else. As long as there was anybody left.

Q: Now, as you grew older and when you finished school as far as you could go there in Greenview, what did you do after that?

A: I finished school in Sweetwater.

Q: Oh, you moved to Sweetwater.

A: In Sweetwater, my father quit farming and went working in the coal mine at Sweetwater. Then they moved--but it petered out and they didn't last very long--and he moved to Athens for a little while, and then moved to Tice. And he had a man by the name of Walter Ewing, who leased a coal mine from Grosables. South of Tice. And they ran that coal mine down there for three or four years. And then they moved back to Athens and my dad went to work for Union Fuel Company. And worked in the coal mine there and that's . . .

Q: So actually, he would consider his business as having been a miner more than a farmer?

A: Yes. Of course, after he got older, he was . . .

Q: He spent more years in the mine than he did farming?

A: I guess he did, I guess he did. Course, he died when he was 54 years old, so he didn't have too many years.

Q: Did he die of an occupational disease?

A: No, I don't think so.

Q: He didn't. It didn't have anything to do with . . .

A: Heart trouble. Bad heart.

Q: Okay. Then when you finished school, what did you do?

A: I went to work out in the country for people.

Q: Now tell about working for people.

A: Well, let's see. The first place that I went to stay with anybody any length of time--usually I just went out, you know, like during threshing time when I was a young teenager. Well, even when I was still in school, through the summer, I went out to help different farm people when they were in harvest time and times like that. And then after a . . .

Q: And what kind of work did you do?

A: Housework.

Q: What all did you have to do in your housework?

A: Oh, nothing more than just housework. I mean cooking and first washing dishes and making beds and such. Then later of course, my first real job was at Annie Matirs and Walters. And I took over. She was sick. And I did just practically everything out there.

Q: How old were you then?

A: Oh, heavens. About fifteen.

Q: Fifteen. Pretty young to be taking a . . .

A: Maybe it would be a little bit before that. Oh, I could do all that because my mother had a crippled hand when I was eleven years old and I had to learn to make bread and wash on the board and we had a washing machine, but one of those old pushy-pull kind and we always rubbed all the dirty spots on the board, and I had to do that. I learned to do all those things, and it was her right hand that was crippled and she had a bad time for a long, long time. Then, when I was about fourteen, I did

the first going out, you know, hither and yon, and I was fourteen I guess, and I was fifteen in March when I went to work for Addingman's here, and stayed there a year. Wilbur was eleven months old when I went there.

Q: You moved into their home did you?

A: Oh, just stayed there. Yes, I stayed there yes. And I got home, I could go home Saturday afternoon, and I went back Sunday night. And I did the cooking and washing dishes and . . .

Q: Did you take charge of the whole household?

A: Oh, no, no. She told me what to do but I could do almost everything. Course, we had to sweep with the broom and who couldn't sweep with the broom? (laughter) Didn't have any electricity. And I could wash dishes and do most of--I did practically all the cooking out there. Of course, she supervised it. And I could already make pies and bread, and what else is there? There's nothing the way they cook for farmers. It was simple, and I could mash potatoes, and fry potatoes and do all those things. We had a range. Walter built the fire in the stove and a range, you know. I washed too. She had a better washing machine than we had at home. Her's had a crank on it. (laughter) But she supervised it and helped around a little, as much as she could, but she was ill. She was . . .

Q: Do you remember how you felt about going out for your first job?

A: No. I think I did it so gradual, that I didn't know the difference. All I was thinking about was making some money. I could make money.

Q: Do you remember about how much you got?

A: Yes, $2.50. (laughter)

Q: For a weeks' worth?

A: Yes. But I could buy a pair of shoes with it. I sure could.

Q: All right. Where did you go from there? After you . . .

A: Well, I went to a Bill Ayers the next year. And I stayed out there. Well, and then between times, I went to Pat Kincaid's, and I was only at Ayers just oh, maybe four or five months. And then I went out to help out that winter out to Kennedy Kincaid's, the old Kennedy Kincaid's. They all got the flu. So I did lots of jobs like that in between the times that I was, you know. And then see, I was married when I was sixteen, only I was seventeen right after that. But that winter I was sixteen, I was out to Kincaid's, and they were all down with the flu. Even that old lady that lived with them, you know.

Q: Fanny?

A: No, not Fanny. A . . . I don't know. She was some lady that they raised, I think, and she lived there always. She was like a mother to Kennedy and Earl. Old Kennedy and Earl. And I can't think, his father's name was John Kincaid, Johnny Kincaid.

Q: All right then. After you spent some time working in different homes, how did you meet your husband? You said you married when you were sixteen.

A: Well, see, when I worked at Matiers, my folks lived at Tice. My dad was running that coal mine down there, and I could go down on the train, to Tice. Where did I meet . . . oh, I met Everett out at Lebanon. I had a date with George (whisper). I had a date, and I went out to Lebanon to an ice cream supper, and I met Everett there. In the summertime, that summer that I was working for Matiers. And it was a great thing in those times that the fellows would get up in the telephone office, and that was a booth up there, you know. And they'd call somebody, and they got to calling me. A whole bunch of the kids, the fellows around here, and Everett was one of them. And they'd talk to me. Anyway, they'd first one talk to me and then another, you know. And he . . . I didn't know him from Adam, even if I had met him, because I met a lot of them out there. They were out there at the ice cream supper. And then one day, I got off at the train and Everett was at the depot, and he walked me downtown where they were supposed to pick me up to take me wherever I was going. Out to Walter's or out to Ayer's, I guess out to Ayer's.

Q: Had he planned that?

A: No. He just happened to be there.

Q: He just happened to be there.

A: That was a great thing people did in those days. The young people would--the boys especially--would go up to see who got off the train. (laughter) There would be a flock of them up there. When the train--see, there was four trains all the time. Two going to Springfield, two going the other way, everyday, morning and afternoon. And I'd come up on the six o'clock train that was going to Springfield in the evening, from Tice. They'd take me to Tice and then I'd come up there, and then if it was--I think that that was when I was out to Ayers. And so I'd come up on that six o'clock train and if they were up or here, why, they'd pick me up and if not, I'd just walk out there. And he walked me home, out to Ayers.

Q: And that was the beginning of your romance?

A: Yes, it was. It didn't last long because then we got married at Christmastime.

Q: That was in early . . .

A: That was in summer.

Q: In summer.

A: Yes.

Q: All right then. That was at the time that you moved to Athens, when you were married to Everett?

A: Yes.

Q: All right. Tell a little bit about your early married life in Athens. Where you lived and . . .

A: Well, we went to housekeeping over there just off Main Street in that Prather place. They tore it down when they started this road business. That little green house there. We started in February. Mr. Prather was fixing that little old--it was little old house that he was fixing up and he had it--it was all newly fixed up. You know, new floors and new walls and everything. But he didn't do it very good and it . . . we lived in it eleven months. Didn't have much. Kept house for about three, four, six months maybe without any tablespoons. (laughter) I had knives and forks and teaspoons of my own. An old lady over at Sweetwater had given them to me when I was a kid. I'd used to do--when I was about twelve years old--I'd do errands and things for her, and she gave me those. An old lady by the name of Josephine Olcradt that had a little old store over there. And we had a table and four chairs. The four chairs is all I have left of what I went into housekeeping with. I wish I had my table back. It was a round table and it was oak. And now they just . . . everybody wants them and it was a good one. Got it from Mr. Mott, and we had just barely enough to get by with.

Q: Now, you married Everett Hall.

A: Yes.

Q: This is kind of unusual, that your name is Leland Hall, which we would assume would be a man's name. Let's take a minute to tell how Leland Hall got her name.

A: My Leland, the name Leland. Well, they let my mother's sister, who was ill at the time--she died when she was eighteen years old--I was the first grandchild and she wanted to name me, but didn't want to name anything . . . in Kentucky they had a great thing always calling somebody "Sissy" or shortening the name and making a goofy name out of it. And she said she was going to name me something that they couldn't nickname. So she named me Leland, for which I never have forgiven her. (laughter)

Q: Have you had any problems by being called Leland?

A: Oh, I get everything, Mr. Leland Hall and a . . .

Q: Why so, Miss Leland Calvert, Calvert married Mr. Everett Hall. All right now, what did Everett Hall do at the time you were married?

A: He worked in a grocery store. And a . . .

Q: What did he work for?

A: Saligman Brothers.

Q: All right now, that gets us to the place about some of the people in Athens.

A: Don't you want to know how much he got?

Q: Yes.

A: Twelve dollars a week, and we rented that little house over there for, let's see, we rented it for ten dollars a month. And then in the winter, being that Mr. Prather had fixed the roof and put gutters up, and he set the gutters in the roof and he didn't--something went wrong, I don't know what, but the water--the gutters bursted. It snowed, then froze. It melted, thawed enough and run some of that slush off into the gutters and they bursted, the gutters. And the water all ran down in between the inside and the outside, and got the walls sopping wet. So then we moved over in the west end into Carry Kinkle's little house for seven dollars a month, because it didn't have electricity. (laughter) We bought lamps and had lamp lights, but Everett had had--we had three lamps and he'd have them all lit at once trying to see after we got used to electricity. So Carry then, she put in, you know, she wired the place. We lived there two years and then we moved on down the street in a little square house. I don't . . . I believe I don't know who owned that then. I can't remember right now. But it had . . . it was a nice house only--it belonged to Jarvis Bennet, who was a distant cousin of Everett's. He bought it up just to be buying something. Speculation, I guess. And we paid $750 for it, and we had $50 to pay down, but Charlie Saligman--Everett had worked for Charlie Saligman and Myer for a good while . . .

Q: Now tell about Charlie and Myers.

A: Charlie and Myer, and then Charlie went on (inaudible) when it snowed, and we bought the house, and I got a job at the telephone office.

Q: Oh. Tell about--were Charlie and Myer Saligman Jewish people in town? Tell about the Jewish community in Athens.

A: Okay. Well, Myer was married and had lived over a block from here, just a block south of here. And Fanny and Charlie lived right next door. We didn't live here then, of course. I don't remember who lived here then. But anyway, they had this general merchandise store. They had a shoe department and a dry goods department. They sold some ready-made, like everyday dresses and lots of yard goods and shoes. They had a shoe department over behind the post office, and the post office--you know, where the post office used to be, in that building next to Freers on the south. And then there was . . . you want to know about other Jews. Well, big Charlie Solsinstein and his maiden lady daughter lived across the street from the Saligman's store, which is now Freers. And he had--

they had to have . . . well, I believe, yes, Mrs. Solsinstein was living then too. She died sometime during that time.

Q: Was this big Charlie's mother or wife?

A: Wife.

Q: His wife?

A: His wife.

Q: He was married at that time?

A: Yes. He was an old man at that time.

Q: Was he the first one to come to Athens?

A: No. I don't know whether he was or not. I believe that there was an old man they called Salty that was the first one that came here, with a pack on his back. I've heard my father-in-law tell many a time that one of those Jews came, and I think it was the one they call Old Salty, and he was the one that had the store where the Long Nine Building is. And he had also had a dance hall upstairs over that, and grandpa told about the time that he just decided to have a dance and Grandpa Hall played an accordian and--I don't know, there were other people could play instruments--but anyway, they had this dance and he hired them to come and play. And for some reason or other, nobody came. So he'd hired them and he says--he couldn't talk plain, but he'd say he'd do a little swearing--and he said, "You play and I'll pay", and they played all evening and there was nobody (laughter) to dance. But they played for him, they played for him. Well anyway . . . and he had even harness and horse collars, no telling what. And grandpa worked for him sometimes. During, now--see, he was a brick mason--and he'd built a good many of these buildings uptown. He was a contractor, my father-in-law. And he built, well, like old Dr. Britton's office building and some of the other buildings. I can't name them all, but he built some of these old brick buildings up here when he was younger. Well, he was still building for a long time after I was married. And he said that then in the wintertime, he would work in a grocery store or something. And he said he worked for Old Salty at one year, at one time. And he said that everybody charged things and they only paid--they paid on payday see, because there was two mines working here then. That was in his time, and he said to grandpa, "Did you charge so and so?", and he would forget sometimes. So we charged it to everybody, and then they'd come in and they'd say, "Well, I didn't buy so and so." "Oh, I guess I made a mistake." And he'd scratch it out till he'd find the right one. Sometimes, grandpa said sometimes they didn't catch it either, but that's the way they did, that's the way he did it.

Q: All right now, what was this story about the Jewish man that had the mule farm?

A: Oh, that was Big Charlie and this was all vacant lot in here. Not in my time. This house was the only one here and Big Charlie was on it. Even when we bought the house in 1925, there was still no houses between here and up on the corner. Big Charlie's was on the corner.

Q: Of Main Street?

A: Whittney, where the Whittney's lived. And then this was a vacant lot and there was part of a fence between here and then there was a board fence between where Ralling's house is and where . . . on up to Big Charlie's. And he had a mule or two in that. And then over there where the park is, that was another pasture, and before that, he had mules in there. Now, I didn't see those, except one or two that was up here and I don't know if they were Big Charlie's, but there was mules in there.

Q: And he was considered a mule trader?

A: He was a mule trader in his early days. He was a . . . he went to town everyday, in my time, on the train. He went on the train in the morning and came back on the evening train with a basket on his arm, and they said he went to play the market.

Q: Oh. All right. Now we'll go on and get back to you and your early married life. You became a telephone operator.

A: Yes. In 1918 I was working at the telephone office. I guess I must have started in 1917. I worked five years. In 1922, then I went on for something else.

Q: You told some of your experiences as a telephone operator.

End of Side One, Tape One

Q: When the war was actually over.

A: Well, I didn't go to Springfield because I had to work, but Everett went in and he said that it was one big drunken brawl. People got drunk that never did get drunk before, and oh, they were just celebrating all over the place. But not here anymore. That one wild night was the worst there was here. Everybody went to Springfield to do their celebrating. I don't know too much about that because he went and I didn't.

Q: Can you remember any ways that the war affected you? The war, World War I?

A: Well, I didn't have anybody in it at all. Fred was too young. He joined, but late, and so he never went overseas or anything. He went to Fort Washington, the state of Washington, and spent a year there and then he was discharged and he didn't have to go on. He was young. He was barely old enough to enlist, and a . . .

Q: Well, did you find living any different? Did you have to give up things and have shortages and . . .

A: My goodness yes, yes.

Q: What about that?

A: Well, we had two huge buckets of flour, of corn flour, and I guess rice flour. I never had any, I used the corn flour. And a sugar shortage and a--well, we just canned everything that we could get our hands on. And I don't remember anything about a meat shortage then. But that's when shortening came out. I guess there was a meat shortage. I don't remember. Everett, having run a store, I don't believe I noticed the difference. There only being two of us, you know. I don't remember or anything. But I know that we had an awful time with flour. We did a lot of our own baking. Sugar. I can remember more about the shortages in World War II than I do in that. But we had awful trouble with everything fading, you know, and the old dyes that we had had been imported and that's when they learned to make dye around here. Everything you made in those days faded right out. It was just awful wearing clothes, you know, the material faded so bad.

Q: They hadn't learned some of the secrets of the European's then?

A: No. Their dye had been imported. I don't know where from, but they had been. And so there were none of them as good as they were later, you know. We learned a lot from both wars. That's where we got our material like we have today, on the first war.

Q: All right. Now tell some of your experiences as a telephone operator.

A: Well, let's see.

Q: Tell about what the rain storm did to this, telephone lines.

A: Oh, well the rain and sleet. In 1924, there wasn't a telephone line standing between a pole between Athens except one. Between Athens and the (inaudible) out there, where you turn to go to Cantral, there's one telephone pole standing there. Between those two places and that was at the railroad. There was just one pole standing there, and they would log all the trees. Just hardly any trees left standing completely.

Q: Was it an ice storm?

A: It was an ice storm. We lived in Springfield, and my brother was in the hospital with an appendix operation. And I lived about four blocks from the hospital and I couldn't get over to him because there were so many wires and lines down. And when I did get over there--and of course, my mother was out here, and my dad was out here with a broken leg, and the lines were all down. I couldn't call her to tell her anything or to find out how they were or anything, for several days. I finally walked down the railroad track to get to Floyd, and he'd been real bad, but he was better. He had an emergency operation, two or three days before the storm, appendicitis. And let's see, was there any other bad storms. Any storm was bad on telephone lines then. It's nothing like it was then because any kind of a wind storm was . . .

Q: What happened when the rain . . . you were telling something about the rain, doing something that you couldn't hear the people.

A: That wasn't the rain. That was just the thunder and lightening and all that crackling on the lines, you know. Whenever there was a storm, that switchboard would just go crazy because it would knock all the drops down, and that's the way you go after it, you know, when the drops came down, you plugged in underneath the drop on the place where you plugged in. That would knock all the drops down. You could hear them but you couldn't find it. You'd have to keep going over it and trying to find it.

Q: Tell about the lady that was hurt and you were trying to . . .

A: All I knew was she had a broken arm, and that she--I guess the doctor got there to her. That was days before we knew anything. I don't remember too much now.

Q: But you had just found out who it was by just answering all of the . . .

A: Yes, just answering all the . . . and like I said, I told (inaudible) and another one, 5811 I think was the number, but the one that goes through my mind. And I think that was Mrs. Frank Zanniman. I just don't remember for sure, but I think that's who it was. Mrs. Frank Zanniman.

Q: Sometimes the telephone operators were heroines, right?

A: Oh, they--well, for instance, one day somebody called me from a vacant house over there by the old stock cemetery and said, "Send a doctor quick! Our baby's choking to death!", and I had to get a doctor over there right quick. I called Dr. Hill, and he was down at the post office. Dr. Hill said that he'd be along after a bit, and I said that somebody's baby is choking, and I have to get them in. I got Dr. Mudd. Came over there.

Q: What about fire? What did you do when there was fire?

A: Well, it was nothing much we could do, only we had the fire--we blew the fire whistle.

Q: Oh, that was . . .

A: The end of the string was right there, and you'd jerk the string. Blew the fire whistle.

Q: Oh. And then did you alert people on the telephone or anything about the fire?

A: I'll tell you something else we had. We had a gun up there that . . . I don't know why they ever put it up in the telephone office for, but they did. There was a lot of bank robberies during the depression years, you know, early depression years. I worked from 1918 to 1923, and they were beginning to get . . . seems to be a lot of . . . well, I'll tell you something. Wasn't that during the time of (inaudible)? Gangs of men that hauled booze and all that during prohibition?

Q: Okay. Was the gun there to protect you?

A: No. We were supposed to shoot so they'd know they were robbing the bank or something. I don't know what--they didn't leave it there very long.

Q: What else was the . . .

A: You could tell there was a woman that run a house in Springfield and she would call out here and have parties for young boys. So Captain Power and I, we'd work together, you know, catch them. Both of us got mad at her. She'd call out here and get all these young fellows, you know, and take them in there--my brother, among others like them, you know. They were working and so I'd just ring that telephone off the wall and in that old booth. (laughter) He'd call up, didn't brag or nothing, and I just picked up the thing in there and rang and rang and rang. (laughter) Wasn't that awful? (laughter)

Q: No. So those were some of your experiences, now. Oh, tell about the depression years, what that did to your life.

A: Not much to mine, but it sure did a lot to other people. See, we were both working during those depression years. We had no children, so it didn't really bother us. We didn't have a lot of things, but we were, you know, better off than most people because we didn't have money. We had to help my folks a lot, and his folks a lot, at times. But everybody . . . there was times when my folks were just a little (inaudible). Floyd had a terrible time during that. He was the manager of that store at Bushnel, you know. That whole company went broke. He couldn't find a job anyplace. That was one thing I think that pulled him apart. He was always, you know, he always had a good job, and he was always perky. Everything he had. He was always dressed well and everything, and then his wife left him. She wanted to live in Peoria, and he wouldn't go up there and it was just a rough time.

Q: So you saw lots of sorrow.

A: Yes. There was plenty of evidence. And there was a lot of poor people down here that was just fantastic. They're fantastic. But I couldn't keep . . .

Q: Did you try to help each other? Was there any community . . .

A: I don't remember. They talked about starting a bread line here, but they never did that I know of. But my mother was in the hospital during that time, and I remember a bread line that was almost as long as St. John's Hospital. We stood in one of the office sections, you know, and could look down where the bread line came up to the hospital and it went clear back to the other end of the hospital. Three or four deep. And there was some Athens' people in there, my dad and I saw.

Q: Now, did you live in Springfield then, or Athens?

A: No. Athens.

Q: When did you move to Springfield?

A: We only lived in there a very short while. We didn't live in there very long. We moved back out here in--we moved down where I live now--in 1925.

Q: Oh.

A: It was about a year is all. We stored our furniture when we lived in there.

Q: Was he working at the grocery store there?

A: He worked at Piggly Wiggly. He went to work for Piggly Wiggly in 1921, I think. Yes, 1922. In 1922, and then in 1923, I quit the telephone office. Early in 1923, I quit the telephone office and we lived over in Jacksonville three months. We didn't move over there or anything. We lived there three months. In 1927, they transferred him back to Springfield then. Started him opening stores, and he opened up number five. It was the first. See, they had fourteen stores and he opened all of them after that. He would stock them and open them see, and we stayed there until they were running. Then we'd open another one. They were just getting growing good then.

Q: Were all of them in Springfield, or just in the area?

A: No, all in Springfield.

Q: All in Springfield.

A: They had stores--then from that, they had opened stores--they had one in Lincoln, one in Taylorville, one in Collinsville, one in Gillespie, one in Jacksonville, and so he was what they called an out of town supervisor. He went to those stores all the time. In and out. And what time he wasn't there, he was doing something in other stores around. Or if they had a store that was losing money, they'd put him in it for a while to find out what was wrong. And he could soon find out if it was that they weren't taking care of bent cans and . . .you know, you can just go at it like you'd keep house. You can throw things out that . . .

Q: He was a trouble shooter then?

A: Trouble shooter. Well, what they called a supervisor. And that's what he did at Piggly Wiggly and all the rest of the time. Sometimes, when they had somebody who couldn't change, they'd put him in a store and catch them. He becomes a handy man.

Q: All right now, when you moved back to Athens, you didn't work in the telephone company anymore?

A: No. I came back to Athens and started hairdressing in 1925.

Q: Now that's what you ought to talk about, the days as a hairdresser. Weren't you one of the very first?

A: I was the only one in the county for a little while.

Q: All right now, tell about the training and how you started.

A: Well, you didn't have to have a license when I started. I started in the fall, about October or November of 1925. We moved here in June, and my brother, Ray, was a barber here you know. He asked my why in the world I didn't do that because I wanted to work again. I worked at Piggly Wiggly for a year or two, while Everett was working there. I worked downtown, you know, in the downtown store in Springfield. I didn't like that at all, so I was looking for something else to do. And he said, "Why in the world don't you start marcelling?" "Why?" I said, "I don't know anything about it." He said, "Well, Ruthie Horn over in Mason City, she'd doing real good." And he bought me a curling iron and a heater, and brought it to me, and he said, "There's nothing to it. All you've got to do is stick that iron in there and pull on it." And he said, "If you turn it over and it just makes the prettiest curls." (laughter) I went over there and I saw her working. She said, "Oh, you must take some lessons, that's all there is to it, you've got to take some lessons." So I went to Springfield and took some lessons from her. Private. I mean, it's almost more than half priced. I paid for ten lessons I think. I don't know how many. I saved for so many lessons, and I thought there was to be a reason for this. She never told me what it was, but she'd show me, see. She didn't tell me. I thought there's got to be something happening in that iron, and I can't figure out what it is. There's got to be something that happens when you turn that iron on. And in the night, in the middle of the night, that came to me, what happens. And I couldn't wait until I got up the next morning. I got up the next morning and I had a piece of hair nailed on the back of an old kitchen chair. And I heated up my iron and I made a wave. When I was through, I yelled at Everett and I said, "Come down here and see what I did."

Q: You saw . . .

A: How the hair, when you turned it, you had to hold it with a comb so that it turns that way, and then you slit it and then you let it back up, and then you had to guide it with your comb. She never told me that, see, but it all came to me in the middle of the night. And I thought, you know--but you can't turn it, but only just so at the right time. If you turned it too quick, you've got an awful mess. But I figured it out. I never took anymore lessons. But I curled hair up one side and down the other.

Q: Yes. Did you practice on her?

A: Yes. We had--I think I put a whole bottle of Suave on her a time or two. Time to (laughter) pull it out and take it back.

Q: All right, now tell how you started your beauty shop and . . .

A: Well, I had it at home until 1940. From 1920 . . . well, I'll say I didn't charge anything until I could. My brother told me that. "Don't charge anything until you can charge the full price. Wait until you feel that you can do it right, and then charge. But it's too hard to raise your prices. So just wait." So I didn't charge anything until sometime in January. Then I started charging.

Q: How much did the marcel cost?

A: Oh, I tried to think the other day, and think fifty cents. I didn't wash anybody's hair though. I didn't have any shop. I did it in my livingroom. And I believe it was a half a dollar. I'm not sure. It might have been . . . it was a dollar later, then.

Q: Did they make appointments at that time?

A: Oh, yes. Yes, they did that, and then--that was in 1925, and I didn't have a machine until 1931. And I wasn't . . . I went to school though, in the meantime. Everett got transferred to Peoria, but Peoria, the Peoria man, he had a contract with Piggly Wiggly for can stores, you know. And he'd been running it and it was a mess. So he wanted to sell it, and so he borrowed two men, two key men from Piggly Wiggly in Springfield. And they went up there, Wayne Hill and Everett Hall went up there. And while he was up there, I didn't like it while he was gone you know. But he said, "Well, they have a good beauty culture school up there. Why don't you come up there and go to that while I'm up there." So I did. I went up there, and I went to school and I learned to do marcel. I mean permanent waves. And I said, "Not for me. I won't do it." But I would have to have a license if I was going to have a shop. So I went ahead and went to school and got my license. And that was the end of my twenty. I got the license in 1927, and I didn't buy a machine until 1931. Mr. Yeager would like to tell you about that, because he was just starting his place. My mother and I went in there after my dad died, and I had been going in there buying oh, hairpins and little things, you know. He knew I was just starting, and he said that day, "Why don't you buy a permanent waving machine.?" He said, "Well, I'll bet you do good, because I just bet you to do good." He said, "Let me sell you one now, and you try it." I said, "No, sir!" He said, "All you have to have is twenty-five dollars." And I think the machine was $650. And I said, "I haven't got $25." And then he decided though, that maybe I ought to have $50, because he was just starting too, see, and he said, "Well, really maybe you really ought to have $50." Mom said, "Well, I'll tell you. I've got $50 you can have, if you want to try it." So I borrowed her fifty dollars and I bought the machine. It wasn't any time until I was doing all right, because they had a different way of doing it. I didn't think I'd ever do it when I went to school. Oh, it was terrible. It was all, you know, gloves were about like this. You had to fasten them on and make sure the steam wouldn't follow the glove down to the hair and all of that. Oh, my, it was awful. But that was the machine I bought for $650. But I did all right. I charged them six dollars I think. But they had to cut it fee from that. Because it was new you see, and it took you so long. You could only give one in the whole afternoon and about pull their brains out. (laughter) So maybe it was six dollars that I got, but I'm . . .

Q: Then was there lots of permanent waving business?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: Everyone wanted their hair . . .

A: Something new, you know. And you could only get, at first you could only get one a year. But see, being no more operators that there were, they came from Greenview, they came from Petersburg. I was lucky enough to get on to it real quick.

Q: So you were one of the main operators in the whole community.

A: In the whole town, in the whole community. Yes, I was. Petersburg didn't have one. I even had--I finally went to Petersburg one day, and Athens another. See, back and forth on the train.

Q: Did you have equipment down there too, or did you . . .

A: I didn't do, that was before I had the . . .

Q: Oh, that was when you did marcelling?

A: Marcelling. They didn't have an operator down there that could marcel. So I didn't have enough business to keep me busy all the time. So I just went back and forth on the train.

Q: All right then, tell how your beauty shop grew from the first days of marcel.

A: Did it grow? I didn't know it did.

Q: Oh, yes. Tell about it.

A: Well, I worked a . . . well, the next machine I bought--I bought another one then, shortly. First I bought extra heaters. They came out with pumping holes. A different kind of permanent, you know. And I bought extra heaters for that one. Then, in a few years, I bought a whole program of them. But I worked there by myself for 15 years I guess, from 1925 to 1940. And I was getting so tired that Dr. Hill told me one day that I was going to either have to get help or quit, because I was really wearing myself down. Besides that, all that time I had a sick mother, you know. Having to run back and forth. My whole family was sick, anybody that was . . . we had more sick people. And mom just wasn't able, and my dad finally, he died in 1931. So I tried to do too much. And it did grow, I really had lots to do. All day and half of the night. Nighttime.

Q: Tell what you had to do after your beauty parlor duties.

A: I don't . . . everybody knows that, nobody needs to tell. Needs telling. Well, let's see. Carl managed it, and I think in the meantime, we took care of daddy too, you know in 1930--let's see, when did he die?--in 1932.

Q: Your adopted . . .

A: Adopted parents.

Q: Yes.

A: In 1932, yes. Well, I did everything that there was to do. I had a girl come, see, once in a while. But I didn't--you couldn't do too much and work in the shop, you know, like that. Lots of times, there was a week or two I never got on our own front porch. I would just fall into bed at night, because it was the permanant wave treatment, and you had to do it all then. And then there's extra sewing and things in between I had to do.

Q: You did the family sewing?

A: Yes. I had to do that through bad weather and times like that, you know. And one time I was making bread, and I made some doughnuts when Calvin Hall was a little boy. He came by, and I said, "Cal, you want a doughnut?" "Sure!" So I gave him some doughnuts and he said, "Aunt Main, I wish you was my Mama." And I said, "Well, Calvin, you got a nice mama." And he says, "I know it, but she's never hungry, and you're always hungry." He says, "She doesn't think a boy needs so much to eat."

Q: You had quite a reputation with your nieces and nephews, didn't you?

A: Oh yes, yes. I enjoyed them all. Still do.

Q: Didn't you . . . you had a venture in a restaurant too.

A: Very short.

Q: Very short.

A: Everett couldn't take it. Three months I think, is all.

Q: Did he want to give up the grocery business?

A: Yes. He was tired of Piggly Wiggly. He wanted to do something else. Well, then one day after lunch, he went in and hit Yeager for a job. "Maybe you can work in there. You like to sell." So, he went in there and got the job right there.

Q: And he did that . . .

A: And he did that eighteen years. Then he died.

Q: Okay. We've kind of covered some of the most important things in your life. Maybe we can kind of wind up some of the things that you remember most about Athens as a town. More Athens.

A: If I knew what . . .

Q: Can you remember what stores were like and . . .

A: Well, let's start right when we first married. That was in 1915, something like that. (inaudible) and that jewelry store. That's starting on the north end of Main Street. No, across the street from there was a two story building where--a great big old two story building--anybody ever tell you about it? Right where Emma Jane Mason's house is. There was a two story wooden building, hadn't been painted for years. With (inaudible) in the bottom of it, and then there was George Whittney's father had a gallery up there. You know, the (phone rings). And next door to that was a blacksmith's shop where Lynn . . . that was a blacksmith shop there. Debbie Castell ran that, and then Earl Cullins Jewelry store and Tom Hollins' barber shop, and then this little tiny store there was a little old man lived in there with his daughter. I can't remember. Just a little, tiny place. It had three rooms right straight back.

Q: But it was a store?

A: Yes. And then Mr.--no, it wasn't a store. They lived there.

Q: Oh, they lived there?

A: Lived in there. I don't know what that man did. But they were there. Well, then the building that their--what is that big place there? It was a hotel building. That's what I called it. It was a big hotel there. But it was run different times by different people, and actually they didn't want to have a hotel there. Different people had rooms up above there, you know. And then Dr. Britton's office. And then somebody by the name of Johnson, his dad. No, that wasn't the first one. Prim had a hardware store where--on the corner across from the bank, on St. Clair Street. And then, the next store was Mrs. Churchill. Variety Store. It had been a drug store, but Mr. Churchill had died. And then the next one was a restaurant building, and then Floyd Campell's drug store, and then Miley Hicks' father had a restaurant. Miley Hicks had a restaurant where the old coin wash was there. And then where our building was, that was Charley Campbell's store, and that was a grocery store. A wooden building, a kind of an old wooden building. It was a grocery store, where--see, that's a fairly new building where Patty's Beauty Shop is.

Q: Yes.

A: And then there was a Grandma Moss's house is where--Odgen, that was Mr. Moss. I guess an aunt or it was supposedly Grandma Moss. I think maybe it was his aunt that lived there. It was an old lady that lived in there. She died about that time, and they later changed that into Brooken's Barber Shop.

Q: Yes.

A: They turned that house into a barber shop. Nobody lived there until a long time ago. And then it was Big Charlie. Then Saligman Brothers, Wash and State Street. And then there was a wooden building besides that. That was a harness shop. And that, I don't remember who . . . it

seems like it was a little crippled man. I don't know his name. Then on the other side of the street, you come back up. The first garage that Athens had was in that building that's along Ninth Street. That was the first garage that was there. And I remember George Johnson, Bernice Wilkins' father, I think had something to do with that. And Guy Crim . . . that then was David's campaign counsel. And then there was a building that burned where some. . . . There was an old man in there by the name of Brown. Then there was two buildings that had been tore down to build a house. I mean, to build a street through. And sometimes they . . . there were buildings that Mr. Moss' father had built. Had a furniture store and bakery and there was sometimes the meat market and there was--sometimes there wasn't anybody. And over on the corner there was a restaurant. Somebody was in it. Mae Maxwell had a little grocery store in there for a little while. And then there was three saloons. Maxwell wasn't there though, by that time. I mean, he possessed later. I don't remember what was on the corner. Maybe a saloon there. I don't know. But there was two picture shows there when Everett and I were married, on that side of the street. That's about all there was. There was about three saloons and two picture shows. One of the saloons though, was on the corner by Moss'. You know, that little corner building with the front corner cut off. That was one of the saloons, and then the one across from it was another one. And then about . . . there was a picture show next. And then there was a building between there and another picture show. And that one was the Gem.

Q: The name of it was the Gem?

A: Yes. There wasn't another grocery store on that side of the street then, at all. There was Mr. Campbell's, and then Saligman Brothers. That's all. Meat market. Somebody always had a meat market over on one of those yellow buildings. It was one of those Mott buildings there. They had it always, a meat market along there someplace. Just plain meat market, nothing else. And then there was a great big barn after Mott's. Mott's, of course, was always there. And then there was a big feed barn and livery stable. And the feed barn, I think was where the controllers were. I think that was all the city hall, but there's one on the other side of the it, isn't there? Yes, there's one on the other side of the city hall. Yes. There's a feed barn with a parking lot. That was a great big feed barn and then, livery stable.

Q: And then across from the livery stable, was that the watering trough?

A: No. Now, Bill Tower's store was where the watering trough was, and that's where Georgie Feuds' shop was. Now, that was a big hardware store there. See, there were two hardware stores. One on the corner where . . . and then the telephone office was over the hardware store.

Q: Now, was Athens bigger then than it is now? Do you know about how many people?

A: Thousand. Around a thousand. I think there was a time when there was maybe--there used to be a lot of coal miners out along that railroad. See, there were two coal mines. There was only never but one working when I was working there. That was the old Union Building. Then the

other was number two mine, and it was down the railroad tracks. You can see the old (inaudible) pile over there.

Q: What was Athens like then as a town?

A: Well, just about like it is now. You know, just well . . .

Q: Was it a sleepy town then?

A: Well, a lot of loafers uptown, and I think there's more uptown now than there ever has been for a long time. You don't--the kids loaf around uptown an awful lot. The did then, too. Of course, the saloons uptown. There's a lot of people up there.

Q: Yes. Was it considered a rough town at that time?

A: Oh, yes. I used to always tell Everett--not so much by that time, it had begun to simmer down a little--but when I was a little kid, I told Everett if they'd have ever brought me to Athens and dumped me out and told me I was in Athens, I would've died right there on. I'd have been scared to death. I thought it was the worst place.

Q: What were some of the stories of Athens?

A: Well, I can tell you one. I was, I went to school one morning, and I--it stands out in my mind as vivid as if it happened the day before yesterday. I went to school early. I had to ride in with my dad that morning, in the wagon.

Q: Into Greenview?

A: Greenview. And it was a cold morning, just awful cold, and I had to get a tablet to go to school. And I was--they had the tablet in Stone's window. Stone's had a drug store and they had a tablet and pencils and things. And I was trying to figure out whether I wanted a Red Lion tablet or a Pride. Now, I remember that just like it was yesterday. There were two men standing behind me, and they said "Well, I hear they had another murder over in Athens." And I was holding onto the cold bar that was across there, iron bars that were across there, and it just frightened me to death. They said, "Well, they found him in a well out west of town." And I thought about that all day long, because they were standing there and I listened to what they had to say, you know. They said they had dug him from out of the coal mine. Hubert, that's the (inaudible) through the town and took him out there and put him in a well. And they had dogs. I can remember about dogs too. But anyway, it was. . . . The first time I ever came to Athens, it was on a Sunday afternoon and the saloons were open and men were sitting along on the street, and drunk! And guess who I was with? Kevin Ingram.

Q: Your date?

A: No, not necessarily. I had been--his folks and my folks came from the same place in Kentucky, and the mother was very sick. And the girls were young, you know, and they somehow or another, they just . . . they

were just desperately in need of help. They were running the Campell farm house. And Kevin had taken me home. He had to come through Athens for something. They never had any oil in those days. Didn't have any oil on the streets practically until we moved down here in 1925. It was going back to a. . . . So, this was a long time . . . well, Saligman's still had a store, and he got up real early, four o'clock in the morning, and went out squirrel hunting. And that night, the (inaudible) had gotten raw. And he said he didn't know anything about it. He went early, and he was sitting down there, down south of town near . . . south of the cemetery. Oh, over there in those woods, south of the cemetery. There was this gun across his lap, you know, watching for squirrels. Here comes two bloodhounds over that hill right at him, just around and around him, just barking and barking. They picked up his trail. (laughter) I wish you could have seen your dad's face. Never seen anybody look so silly in all your life.

Q: Well, did they ever find the robbers?

A: No, they never did. Crazy. They had just picked--course, it was a new trail because he walked past there, and they found him, and half of the town was down there, they say. (laughter)

Q: Can you remember some of the other things interesting that happened like that?

A: Oh, I don't know how that happened to come to my mind. I don't know.

Q: What about some of the town's characters?

A: Well, who for instance? I can think of a couple. Jim Dray. He was a funny kind of an old bastard that was around. I think he got married, but I never knew him to have a wife. He was kind of an odd jobs man. A little different, you know. And then there was some strange fellow. I've forgotten his name. He was a mathematician, and said he could add up long lines of figures, and he could, just looking at them. And he was retarded in some way. I can't remember his name. Somebody else will have to remember that. A blonde girl up in the telephone office said she'd just love to have a date with him, and he came up there. And then I'd have to call Everett to come and get them. (laughter)

Q: They were characters then.

A: Opel was a good one, I'll tell you. He'd play tricks on people.

Q: A practical joker?

A: Yes.

Q: Then you have lots of happy memories about Athens, right?

A: Yes.

Q: And some not so happy?