

KNOPP, Emma

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Interview of Mrs. Emma Knopp
Steamboat Road
Shady Side, Maryland
Interviewer: Jennie Le Fevre

JL: Miss Emma, could you please tell us if you were born in Shady Side?

EK: : Yes I was. down West Shady Side.

JL: Could you tell us exactly where down in West Shady Side?

EK: At the very tip end. Uh, my dad had a grocery store and ...

JL: What was the name of this grocery store?

EK: Parks'. Uh, after that we moved up a little ways past Captain Bobby Owings' place. And now I think the people that have that... can't think of them... .uh, the Bennett's.

JL: Would you mind telling us what year you were born in Shady Side?

EK: June 13, 1912.

JL: Would you mind telling us what your maiden name was?

EK: Parks.

JL: Parks. And I presume you went to school down here at Shady Side? And, uh, could you tell us a little about this school in Shady Side when you went down here?

EK: We each had a two-room school. And I had a teacher Miss Dawson and then I had Mrs. Weems for a teacher, I don't know if I can get them out how they came in or not. There was a Mrs. Weems. There was a Miss Welch. There was Miss Ethel Andrews.

JL: Would you remember some of the names of your class mates?

EK: Oh.. .so many of them have passed away cause we don't have a whole lot of natives in Shady Side anymore. We've got a lot of strange people have moved in and I'm for one am very grateful to them. Um. I had Blanche Phipps and her group. Joe Ferguson's wife.. .Thalbert Wilde, Lerch Crandell. . .all in that generation I went to school with ... Leatherburys ... Hallocks.

JL: What were the Hallocks and Leatherburys' names; what were the first names?

EK: There was Clara Hallock and a Ruth Hallock, who were twins. There was Lee Hallock and Jack Hallock, the brothers of the twins. Um ... There was Virginia Leatherbury, Iris Leatherbury. I think all the others were older that this age group coming up.

JL: Could you tell us how many years you went to school in Shady Side?

EK: I guess I went eight grades. We had eight grades and then I went to Tracey's High School and then I didn't go to school anymore.

JL: When you were a child down here and uh did your parents have the store when you were a child?

EK: They had a store when I was a very small child. The things that I remember about the store was a candy case that I would sneak off and go down to the store because the store was apart from the house, you had to go down across the yard. And I would go down to the candy case and I was so little that the boxes of candy were in the case and I would stand on my tip toes and pull the box down to get the candies out. I remember that, I remember that we had to walk to school, we had mud roads and oyster shell roads, um ... it was a happy time, uh, but I've had a happy time all my life.

JL: Well we know you have. Do you have brothers and sisters?

EK: I have one sister that's living, Anita Joyce. And the rest of them are all passed away.

JL: Could you tell us what you and Anita did for entertainment as small children?

EK: Urn. . . in the winter time, Mr. Harry Hallock had a horse and a sleigh. And Jack used to borrow the horse and sleigh and we'd go for a sleigh ride and we would go from our house down at West Shady Side all the way over to Dixon's filling station on a sleigh ride and we would have sleighs tied behind. Uh, at that time Jack; I thought, was the best and the only thing for me in this whole wide world, so I got to sit up in the front of the sleigh. And Jack has since passed away. That was one thing that we had fun at. When we came home Mamma always had homemade bread in the oven, that's still the way we had to toast it. But we had that toast bread with jelly and a cup of cocoa when we came back from the sleigh ride. And we would have a group; whoever went on that sleigh ride came back to home.

JL: Could you tell us some of the people who went on the sleigh ride with you?

EK: Urn ... just about the ones that I mentioned that I still remember that I'd gone to school with.

JL: What age group were you then?

EK: I guess we were around 13, 14 years old by that time. Because up until that time we didn't go any place except on school or church functions and Mamma and Poppa went with us, they went with us to Sunday School, they went with to church.

JL: Could you tell us what Church it was?

EK: Centenary (Not said – United Methodist)

JL: Centenary

EK: We had the Sunday school; classes were in the pews and it was just the one room church and the nave of the church, just were the pews were and there were classes all through there in the pews with different teachers.

JL: Was it a wood church then?

EK: A wooden church? Yes it was.

JL: Uh, could you remember the ministers name? Could you remember the minister's name from when you were a young child?

EK: Uh. . . Reverend Jones was a minister;, Reverend Newell was a minister (Nowell?) ... it's strange when you ask me, ... things just leave my mind. Reverend Perry. . . .did I mention Newell?

JL: I believe you did.

EK: Uh. . . .Cook

JL: Could you tell us some, maybe of some of the other activities of the church.

EK: We had the Epworth League. We had to walk from West Shady Side it was sitting there. But that was held every Sunday night and that was real lot of fun because at that time we were beginning then to like boys ... and we would ... and a lot of times they would walk us home ... and then, of course, they had to walk all the way back to where they lived, but that was fun times.

JL: Would you like to tell us just what name of one of the gentlemen that walked you home?

A: Well, I was so in love with Jack Hallock for so long and then I had dated Lerch Crandell, Thalbert Wilde um ... I guess they were about the ones that I dated.

JL: Could you tell us a little bit.

EK: Cause you see there wasn't any, they didn't have any cars, they had to come walk to your house, you had no place to go, you just had home dates.

JL: Well I hear that they had a lot of parties down here.

EK: We did have, we had parties just about one a week.

JL: Could you tell us about ...

EK: And everybody, everybody that was invited and came to the party some brought lemons, oranges, cookies.. .and we made the lemonade and we played games and I think our favorite game was go out in the dark hall and uh being able to kiss the boy or the boy choosing a girl and be able to kiss the girl. That was a lot of fun for me. Um... I didn't go to any dances. And I wasn't allowed to play cards except to play Old Maids and a game called Fish . Uh, I remember I guess I must have been 15, 16 years old when there was a boy named Ray Hall that Poppa had picked up in Baltimore and brought home to live with us who was going to cull oysters and at that time, if they were hanging around the docks and they wanted to come with you you'd sprout em on home. I don't ever remember having to sign any papers for them or hear anything about having to get em that way.

JL: Well you trusted everyone then?

EK: Oh yes. I grew up with uh, doors unlocked, when we went to school and Mamma was in Baltimore visiting Grandmother. When we left home, we'd put the windows down, pull the door shut, they weren't locked, ever.n But the windows had to be closed because of it raining before we got home from school, and when I moved out here in 1936; my brother and I moved here, he walked around and he took every key out of the lock and walked out back and threw them out in the field, because we weren't used to having doors locked.

JL: Could you tell us what your brother's name was?

EK: Woodrow. And he was killed in '59 I believe, '59, early '60's maybe. Um... he was stationed in California, he was in the Sea Bees, had only remarried 14 months when he was killed.

JL: You were talking about what you did in the winter time for entertainment, what did you do in the

summer time?

EK: In the summer time we went swimming, mostly. And rowing. But I never could quite understand the way it was in our house. Mamma would let us take a walk on Sunday, but we weren't allowed to go skating on Sunday or to get in a boat and row on Sunday, but we could take a walk. And that to me seemed so strange and it . . . it's always seemed strange, seems strange right now, because it wouldn't be any different, would it, to go walking or to go skating, or to go rowing. But, we weren't allowed to do it. Now Sunday was a day that was really observed as Sunday in our house. Mamma wore a different kind of apron on Sunday. Everything that we ate on Sunday she cooked on Saturday. It was the only day in the week that I ever remembered getting in a bed that hadn't been made first and in the summer time until late fall Mamma would sit out on the porch in her white apron with a ruffle and the week days she had a print apron that went in the laundry. But she washed these white ones special. Uh . . . yeah, I guess I had a strict childhood, but a very loving childhood and a promise was a promise that just wasn't broken and they did things with us.

JL: Could you tell us what type of things they did with you?

EK: We played a game called Caddy and that was a broomstick sharpened on each end of being about 6 inches long maybe, pointed and the other part of the broomstick was the bat, and you'd hit the end of that caddy and hit it and they you'd make so many steps to it. And the one that had the most steps for so many, I don't know how it works now, how many times you had to do it before you won the game and we played Annie Over and we played baseball, uh, we played Run Sheep Run, we did hopscotch and we hardly ever left home to play, because we had so many, we had so many children that congregated in the chicken yard and we had played - that there wasn't any grass in the chicken yard, because we had just run it down to nothing. Uh . . . if there was any arguing or fighting out there, Mamma would make us, make 'em go home, and we had to come in the house.

JL: Uh, how many years did your father have his store down here?

EK: Now that I can't tell you because I was very small and I wasn't living there when I started to school. I started to school up the road farther where Bennett's now have a place.

JL: Uh . . . what did your father do after he gave up the store?

EK: Well at that time he was an oysterman. He was a junk collector, he was a painter, he was a crabber in the summer, but with six children I guess that you had to have that many jobs. We had to change our clothes when we came home from school and came home from Sunday school. We had play clothes and then we had Sunday clothes, and you didn't play until you had changed your clothes when you came home. At Easter time when we would be in Sunday school, there was always a smaller baby that wasn't old enough to go to Sunday school because I don't think that any of us were taken to Sunday school until we were big enough . . . uh . . . to let the teacher know that we had to go to the bathroom. And when you became that age, then the whole family went. But before that time, Mamma stayed home one Sunday, Poppa stayed home the next Sunday. But one parent always was there. Um . . . I believe that all of the food that we ate on Sunday was cooked on Saturday. Cold fried chicken, cold crab cakes, it was just a time to observe Sunday in our house. Another thing that I was brought up with was we all went to bed at the same time, we all ate at the same time. We never, we were never allowed, I guess we never even thought that we could so we didn't, choose what kind of cereal you wanted in the morning or what you wanted at any meal. And Mamma said the same thing every meal back as far as I can remember - everything on this table is good to eat, eat and I don't want to hear a sound. We weren't allowed to talk at

the table, only time we could talk was when we were though eating and we were allowed to sit at the table if we wanted to and have conversation, otherwise you got up and you ran out and played.

JL: I imagine you learned your good cooking from your mother, didn't you?

EK: I would rather help Mamma to cook than I would to do the chores on Saturday. Like scrub the upstairs hall and the stair steps and the front porch and the back porch ... and I just don't like housework today. I would much rather do things in the kitchen, this is the most favorite place that I want to be in in the kitchen. I like a cook book to just sit down and read, I could spend a evening anytime with a new cookbook and I had collected cookbooks for a lot of years, but I'm at the point now where I think maybe I ought to be getting rid of them, I can't use all of them. I just got rid of my kerosene lamps yesterday that I had collected and I gave, I gave lamps away to anybody that would accept one, cause where I keep them is on the top shelf and for these last few years I've had bad feet and bad legs and I just figured getting older I wouldn't be able to get the lamps back on the shelf. And I had enjoyed them while I had them and I'm gonna enjoy now that other people do have them and they're going to enjoy them.

JL: Speaking of kerosene lamps, do you know what year electricity came to Shady Side?

EK: No I don't. I don't remember that. Electricity was in Shady Side quite a while before we had it. We had a kerosene lamp for a lot of years and we never had water in the house, we had a well that you had to pull the water up ... uh ... refrigeration, I remember there wasn't any until a while and I don't know what while that was, but Mamma used to tie, she had little buckets and then she had string on them and she'd put them down in the well to keep them. And we had a cow and the milk was put down in the well and the butter was in the well and the cream was put down in the well and I don't know how they worked it, whether they got the water first and then put the things down or not ,, I don't know how it worked. I don't remember that. But I had a good childhood.

JL: Could you tell us a little bit about you skating out on the river? Did you used to go out and skate on the West River?

EK: We skated down in the creek. We didn't get on the river.

JL: What creek is that?

EK: Down at West Shady Side.. .now I don't know what creek that is.

JL: It's called Jack Creek?

EK: No Jack Creek's over the other way. Cedar Point Creek, probably. That would be one name for it.

JL: Did you used to skate night and day as well?

EK: Oh, no.

JL: Never skated at night?

EK: Only the daytime. When it came, when it came time after we got through eating we were allowed to go out and play just for a little while and then you came in and you stayed and you didn't go out anymore until the next morning when you got ready to go to church or school. I remember. .uh.. going to Virginia and taking care of my grandchildren and I had told my daughter all I was supposed to do when I went there was just to take care of the children . Because Bob was graduating in Florida and she was gonna be down there for his graduation, I don't remember what it was for, he was in the service and I let the

children go out to play after they came home from school. And then I would go, they had to play in their own yard, where I could see them, and then I would call them and I would say lock the door, and they would fuss, well it's not even dark, I'd say, I don't care whether it's dark or light, you're going to stay in now until tomorrow evening, you can go out tomorrow evening. The night that I got there the colored girl was supposed to come and do the laundry and the cleaning and she was taken to the hospital the day that I went. And I didn't know anything about a washing machine, an automatic washer or a dryer, or a dishwasher, I didn't know anything about that and I didn't want to be the one that broke it up so I told my daughter, I said after we get through eating I would like to go in the basement and in my own handwriting I want to write how you work these things. My little six year old grandson leaned over and said, Mamma, does Grandma know how to use an electric iron?" I guess he thought he had a dumb grandmother. [Laughter]

JL: I know I'm going to ask you a strange question, do you remember, as a child, who was the oldest person you remember being in Shady Side?

EK: A Mrs. Atwell is an old one that I remember. A Mrs. Wayson who was blind and living with her daughter down at West Shady Side, she was an old woman. Momma used to send me every Saturday over to babysit till the woman got her Saturday work done. And she had a blind mother and because she had a blind mother Mamma thought she needed some help and she would send me over and I would babysit and I had to scrub the kitchen floor and the porch. And you weren't allowed to take any money at all.

JL: The Mrs. Atwell you're talking about, could you tell us where she lived in Shady Side?

EK: She lived down West Shady Side where Tom Coleman lives now. And they called her Miss Frank Atwell. Everybody called her Aunt Frank that I know anything about. We always called her Aunt Frank and she wasn't a relative. And then there was a Mrs. Ford, who was quite old that I remember. Miss Jenny Leatherbury and I remember Miss Ethel's and Miss Jenny Leatherbury's mom and dad. One time we had a drought and the preacher or somebody in the church were going to come to church and pray for rain and Mr. Hallock brought an umbrella and 2 or 3 others came and didn't bring an umbrella and they started making fun of him. And he said. . .now I must not have been more than 8 or 9 years old when that happened, but I remember Captain John Hallock saying, "Oh ye of little faith, you came to pray for rain why didn't you bring your umbrella?" And I remember him saying that just like it was today.

JL: But what I want to know now, did it rain?

EK: We had a rain I think sometime the next morning early. If I can remember I think we had a rain early in the next morning before daylight.

JL: I like that Christian story.

EK: Un huh.

JL: That's very interesting.

EK: Yeah, another old man that I was very fond of and uh he shared his garden with me and that was Captain Charley Larson. And he lived on the road where, where the boat yard is that .uh... Cook has now, Mike Cook. Well he lived on that road, I remember him.

Continuing Conversation with Mrs. Emma Knopp. Side two

JL: Miss Emma, can you tell us what you remember about ...

EK: Let me tell you about Captain Charles first ...

JL: Oh, I'm sorry, go ahead.

EK: Captain Charlie gave me out of his garden some cucumbers. And the next day when I went to work, I said, "Captain Charley, I brought, I've got the basket that you told me to throw out because it wasn't any good." I said, "It is covered with honey and it's full of bees!" And Captain Charley threw his head back, way far and he laughed this great big roaring laugh, he said, "So that's where my bees went, you carried my queen bee home. I'll be out this evening to get my queen bee." And he came and he had a little wooden box with a little screen top and he had one bee in that box and he sat on my back step and that little bee would hit that tin, it would sound like a ting, ting. After a while the bee came on the top of the screen and Captain Charley lifted the screen and the bee went in. Next morning every bee was gone. Every bee. I thought that was the neatest thing that I ever heard of in all my life. Amy Leatherbury said, "Now Emma, I don't believe that, that's just a cute little bee story." I said, "That is the truth!" [Laughter]

JL: That is a nice story, I like that.

EK: I was with him in his last illness. But he shared his garden a lot of years with me. I got honey from him when my daughter, who now is 51 years old, she had the croup when she was coming along and Captain Charley used to save me the bottom vat honey. And he never charged me for it. And I loved him.

JL: Could you tell us ... uh.. .what year you were married and the name of your husband, please?

EK: In 1930 I was married. I didn't live but four years with him. We were divorced. And then I remarried and I can remember the first one better than I can the second one. My mind is just a blank now.

JL: OK. Could you tell us.. .uh. . .what your children's names are, how many children

EK: I only have one.

JL: You only have one?

EK: I only ever had one.

JL: OK. Uh, what is the name, please?

EK: Her name is Molly Lee May Kephart now. She was Molly Lee Leach.

JL: And do you have grandchildren?

EK: I have four living grandchildren and I have one grandson that passed away. I have two great grandchildren that are in Florida.

JL: Would you mind telling us how many years you were married now, Miss Emma?

EK: Thirty-two.

JL: And have, did you, when you were married then did you move into this house or where did you ...

EK: I had this house built in '36. And I've lived here ever since. This probably isn't interesting to you, but my husband and I just separated and I have just deeded this house to my daughter and my son-in-law.

JL: Miss Emma, could you tell us what you remember about the Shady Side Beverage Company?

EK: I remember it was on the corner across from the Eastern Star building.

JL: You know what year they started?

EK: No I don't. But I remember, also, at that time they had ice cream parlor.

JL: Tell us about that.

EK: I don't remember a whole lot about it except they had it. Uh and that was Mr. Murray Leatherbury. It's Miss Ethel's brother-in-law that had that.

JL: I also understand they had a bakery down there as well.

EK: They had a bakery across the road, uh ... close to Thomas Senesi towards the school direction. I remember that. I don't remember going in there very much because Mamma did all of our baking and we just didn't shop there because there was no need to shop there. Maybe couldn't even afford to.

JL: I also understand that there was also a saw mill in Shady Side. Do you remember that?

EK: Uh, huh.

JL: Ok, in growing up down here, could you tell me if you remember some of the men who were the local boat builders?

EK: Captain Perry Rogers was.

JL: Could you tell us where he built his boats?

EK: Down on Woods Wharf Road where Jackie and John Douglas are living. He had, he built boats down there on that point.

JL: Do you know what kind he built or ...

EK: No, I didn't know, I guess I wasn't paying a whole lot of attention to it any way maybe wasn't very interested in boats and I don't remember what kind but I would imagine he uh took care of the men that were oystermen.

JL: Any other boat builders you recall down here?

EK: He's the only one I think I remember as a boat builder, unless It, maybe was, Captain Ed Leatherbury who's at the end of Steamboat Road.

JL: I understand there were a few farms down here too.

EK: There was the Weems farm right here in Shady Side that I remember. And I remember something about a man named Lerch that had a sheep farm. And also remember somebody telling me that the tick fever could be from some of the sheep that were on his farm.

JL: Where was this farm in Shady Side?

EK: From Shady Side, all the way out ... Centenary Church. All this whole area belong to a Mr. Lerch. I don't remember how Mr. Lerch looked.

JL: Someone told me on a tape about the hurricane of '33 when it came through here, do you recall that?

EK: Is that Hazel?

JL: I don't remember which person it was, but ...

EK: I say, was the hurricane named Hazel?

JL: I don't recall. They said it was ... tore up the shorelines.

EK: The Ha. . . .The one that I remember was Hazel and that's when I started collecting kerosene lamps.and I remember that Christmas buying kerosene lamps and getting a chimney and a burner and a wick and filling them up and taking them around the neighborhood. There was Miss Ethel's brother who lived where Chick Nowell lives now. Somebody came over to the store to buy a lamp and they were all sold. And when I came home I got a lamp and I took a lamp up there. And I don't rightfully know how many lamps I bought, but one Christmas I gave lamps for Christmas and this lady down in Avalon Shores and I can't for the life of me remember her name, but she hand painted the bowl of the lamp and I gave those for Christmas gifts. Now that's just about as much of Hazel as I remember. The highlight of it I remember we didn't have any current, didn't have any water and that's when I got a pitcher pump and had Ed Leatherbury come over and put a pipe out back and I screwed a pitcher pump on it and had lots of people come here for water that you could pump out of; out of the pump. But I don't remember that year except that we had uh Hazel.

JL: So it was bad for everyone then?

EK: Oh, it was a terrible storm, it was the biggest storm that I had ever seen.

JL: You don't recall whether it tore up the shoreline

EK: It tore up just about everything.

JL: Houses as well?

EK: Tore the roofs off the houses, but.... uh... wrecked barns.

JL: And did everyone help one another go out and rebuild?

EK: Oh yeah, Shady Side has always been a neighborhood where they helped each other; both our black and white. If they know that you are in trouble your help comes and you don't know; that it's even coming.

JL: Uh, when you were growing up, I'm sure you recall all the summer people that used to come down to the Nowell Hotel. Did you ever go down there to dances or did you.

EK: No, I didn't grow up to learn to dance.

JL: OK, did you ever go to the movies down there at Shady Side?

EK: Miss Ethel's brother, the one that I had carried the lamp to, had the movie, and that was where - right across from Shady Side Market ... and that was when we could go to the movies on Saturday night and we lived all week to go to the movies on Saturday night.

JL: Do you recall how much it cost you to go to the movies?

EK: No I don't, but I'm sure it wasn't - as much as twenty-five cents.

JL: [Noise on tape] could you tell us a little about of your recollection of the Emma Giles.

EK: I remember riding on the Emma Giles to Baltimore to my Grandmother's in the summer. Um, it was only a few times that I ever went swimming off of Emma Giles wharf. But I used to ride on the old Emma Giles to Baltimore.

JL: When your father had his store did the supplies for the store come in on the Emma Giles?

EK: No he had his store before that time.

JL: Oh, how did he get his supplies for the store?

EK; I think he -he must have gone into Annapolis by boat and got them and then wheeled them in a wheelbarrow up to the store.

JL: Did you have any interesting stories to tell us that perhaps your parents told you about Shady Side, anything in particular your parents told you that you think might be of interest to us?

EK: Not really. [Long pause] No I can't. I know that I had parents that would play in the chicken yard games with us . And ... my mother was a person who went through the neighborhood and we lived down West Shady Side, anybody down West Shady Side, because you had to walk every place. Uh... she would be the first one there if there was sickness, new babies.

JL: Uh, were your parents born in Shady Side or did they come here to live?

EK: My mother was born on the Eastern Shore and my dad was born down in Cedar Grove.

JL: Uh huh.. .Now Miss Emma, we know you like to cook. Can you tell us the best things, the things you like to cook the best?

EK: I don't have any preference, I like to try new things. Uh ... if I read a cookbook and something hits me I can't hardly wait until I try it. But sometimes it takes me two weeks or more to get what I need to make it. But, um, I like to bake, I like to make candy, I like to fix nice meals, this is one reason I look like I do, real fat, because I cook the things that I like to eat and everything I like to eat makes you fat! But truly, I just as soon drop dead right this minute and be happy right up to right now as to go on a diet and be thin feel like the dickens for maybe 10 years and then finally have to die anyway. [Laughter]. I would, I really would.

JL: Are there any other reminiscence of Shady Side when you were a young lady down here that you would like to tell us about?

EK: Not really. I don't feel like what I've told you has been very interesting.

JL: Oh, we ... I think it's very interesting, I'm sure other people will think so too.

Uh ... could you tell us .. uh... you said that Sundays in your house was a very quite day. Did you have company come and visit you on Sundays... some of the other families that lived in the area?

EK: At that time, that I remember, families would go home with families, for Sunday dinner and you would have a whole family for dinner.

JL: Really, who used to come to your house for family Sunday dinners?

EK: Mostly, relatives. And just about everybody down at West Shady Side was my relative. But one Sunday we would go to Aunt Jenny's, next Sunday maybe Aunt Jenny would come to our house and we'd go down Aunt Ruby's. And all hers would come up at our house and it was really almost a family, a family, thing. But if you notice in Shady Side, everybody is connected with everybody else. So we been a close family group of people. If you trace the Wilde's, you'll find that some of them are in your family. I remember one time this lady stopped up .up ... up Aubrey's, which was the house across the road from the Eastern Star Building and Miss Bernie Atwell and I were sitting out the porch and this woman came by and she was talking and she said something and I can't remember who she said something about, but in a flash Bernie jumped up on her feet and she said, "Let me tell you something, you have got to live here for 20 years before it makes you eligible to say anything good about anybody and then it better be something good." Because there is too many connections that when you say something about one person you saying, you're saying something about in-laws connections or

JL: Saying something about everyone....

EK: That's right. And, and they're very sensitive people because it's really not any point that's good to talk about anybody unless it is something good, and I don't think you ever ought to say anything about anybody and ever say well don't tell anybody. I say if you can't tell the world, don't tell me. I'm not gonna listen to it.

JL: Thinking of your youth down here, I heard that they did a lot of things on Halloween, they had a Halloween parties and different things on Halloween.

EK: Halloween was a school affair. And Mamma and Poppa would .uh.. get dressed and we'd all go to school. And that was the highlight of one of the things that happened in Shady Side was this Halloween time at school.

JL: And what did they used to do?

EK: They had games. They had 'guess what things', uh I had been the guess person for a long, long time and one time I almost had my neck broken, they set the chair down over top of the sheet that I had over my head and my head was leaning down some and it stayed that way so long that I just thought it was going to break my -neck. But they would have a guess person. When my daughter started to school, on Halloween, they'd have this thing to make money for school and I would make a 'guess what cake'. And I would hide something in icing and they could take chances on it.

JL: What would you hide in the icing?

EK: Hardly ever would they guess what I hid . -One time I hid a vitamin pill. And one time my daughter didn't want to give up these three little monkeys that she had gotten in a box of Cracker Jacks, but I talked her into giving me that to put in the Halloween icing on the guess what cake. Urn... a grain of corn, a piece of ... uh.. corn, silk, They just didn't guess the things. And then you'd have to put all the names back in there and then reach your hand in and take out a name and that's the name that would win the cake. And I did that for a lot of years. I went around through the neighborhood and door to door for Shady Side to get money to put in indirect lighting in the school when Molly Lee was going. I was real active in the PTA, I have a life membership in PTA Uh I'm one of the highest blood donors in Anne Arundel County I'm through giving 116 pints when I got to the age where I couldn't give anymore I have

been on the official church board, I'm an honorary member in our rescue squad and auxiliary to our fire department.

JL: When did- the fire department ... when did the fire department first begin at Shady Side?

EK: don't know the year a lot of years ago, but I don't remember the year.- And let me see, what I can tell you. William Bryner probably could tell you that better than me I would say Tony, but Tony is so deaf, that I don't think that maybe you could get through to him unless you wrote him a note. But, I've had a full life, I've had a happy life, and it's been nice in this world that I'm not worrying about when I'm going. to have to leave it.

JL: But we hope you're here for a long time 'cause we all like you.

EK: Well, I do hope too... I hope I live to be so old that I can't even creep. But when I get that way, maybe I won't want to. I don't think it's hard to die. But, boy I think it is hard to live. I do, yes I do.

JL: Miss Emma we thank you very much and we really do appreciate it. You are dear.

EK: You are dear, you are dear, too, for letting me do it. I hope that somebody else thinks it's interesting.

JL: I'm sure they will. Thank you my dear.

EK: Un huh, you're welcome.