

This is Charlotte Nielsen interviewing Ella Sayles in her home at two fourteen, Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, May ninth, nineteen eighty-five.

C.N. Ella, where were you born?

E.S. Me? I was born in Woodstock.

C.N. Where is that?

E.S. Woodstock? Well it's up between London and Brantford and that way.

C.N. And when did you come to Fort Erie?

E.S. Well, I came to Fort Erie in nineteen twenty-six. I got married and came here.

C.N. And how old were you then?

E.S. About ... Well, let's see ... About twenty-two, I guess. Twenty-two or twenty-three. Somewhere around there. I got married ... I just told you when I got married. I got married in thirty-six. That's when I came to Fort Erie.

C.N. And what did you do when you came to Fort Erie?

E.S. What'd I do? Kept house.

C.N. And what was Fort Erie like then?

E.S. Fort Erie? Well, I'll tell you. Fort Erie's a lot different than today. When I first came to Fort Erie the main street was mud. There was no pavement. And the sidewalk there was, was wood too.

C.N. A wooden sidewalk?

E.S. Yes, a wooden sidewalk. Sounds crazy doesn't it. And let me see now. You know where the ... I have to think ... You know where the shopper is, downtown?

C.N. You mean the drugstore?

E.S. No, no. The shopper ... the paper store where you go up the steps and get the thing, you know, the little booklet they have every week.

C.N. Oh, yes!

E.S. Well, there. Now that used to be, when I first came here, that was a green grocer. Mr. Mullett used to have it. And the sidewalks were wooden. And you walked in and it was wooden. And you know, it was really old fashioned.

C.N. Did you shop at this green grocers?

E.S. Oh yes. There was hardly any place to shop. And when you first came to Fort Erie you walked through people's yards to get over to the town.

You didn't walk around. You just cut through people's yards and came out on the street.

C.N. Why?

E.S. Well, it was a long way around and there was no sidewalks, no nothing when I came here.

C.N. What other stores did you go to?

E.S. Well, there was this grocery store called Carroll's. Now that was ... You used to shop there ... Mr. Bown had that. He opened that after ... He had that for quite a few years.

C.N. So you shopped there as well?

E.S. Yes. I shopped both those places. That was the only place you could shop. Oh! And we had a meat market. Mr. Spratt ... I have to think of this as I go along. He's the best meat ... butcher you ever laid eyes on. And so like, he really helped people. Like I was new. So I was going to have a party. And I was going to buy a roast of pork and have pork sandwiches, you know, for the party. Well, he said, "Well you don't want to buy a roast of pork to make pork sandwiches." Why, he said, "That would cost you at least three dollars." ... which, you know ... This is a long time ago. So I said, "Oh! What in Dickens do I want?" So he said, "Well, you better buy a piece of stewing meat ... stewing pork that I'll show you or give you." And then he said, "You cook it and cool it and cut it up and you'll have pork sandwiches." So that's what I did. And so he was always my butcher after that. Well, he was the only butcher shop there was around here in those days. Then Mr. Grinham moved his shop up later, you know ...

C.N. What kind of a shop?

E.S. A butcher shop. Mr. Grinham, he was up there by ... up on the little steps there, where the shoemaker was.

C.N. Would this be on Jarvis Street?

E.S. Yes. Everything was on Jarvis Street.

C.N. Did you shop in all these different stores?

E.S. Oh yes, there was not that many stores so you just shopped.

C.N. So you got different things in different stores?

E.S. Yes.

C.N. What else did you buy in Fort Erie besides groceries?

E.S. Oh, well. We bought a car.

C.N. Where did you buy that?

E.S. Oh, now ... Well, we bought a Ford car.

C.N. Was there a Ford dealership in town?

E.S. Oh, I can't remember that. I would say yes. Fritz was ... The Fritz's used to have a Ford place. We had that and we had a Studebaker too: great big ... The Studebaker was a bootlegger's car. The back was all raised up, you know. You could put alot of beer or something in it. It was camouflaged, you know.

C.N. Is that what you did?

E.S. No! But we bought the car and got it very reasonable. And oh, it was powerful. Oh! It was a beautiful car. Like, you know, you could ride in it for ... Well, in those days to go a hundred miles ... That was a lot, you know. Well, you could ride in that car a hundred miles and you weren't even tired when you got to Brantford, you know. Like, riding in one of the older ones, you were shaken up.

C.N. What year was this Studebaker?

E.S. This would be in nineteen ... Let's see now ... I came to Fort Erie in nineteen thirty-six so this would have to be ...

C.N. You said you came to Fort Erie in nineteen twenty-six.

E.S. Yes, in nineteen twenty-six. I'm sorry. Well it'd just have to be in those years between now and then.

C.N. Which did you have first, the Ford or the Studebaker?

E.S. Pardon?

C.N. Which car did you buy first, the Ford or the Studebaker?

E.S. No, we bought the Ford, just a small one. And then, like Bill Sayles ... That was my husband's brother. He had a dealership of ... Wait a minute now ... Dodge cars.

C.N. Where was this dealership?

E.S. Well, it was in a garage right there on the corner of Dufferin and the alley. And my husband used to help him. And then, oh he used to give a lady if she bought a car ... He'd give her driving lessons till she could drive. So that was one nice thing ...

C.N. Is that how you learned to drive?

E.S. Well, I learned how to drive long before that. As soon as we got a car, I learned how to drive. No sense in having a car if you don't know how to drive, you know ... That's the way I looked at it. And there was a lot of things I liked to do ... that I could do, you know.

C.N. Where did you drive to from here?

E.S. Well, I drove to Niagara Falls one day. I didn't go ... I drove to Brantford. That's as far as I ever drove: a hundred miles and back, not all in one day. But that's what I did. But as a rule I just drove around here, Ridgeway and such like.

C.N. [Tell me more about the stores.]

E.S. Well, there's a newspaper man and well it had everything. He had a round stove to heat in the winter, you know, old fashioned. And we used to go in there. And it used to be so nice and warm standing around. And he was a nice man. He had that for a long, long time, Mr. Baker did.

C.N. What did he sell?

E.S. Oh, newspapers and a bit of everything, pop and ... a regular store like that.

C.N. But he didn't mind you standing in there?

E.S. What?

C.N. Did you say he didn't mind you standing in there?

E.S. Oh, goodness no! Everybody was friendly. I mean people were friendly here in those days. I mean, well, people are friendly yet but in those days when I first came here everybody was extra friendly. Know what I mean? Now I knew a girl, Lilian Upper, and I just met her ... Well, I just met her and she was so friendly and nice. And, well, we became good friends, you know, over a period of years. But if she hadn't been as nice as she was, you know, she could have just ignored you. But she didn't. And so we all got along very well. We played a lot of cards. You know, a lot of people had card parties.

C.N. What kind of cards did you play?

E.S. Euchre and some PINOCHLE but mostly euchre. But we had quite a few big card parties. But then they just had a club, say twelve. I belonged to a couple of those.

C.N. What was the club called?

E.S. Oh, nothing particular: card club.

C.N. Where did you play cards?

E.S. We played in everybody's house.

C.N. Where did you live at this time?

E.S. Where did I live? Well, I lived on ... Wait a minute now. Where did I live when I first come to Fort Erie? I lived at three twelve Phipp. That's one place I lived.

C.N. Did you have a house there?

E.S. Yes.

C.N. Could you describe the house?

E.S. Pardon?

C.N. Could you describe your house?

E.S. Yes. Let me think about it now. That's where Dr. McGarry used to have it. And then he went away to Niagara Falls. And then I rented the house Or at least we rented the house. It was right on Phipp. It was right there. It was a very nice house. So that was ...

C.N. So, it belonged to Dr. Mc Garry?

E.S. Well, I don't know about that. I couldn't tell you whether it did or not. It could have been that somebody else owned it, you know. I know he didn't own it. Mr. Merryweather owned it. He's an old timer. He lived across the street. And he owned most of the property around here in Fort Erie. And I just thought of that.

C.N. How did he come to own so much property?

E.S. Pardon?

C.N. How did he come to own so much property?

E.S. Oh, I don't know he just made money, you know, he'd have it. Ever since I've been around he'd always had lots of money. And everybody seemed to go to him. I don't know how many plots he owned out in the cemetery. You could buy a plot from him out in the cemetery.

C.N. Where else did you go? You were going to tell me somewhere else you went in your car..

E.S. Oh, the car. Oh. Now let's see, I went to Brantford as I told you once. Oh, I went to Niagara Falls. I went to Niagara Falls two or three times and I went visiting. There was a girl who I used to know and her father worked for Harry Oakes. You know Harry Oakes?

C.N. No, I don't know him.

E.S. He was a very wealthy man. And he was down here. And then he moved to the Bahamas or someplace. But he always kept this place here. Like Fort Erie, that was one of his homes. And he ... Well, he just had lots of money and would do things for people and everything. And I can't just tell you anymore about him. He was a very well dressed

man and very nice mannered and everything like that.

C.N. What kind of things did he do for people?

E.S. Oh. Well, I really don't know. He'd talk to them and you know, I think ... Well, he'd help them if they wanted a job, he'd get them a job if he possibly could. And like now ...

C.N. Was it hard to get a job in Fort Erie then?

E.S. No, not too bad. The railroad was the main thing in Fort Erie. And everybody worked on the railroad. And it was supposed to be one of the best paying jobs there was. You got five seventy-two an hour.

C.N. That sounds like a lot. Which railroad was this?

E.S. Well, the C. N. and the T. H. and B. and the Michigan Central. They were all here, all of them. But the C. N., we called that the F. E. B. That just run from Brantford to Fort Erie.

C.N. Why did you call it the F. E. B.?

E.S. Fort Erie and Brantford. And that was the mail train. And they used to bring the mail in at noon. And the mail carrier, he was an old man about eighty and he used to take a push cart. He used to go and get the mail and take it over to the train back and forth to the post office.

C.N. Did you have mail delivery?

E.S. No, no. We never had mail delivery till nineteen forty-eight. That's when we had mail delivery.

C.N. What did you do before you had delivery?

E.S. You had to call at the post office for your mail. And you ... They had a post office at the south end too. Now, the south end post office was called Fort Erie. Now, the north end post office was called Fort Erie North. How did I ... Oh, I know ... Mr. Hogg, he was the postmaster.

C.N. Now, at which post office? You said there were two post offices.

E.S. Well, Fort Erie North. And one day he said to me, "How would you like to have a job in the post office?" "How would I like to have a job? I'd love it!" So anyway, he said, "Come and see me tomorrow morning at eight o'clock." You better believe I was there at eight o'clock. I was there at half past seven. Well you can ... And I got a job.

C.N. Was it a good job?

E.S. Sure did. There thirty years.

C.N. What did you do at the post office?

E.S: Well I did everything, wrote money orders, weighed parcels, waiting on the public, sold stamps, sold unemployment insurance stamps, sold War Savings Stamps, there were war savings in those days, you used to buy them twenty-five cents apiece, you know the kids used to buy them.

C.N: I don't know what they are.

E.S: Well they were just stamps and they were for war, the kids used to buy them in school, and then they used to put them in a book, and then they used to turn them in, to the bank and get money for them, and so that was a good source of money, you would be surprised how many kids, well every kid took money in, took some anyway even if they only bought three stamps, they bought some.

C.N: Would this be a way of saving money?

E.S: This was a way of saving money for them, and it was a way of helping the war effort, you see. In the war effort we used to collect papers and sell them.

C.N: What kind of papers?

E.S: Newspapers.

C.N: Who did you sell them to?

E.S: Men, newspaper men, there used to be somebody used then you got a ton, half a ton. Somebody used to take them to their station you know they had a place, a boxcar, used to take them there and sell them, and then they got awful stingy. We took, this was a little later on, Harry had a station wagon full, and I mean full, and it was worth quite a bit of money, and when we went to sell them, the man only wanted to give us five dollars. So Harry says, if you think your getting these papers for five dollars, you've got another think coming, cause I'm taking them home, and I'll pile them up around my house before I'll ever let you have them.

C.N: This Harry, is this Harry Oakes ~~YOUR~~ YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

E.S: No, no, Harry is my son.

C.N: You had a son Harry.

E.S: Yes, so anyway we head back, that was one war effort, oh, we did a lot of things for the war effort.

C.N: Now which war was this?

C.N: Was the Post Office service any better then, than it is now, any more reliable?

E.S: Well you used to call for your mail.

C.N: Well sometimes I don't get things, T4 slips and things, I don't get things sometime.

E.S: I would say in those days, the Post Office was very reliable and everything. Much better than it is now, the service is now, it isn't as good as it used to be. I don't care... I don't care what you have, the services aren't as good, or as friendly and anything else!

C.N: WHY'S THAT?

E.S: Well because the friendlieness has gone out of everything, dog eat dog, thats what I say, you know.

C.N: And what did your husband do for a living?

E.S: Well he worked on the railroad. But I...but I left home when my kids were a year old. I raised my kids myself.

C.N: Oh, you didn't live with your husband. How many children did you have?

E.S: Two, a boy and a girl.

C.N: And where did they go to school?

E.S: Right here in Fort Erie.

C.N: Which school?

E.S: Phipps Street.

C.N: Do you remember anything about their schooling, about their growing up?

E.S: Oh,well Phipps Street was a nice school, all the kids liked the going. Then we started the P.T.A..

C.N: Were you involved in that?

E.S: Oh yes, heavens yes. We made some money, we had card parties, and made some money, and bought some swings for the school. And...we made some more money and... oh, we fi xed the ice rink up, so we could skate out there. Mr. Renshaw, they used to have a house on the Emerick right next to the school yard, so he was always out there, they had a lot of kids, if you know Basil Renshaw? You might have known him, he was a Customs Officer. Well anyway, Roy Renshaw, he was the Clerk of the Town, he's worked for the Town... he's worked there for years and years. He and his wife, they got married when they were sixteen.

C.N: That is awfully young.

E.S: I know, well they made the nicest couple, you'd just love them, and they are still around, and, so I could always remember, "My God, they were just babies",... they did a lot of nice things, Roy they live on the Boulevard now, in a real nice home... Dorothy, she helps us at the Museum, well the 6218, that's the engine, on Central. You know where it is?

C.N: Oh, yes.

E.S: Well that's the 6218, and, that's one of my hobbies. I work there every Sunday.

C.N: What do you do there?

E.S: Show everybody around.

C.N: Do you know a lot about that Engine?

E.S: Well I can tell you an awful lot about it. You bet I can! Its my hobby.

C.N: How did you learn this?

E.S: How did I learn? Oh, well I'd always worked around, I'd always been around the railroad town, men that had worked on the railroad, and I read up on it. You know, there's a folder, that will tell you how many ton the engine weighed, and so on and so forth. You'd be suprised what you can learn.

C.N: Who besides your husband, you knew, worked on the railroad?

E.S: Oh, I knew everybody, you know, everybody worked on the railroad and, then, I looked after that on a Sunday, it was Sundays I took for that. Didn't mind doing that on Sunday, because I felt there was a lot of other women who wanted to do things with their husbands while I didn't have any so it didn't make any difference to me. So it just seemed to me that I could take Sunday afternoon, and that's what I did. Went by real nice, you know. Do you like pelicans?

C.N: Yes.

E.S: That's one of my hobbies right there.

C.N: That looks like ceramics.

E.S: Yes, aren't they beautiful?

C.N: Where do you go to ceramics?

E.S: Where do I get them...well it all depends...I bought that one ... I bought him from a lady had the car door, had the trunk open, and Deb, was going on, and say's Ella, wait till you see this! Here's the pelican, and I went back and she had one pelican left, so I said "I'll take it". So I took it. But I bought that other one, well, you know, I bought them all, as far as that goes. Upstairs at the Town Hall.

E.S: Upstairs at the Town Hall, you used to go upstairs to the library.
You know we got a real library now, that was the Centennial. We used to go upstairs.

C.N: Was there very much room there?

E.S: Oh, yes, you would be suprised!

C.N: Did you go to the library?

E.S: I always went to the library.

C.N: Was the library there, upstairs, at the Town Hall, when you came to Fort Erie?

E.S: Yes.

C.N: So you always used the library.

E.S: Yes, I used the library.

C.N: Do you remember who worked there?

E.S: Yes, I know a lady, that used to, Mrs. Putney.

C.N: Just one person worked there?

E.S: Well...she...she was the main one that was there. She lived on Dufferin Street, she was at 269 Dufferin, her husband his name was Stone Putney.

C.N: Was there a good selection of books?

E.S: Oh, yes, yes we had a very nice library! You'd be suprised, you know lots of compliments about it.

C.N: Was Mrs. Putney helpful, did you ever have her put books on reserve for you?

E.S: Oh no, oh no, she was helpful, about picking out books if anybody wanted them or anything. That gave her something to do, she was a widow lady, and she was so lonely she didn't know what to do. So, they needed somebody and they said why don't you come in in the afternoon, and she just started right then, and she just worked herself right in.

C.N: Was she a qualified librarian?

E.S: Oh no, I don't think so, in those days.

C.N: Did they have a children's section?

E.S: Yes.

C.N: Did your son get books?

E.S: Yup. And as years went along I noticed that a lot of kids came to the library to do their homework.

C.N: Why?

E.S: Oh, I guess that's where they could find some answers, that's the only thing that I can think of. You know...something that they wanted to know, they could find out at the library, like if they couldn't find out amongst themselves.

C.N: Were they quiet, or did they fool around?

E.S: Oh, no, they never got boistrous, of if they did, they got told off, you know, take six or seven boys...you know, quiet, menagerie, But no they weren't bad kids at all. We had a bunch of good kids around here really.

C.N: Did you ever go to Erie Beach?

E.S: Erie Beach, oh yes. Oh yes we used to go to Erie Beach all the time

C.N: What was it like?

E.S: Well it was beautiful, it had rides and, it was more like Crystal Beach, only it wasn't as big as Crystal Beach, and...you used to go along the lake on this little open train... it seems to me in the Town Hall there's a picture up above the mayor of the boat.

C.N: Did you ever go on this little train?

E.S: Oh, yea, we used to go the beach all the time.

C.N: What else did you go in?

E.S: Oh, we used to play cards, used to go to Erie Beach, more than Crystal, we only used to go to Crystal Beach about once a year.

C.N: Why?

E.S: Because, it was too far away we'll say, you know it doesn't sound far away, but it was in those days, because people never had cars.

C.N: I thought you had a Studebaker.

E.S: Well we did, but now we may have been only one out of fifteen or twenty, you know what I mean...in the spring or in the summer now we used to take, I used to take two days to go to the beach, Crystal Beach.

C.N: Two days every week?

E.S: No, no, just in the summer.

C.N: Two days out of the whole summer?

E.S: Yea, to go to Crystal Beach, because it was farther. Erie Beach, you had a lot more fun at Erie Beach than you did Crystal Beach, but you liked to go there, Crystal Beach, cause it was the thing to do, and...the railroad used to bring trainloads in to go to Crystal Beach and a whole trainload off at one o'clock or two o'clock, and then pick them up at five.

C.N: When you say you went for two days did you stay overnight, at Crystal Beach?

E.S: No, no.

C.N: You went and came home, and then another time you went and came home.

E.S: Cal went in that Studebaker.

C.N: What did you do at Crystal Beach?

E.S: Oh, same as everybody else, talked to people, went on some rides, I imagine, I didn't go on many rides... oh, I had my fortune told, you know some things like that... and then we always ate, you know there was always hot dogs, or something to eat. That was the highlights of your life you might as well say.

C.N: (Tell me about the Old Fort.)

E.S: Oh, yea, you went to the Old Fort, you had your picnics at the Old Fort, and you could go in and look at all the old relics, of the Old Fort. There was a fee to go in, a quarter or something like that. Used to go in and see those at least once a year. You'd be surprised, like from Buffalo, a lot of schools brought their kids over, and they would phone us, they'd phone us and bring the kids over.

C.N: Why would they, what do you mean they would phone us?

E.S: Well, they'd have to phone because, we couldn't take care of fifty or sixty, unless we knew they were coming, because there was only about one person worked there.

C.N: You're talking as if your working at the Fort now.

E.S: Oh, well I worked everyplace. I mean as far as that goes, I've helped there too.

C.N: What did you do there?

E.S: Oh, took people around , showed them things, what they were for, what they weren't for.

C.N: So you were a tour guide?

E.S: Yea, and some of the young boys ... they were Air Cadets then, and they... then they became the Tour Guides for a while, and, so that was nice of them, those boys. See the Old Fort had those great big hills you know where the kids were going down... and one thing happened, at the Old Fort, well maybe hardly nobody knows, but it was fortunate nobody got burned somebody went to go in the washroom, when they opened the door the steam started to come out.

C.N: Why?

E.S: I don't know, something went wrong.

C.N: What steam from where?

E.S: Well from, I would say the sinks, and... it all came, it was just steam, steam, steam, and nobody got burned, which was, which was very very fortunate. Because a little kid could have gone into that toilet if he would have gone into that toilet he would have got burned to death.

C.N: Why?

E.S: Something, well something went wrong with the plumbing, that was, that's all we know. I can just remember this I saw the steam, and I said, "You kids get away from there, right now, get back here", and I just screamed at them, and they came back, and then the steam just came whirling out.

C.N: Were there a lot of kids there, when it happened?

E.S: Oh yea, there was always quite a lot of kids. Like all summer long the Old Fort was always busy. Was always somebody there. They had picnics there every day. I had a picnic for my birthday, I had a picnic... like, you know different things, I had a picnic, you know really for my birthday, I didn't tell them that, but I invited, and then we took a cab, then we took the cab driver too, and we had our dinner up there.

C.N: How did you have time to work at the Fort, if you were working at the library?

E.S: I did everything, oh I mean... well you just did it, it sounds impossible because nobody does two or three things nowadays, they do one thing, thats all. In my day you did whatever what was to be done, whether you had time or whether you didn't, you just darn well made time.

C.N: So are you telling me you were working at the Post Office, you were working at the Steam Engine, on a Sunday, and working at the Fort all at once?

E.S: Well, not just at those minutes, yes I could have, in one day I could have been working in two places. If there was somebody that wasn't, if somebody couldn't go, they'd call me up and I'd go see, so we had it fixed pretty good.

C.N: Sounds as if you were busy.

E.S: We were, always busy. I've always been busy, I hated not being busy, it drives me crazy being retired, thats why I do a lot of things now. Thats why I belong to the museum, thats why, like I take an interest in that 6218 Engine. I can mostly tell you every bolt on that engine, you know things like that.

C.N: Where did that Engine come from?

E.S: That Engine, 6218, came right up here in the yard, the C. N. gave it to us.

C.N: When?

E.S: Oh, well, I'd say, seven years ago. That's pretty near. As time has gone on we have, got a lot of other stuff in the station, like a man well... I've got to think of what it is, like a brake, like this great big iron thing. Well it was broken so they lugged it over and put it in the station so they could see that, then there was another thing, oh they has a big fork for toasting, I don't know what they had it for, but that was there so, that was there, you know, a lot of things there was there... then we started to make coffee, well we didn't buy it, we bought a coffee machine, just ourselves, so we had that, cause we used to have our meetings over there, at the Railway Station. Only in the winter, you couldn't there was too much snow, so we had our meeting two or three times in the Town Hall.

C.N: Do you know any stories about Fort Erie, any scandals, anything like that?

E.S: Scandals, what kind of scandal did we have many years ago?

C.N: You were telling me about an area of the town that was rough, did Fort Erie have a rough area?

E.S: Well yea, they had kind of a rough area.

C.N: Were you scared to go there?

E.S: Well, like going back in where the railroad was, and things like that but, oh they weren't, they weren't bad, there were bootleggers up there, and we would go up there, and they were "friendly as the dickens".

C.N: Did you ever go up there?

E.S: Yes sure, I've been up there.

C.N: Did you talk to them?

E.S: Sure, knew them as well as anything, and their husbands would work on the railroad, and I can remember, I can remember one Sunday afternoon, went up there to visit, I can't remember who we visited right now. We visited some Italians, anyway up there, we had a pleasant afternoon.

C.N: You said their husbands worked on the railroad, are you talking about lady bootleggers?

E.S: No, well, yes lady bootleggers, there was lady bootleggers too.

If...they were selling booze, if the husband wasn't there the wife sold it.

C.N: Did you know some of these women?

E.S: Yes, sure. You played cards with them, you did everything, they were just human beings.

C.N: Did you buy anything from them?

E.S: No, not as far as I'm certain, I was never that much of a drinking person, to tell you the truth. Like Italians now, a lot of the Italians gave you wine, you know, around Christmas time, and everything. I laughed-- this is a little antidote-- Margie she, well she worked at Horton, and so this one man he worked cutting grass at the Horton, after he retired, he worked at the Horton. So when it came Christmas his wife made her a beautiful handkerchief, it was all, right from Italy, you know, just georgous, so she brought it down to her, and gave it to her, and later on the father he says, " Here Margie, I want you to drink this. Well thank goodness the son was there. Margie said he brought her a glass about this high, full of wine! And he said to her, the son said-Dad, Margie couldn't drink that wine, that's too much-- Oh, it is not, you've been drinking wine ever since you were a baby, what's the matter with you? You know, the father said. Well I know Margie cannot drink that wine Dad, for one thing, I wouldn't let her, and for another thing I wouldn't let you let her-- so he said, we'll get another glass, and have a small glass full. So they wouldn't let her have it!" Well those kids are raised on wine, they have wine for breakfast and everything a lot of them and think nothing of it. I've seen these little kids, these Italian little kids, just pick up a glass of wine and swallow it like nothing.

C.N: You were telling me about somebody getting into cars?

E.S: Getting into cars? Oh, that was a lady.

C.N: What was her name?

E.S: Crazy Mary.

C.N: What were you telling me about her?

E.S: Well, she'd see somebody's car, and she'd just go and get in it, and she just made them take her wherever she wanted to go, they might have her for one hour, or they might have her for three hours, just couldn't get rid of her! If you tried to get rid of her out of the car she screamed and yelled.

C.N: Why?

E.S: I don't know she was just half nuts, thats all.

C.N: Did she live in Fort Erie?

E.S: She..came in the Post Office, I just remember this, I was at the wicket and she came in, she was crying. I said Mary what's the matter? She said, oh, my son they've taken him to war! And I said well, I said, so did they take my son, to war, and I said a whole lot of other people too. So I guess we just have to put up with it. Well she didn't see why they had to take her son and she was crying, and sobbing, and yelling and everything. So I said you might as well shut your mouth, and quit your bellering, as far as I'm concerned, your not getting any sympathy out of me.

C.N: Was that her only son or did she have other children?

E.S: No,that was her only son. He was quite happy to go I think, it was a real excuse to get out from underneath her. He came back, it was all right.

C.N: Did you have anything else you wanted to tell us?

E.S: Well I can't think of anything else unless you can think of something.

C.N: Well thank you very much for doing this interview.