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NORTHERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

HISTORY 497: FARMING AND FARM FAMILIES IN DEKALB COUNTY

Oral History Interview
with

EVELYN LANAN

November 10, 1986

Annie Glidden Road
Kingston, Illinois

By: Sharon M. Bartholomew

NORTHERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

FARMING AND FARM FAMILIES IN DEKALB COUNTY

General topic of interview: A farmer's wife's background, education, organizations, recreation and many other things.

NARRATOR: EVELYN LANAN
DATE: November 10, 1986
LENGTH OF TAPE: 45 minutes

INTERVIEWER: SHARON BARTHOLOMEW
PLACE: Annie Glidden Road
Kingston, Illinois 60145

PERSONAL DATA

Evelyn Lanan grew up on a farm in Esmond, Illinois until she married Howard Lanan in 1939. She had brothers and sisters which she sees once a month. She was a college graduate from Northern Illinois University in 1932 where she received a two-year teaching degree. She taught grades 3 and 4 in Malta until her marriage. She has a flower and vegetable garden which she enjoys, she is the organist for her church and enjoys just being a farmer's wife and really doesn't want to resume teaching or go back to school. Evelyn and Howard Lanan are childless but they have foreign exchange students that they keep in close contact with still. Howard retired from farming in 1984 and now they garden together.

INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS

After taping was completed, Evelyn Lanan and I discussed her lovely home and plate collections of birds, Dutch blue Christmas scenes with yearly dates, and her teddy bear plates. Mrs. Lanan renovated her house in 1951; it took one year to complete. She had her home done through an extension program. The narrator's memory was good on what it was like after she got married up to the present. She was very interesting and a nice person who was a pleasure to talk to and learn from about things that were unknown to my generation.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

HISTORY 497 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:

FARMING AND FARM FAMILIES IN DEKALB COUNTY

NARRATOR: EVELYN LANAN
DATE: November 10, 1986

INTERVIEWER: Sharon Bartholomew
PLACE: Annie Glidden Rd. Kingston, Illinois

TAPE COUNTER NUMBER

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School education-grade school, high school,
and college
Church
Farmer's organization information
for farmer's wives and programs
Neighbors
Kinship networks-geneology
Trips to Town
Family life-decision makers, etc.
Education beyond NIU and after marriage
Gardening-vegetables and flowers
Recreation
Standards of living-drives, appliances
furniture in kitchen

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Department stores-differences between
now and then
Foreign exchange students
Foreign tour groups/visitors
Thanking subject for participation

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INTERVIEW WITH EVELYN LANAN

This is Sharon Bartholomew interviewing Evelyn Lanan, on small family farming from Post-WWII time to present. Today is November 10, 1986.

Bartholomew: Could you tell me what it was like growing up?

Lanan: What was it like growing up? Oh, it was, we didn't know any different, so we thought it was just the same as, it was a normal procedure that we went through, so we had a good time. I had brothers and sisters, we enjoyed each other, we had friends who were in school together and I was a member of 4-H club at one time and we all had common interests and so it wasn't any different. I think, whenever, anyone grows up or is in a situation that the rest of the people are in, it's just a normal procedure.

Bartholomew: Where were you born?

Lanan: I was born at Esmond, Illinois. It's in DeKalb County.

Bartholomew: What did your parents do? (pause) Were they farmers?

Lanan: Yes, they were farmers, and they were on the farm when I was born. And they were farmers all their lives until they retired.

Bartholomew: How did you meet your husband?

Lanan: Well, we sort of, uh, in the same neighborhood, we went to the same high school and, uh, then one time when we were playing croquet with a group of people; he hit his ball over in my direction and asked me for a date.

Bartholomew: Where was the school that you went to?

Lanan: The school was is about a couple miles west of here now and that was grade school and then I went to Sycamore High School and then I went to NIU for two years on a two-year or junior college diploma.

Bartholomew: Was school the center of attention? Was school the center of attention?

Lanan: Yes, I think it was and I always wanted to be a teacher.

Bartholomew: What stands out in your mind about going to school?

Lanan: Oh, meeting, I think different people, uh, because in a grade school and in a small high school you weren't around as many people and then I was quite well-known then it was known as a teachers college the, and so, we had to sign a little certificate that we would teach as many years in a school as we were in college (NIU).

Bartholomew: How often did you go to school?

Lanan: Uh, what do you mean by that?

Bartholomew: During the week, did you go Monday through Friday?

Lanan: Yeah, all schools except NI, and NI was pretty much as it is now on so many days a week. For the subjects, depending on what subject you took.

Bartholomew: What event, that you went, when you went to NIU stands out in your memory?

Lanan: I think the one thing is the Mayfête that they used to have around the lagoon.

Bartholomew: What is a Mayfête?

Lanan: Mayfête is a Maypole. . And I was in the part that wound the Maypole.

Bartholomew: Wow! Do you attend a church?

Lanan: Yes, I do and it's just a mile from here, a little over a mile and it's a United Church of Christ, and I'm organist for the church.

Bartholomew: Aside from the services, how else did you help the church?

Lanan: Oh. Uh, I probably, I was on most committees, I taught Sunday school. I guess probably be the most outstanding for over forty years.

Bartholomew: Who ran the church? Who ran the church?

Lanan: Who ran it? We had a number of people, the minister of course was the main person, to take care of the church and then there were laypeople or the members of the church who took different responsibilities for things. But I think at that time the minister did most of the organization work, he was the one who went to visit the sick, went to visit people and encouraged them to come to church, and so forth.

Bartholomew: Would you say that the church played an important part in your life?

Lanan: Oh yes, I think so.

Bartholomew: How?

Lanan: Well, because that was, we didn't have as many things to do to as people have nowadays and church was sort of the center of the community and everyone, we had our certain special days like Christmas program, Christmas eve program, all the children took part in that and we used to have Children's day programs which meant all the children had part in the program. I used to like to help with those-organize those.

Bartholomew: Did you guys belong to a farmer's organization after World War II?

Lanan: Uh, that would be the Farm Bureau, we have always been members of the Farm Bureau. That's the farmer's organization.

Artholomew: Why did you join?

Lanan: I beg your pardon?

Artholomew: Why did you join?

Lanan: The Farm Bureau? Well it hu, it the organization that we were interested in, it was promoting the things that we were interested in having.

Artholomew: Which were? What were you interested in having?

Lanan: Selling of the crops and growing the best crops that you could and uh, any new things that came along to help agriculture ~~inaudible~~ ~~inaudible~~. Now I belong, personally to the Homemakers Extension, which is the Farm Bureau's family organization, Homemakers Extension or Home Bureau, right after the war was called Home Bureau then they changed the name to Homemakers Extension. I belong to that because that it was really an adult education program for farm women at that time and I had not had my degree in Home Economics. I had not taken any courses except in high school since sewing and cooking courses, so then it was also a change to meet the women of the community. We got together once a month for a meeting and a program.

Artholomew: Would you change it or any part of it?

Lanan: The Homemakers Extension? No, I don't think so, I think now membership is low and it's sort of up and down because somany more people have a chance to go to college and have degrees in Home Economics where the thing is we have so many magazines now, we have radio, we have TV promoting all these different programs. So maybe, there isn't as much need for it but yet I still feel that it's an excellent organization.

Artholomew: Did you talk to your neighbors often?

Lanan: Well, quite often, yes, but all of them are busy. Many of them work, so they're not home when I'm available during the day and if at night then I feel that they're are busy taking care of their families and responsibilities. If there's a need, I mean any need or anything of course, we get together but I talk to them and whenever I can sometimes I see them in town more often than I would see them in the community. That we know they're there and always ready to help, we're ready to help in times there's need.

Artholomew: Did you ever get mad at any of your neighbors?

Lanan: No, not really.

Artholomew: Are you extremely close with your neighbors?

Lanan: I am and I'm not, I don't know how to answer that in that they are different age than I am and they have different interests than I have, at different ages, you see, but I think that there is one of them tht I am quite close with.

Artholomew: Were your parents born in the United States?

Lanan: Yes.

Artholomew: Where were your grandparents born?

Lanan: In the United States, too. The great-grandparents were born in Germany.

Bartholomew: Do you have relatives nearby?

Lanan: Yeah, cousins, aunts and so forth.

Bartholomew: How often do you get to see them?

Lanan: My family, I suppose, I see them at least once a month, and talk to them more often than that because they're quite close by.

Bartholomew: Did you ever have to ask them for help??

Lanan: Well, my sister helps me because she sews and I don't sew very well. (she laughs)

Bartholomew: How often did you go to town or do you?

Lanan: Do I go to town? Once a week, for sure and possibly two, three times, it depends on the need, if I have special things to do appointment for doctors or some of my meetings are in town, so there's not a set time but at least once a week to do the grocery shopping and the weekly things.

Bartholomew: Which towns did you go to?

Lanan: It'd be either DeKalb or Sycamore for the very local towns.

Bartholomew: Was it something that you looked forward to?

Lanan: Look what?

Bartholomew: Do you look forward to going to town?

Lanan: I didn't understand.

Bartholomew: Do you like going to town?

Lanan: Yes, but not really, I don't like to drive a car that well, but I do because it's an independent way of getting around and so forth but uh, I don't particularly care about going to town.

Bartholomew: What do you do when you go to town?

Lanan: Do my shopping.

Bartholomew: Where?

Lanan: In DeKalb and Sycamore.

Bartholomew: What type of shops?

Lanan: Oh, grocery and any other personal needs. Then, sometimes I go to visit people in nursing homes who are either in DeKalb or Sycamore too.

Bartholomew: When you moved here, who was the decision maker?

Lanan: Oh, half and half, I think.

Bartholomew: Who do you talk over the work problems with? Like with your friends or your husband?

Lanan: My problems you say, oh, I sometimes try to solve them myself, but then my husband mostly.

Bartholomew: After you received your teaching degree, recently, have you decided to go back to school?

Lanan: No.No.

Bartholomew: Why?

Lanan: I don't know, except that I'm busy here, I enjoy living on the farm and I've worked all these years to get it where it is, you, know, the house and the gardens and so forth, that I have, I do not particularly care about having a teaching job. I think discipline nowadays would be worse than it was when I was in school and I think perhaps the families are not as, well they may be as close but I mean the children are more on their own than they used to be. When I got home from school, my parents were always home. Somebody was always home, you know, nowadays it's not always that way.

Bartholomew: What type of things do you grow in your garden? What do you grow in your garden?

Lanan: Oh, in the garden, the usual vegetables-I make quite a few pickles-so we have cucumbers, tomatoes we like very well. Howard had a lot of squash this year, not in the garden itself but it was a garden plot away from the lawn and carrots and cabbage we have had, very nice cabbage and still some in the garden, beets, lettuce and radishes of course, we always look forward to in the spring and asparagus we have in the garden.

Bartholomew: Did you grow any flowers?

Lanan: Oh, yes.

Bartholomew: What type?

Lanan: All kinds. I now know what I like the best and what I have the best success with so that's what I go back to each year and then of course, I have perennials that are in the ground and I keep those and then I have annuals that I buy the plants at the greenhouse now rather than try to raise them. And just this morning, I covered my roses with dirt so that they're ready for the winter.

Bartholomew: (We had turned off the tape recorder because she wanted me to ask her the questions a little bit more distinct because she couldn't understand me properly.)

Bartholomew: Which type of flowers have you found that grow the best?

Lanan: I like snapdragons, marigolds, bachelorbuttons, then in perennials I have lillies I like those quite a bit and oh let's see baptizias are another thing, peonies I like, roses I like, and shasta daisies and painted daisies those are, and chrysanthemums.

Bartholomew: What type of things do you enjoy doing?

Lanan: I like to do all kinds of housework. I like particularly to cook and bake, I do a lot of baking cookies, I don't do as much now but at Christmas time I used to bake a lot of cookies and make candy and give ti to people who were shutins or people who had done favors for me during the year, or something like that. Then I like to crochet I don't do a lot of it but I have a few patterns tht I like to do in holders and I like to crochet Christmas stockings they're made out of yarn and I've done quite a few of those and given them to children to hang up and adults like them too because they make a good Christmas decoration. I like to work out in the garden, things now get a little bit too heavy for me to do, I used to be able to go through work all day out in the garden hoeing and pulling weeds and that sort of thing but I can't do that now but sine Howard's retired he helps, so tht we do it together then. I like music, and at one tiem the church bought an organ and so I had lessions on the church organ, I still do I have a piano in my home but I practice at the church for the church music.

Bartholomew: What type of music do you like the most?

Lanan: Oh, classical music but I'm learning to play some of the modern music too you know it's being introduced into churches and so I'm learning to do some of that too.

Bartholomew: When did you first get a TV?

Lanan: I don't remember, really. I think we're on our second onenow, the TV that we have now. Oh, probably thirty years ago, I'll guess at thirty years.

Bartholomew: What did you listen to on the radio?

Lanan: News, weather, and Homemakers programs, there used to be Homemakers programs it would give recipes and give the news of the day about new products, new items on the shelves and also it gave some ideas on sewing or on crafts too, that could be done on the radio, you know, without demonstration.

Bartholomew: Did you ever listen to any of the radio stories that were on?

Lanan: No.

Bartholomew: Have you ever taken a vacation?

Lanan: Oh, yeah.

Bartholomew: Where?

Lanan: Oh, we've been to Europe a number of times, we've been to Germany twice, we've been to Scandinavian countries, we've gone to the Passion Play in Germany, and the last few years, I'd say, the last five or six years we go to Arizona during the month of March. Howard likes the Cubs baseball game so we go out to the Spring training games while we're out there. We rent a condo out there, we have no desire to buy out there and to spend all our time out there, the one month break from Illinois in March is about all we want.

Bartholomew: Do you go to movies a lot?

Lanan: Not very often, no. I think last spring was the first time in awhile to see several movies in DeKalb because they were movies that were recommended by friends in Arizona and we didn't get to see them in Arizona.

Bartholomew: Which holidays do you celebrate?

Lanan: Oh, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's used to be not now it's so involved with sports events in the Rose Bowl game, we went to the Rose Bowl game one year, and that was an interesting experience. We went by tour and we enjoy tours because they are so much of the problems are taken care of by tour guides and they take care of everything for you.

Bartholomew: How do you celebrate Christmas?

Lanan: Christmas? Well, usually with a dinner not a gift exchange now like we used to because all our family's grown and there are no younger children in the family, so we usually do not have gift exchange, for dinner.

Bartholomew: What do you make for dinner or what is made for dinner?

Lanan: Oh, for dinner, uh, turkey, dressing, cranberries, salad-apple salad probably, and then for dessert either cake or maybe mincemeat pie, ice cream sometimes it's peppermint ice cream with white cake.

Bartholomew: Do you like the holidays?

Lanan: Yeah, if they're not too commercialized, I think that's the danger that we get into nowadays with too much spent on time and talk about getting my Christmas shopping done.

Bartholomew: Do you attend dances?

Lanan: No, neither one of us dance.

Bartholomew: Do you go and visit family?

Lanan: Yeah, when we can.

Bartholomew: How about friends?

Lanan: Yeah.

Bartholomew: Neighbors?

Lanan: Yeah.

Bartholomew: When?

Lanan: Oh, when we, when the special occasion I mean, for instance, a wedding anniversary or birthday or something we do visit them and I like to have friends here for meals too, because many of them work and so work or else live alone and it's just a chance to get them out of their house, here, and I enjoy having company.

Bartholomew: Do you go out for drives?

Lanan: Not too often.

Bartholomew: When you do, where do you go?

Lanan: Oh, around the neighborhood to see what's going on, probably, or like in the fall of the year might go for a drive to see the fall coloring in places where there are trees more than there are here. Although, many times it is very pretty around here if we just look at it.

Bartholomew: How would you describe a normal Saturday when you were farming?

Lanan: Just the same as any other day only perhaps a little more filled because we're getting ready for Sunday because we did not do any farm work on Sunday, did not like to do any farm work on Sunday, so the least we could do, needed to do on Sunday was the thing that was done, so Saturday's lots of time were to take care of the Sunday jobs, that would need to be done.

Bartholomew: What was a normal planting day?

Lanan: For corn? I think it was May 20th or something like that but now it's much earlier, (pause) because of the hybrid corn it's bred to be planted earlier.

Bartholomew: When you first moved here, what type of appliances did you have in the house?

Lanan: Uh, I had a new electric stove and that was it, then we bought as we needed. I can't remember when I got the washing machine but I suppose it was soon after we moved here because it was when, and the hot waterheater we got quite soon after we moved here because the stove did not have a reservoir like the wood stoves had and so, we needed to get hot water and you couldn't be heating, you could be heating it on an electric stove but it would be more expensive probably than having the water heated where the water was heated and kept warm and then insulated in a-tank.

Bartholomew: When did you first move here?

Lanan: In 1939, October 1939. We were married October 21st that year.

Bartholomew: Have you ever remodeled the house?

Lanan: Yes, the kitchen was somewhat remodeled before we moved in, in that it'd had electric stove and the sink and the cupboards. BUT in 1951, we did a complete job of remodeling the house. In adding, to the house, one room that is now used as the utility room.

Bartholomew: What's in the kitchen now?

Lanan: Oh, I have a refrigerator, we have a table, a dining table or a dining area in the corner where the corner kitchen window is in, and lots of cupboard space and the stove.

Bartholomew: If your husband was still farming, what did you do to help?

Lanan: When he was farming? Well I helped with, answering the telephone for one thing, keeping track of him to see where he was so if anyone called for him I knew where he was and answering the door, errands doing errands of there were any that I could do easily, I helped with the farm account book which meant recording the items that were sold and he was usually there so I could ask him questions or he could tell me what it was for and that I did not do the buying or the selling of any of the things I just made the recording in the farm account book, and then of course, at the end of the year there was always this summarizing to do of the whole year's items. I helped with that and that is quite a major project to get done and something that we didn't like to do either.

Bartholomew: Did you ever have hired hands?

Lanan: Uh, we didn't have them that I can remember live with us, maybe they did know you for a few months or so during the busy seasons but we've had people who come in and help, you know, drive in and help and I always had to have meals for them too. Nowadays they don't do that, the hired labor usually, some I suppose still do it but some don't the hired labor either brings their lunch or they go back to town or they go home if they're closeby, if closeby they go home to eat. We had, there were custom people that came in, for instance, people that shell corn then I would have those people for lunch, you know, they had threshers when I was first married, there were twenty, twenty-five men in a threshing ring and we had them for dinner and some people had them for supper, too, with lunches inbetween during the morning and during the afternoon.

Bartholomew: What would normally consist of a meal that you would feed them?

Lanan: That would be potatoes, meat, and bread and vegetables and salad-like a cabbage simple salad; cabbage salad or something simple like that and dessert, and dessert often meant pie.

Bartholomew: Do you like cooking pie?

Lanan: I learned to like it and I cooked for threshers, I hadn't made a pie before I was married and so when I cooked for threshers, I made pie, but I followed the recipe very closely and anybody's help that, you know that sometimes that they had suggestions how to make a crust more tender and so I used those too, and I read, studied the magazines, cookbooks.

Bartholomew: Do you like to read? Do you like to read?

Lanan: Yeah, uh-huh.

Bartholomew: Which type of books?

Lanan: Uh, probably travel books. I could read every book that was written.

Bartholomew: What would you like to tell me about working on a farm?

Lanan: I've liked it, I guess I'd say that perhaps no matter where I was I would enjoy or find something to enjoy about working, it's the same, many people dislike to do the dishes and I never disliked it that much 'cause I always thought of it as something in the design of the plate or something that I could enjoy that I liked. There were late hours and early hours, I mean, early and late hours, that was just the way you work and seasons of work were long then because they did so many things by hand without the help of machinery, you know without the help of big machines that we have now. You're free to, when you're on a farm, you can do as you like, you see long distances, you have fresh air, provided that you don't have too much livestock around, sometimes then it isn't as fresh as it might be. And I've enjoyed getting to where we are now at retirement age, not that I'm that less busy but I perhaps have less responsibility.

End of Side 1.

SIDE 2

Bartholomew: What's the difference between the department stores now and the department stores back when you first...?

Lanan: The biggest difference that I see is the service item in the department stores. There aren't as many clerks. And when you go into a store the clerk may tell you where the item is that you're hunting but they don't show you exactly ... you know, pull them out of the rack. So many things are put on racks and you have to look through the rack. Used to be they'd have these different rooms and different displays, so that you could see right at a glance what it was like. It's difficult to get waited on many times. If it's a busy time then you just pick up what you want and go to the desk and that is it. Of course they have computers now, to take care of some of those things. But in the grocery store we used to go in and we'd take some eggs in and we'd get credit for the eggs. Then we would select, or have a list in our hand and read it off to the clerk. And the clerk would pull it off the shelves, put in on the counter. After they got it all assembled then they would write on a little record sheet what we were buying and the price of it and add it up. You lose the individual touch to some of these things. And I think the stores are all the same so no matter what store you'll go in you'll get the same service. So you can't go to another store just because one has better service than the other. Because it isn't true. The service is the same.

Bartholomew: What did you do when you were teaching? You mentioned that you had foreign exchange students come and stay with you. Could you tell us about some of them.

Lanan: O.K. The one German student was - 17 year-old German youth - was here in 1952 and '53. He was here exactly a year and nine months of that year he spent at the local high school which is at Kirkland. He did not speak very much English so I had to intrepert to him for about six weeks - well all the way through - but I mean six weeks, sit down with him when he was studying his history so that he would understand that. Ferdy had had some English, but not enough to speak. But he hadn't practiced it. See that's it. Now days in Germany they practice. When they're teaching English they practice and get the English books and the English magazines and so forth. Then this summer Ferdy was here, visiting with his wife, his 17-year-old daughter and his 11-year-old son for two weeks. Now talking about practicing English, his daughter, 17 years old, was the same age that he was when he was over here and she spoke very fine English. But she has an excellent English teacher. That English teacher speaks English all the time to them during class time. He subscribes to magazines. He gets lots of information so

that they have to read it in English. She was - is - a very musician. She did not bring her violin here, but she plays in concerts and that sort of thing. Very fine. She said she was the secretary for the family and she did all the writing. Then Howard had a birthday card from them this fall and she did the writing on that.

And then we have had three boys from another German family with us. One was in 1974. We had been over to visit the two families in 1973. And in 1974 this one boy came. He spent the time on the farm and then we took a couple of trips - not long ones but small trips. And he was with us for that. The second boy was a medical student and he came over with his younger brother in 1981. The medical student was at Kishwaukee Hospital to observe hospital medical practices in the United States. The other boy is studying to be a minister.

Then we've had an IFYE with this International Farm Youth Exchange person who was 23 years old. She was a school teacher in the Phillipines and also an outstanding 4-H member. Then when she was here she was a 4-H leader. We've had, this year from Switzerland, he was interested in dairying and farming. We had no dairy here at that time but we took him to Wisconsin to a dairy farm to visit and to meet some people. Then we've had an Indian from Bombay, India, who was at the University of Illinois because her mother and my letter-friend in India were friends. So when Zerine came to the University of Illinois they asked me to take care of her. They did not know that the University of Illinois was so far away. But she came up here on her vacation breaks from school with a local University of Illinois student who had a car and could bring her.

We've had lots of tours. We've had tour groups who had been here from foreign countries and then single visitors who have come in too. We've done some entertaining with N.I.U. foreign students and I can remember one was in the Hearing and Speech Department at N.I.U. from the Phillipines. We don't contact her any more but we still keep in contact with our German friends and with this girl from Bombay, India, who is now at Columbia, Missouri. Her husband's with the University of Missouri.

Bartholomew: It sounds like you've led a very full life.

Lanan: Yes.

Bartholomew: Thank you very much for talking to me.

Lanan: You're welcome.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

HISTORY 497 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:

FARMING AND FARM FAMILIES IN DEKALB COUNTY

NARRATOR: EVELYN LANAN
DATE: November 10, 1986

INTERVIEWER: Sharon Bartholomew
PLACE: Annie Glidden Rd. Kingston, II

TAPE COUNTER NUMBER

SUBJECTS COVERED

Side 1

000-023	Background information-childhood, family
024-045	School education- grade school, high school and college
046-065	Church
066-090	Farmer's organization information for farmer's wives and programs
091-106	Neighbors
106-116	Kinship networks-geneology
117-137	Trips to town
138-145	Family life-decision makers, etc.
146-158	Education beyond NIU and after her marriage
159-188	Gardening-vegetables and flowers
189-290	Recreation
291-450	Standards of living-drives, appliances, furniture in kitchen

Side 2

000-020	Department stores-difference between now and then
021-071	Foreign exchange students
072-080	Foreign tour groups/visitors
080-082	Thanking Evelyn for participation