

## Edna Nash Interview – January 30, 2008

HR – Helen Raptis (interviewer)

EN – Edna Nash (interviewee)

HR: This is an interview with Edna Nash, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Interviewer Helen Raptis. So maybe you can just briefly outline the schools that you taught at over the course of your career and maybe give me some dates.

EN: Yes, I have some dates. Pioneer Mine '41-'42, that was elementary; Kitsilano Secondary '42-'43, and, of course, secondary; and then, then I was out, out until '56 and I was at—for 1 year at Fairview High School of Commerce '56-'57; and Britannia from '57 to '71; and Tupper '71, and this is secondary, all these are secondary, Tupper '71 and 'till January '72 when I went to the University of Arizona. And then I came back and I was department head. So in, in Britannia latterly and Tupper and Templeton I was department head in, in counselling. And, and '72-'73 at Templeton and from then '73 to '80 I was an area counsellor in, in Vancouver in various schools, but all elementary.

HR: Wow. And did you retire in 1980?

EN: No then I went, I went to teach at, at UBC in the Department of Counselling Psych. And what else did I do, let me see—yes, yes and that was about it. I, I decided in 1980 that was all I could, I could do. I wanted to work with teachers and, and I had quite a background in, in Adlerian psychology. I was a founding member of the, of the Adler School of Professional Psychology. And actually at that point it was the founding member of Adlerian Psychology Association of B.C. and I had quite a background in, in courses. And so in 1980 they invited me out to UBC. They said, “There’ll always be a job.” However, I was just hired from year to year.

HR: I see. So on contract really.

EN: On contract, yeah. And I was doing other things; I had a private practice, private practice and I teaching for the Adler School and I did a lot of other things in the community.

HR: So did you eventually retire or are you still going strong?

EN: I, I, I have never retired.

HR: You’ve never?

EN: Per say, I have never retired. Now I’m, I’m on committees and boards and I, I, I—let’s see, at the Adler Centre I’m on the board there and I’m still involved with the North American Society of Adlerian Psychology. I’m am on their—I’m an affiliate representative on the, on the

council of representatives for the—for NASAP, the North American Society of Adlerian Psychology. And I'm—for this year again it will be, let me see, it will be the 39<sup>th</sup> year in succession that I will have taught for the international—the ICASSI it's called I-C-A-S-S-I and it is the International Committee for Adlerian Summer Schools and Institutes and that's overseas every year.

HR: Oh my goodness. So that, that began in the '70s when you went you down to Arizona to the graduate school.

EN: I went down to Arizona, yes.

HR: And got a master's degree in?

EN: No I got a master's degree from, from UBC.

HR: Oh, okay.

EN: I did a master's—you see, I was out 12 years and had the equivalent of 3 years when I went back and then over time in '63 I got my BEd and then, then my MEd in '70 at UBC. And then went to Arizona for, for post grad, shall we say, post graduate work in Adlerian Psychology.

HR: Oh, I see. Okay. Well maybe we can go back even a little further than your experiences at Pioneer Mine. I am wondering if you can tell me where—sort of where you grew up and whether you had any formative experiences in your own schooling that you remember that sort of..

EN: Oh, very much. In fact, there's some interesting things going on in my life that I don't want to be part of this, right, but I, I grew up in Parksville.

HR: Oh, goodness.

EN: Yeah, and, and my, my grandparents—in fact, I have been going over these pictures—my grandparent were pioneers there. They went there in 1886, 1887.

HR: And where were they from?

EN: My grandfather was from England and my grandmother was from Ontario. She was United Empire Loyalists—Scots, the family had come back from, from the States, you know, from the US into Canada, yeah.

HR: And did you—what school would you have attended there? I know Parksville as a holiday destination.

EN: Oh, no, gosh. In fact, I—we had Parksville, Parksville School, was, was Grade 1 to 12. And they—I started school there in, let me see, my mother said I couldn't—I was nearly—you see, I am November child and I was nearly 7 when I started school in '22. So, I guess, in 1928, yes. So I went through, through Parksville School with—I have some very good memories. My first—my name is Edna May and my first teacher was Edna May Parkin and it was so wonderful to have my teacher to have a, have my teacher to have the same name has mine. And I lived, I lived in the—down on the south of Englishmen's River; we still have property there.

HR: Oh.

EN: My side of the family has 55 acres there still. But—so it had been a very lonely, lonely life as a, as a little girl and my mother didn't let me start at 5 coming—would've been 6 in November so, so I was 6—I was 7. And I skipped Grade 2 so I was up with the rest of the, of the young people my own age. And then—so we had Grades 1 to 4 in one room and then I went into another room Grades 5, 6, and 7 and then they had, like, a junior high; 8 and 9 and then we'd finish with 10, 11, and 12 in one room.

HR: Oh wow. Do you, do you recall if you wanted to be a teacher from back then or what?

EN: Well I'll tell you. It's really quite interesting because the, the principal of the school, J. L. Nichols, who died about 3—I think about 3 years ago, was a real mentor of, of my mine. In fact, his, his son-in-law, we were on the same track team. I was an outstanding athlete and we were on the same track team and we ran for Nanaimo. I mean, it was big, you know, from Parksville and running for Nanaimo, and they had quite a, quite a track team. And anyway he is now in Rio de Janeiro and he, he comes up to see his sister. And maybe I, I don't know if this is going to make it clear, his sister, this is the William's family, she—Peggy Williams, who is still alive, taught the elementary—the primary grades: Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4. And she married the principal, J. L. Nichols, who, who taught 10, 11, and 12 and did so much for the school. In fact, I have just been going through things and we saw the first—I have two copies of the first annual produced by that school and it was really, really quite something. Anyway, Campbell Williams is—Peggy Williams had three brothers, Grant, Gordie and Campbell was the youngest. Anyway, he comes up from Rio De Janeiro every year and the last while he's been helping Peggy, his sister, go through, I guess, go through Nichols, Len Nichols, you know, clippings and things. And he found a June 8, 1939 original clipping of us and it was quite an article about the sports day between—at Qualicum Beach and, and Parksville.

HR: Oh goodness.

EN: And I have that original clipping. Anyway, in, in, in that clipping Campbell came in, he said, "Edna, you know, I was first in all seven events," and then in the article it said, "this is the third year in succession she's been first in all seven events," you know, running and all these events then—so it's been quite fun. But Len Nichols was—he was my mentor and if, if it weren't for

him I would have never come over to UBC. And my mentor in—for sports as well academically and you've be interested: 100 percent of our graduating class went to UBC. All two of us!

HR: [laughter] Well that's good. So you're graduating class was two people.

EN: Two people, the others—there were others who either went to war. You see, this was in, in 1940, we graduated, June 1940, war had been declared in '39.

HR: Mm-hmm.

EN: And some went to war and some—and because everybody was on the same program some, some just dropped out and went to work because they weren't, weren't university bound.

HR: Right, okay. So did he encourage you to go and did you get a degree or...

EN: Not at—no, I went to first year and then, and then to normal school. My dad had died in 1940 and I was on the farm. My, my mother, and aunt, and I were on the farm. And my dad died on July the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1940 and—excuse me. So I went to do first year and then went to normal school.

HR: Was that for financial reasons because?

EN: Really for financial reasons and, and to, to be working as soon as possible. But I wanted to, I want to teach.

HR: And what did you study in your first year at UBC?

EN: It was—I took a general program. You know, you know, chemistry, history, English. What I can remember just a general program and then, and then—like a first year of arts really.

HR: Okay, yep.

EN: But there was science and chemistry in there which didn't work very well. And then went to normal school at, at 12<sup>th</sup> and Cambie and, and after that went directly to summer school and...

HR: Was the summer school in Victoria?

EN: Victoria, yes.

HR: Do you remember, do you remember anything from that summer school?

EN: Oh do I remember? I remember lots from that school. There, there were about 40 of us that stayed at St. Margaret's School. And, and, and the summer school all, all I can remember is that

we had a great time in Victoria. [laughter] And, oh, at the end of, at the end of, of normal school there were four or five of us who were specializing in, really, in, in phys. ed. And, and there was an opportunity of, of working in, in Burnaby for \$800 a year. And, and so I was offered—two or three of us were offered that and, and Dr. Lord was the principal of the, of the normal school and he, he offered me that and I said, “I really wanted to be somewhere where I could do more in the community because”—and I just read this the other day as I was going through these pictures. I had written—oh I know, I had written home to my mother about this and I said that, “I really wanted to do something in the community.” Burnaby was so spread out I didn’t think there would be an opportunity there so I was at—when I was at summer school Dr. Lord was over—he was in the Department of Education, I think he had something to do with marking exams. And, and he got in touch with me when I was at, at summer school in Victoria and asked if I would like to go to Pioneer Mine. Because he always chose the person to go to Pioneer Mine, the teacher, because he was a very good friend of the superintendent there. And there would be opportunities of working in the community as well as—do community activities, as well as teaching at the school. So that’s how I got into—and I got to Pioneer Mines. And it was \$1200 a year.

HR: Oh, that was an improvement over the Burnaby one.

EN: Yep, exactly, yeah.

HR: So from, from your time in the normal school and the summer school do you remember any of the instructors standing out as being your mentor or what do you recall?

EN: I can’t remember instructors. When I went back in 1956 I certainly remember some of them. Bu I don’t remember—oh, the normal school instructors: Dr. Boyes, Dr. Boyes. I can see her face—W. P. Weston.

HR: Oh the art...

EN: The artist and I was in his homeroom. And, and the Lees, I’ve forgotten her name but his name was Ernie and they, they taught the phys. ed., taught phys. ed. The Lees.

HR: And, and do they stand out in your mind as being...

EN: Oh the Lees were very, were, were very encouraging. Really, really very good and the—and I just loved Pat Boyes, he, he was called Dr. Boyes, I liked him. Oh and the other thing, H.B. MacLean.

HR: Oh, the handwriting specialist.

EN: The handwriting, yes. And, and when I read the letter that I had written home to my mother yesterday—I was going through these things. I had met him on the ferry and I was certainly in his class throughout normal school. But I, I had met him and we'd had a very nice chat on the ferry and he developed—helped me develop, I think, a really wonderful signature, you know, for my—for handwriting. My, my—I love my signature and, and H.B. MacLean was the one who helped me develop them. Quite an active little man.

HR: Yes, yeah. And when you mentioned that Len Nichols was a mentor of yours, in what way did he mentor you?

EN: He just, he just encouraged me. I can remember staying after school and talking with him. And, and he, he just encouraged me to, to go on academically. And, and he was very enthusiastic about sports in, in a—so not only academically, he could see me has a, a physical education teacher.

HR: That's great. Is there anything else you want to add about that time in the normal school or the summer school that you think is important? About your, your formation as a teacher?

EN: Well, the normal school was quite—was really quite wonderful. It, you know, was so hands on everything and, and it was in the end—being in, in classes the way we were was quite wonderful. Like, you know, about 30 to—about 30 people in a class. And the other thing about, about the normal school because it was war time: I think there were five or six men and all the rest, a 100 or nearly 200, were women.

HR: Wow. That, that would explain why most of the people who have responded to me are women.

EN: Yes.

HR: I have only one man contact me.

EN: Well yes, so that's about it.

HR: Okay. So why don't we move then into Pioneer Mine. Maybe you can tell me where it is and a little about the school itself?

EN: Well, well even getting there was, was quite something. Pioneer Mines was at—well how I, I got there was by Union Steam Ship to Squamish. There was, there was no highway, of course, and, and so you went by Union Steam Ship and then PGE from Squamish to Shalalth. And, and then took a stage coach, they called it, like extended car—and up over Mission Mountain and pass Gold Bridge, and pass Minto. And at that time the Japanese—many Japanese families were in Minto and they called it MinTokoyo. They had their wonderful little gardens as you pass by in

Minto. And then passed Gun Lake and to Bralorne, which was the bigger—the larger gold mine. And Pioneer Mine was 3 miles beyond at the end of the road. And it was a gold mine.

HR: And, and that's how everyone accessed it?

EN: That's how you—that's the only way to get there.

HR: And was the PGE a train?

EN: Yep, the Pacific Great Eastern, that was the train before BC rail or whatever. So, you know, the same tracks. So, and the nickname for the PGE was “please go easy,” you know, you're heard this?

HR: No I haven't.

EN: Yes, well, PGE. And Shalalth is about 6 miles south of Lillooet. Lillooet was the next...

HR: The next stop up.

EN: The next stop up, yeah.

HR: Goodness, I have been to Lillooet but certainly not this route.

EN: Oh no, and it was, it was really quite exciting to, to go there and right in the heart of the mountains. And, and to go to a place where there was—well it was a two room school. Grades 1, 1 to 4—Vivian Mackenzie, the daughter of the master mechanic, master mechanic of the gold—of the mine, had taught there some years before I arrived there and then I had Grades 5 to 8.

HR: Okay, and so was it two rooms in the school, or...

EN: It was a two room school, yeah.

HR: Two rooms, and was it in good shape or was it run-down? Did you have...

EN: Oh no, it was very good. It was kept up very well. There was a wonderful, a wonderful janitor in the school he kept things—and he, he, he was quite a friend to me. It was such novelty being—after growing up on Vancouver Island where there was never any really cold weather to be up there where, where I think walking up to the school one week it was 40, 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

HR: Oh my goodness.

EN: Yes, and, and, and so Jim King, the, the janitor, bought me skates and he brought me, bought me skis. I had never skied nor, nor had hardly skated before and...

HR: Oh, wow.

EN: Yes.

HR: Was that, was that normal? Was the relations in the community that good that the janitor...

EN: Yes, yep very good. The teachers, the teachers were all expected to, to play in the women's bridge club. I just—every Tuesday night, you know, I started through Goren. I think I read half of Goren and gave up. But I just dreaded Tuesdays night because I had never played bridge.

HR: [laughter]

EN: And they were all so good, all these women were so good. And, but I—and the school was up—sort of up on, on the ridge and it was quite a walk. I stayed in, I stayed in “the hotel.” And the hotel was rooms above the general store.

HR: Oh really.

EN: Yes, and, and, and walked up—quite a walk up the ridge to the school and, and, and phys. ed. was taught in the hall and that was way down the hill past where—past the store and so on. But there was a hall and that's where...

HR: A community hall?

EN: Like, a community hall, yeah. I can remember having phys. ed. classes down there. And, and I can—here's a memory. So the first—when the first snow came, there was about a foot of snow, a whole group, a community, a whole group of us went out along the creek to Extension. And Extension was about a mile beyond, it was like an extension of Pioneer Mines. And a mile beyond and there was a place to ski down a hill; there was a hill there. And, and I guess there were 10 or 12 of us that went out, young people, people—there was a nurse, and Vivian the other teacher, and people who, who worked in the offices. I guess, the office—but and, and we went up, up this hill and, and it was a moonlight night. It was very bright there was a full moon and just beautiful, sparkling. And I can remember I was on—I knew how to snow shoe. Not, not snow shoe but what do to do with your—snowplow. I knew how to snowplow and get up the hill, anyway. I hardly knew how to ski. But I had, I had fairly good balance and everything. Anyway, I can remember Vivian, the other teacher, skiing down past two or three of us and then I heard a crunch.

HR: Oh, oh no.



EN: And she had—her ski had run into a big rock that was sort of—that hadn't—didn't have enough snow on it, sort of on the side of the hill. And we—oh dear, we went to the, to the Extension office to see if there was, there was First Aid and so they, they came and got Vivian. She was unconscious at this time and her head had gone right into the rock, into the rock.

HR: Oh my goodness.

EN: And so we went back to the hospital—there was a little hospital and Vivian was in there, certainly overnight, and she was in there for some time. But I can remember the very next day, I went to see her and her face was completely black, you know.

HR: Oh from all the, the bruises.

EN: She was just completely black and I remember going out by myself on skis along the same route, along the creek—along the lower route. I didn't go to where the hill was because I knew I wouldn't ski again if I didn't do it right a way. But the, the other, other part of it they had ski races and I, I won the novice cup. And I said, "The reason I won it is because I was the heaviest." I put so much weight on. You know, we, we ate in , in, in the—the miners had their big, big room.

HR: Cafeteria, like a cafeteria?

EN: Yes. And the office staff, and the office staff had another—had a small room adjacent to it and I can remember just putting on so much weight. I had a good appetite, in this invigorating climate, you know.

HR: Did, did you have to pay for that or did it come with the school?

EN: It came, it came with, with the appointment. I don't remember paying extra for it.

HR: So meals included, that...

EN: I think meals and board.

HR: And board? Oh, okay.

EN: Yeah, but my memory may, may—but I, you know, I financially did okay.

HR: So, so you...

EN: I did better than—I did much better than the, the people who went to Burnaby.

HR: So your, your room was nice, and your—was it just a hotel room? You didn't have a kitchen or anything or...

EN: No, no kitchen or anything, no.

HR: So just a hotel room?

EN: With a room.

HR: With a shared bath or did you have a bathroom?

EN: I can't remember.

HR: Okay. And the school was in pretty good shape with a janitor to look after it, did you have a wooden?

EN: A janitor to look after it; school was in good shape.

HR: Did you have a, a wooden stove or anything like that to heat it or...

EN: There could have been a wooden, wooden stove in it, yeah. I think there was.

HR: Okay.

EN: But, but it was well—I can remember being comfortable in the, in the, in the school.

HR: Mm-hmm. And do you remember how many kids you had, roughly?

EN: I guess I had about 24-25 kids.

HR: Okay.

EN: I don't think, I don't think there were 30 in the room.

HR: And what do you recall about them and your day to day activities?

EN: Oh, you know, when you think of it, four grades, four grades, teaching everything, first year of teaching. Well, I, I can, I can remember, you know, things went, went all right. I learned to help—to get older, some of the older, ones helping the younger ones and that sort of thing. But when you think of the time table and all those subjects, it is quite amazing.

HR: Had, had you been prepared by the normal school about how to plan for multi-grade teaching?

EN: Yes, yeah I think so. I think I had, yeah.

HR: So had you been able to do some preparation before you arrived?

EN: No, not really. It was a long time ago, you know.

HR: Yes, yeah I know. It doesn't matter if you don't remember. I'll ask anyway, but if you don't remember that's fine.

EN: No, no I don't remember. But I, but I felt on top of things and then the inspector came around, the inspector visitor. And in terms of, of consulting I had Vivian there who was an experienced teacher and, and, and so in consulting on how to do things, you know, what to do, whatever. And I didn't seem to have any trouble with, with, with discipline either. It seemed to go—I have one, one event that stands out and I'll, I'll remember one of the student's names—Theodore Myers.

HR: Mm-hmm.

EN: We decided once that we would, we would ski along the top of the ridge, along the top of the ridge to Extension and then, and then come back down the lower route. You know, I had described where Extension was, well it was a good mile or so. And here—and I, I, I came at the, at the back of the, of this long group of students skiing and when we got to the, to the end of the trail to Extension we counted and there was one missing. Theodore Myers, was not there.

HR: Oh my goodness. Oh my goodness the terror.

EN: So I went back with, with, with a couple of others and she gone over the edge and, and she was under a tree, but she was okay. And, and we helped her up and it, it worked out alright. But I'll never forget that, that experience. Theodore Myers was missing when we got to the end of our trail.

HR: Goodness.

EN: I remember working with a music teacher. I had been inspired at normal school with the, the musicals and all the different things we did at, at normal school. And I remember working with a, with a community music teacher and she and I put on—I think it was the Pirates of Penzance. So it was a huge undertaking and, and we did it. And, and this is the example of one of the community activities that I had wanted to do but, you know, I didn't, other than my experience at normal school, I, I didn't have any musical training.

HR: So was it mainly from the children from school or did it involve...

EN: Well it was all the children; it was the children from the school.

HR: And did it involve any other community members or just the children?

EN: I don't think so other than the music teacher.

HR: Okay.

EN: I can see her but I can't remember her name.

HR: So did you put it on at the school or at the community hall?

EN: I think it must of have been at the community hall. It wouldn't have been at the school, there wasn't the space.

HR: Okay. So what, what other things were you involved in, in the community?

EN: Well, playing—well I was—I can remember playing badminton. And I, and I taught badminton, of course. And I can remember playing badminton and playing singles against the men and beating them. [laughter] And also, here, here the first year of, of skiing one Sunday a whole group of about 20 went—we were going up to Standard. And Standard I think was about 10 miles, 10 miles from, from Pioneer Mine. And—but at the end of Standard there is a wonderful hill, a wonderful hill for skiing. And, and so it was like cross-country skiing there—and all in one day and we arrived at lunch time and it was snowing heavily and I remember having a great time skiing down the hill. And of course you have to snowplow up, you know, the snowplow. And then we, we started back and it was, it was quite—really quite difficult and I can remember someone saying, “Well, Edna McDermid shouldn't be there because she doesn't know how to, you know, she not, not”—I was Edna McDermid at that time—“and shouldn't be skiing.” Well, I was one of the first three back of the 20, you know, so I was quite competitive and, and able in that way. Anyways, so the other community things, well, there was the bridge and, and badminton and did this—we produced this musical and it I guess that's about it. We really felt very much part of the community.

HR: How big was the community at the time do you remember how many people, people or families there were?

EN: No. I remember being bridesmaid for Ruth Straight, Ruth Straight who, who had gone to Bralorne. We were in the same class at normal school and she was teaching in Bralorne. And she was married in, in the—by Christmas, or, or just after Christmas and I remember being her bridesmaid. But I don't remember, I don't remember the number of people in the community.

HR: Okay. But people were generally employed by the mine?

EN: Oh, all employed; it was all the mine.

HR: Except for the local stores and hotels, I guess.

EN: Hotel.

HR: The hotel.

EN: The hotel was—if people came up to—for business to do with the mine they stayed at the hotel. And, and this—these rooms above the general store—general store.

HR: Did you ever feel unsafe, given that you were right there in, in the downtown area?

EN: No, no, it wasn't. It was—it wasn't like—no, I, I felt very safe, always.

HR: Always.

EN: Yes.

HR: So what—do you remember about—anything about the resources you used or the curriculum you followed? Did you...

EN: No I don't, no.

HR: No, okay.

EN: And I just remember the, the princ—the inspector coming and, and being very helpful and very, you know, very encouraging and I don't remember anything about the resources.

HR: Do you remember who the, who the inspector was at the time?

EN: No I don't.

HR: No.

EN: I might have it down somewhere but I don't, I don't remember. But Vivian I remember so well. Within a year we were both married to lawyers who had been in the same class. We were both married to Catholics, they were lawyers from the same class.

HR: The same...

EN: From—at UBC. Well they didn't have—at that time there wasn't a Faculty of Law and, and—but they took their—they had a class. I think it was more, like, downtown but it was run by UBC. But there wasn't a Faculty of Law at that time and I can remember that we were married and she had a girl and I had a girl, and she had a girl and I had a girl, and she had a girl and I had a girl, she had a girl and I had—we had a boy.

HR: Oh goodness. So how, how many children do you have?

EN: I have four and, and they had five. And I just found some of the pictures as I was going through some of the pictures of, of the early days with her, with her and our, our children. You know, when we—I had one and she had two or something. However, however then I—at the end of Pioneer Mine I had the opportunity of going to Trail, Rossland or, or Vancouver, Kits to teach phys. ed. and I chose Kitsilano.

HR: And just, just before we leave Pioneer Mine, a lot of what you read today about the war time talks about things like the black outs, blacking out the windows in the evening, conserving, rationing, collecting scrap metal, paper etc. to contribute to the war effort. Do you remember doing any of that stuff?

EN: I remembered—I remember everything. Vancouver being black, the year—not the UBC year, '40-'41, it would be '41-'42. In those years anyway the UBC—see I came over to UBC '40-'41 and then normal '41-'42 and I was right in the centre of the, you know, right in the centre of the city. And I can remember riding on the street cars and, and blinds being down on the, on the, on the street cars and it being completely black. And I, and, and I can remember the rationing, the rationing of sugar and tea and that, that sort of thing.

HR: But not a Pioneer Mine?

EN: Not at—I don't remember it up there at all. And—no I don't remember that up there at all.

HR: Okay. Alright, so then from there you went over to Kitsilano High?

EN: Yes.

HR: And you made the transition from elementary to high school, I guess.

EN: I did indeed and it, and so much was done. You know, it was a regular high school and I taught, I taught Grade 9, 9 and 11 phys. ed.

HR: And you weren't married at the time were you? Or were you?

EN: I was—I met this, this Nash man in October. October the 15<sup>th</sup> and we were married on December the 27<sup>th</sup>.

HR: Oh gosh!

EN: And it, and it lasted 52 years.

HR: Oh, that's wonderful. That's an inspiration.

EN: Yes and, and he was going—was to go overseas. That was one of the reasons we were married so, so quickly. But he didn't go over until—you see, this was 1943, he didn't go over until '45.

HR: So when—what year did you marry?

EN: '43, December, '43.

HR: In '43, okay.

EN: So that was '42-'43 the year I was at, at Kitsilano and at the end—by June I was pregnant. Oh the other—I want to tell you something also about me. When I was—and this is, this is the times and the attitudes to women and that sort of thing. When I was married in order to be able to continue teaching, teaching there had to be a special order in council from Victoria for a, for a married woman to continue teaching.

HR: Wow. And did they always do that? Or was that just a...

EN: Yeah and there were people who were married on the, on the—in, in Kits there was a woman who was married and she kept her—it wasn't known, it wasn't known that she was married.

HR: She didn't let anyone know?

EN: She didn't let anyone know. She kept her single name and didn't let anyone know because—and that was 1943—'44, January, '44. A special order in council to be able to teach if you were married.

HR: It interests me that that would be—well, that it would be such a discriminatory thing. Did you ever feel as a woman that you were discriminated against aside from that? Aside from the, the fact that you couldn't teach and be married without this order in council?

EN: No I—well, I am optimistic, I'm an optimistic person. And, and I always, you know, I recognize in those, in those—well, I only taught for the, for the next, for the next 6 months.

HR: Right.

EN: And, and then I wasn't back until '56.

HR: Right.

EN: In '56. So I—So in those early years I, I was, you know, just—I loved what I was doing and, you know, all of that.

HR: You never—when you were in Pioneer Mines you never felt any pressure from the company, or?

EN: No, not at all. In fact the teachers were, were really, were really valued in the community.

HR: Okay.

EN: And we were both women of course.

HR: Right. So you felt that the way with the community. Did you also feel that way with the, the school board trustees and the inspector?

EN: I did, yes. I always felt, felt that they were really helpful. I don't remember anything about trustees at all. But I remember here is Dr. Lord the principal of the, of the normal school giving me that opportunity, you know. I am used to men, men being, being encouraging. And, like, Len Nichols was the one who—he was the one who encouraged me to come to university. And, and I had a father who just really encouraged me as well. And he, he, he would do anything for me. So I had that good relationship with men.

HR: Did, did you—In what way did your father encourage you? Did you have conversations about?

EN: No he just did things for me. When, when I was, I was an athlete and he, I remember, he—we lived on a farm. And, and I remember him hauling up clay and mixing it with, with cinder to make a track for me so I could practice.

HR: Oh goodness.

EN: Yeah, and, and my, my very early memory with him with, with him sitting on the kitchen—the outside stairs going outside. And, and he had a skipping rope in—he had one end of the



skipping rope. The other end was tied to the, to the cherry tree that had been planted for the baby, guess who the baby was?

HR: Oh, goodness.

EN: Yes and, and he was turning the skipping rope and I was, I was skipping and showing him what I can do. And that's an early memory. Well, psychologically that, that means a lot because, you know, with—in Adlerian psychology you work, work a lot with early memories. So I, so I, I just expect men to, to be there for me, you know.

HR: That's encouraging to hear. Do you know we have speaking for almost an hour, Edna. How are you feeling?

EN: What more then?

HR: Well, I, I'd like to hear about Kitsilano High School. But if you like I can phone back on another day because I don't know if you're getting tired or not.

EN: No, I am not getting tired. Let's take another 10 minutes or so and, and finish Kitsilano.

HR: Sure, sure that's fine. Maybe you can tell me a little bit about the kids, what you did and...

EN: Oh the kids were just great and, and, and it's been—I can remember Ruth. Ruth was (inaudible) and, and, and later she was a teacher in the district. It was quite wonderful. These enthusiastic little kids I, I just loved working with them. And I think maybe there was a Grade 7 there, there was a grade 7 class as well. And, and I just loved teaching, teaching phys. ed. and being out in Connaught Park, that lovely park off Kitsilano. And, and, and let's see there was, there was track, there was field hockey. No I didn't—I hadn't done field hockey yet, maybe I had a bit. But—and basketball, and the class—I had no, as I recall, I had no difficulty teaching phys. ed. and just, just loving it. And that's about all I can remember other than really enjoying it.

HR: And do you remember having the resources to do what you wanted to do? Was all of this...

EN: Yes, yes I can remember. Yeah.

HR: The equipment was all there?

EN: It was there and, and, and I—yes. I don't remember any difficulty about, about resources.

HR: Now you were in a much bigger school at Kitsilano.

EN: A much bigger school and a city school and it, and it was just wonderful, you know, after being in a small town it was—I, I really enjoyed being at Kits.

HR: How did it differ? What were the main differences?

EN: Well, you know, you weren't responsible for everything where, like, in the elementary school here I had four grades and teaching every subject and, and—which was quite demanding, you know, quite demanding. Whereas being at Kits it, it, it wasn't. I can just see myself just really enjoying it. My attitude has always been that life is a game and, and, and so that fit in with my, my perception of, of what life is all about, anyways.

HR: So it was, it was a lighter load, I guess.

EN: Oh much lighter than, than up in, in Pioneer Mine, yeah.

HR: And again do you remember doing anything related to the war effort with your students in your Kitsilano class?

EN: I can't remember, no.

HR: No, okay.

EN: And this— other than the person who became my husband, he was, he was stationed out at this—at, at Discovery which at that time was in the rowing club where—in Stanley Park. And then they built, and then they built the next year, they built Discovery and, and he was there and so I don't remember doing much for the war effort other than that there were a lot of, there were a lot of servicemen, servicemen in the community. And, and I can remember—you see I am in West Van right now—I can remember that you couldn't take a bus across Lions Gate bridge to West Van. There was—you had to take the ferry from the foot of Main Street. So we walked over the bridge. Cars could go over but there were no buses going over there at that time. And you took the ferry from, from 14th—from the foot of 14th to the foot of Main Street.

HR: And, and did it go over to West Van or North Van?

EN: West Van.

HR: West Van? It went straight to West Van from downtown.

EN: To the ferry, yes. There is a ferry dock right at 14th and ferry also went to 25th, to Dunday.

HR: Oh, oh I didn't know that.

EN: So, that, that's the way we got to town was to take, to take the ferry.

HR: Right. And did you have any opportunities to blend in with the community when you were in Vancouver or was it just too big because it was a big...

EN: Too big, no opportunities. Two, two of us stayed together, the two of us who had gone to normal school together, we stayed and, and had a, had a room, like, a bed sitting room with a, with a—I guess there was a stove and there was a—I can't remember the details. At 1799 Cedar Crescent, it's like the, the top of Burrard St.

HR: And that was because your husband was away?

EN: No, he wasn't a husband yet.

HR: Oh before you married, before you married.

EN: Yes, and then that was those three months and then we stayed down on Cornwall, and—Cornwall and Vine at the Royal York Apartments. And I can remember having to walk up from, from Cornwall St. right up to Kits, via Vine street. It was quite a walk every morning.

HR: Is there anything else that you remember from this time that you can, sort of, contrast with your later teaching experiences?

EN: Not really. Other than—no.

HR: No? And you don't, you don't remember the war being a particularly significant part of your teaching?

EN: Not really, I was so involved with the teaching. See I was, I was young, 20 years old.

HR: And it didn't intrude, really, on your life.

EN: No

HR: No. Okay.

EN: You know there were, there were parades and that sort of thing but I can't remember—and then—other than being involved, once I married this person, the man from the Navy, then I was aware of what was going on locally, the training and that sort of thing.

HR: Right, yeah. Well can you think of anything else you wanted to add that I, I might not have thought of or we haven't covered?

EN: I don't know. I think that's about it.

HR: No? Okay. Well I, I've learned an awful lot from you. Thank you very much.

EN: It was exciting. It was a new experience that going out to Pioneer Mine and, and I, I just—it was a great beginning.

HR: Well that's good to know.

EN: I, I hope there are some, that there are some things that, that are, you know, that are significant in terms of those early years.

HR: Yes, and do you have any advice for teacher's today? Any thoughts, anything that...

EN: I have, I have advice for teachers today is to, to really know how to deal with behaviour that is not meeting the needs of the situation. And, and we call it classroom management or whatever because I taught—see when I went out to UBC I specialized in, in, in classroom, sort of, classroom management applying Adlerian principles to the class. And, and I am still getting—I did that and also produced the second distance education course out at UBC and it was—what do they call it? The name of the course was “The Role of the Teacher in Guidance,” but it was all Adlerian principles applied to the classroom and there were 24 half hour, half hour videos done for it. And, and I just think that when teachers are, are at ease and know how, how to deal with behaviour and have some really effective—have a basic philosophical base and they, they can apply the principles to, to the behaviour—it makes such a difference. And I, and I would suggest to teachers that they, they, they have regular class meetings and—because I think, it really helps, helps children feel, feel as if it's their classroom and that everyone is needed.

HR: So do you mean meetings with the children where issues are?

EN: Yes, The class meetings that are, that are, that are part of, part of the democratic classroom or the, or the, the Adlerian classroom. I know I have videos of a Grade 2 teacher who is at one of the schools in Vancouver and she had regular classrooms and every, every student had a job, had a job and they felt so much a part of the classroom. And I had—and also I had a Grade 11 biology teacher who did something very similar only appropriate for Grade 11s. And I think that some of those things have, have just gone by the way side.

HR: Yes, I think you're right. I think it's a, it's a huge loss.

EN: Yes, yes.

HR: Okay, well I appreciate that very much, Edna, and if you can think of anything else let me know. And if I can think of anything else would it be alright if I phone you back?

EN: Oh, certainly. Be in touch, if there is anything else, just be in touch.