

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

Narrator: Bill Evans
Date: September 28, 2006
Interviewed By: Maria McLeod
Place: Issaquah Valley Senior Center, Issaquah, WA

MARIA MCLEOD: This is Maria McLeod, oral historian, interviewing Bill Evans, September 28, 2006 at the Issaquah Valley Senior Center. Thanks for doing this today, Bill.

I'm going to start with an easy one. Can you state your name, the year you were born and where you were born?

BILL EVANS: Oh, you want all the gory details. My name is William C. Evans. And I was born on May 7, 1923.

MM: And where were you born?

BE: Well, I was born in Renton because there was no hospital in Issaquah. But my family lived in Issaquah, and they brought me right home.

MM: Good for them. Before we get into your life, I want to find out a little bit about your family. I'm going to ask you first about your father's family, Evans, that settled here, I think, according to the census, in the 1880s? You can correct me if I'm wrong.

BE: Yes, that's right. I've had two aunts who have argued about that for years and years. One of them said that the Evans family came here in 1885, and the other one said 1887. But we know it was a long time ago. My dad was born in Issaquah in 1899.

MM: And where was his family from? Your grandparents?

BE: My grandfather was born in Wales, and my grandmother was a Scot. They met in Pennsylvania, in the United States. My grandfather was a coal miner, and that's how he was attracted to the United States, through the coalfields.

MM: Did he work in the mines in the area?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: Not here, no. He was too old by that time.

MM: And tell me about your mother's family, the Willigs, I think. Is that right?

BE: Willigs, right.

MM: You said she was a Scot, and she settled –

BE: No, the Willigs were my mother's family.

MM: Oh, OK. Your mother's family. So you were talking about your father's wife was a Scot – no – correct me – tell me again, who was Welsh and who was Scottish?

BE: My grandfather Evans, Thomas Evans, was Scotch. And my grandmother, my dad's mother, was – Did I say he was Scotch? I'm sorry.

MM: He was Welsh.

BE: He was Welsh. And my grandmother, his wife, was Scotch.

MM: And what was her last name?

BE: That's a good question. I never really know.

MM: I just wondered. See, when I start to ask about lineage, I always get a little confused between the matrilineal line and the patrilineal line, but I'm glad you clarified that for me. Now, we can go to your mother's family, the Willig family that settled here in the 1900s. Where were they from, and how would you describe your grandfather Willig's appearance?

BE: They were from Essen, Germany. My grandfather was about 6'2", and to the day he died, he was just straight as a string. He'd been a swimming instructor in the Kaiser's army, in Germany.

They came over to the United States in the 1800s. I don't remember the exact time. But when they came to the United States, they landed at Ellis Island, where lots of the immigrants landed.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

My grandfather was quite an adventurer. He heard about the Oklahoma Territory opening up, long before it became a state. And he took his family – my aunt was the only child at that time – to Oklahoma.

It was Indian Territory then. They got about a 10-acre farm, and they resided there for a couple years, but my grandmother hated it. They had a farm with ponds and so forth, and snakes, and all the things she couldn't take. And, like I said, it was Indian Territory then. It used to scare the devil out of her, she used to tell me, because people – it was just an open-door policy – people just walked into your home.

Indians always had moccasins and so forth, instead of clunky shoes, my grandmother would turn around in her kitchen and there would be a big Indian standing there, waiting to talk to her. So she hated it. Then they heard about some sort of a group of Germans in Washington – Bow, Washington, which is up by Bellingham.

They moved up there to be in this German community. She didn't like communal living either. So they moved to Issaquah in 1900. My mother was six months old. She was born in Bow, and she was six months old when she came to Issaquah, and she was here the rest of her life. Well, except for a few years in Seattle when my dad worked in Seattle.

Then they came back. As I did. I left in [19]41, after I graduated from high school, and I worked in Seattle for the first year of the war. Then I went into the service with all the young men. I came back to Issaquah in 1950, after I was married and college and family. I wanted my kids to be born and raised in a small town – which it was at that time – and feel free to enjoy life.

MM: I definitely want to ask you all about that era, and your involvement in World War II and all that. But there is something I read somewhere – maybe it was in your Memory Book project – but you mentioned – and this may have been your father's work, or your grandfather's work – for the Issaquah Water Department?

BE: Yes, he was superintendent for the Issaquah Water Department when it was only a few people. And the old wood pipes with wire around them. Have you ever seen those?

MM: Was this your father?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: This is my grandfather.

MM: And his name was ...?

BE: August Willig.

MM: Describe for me again his work with the water pipes.

BE: Well, he had all the water system up in his head because he designed most of it. But it was the old wooden pipe, supported by wiring around it.

MM: They carved a log down the middle? What's a wooden pipe?

BE: No, no. He wasn't that old! [laughter]

MM: So when you say wooden pipe, what's a wooden pipe?

BE: It was made of wood, and it was hollow. It had been formed and probably put together with tar. Then the support was the wire around it. That was used all throughout Issaquah in the late [19]20s and early [19]30s.

MM: I really had no idea how water pipes had been engineered back then. So Issaquah is a 5-mile radius? A town of 5 miles?

BE: Issaquah, the city limits?

MM: Yeah. I'm wondering how big that water system was.

BE: Well, it was pretty small because Issaquah was pretty small.

MM: Right.

BE: If you know where Sunset Way runs into I-90, that was the east city limits. The west city limits was on the other side of the fish hatchery. And Sunset Way ended right where Newport Way is now. The north city limits ended at the Grange Store. Do you know where the Grange Store is, by Darigold?

MM: Yeah, I know exactly.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: OK, this side of Darigold, between that and the Grange Store.

MM: It's a very small town. You can make it across it in less than five minutes. [chuckles] In your car.

BE: Yeah, now you can make it across it in less than five hours. [laughter]

MM: Because of all the traffic! Exactly. So what did that involve? Did he work with others to dig ditches to lay the pipes kind of thing?

BE: He did everything. In fact, he retired when he was about seventy-two. He had probably three or four men working for him. That was the water department. So he wasn't playing the role of supervisor all of the time. He was down in the ditches and helping out with the staff. They were all part of the same group.

He retired when he was seventy-two, but he had so much of the water system up in his head, they had to call him back to show them, whoever replaced him, where all the water lines went to and where to find them. So they gave him a Model-A Ford pickup, if you called it a pickup in those days. An old Model-A Ford. By that time, he was getting older, of course, and he was getting hard of hearing.

The funny thing, I think, about my grandfather – like I said, he was still tall and straight – but he was getting older and hard of hearing. The train used to come through Issaquah twice a day, to the old depot here and on up to North Bend. Then back in the afternoon. He was finishing his job for the day about four o'clock, and that was about the time the train came through. The train always whistled for this crossing here where the community center is now.

My grandfather didn't hear the train. His office was the old city hall, which is where the police department sits now – and the train hit him broadside. Pushed his Model-A Ford down almost to the depot. He said a few words in German. And he wondered what was happening, and he climbed out. And he wasn't hurt. [chuckles]

They repaired his Model-A Ford. And about a year later, before he retired for the last time, he got hit again. At the same intersection. Same train. Same Model-A. [laughter] He climbed out again, and he lived to 1942. And, of

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

course, at that time my grandmother, his wife, had passed away in 1938. So our family took turns having him live with them a month at a time, until he passed away in [19]42.

But he was a great old guy. When I was a little kid, he used to scare the devil out of me because he had a big handlebar mustache, just like the old Germans. And being so tall, and I was a little, tiny guy. I'd get into his garage, which is down in back of the Scott Building now, on Rainier Avenue. I'd get into his garage, and I used to play with his tools. And one thing you didn't touch was his tools.

And he'd come in and make a big sound. I got scared, and he started chasing me. Chased me across the chicken yard. My grandmother was always out there in her long dress and her apron, and she'd gather me in her arms and save me.

He'd stop because she'd call him an "Old fool, get out of here!" And he'd go back to his workshop, and I was saved again. [laughter] That happened probably five times a year, at least, till I got to be school-age.

MM: That's a really sweet story. Can you tell me about – that's obviously part of growing up – but how many brothers and sisters you had and their names?

BE: Well, my mother and father, when I was born, they said, "We've got the ultimate." So I didn't have any brothers and sisters. [chuckles]

MM: Really? You were an only child? Interesting.

BE: The other story was that they took one look at me when I was born, and decided they didn't want another one that looked like me! [laughter]

MM: In what part of Issaquah did you grow up? Where was your family home, and what do you remember about your family?

BE: You know where I-90 crosses Front Street now?

MM: Yeah.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: That was my home, right underneath it. We had 2 ½ acres right there. In those days, there was only a two-lane gravel road from the Grange Store out to the city limits, all the way to Redmond. We lived fronting on that gravel road.

MM: And so what happened to the house?

BE: We gave permission – before we sold it, we gave – well, it wasn't before we sold it, it was after we'd had it for a long time. We moved to Seattle in 1941, because my dad's job was there. I was assistant manager of the local dime store out here, making 25 cents an hour. I made \$12.50 a week. And I saved money at that time.

But we gave the house to the Volunteer Fire Department to burn down. They wanted it for practice, for lessons, on how to fight a fire and so forth.

MM: Were there already plans to put I-90 ... no, no, that was long before.

BE: There weren't even plans for what used to be U.S. 10, which is all the same path, only much smaller. Gilman Boulevard was Highway 10.

MM: That's right.

BE: I-90 was a bypass. That didn't happen until I was president of the Chamber of Commerce in [19]68, so I had to do a little fighting with the county and the feds, because they were just going to have an entrance into Issaquah off of the new I-90, from the west. They were going to cut out the one up here, which would have blocked off half our city.

We had a lot of marketing and a lot of traffic from North Bend and Snoqualmie and Fall City and all those cities east. And I couldn't see that –

Our town was still small then. We only had a supermarket, out of town down by the now Kentucky Fried Chicken, which is on Gilman. That first area back there across the creek was the first supermarket that we had. The rest of them were all downtown Issaquah – Sunset Way and Front Street.

MM: So why did your family decide to have your house burned down rather than – I guess you did sell it to the fire department – or, no?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: Yeah, but those people were gone that we bought it from. The city asked – the house was vacant, and they asked if we had any objection to them burning it down for practice.

MM: So out of courtesy, they asked you? Because someone else had owned it? You said someone else had been there?

BE: Yeah, I don't remember now all of the details now, but I remember they came to my folks in Seattle and asked us.

MM: That's really interesting because – am I getting this right? – you'd already sold the house to other people?

BE: Yeah.

MM: So you had sold out. Had your family built the home?

BE: Yeah, my mother and dad built the whole thing. My mother was up on the roof shingling the house. She was pretty talented.

MM: Really? Did they use cedar shakes, cedar shingles?

BE: I think so, yeah. I don't remember that far back, but they were wood shakes. I think they were shingles, cedar shingles. Because there was a lot of lumbering in this country at that time, mining and lumber and dairy farms.

MM: Right. What were your parents like, if you were to describe them? What were their characteristics and their traits?

BE: Well, my mother and father – they didn't smoke and they didn't drink – they were just straight-laced people. My dad was a coal miner over here at one of the – in fact, a number – of mines around here.

His family was a big family. Ten brothers and sisters in the family. And my grandmother, rather, did housekeeping and all that sort of thing for other people. They had their own vegetable garden and stuff for food. So they were fairly poor. When the kids got a chance, my aunts and uncles, the set out to work. My dad went to work – do you know where Mine Hill is, we call Mine Hill? That was the old German mine back in World War I. He went to work there, my dad, when he was thirteen years old.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

MM: My goodness.

BE: Just working on the screening belts, when they would clear the coal from the rock on this belt. It was a pretty big mine there. Sophisticated, for those days. He used to work out there, just picking the rock and stuff out and throwing it in a bin when he was thirteen.

Then he went to work when he was a little older at Grand Ridge Mine, which is down below Issaquah Highlands now. He worked there until he became an adult. Then he and another old-timer from Issaquah got a job in the mines at Bellingham and worked in the mines there.

MM: Really?

BE: When he came back from there, he worked the Harris Mine, which is on the old Renton Road – the old way from Seattle to Chicago, up over Snoqualmie Pass and the whole bit, all the way to Chicago. He worked there until 1940. It was just a little small mine. If somebody got hurt inside, there were only 3- or 4-foot chutes they called the coal veins. They worked in there on their hands and knees.

I went in there one time on a Saturday with my dad, when I was in high school, and my dad was fire boss at that time.

I had my favorite mules over there. There were Jake and Jenny, the two mules that pulled the cars. So I used to like to go over there on a Saturday when my dad had to go and see my friends, Jake and Jenny. It got so I got to be their friend, too.

MM: Did you bring them things, like carrots?

BE: Yeah, carrots from our garden. We had 2 and a half acres down here where I grew up, and our own garden, because that was the start of the Depression days, and you'd better have your own garden.

MM: Were there ever any accidents in the mine, or things you especially remember like strikes? Or did your father suffer any illness from working in the mine for so long?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: He used to go to the local shoemaker here because every year his knees would swell up, working on his hands and knees all that time. He'd get water on the knee. He went to the shoemaker because he made them knee pads, until the coal would cut through them, and they'd have to have them re-soled.

He also was injured in the mine – twice – in about 1937-38. He was working in one of the chutes. As I started to tell you, you never knew whether a person was hurt or not until the shift was over because everybody was in these little tiny coffins, actually, in the middle of the veins. And it was like being buried alive.

Like I said, I went into the mine one day with my dad and went up into a chute. Talk about claustrophobia. It was like being buried alive. And you worked at it eight hours a day.

So he was up there working in the mine, and he had what they called a "bucker," a guy behind him downhill from where he was working who, after he got the coal loose up out of the vein, he'd kick it down through his legs. Then the bucker, his job was to kick it on down to the main tunnel. They'd open the doors there and load the coal that came down the chute into cars that the mules would pull out and put into the bunkers. But that was terrible. My mother and I, when I got to be a teenager in high school, we worked on my dad and said, "You can do better than this. You're going to get hurt."

Even though it was a small mine, they had poison gas. That's what the fire boss did. He'd go in the mine before the shift and make sure the gas was not there. They had a lamp in those days, which would light differently if the gas was there.

MM: So you were about to say, they couldn't tell till the end of the shift if someone had been hurt?

BE: Hurt or killed.

MM: So at the end of the shift, did they look around and say, "Joe didn't come out of his coal vein?"

BE: Well, they all met out by the bunkers. The bunkers used to be right out on the highway, on State Route 900, and they'd all meet there at the end of

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

the shift. If somebody didn't come out, they'd all have to go back in and look for him.

MM: Do you remember your dad going back in to look for people?

BE: I don't recall that. I think there was one fellow that was killed in the mine. But my dad was still working in the chutes, before he became a supervisor or a fire boss, and a rock came down right on his ankle, his foot, and pinned him in. He couldn't move. Because the rock was pretty heavy. Pretty big.

They had to come in and find my dad. He broke his leg, and he was off work for about six weeks. I still remember the day they brought him home. That was always my mother's real worry, that a strange car would come home at the time he was supposed to be home.

But he healed well. The local doctor took care of him, Dr. Gibson, who Gibson Hall was named after, and so on. He lived right up by the [Boehm] swimming pool, which used to be our high school in that spot. Six weeks later he went back to work. Doctor said it was all right. It wasn't two or three weeks later, same thing happened again. And my mother said, "That's it!" And I did, too.

So he went to work, at the end of the Depression, in Seattle – went looking for work – and he did the same thing I did a few years later. Because it was during the Depression and –

MM: So this would be between 1929 and 1939?

BE: Right. And there weren't many jobs available. So he got to Seattle and didn't know how to look for a job because he was a coal miner. That's all he had done. He'd walk up First Avenue, from down by Jackson Street all the way up to, say, Stewart Street, looking in the windows to see if there was "help wanted" signs. Well, that was a rarity in those days.

Then he'd go up to the next street, to Second Avenue, walk back down to the depot and back up Third Avenue. Then back down Fourth Avenue.

At about noon on a particular day he was doing this, he walked past the courthouse, which is still there, the same old building, at Second and James.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

By this time – it was, like I said, 1939 – Russell Fluent was a [King] County Commissioner. Russell Fluent was also a Mason, and he and his wife were members of the Eastern Star Lodge, the women’s branch – primarily a women’s branch. The Masons were just men.

He and my dad had met commonality in that Russell had been a coal miner at one time in the East, too. They got to be good friends in their lodge. They’d visit lodges. He was in West Seattle, I believe. He used to come out to Issaquah to the lodge when they had special meetings. My mother and dad would go there. I felt like an orphan when I was in high school because they were gone. It was part of their social life, I think.

So Russell was still county commissioner, and he saw my dad when he was coming back from lunch, and my dad was walking past the courthouse.

He said, “Bill, what are you doing in Seattle?”

He said, “I’m looking for work. I’m finally getting out of the mine.”

He said, “What kind of work are you looking for?”

He said, “I don’t know. I just want to get a job doing something.”

Russell said, “Come inside with me.”

He made my dad a night janitor in the County/City Building. My dad ended up being assistant superintendent of the County/City Building and had about 140 people working for him after. He worked until ... *oh, gosh*. Well, he was still working when I went to work as a bailiff. When I was in college he got me a job in Bobby Morris’s office. Morris was a Rose Bowl referee as a hobby. He was a real sports nut. He was the [King] County Auditor. He liked hiring college kids because I had the whole auditor’s office as my place to clean, the biggest office in area. My dad wasn’t going to have any son of his think that he’s going to get an easy job. [chuckles] So I had the biggest job, and he used to inspect me with a fine-tooth comb to see if I was doing a good job.

Bobby liked me there because he gave me little extra jobs. We’d work until midnight, but that was the end of the shift – If I finished all my work and got everything cleaned up – and my dad saw to it that I did – then I’d have an hour or two that I could use the auditor’s office machines. I was in college at

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

the time, and I liked to use the machines for my accounting classes and so forth. I'd do all my homework there. So that was a pretty good deal for me.

MM: So what years were those when you were working with your dad in the auditor's office?

BE: Well, he was the superintendent of the whole building. He had his own office upstairs. There's somebody with a grade school education, or prior to a grade school education, and he was in his office, which had a supply room attached to it for all the equipment and supplies that he used for waxing floors and so forth.

He was sitting in those high-backed judge's chairs that had been surplused. He'd sit and read the dictionary. That's how he'd improve his vocabulary and so forth, and knew the meanings of a lot of words you should get by the time you're in high school. I was very proud of him because he never had the basic beginning at all. And he was the boss of 140-some people.

MM: What a huge shift, to go from working in the shafts of the mines, you know, to working in such an office.

BE: Yeah! [chuckles] Marble walls. They had lots of Italian walls. They probably still do. I haven't been in the courthouse in a long time.

MM: It's probably a good thing a rock fell on his ankle. [laughing]

BE: Right! It sure helped my mother and I, you know. We used our argument on him until he finally saw that we were thinking about his own good. But he was concerned that he didn't have an education to do anything else.

But that was in, let's see... I got out of the service in December, [19]45. And I started college in September [19]48. Because I'd been out of high school for so long ...

MM: You went into the service directly after high school and then you went to college?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: Yeah. Well, I'd worked in Seattle since my folks had moved to Seattle. I got a job as a warehouseman and a teamster because, by that time, it went from the Depression to the war effort and there were all kinds of jobs.

I got a job as a warehouseman for Alaskan Copper Works on First Avenue, down by where the Kingdome used to be and where Qwest Field is now. And I worked there until the end of [19]42. Then I went into the service and got out of the service at the end of the war, in [19]45. Landed in Tacoma. That's the only good thing that happened to me in the service was landing in Tacoma, right close to home.

I almost fell overboard on my troop ship when we got into Elliott Bay, looking at Seattle. I could almost see my home up on Beacon Hill from the ship, and I was so excited! [laughing]

MM: To be that close to home.

BE: Yeah. After three years. And I was in a combat outfit, so I didn't know if I was going to get home or not. You live from day to day when you're in combat.

MM: I definitely want to ask you more about that experience. But first, I want to cover a just little bit of ground regarding going to school in Issaquah, how it was for you. What are your earliest memories of attending school in Issaquah? For example, how did you get to school? How many students were in your class? And do you recall any special teachers?

BE: Oh, I can remember some real special teachers. I was in love with my fourth grade teacher. She was an Issaquah girl, Margaret McQuade was her name. She was a real pretty girl and fairly young.

And I got real jealous because we'd go on a field trip on a school bus, and a guy there by the name of Jimmy Parrot. He was sitting with her and cuddling up against her. And I was real jealous of that. [laughing]

My first grade teacher was a typical old schoolteacher. She was old when I got her. But she was a good teacher.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

And I remember my second grade teacher was Sophie Wallen, who was an Issaquah girl. The Issaquah family, they lived right across the creek, just south of the Sunset Bridge.

MM: Issaquah Creek?

BE: Yeah, just past the hatchery. Just south of the Issaquah Creek Bridge. That was all Wallen property.

My third grade teacher was Mrs. Barton, and she came from out of town. I don't know where she came from. She married an Issaquah man and became Mrs. Clark.

The fourth grade teacher, I told you about, Mrs. McQuade. My fifth grade teacher, was Miss Brisnahan [unable to verify spelling]. You don't need to know all these names. [laughing]

Anyhow, George Morgan was my eighth grade teacher. You asked about George before.

MM: Yeah. He was the coach as well, for the foot ball team. What do you remember about him? Did he try to recruit you for the football team?

BE: No, he tried to discourage me. [chuckles] Remember, I was the guy who was 5'3" and weighed 105 pounds. I thanked him, in later years, after the war was over, and I grew up and got taller, and I could look him in the eye instead of the belt buckle. I thanked him from saving my life. He made me the football manager, Dave Chevalier and I, and another fellow still lives here. Still one of our group that gets together once a month for breakfast.

MM: Who's in that group that gets together once a month for breakfast?

BE: Well, Walt.

MM: Walt Seil.

BE: And I. And a fellow by the name of Norman Holmes, who grew up in Preston but went to school in Issaquah, as all the Preston kids did. And he's still around.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

And Dave Chevalier. And then, a few of the gals who were in our class. Verle Luck [unable to verify spelling], who now is in a nursing home.

MM: What was her name?

BE: Verle Luck, is her name now. She married a young fellow from the Renton Highlands area by the name of Marvin Luck, who went to school in Issaquah. His family lived close to Issaquah at that time. Her name was Verle Tucker. Before she was married, she was my neighbor.

And Blanche Perrault [unable to verify spelling]. She came from somewhere else. A little French girl. And very sweet. She's still very nice, but she's in her eighties, too. And I haven't seen her in a while, because she's had a lot of heart problems. But there's still – with spouses – there's still about ten or twelve there.

MM: Regarding your monthly reunion group, what do you remember about those people from when they were young? I know that there's some funny things that you did with Walt Seil that were kind of fun, and funny, like the high school play. But I just wondered if you wanted to talk about any other things.

BE: Well, we had a lot of fun. I was football manager, from my freshman year to my senior year. I also played in the high school band.

MM: Oh, what did you play?

BE: Well, it wasn't what I wanted to play. I wanted to play a saxophone. But the folks wanted me to play a piano. I couldn't march in the marching band with a piano. So they finally agreed, "OK, you can play a saxophone." I didn't want to practice the piano. Nowadays, I wish to heck I knew how to play the piano!

I went to Hopper Kelly Music Company in downtown Seattle, where I had my first experience with a salesman. My folks did, too. Because I walked in to get my saxophone, and I walked out with a clarinet. [chuckles] He told my folks, "You should get a clarinet, because if you can play a clarinet, you can also play a saxophone. But if you get a saxophone, you can't play a clarinet." Now, I don't understand to this day the difference, except he had an over-supply of clarinets. [laughing]

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

MM: So, you were in the high school. And you were the football manager for – what was it? – the Alpine Dairy football team, was that what it was called?

BE: Oh, no. No, that was a town team.

MM: Oh, what was the high school team?

BE: We were the Issaquah Indians. In fact, until just recently, when they got on a high horse about not being an Indian but being an Eagle, everybody who lived here years ago, everything was Issaquah Indians. We picked Indian – well, it was picked before I ever got to high school – but you picked an Indian not because of derogatory things, you picked an Indian because they're brave and strong. And you looked up to them. So we wanted that for our teams. All our athletic teams were Issaquah Indians.

So we as adults and senior citizens who remembered those days fought the idea. Why change it to an Eagle when it had been Issaquah Indians for years and years and years?

MM: I didn't know there was a city team and a high school team. I've been confusing the two. Was that typical for cities to have teams back in those days?

BE: We used to belong to a league. When I was a teenager, whole families, mothers and fathers and kids, would go up to the town where the game was being played. With our team, the Alpine team – named after the Alpine Dairy, which was owned by the Forester family, and it became eventually Darigold, what it is now –

MM: On Front Street.

BE: Uh-huh. Because Hans Forester, the owner, was a cheese maker from Switzerland. And he came through Canada, and married the farmer's daughter in Fall City, and got most of his wealth through his father-in-law. He started the Alpine Dairy when his father-in-law had one of the biggest farms in the Fall City. So he was the main supplier.

But in those days, trucks went around and gathered the big milk cans from all the farms and brought them down here. That was the main industry in the

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

town of Issaquah, except for the mining and the lumber. The other part was dairy farming.

When Hans sold out to Darigold, he became their general manager. And he became my partner. I opened up a bowling lanes in 1960 in Issaquah, a 16-lane house. I had three partners. Everybody had money except me, although we were even contributors to start the organization. We each put up the same amount of money. We were equal partners.

But Hans got killed coming home from Darigold in Seattle on the East Channel Bridge. At that time, it was reversible lanes. Going in, in the morning, it had four lanes – it was only a four-lane highway at that time. Then they'd reverse it at night as traffic was coming out.

Well, there was a University of Washington professor who drove a big Cadillac coming from the opposite direction. And Hans drove a big Lincoln. He just had gotten it, and took it to Europe. Had it shipped to Europe, and he toured Switzerland – because he still had family over there – with his Issaquah family.

He was in the reversible lane, and the guy got confused, that University of Washington professor, and they hit head-on. Hans was a big, robust man. Those were the days of the first seat belts. And his car – well, I'll say Lincolns and Cadillacs and so forth had the first standard seat belts. Other cars didn't have them yet.

Hans was a multi-millionaire at that time, and he said, "Aw, I don't want that in my car! Too much trouble!"

He took the seat belt off, so he didn't have it when he hit head-on [slapped his hands] with this guy and smashed the steering post, and his chest, all his ribs were crushed and everything. He died of his own body fluids in the hospital a week later.

MM: Oh, that was too bad.

BE: That was the story. And we lost the bowling lanes because Brunswick, who was our house, was our manufacturer, was in competition with AMF, who was the other competitor with bowling lanes, and they got into a battle.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

And our house was only five years old. I managed it, and I had it all paid off. Except for two more years, everything was paid off. We were paying over \$5,000 a month to Brunswick alone, let alone our labor and all that sort of thing. And at 35 cents a line in the daytime and at 50 cents a line at night.

MM: It would take a long time to make \$5,000! [laughing]

BE: Right. We'd have to get a loan every summer because there were no leagues in the summertime. People started bowling in September, right after Labor Day, and by the time April comes around, leagues end. Not many of them wanted to stay inside when we had our summer months. And so we had to get a loan every summer to keep payroll.

MM: What was the name of the bowling lane?

BE: Hi-Ten Bowl.

MM: Where was it located?

BE: Right over in the curve of I-90, right beyond Boehm Candy. It was right there in the curve. It used to be Highway 10 in those days, so it was Hi-Ten Bowl.

MM: Right. "Hi-Ten Bowl." Oh, I get it, tenpins. And you owned that from what years?

BE: From 1960, we opened up, and we closed it in [19]65 or [19]66.

MM: In relationship to downtown – I guess this would be before your family moved to Seattle – when you were growing up, what were your favorite haunts with your friends? Where did you go, what places, and what did you do?

BE: Well, of course, where the library sits now [Sunset & Front Street] was a gas station, and right next to it was a little vacant area. And a couple ladies in Issaquah, housewives, during the Depression, opened up a little hole-in-the-wall restaurant called the Busy Bee.

It was just hamburgers and malted milks and all that sort of thing. So because they had high school-type food, in those days, all the kids hung out

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

there. Then there was a little boardinghouse right next to it. And then there was the Issaquah – is it still the arts store?

MM: I don't know.

BE: It was one of the biggest and newest buildings in Issaquah at the time. It later became Issaquah Ten-Cent Store. And then ... that was Drylie's ... what was it called? Probably a confectionary or something. But, a soda fountain in there, and other things in there. But that used to be another hangout.

MM: What was the name of that place, do you think?

BE: Drylie's Confectionary, I guess. I forget.

MM: Interesting. Those places, did they close after you came back from the war? Did you notice that they'd been closed?

BE: The Busy Bee was gone. The gas station was still there. It was a Mobil gas station at that time, run by Chuck Kinnune, who was from an old Issaquah family. He just died a few years ago. His wife still goes to our church, although I haven't seen her for a while.

Then when I was in high school, then there used to be an Issaquah Post Office, run by Stevenson. On this side, a big, old wood building. You know where the Odd Fellows Hall is? Next to that was a building about the same, but one-story high. It used to be called the Shamrock. And that was a real nice restaurant.

MM: Run by Mike and Rena Shane?

BE: Shane! Yeah. Right, right. They had good food. The adults went there, but they had malted milks and stuff, too. Hamburgers. But they came later, after the Busy Bee and all that sort of thing.

MM: Did you have a car at that time, when you were a kid?

BE: I didn't have a car until I came home from the service.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

MM: But that was probably typical that your friends didn't have cars? Or did they?

BE: Walt had a Model-A Ford, and that was one of the first things that attracted me to Walt! [laughter] So we used to buzz around in a Model-A Ford. Before that, I guess, I lived down where I-90 crosses now, and just about in hollering distance further north was the Hailstone family. Hailstone is an old family.

In fact, they talk about the Hailstone Feed Store now. But that's not where the feed store was when I was a kid. Because I used to work there, helping out my neighbor. I thought it was big stuff when I could lift a sack of feed.

The original was across the track. It was a big warehouse-type thing. But the Hailstones were our neighbors, and since I didn't have any brothers and sisters, I had four kids that were my buddies. An older girl, a younger girl, and an older boy, who was my best pal, Don Hailstone.

And the youngest child was Jimmy Hooker Hailstone. Hooker was a family name. And Hooker always went by Hooker. He was Jimmy when he was a kid. His older brother, Don, was my buddy. We used to all play together, fish together, dam up the little creek on their property. It went right through. You probably can't even see it nowadays unless you're really looking for it. It's only about this wide. [gestures]

MM: So that wide is probably about 4' wide, 5'wide?

BE: About 5' wide, but it varied. We'd dam the creek, is what we were supposed to do every summer. Then the water would come up behind it, like any dam. Only we dammed it with wood, but then we could swim in it because the water would be about 3' high. We'd spend all summer on that creek. We made a raft. We were pirates and all that sort of thing.

MM: Was that part of Issaquah Creek?

BE: It was Jordan Creek. It comes down, still to this day, where the road goes up down to where, now, you go into the gravel and cement outfit? I think it's Lakeside now. That road winds around and up the hill, which is, when it gets up to the top, Issaquah-Fall City Road. But that used to be the

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

only road up to Pine Lake and so forth, until you got much further north. That creek comes down that canyon.

Where it came down to meet Front Street – or in those days, the Issaquah-Redmond Road – salmon used to come all the way up there this time of year. Red fish first. They were saltwater trout, I guess. They'd turn red when they hit fresh water. They'd come up before the salmon did.

The salmon would come up, and they'd go up that creek – when it wasn't dammed, of course. The creek was just a little thing you could jump across. The salmon would come up there in the [19]30s until only their nose was under water. Their backs were out of the water.

The salmon, they got beat up from stumps and everything, trying to get up there. I remember in the late [19]30s, we'd go over and pick up a big salmon, some big Chinook, because they couldn't go any further. We'd take them home for fish dinners during the Depression. Later on, we'd use the ones that were dying, anyhow, for fertilizer for the flower gardens and so forth.

MM: Did that attract other wildlife, too, those fish? Like bear and things like that? Do you remember other animals feeding on them?

BE: I can remember as if it was yesterday. Because day before yesterday, I passed a deer going up to Providence Point. He was on the side of the road. There are bear up there from time to time. There are coyotes up there from time to time.

MM: Really?

BE: We still get warnings over our private channel, TV channel, Channel 8 – that's just for Providence Point residents – that you'd better watch out, a bear's been sighted on this trail or that trail, or inside the fence eating somebody's flowers. [chuckles]

MM: What about cougar?

BE: Cougar, too, yeah, but with every new house that's built up there, it's driving them further and further away.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

MM: Yeah, their habitat shrinks. Tell me a story about you and Walt Seil. I know you guys ran around together, and I'm sure there's a lot of stories. Some you could probably tell, some you can't. [laughter] But what's a memorable moment with your friend Walt?

BE: Well, of course, we graduated in the same class. On graduation night, we – big stuff – I was president of my senior class – so we tried to arrange a party. But we graduated on June 3, 1941. It was a Tuesday night. It was raining to beat heck. Usually, the first part of June, I always remember the rain. We didn't get good weather constantly until July.

MM: I know that. [chuckles] From living out here.

BE: Yeah. You live out here?

MM: I live in Bellingham. But it's the same. You don't get good weather until July. I'm sorry to interrupt your story. Keep going.

BE: No, that's fine. So I had a class meeting the day before we graduated, and I said, "It's our last time together as a group. How are we going to celebrate?"

Well, a lot of them had family parties on graduation night. I had a graduation party, too, with my family. But we all decided well, after the party is over – and it'll probably be over about ten o'clock – we'll meet back at the high school and go to a party in Seattle. We'll find something that's really good to do.

So Walt and I and another fellow, I don't remember who the other fellow was, but we had our dates, and we met back at the school at ten o'clock. And we went to Seattle. We thought, "This'll be great! We six will do something that nobody else does."

So we went down to Boeing Field. We were going to rent an airplane and take our first flight over the city. Well, we got down to Boeing Field and, of course, Tuesday night, ten o'clock, everything was pitch dark! There was nobody there.

"So what do we do now?"

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

“Well, let’s be daring.”

And there happened to be a bottle club on First Avenue in Seattle, with entertainment and so forth. But it wasn’t a club like you think of nowadays. But still, you had to be 21 to get in. Of course, we looked like we were eighteen. [chuckles] So we got stopped at the door! And that took care of that.

“What do we do now? It’s midnight!”

“Well, there’s all-night shows.”

“Big deal.”

So we went to an all-night show. We parked Walt’s car up on somebody’s rooftop parking downtown. We went to the nearest all-night show. We enjoyed the show. And our dates were kind of worried, because they’d never been out this late before.

MM: No, that’s probably about two in the morning by that point.

BE: By the time we got out of the show, it was almost dawn. The girls were hungry, naturally – like my wife – and so we went to breakfast. My girl lived in Upper Preston. There’s a Lower Preston we all know, but in those days ... and still, people live up there. It’s further up toward Echo Glen, fairly close to that. And it’s a little Swedish *flicka* that I went with. Her mother was at the door when I brought her home, and the sun was shining bright. And she was a sweet little lady.

She said, “Now, Bill, you know that Frances is younger than you are.”

“Yes, I know.”

She said, “And we live in a community where everybody sees everything that goes on.”

I said, “Well, nothing went on. Things didn’t work out, and we ended up at an all-night show and went to breakfast.”

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

She said, "Well, please don't bring her home in the daylight anymore."
[laughter]

"I promise." [laughing]

MM: Did the other guys get in trouble, or the other girls? Do you remember?

BE: I don't remember, because I was sweating enough! [laughter]

MM: That's a really great story! [laughing]

BE: But Walt, he lived on Tiger Mountain. He went with a girl that night who lived on Tiger Mountain, in fact, a neighbor of his. So he never did tell me how he made out with her folks when he brought her home, because he took me home first, up to Upper Preston. So it had to be nine o'clock before he got this girl home.

MM: You said that you worked at a dime store here in Issaquah. Were you doing that during high school?

BE: Well. I'll tell you. I applied at the dime store for a job. There were two high school girls who were a year ahead of me in school, working at the dime store. They'd worked there through high school, I hadn't, but I had to have a job. It was the end of the Depression, and I didn't think about Seattle yet. So I applied there, too. And they made me their assistant manager.

Because not only did I have – well, a big title, but very little money – but the girls were my high school buddies – well, they weren't my buddies, but they were a year ahead of me and I knew them all. Now, I became their boss, and that created problems.

MM: Tell me about that. How did they treat you? How did it work?

BE: Well, let's say they didn't give me any break-in information to help me too much. They just kept to themselves. All I had to do was handle their payroll. That's the only thing I had on them.

I was so busy with my own department – if you ever thought about taking inventory in a dime store, you know what that means. You count screws, and

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

you count little boxes of this, and little boxes of that. I had the hardware department. The girls had the clothing, men and women, that sort of thing.

I also had to take care of the freight that would come in on the train to the depot, the existing depot. And the dime store was where the – you know where Steve Bennett's office is, right at the end across from the bicycle shop?

MM: What street is that?

BE: It's right on Front Street.

MM: Yeah.

BE: Next to it was this other shop – it's a gift shop now – but that used to be the dime store. So I had to handle all the freight and take inventory, decorate the windows, because we had show windows. I had to take care of not only payroll, but also, if the girls didn't show up for work, I had to get a substitute for them and so forth. I worked six days a week.

MM: How many hours a day?

BE: Eight.

MM: So what year was that? Was that after high school?

BE: Yeah, the next day. I graduated on Tuesday night and my first day on the job was after I got the girls home. [chuckles]

MM: So you didn't get to sleep that night.

BE: No.

MM: Your first day on the job. And you were making –

BE: I made 25 cents an hour, and I saved money.

MM: Was that considered minimum wage at the time?

BE: I don't think there was a minimum wage at that time. Whatever job you could get, and were satisfied with, you took.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

MM: So what did you do after that job? How long did you stay there, and where did you go next?

BE: I only stayed there from June until August. And I had a feeling for the people – I knew the people who ran the dime store, they got to be future friends – but I felt so guilty because I got a chance to go to Seattle and get a job at Schwabacher Hardware. Then I made 70-some cents an hour. So, that made a big difference.

But I went to live with my aunt in Seattle, because my folks hadn't moved to Seattle yet, and she lived up by Lake Washington. I told a lie I was sick, and I was in my aunt's house in Seattle, and she was caring for me. That wasn't the lie, but the fact that I was sick was a lie because I didn't know how to tell them. [chuckles]

MM: Who were you telling you were sick?

BE: The dime store. So I went right to work for Schwabacher Hardware. I was the mail boy in a three-story building on First & Jackson. That was the primary job, to start with.

Well, I bugged the warehouse manager constantly, every week, until he got tired of me bothering him. So, I finally got the job as warehouseman, but I paid for it because I was lifting 5-gallon cans of lead to go with commercial paint. And *boy!* I was tired at the end of a day.

MM: How heavy was a 5-gallon can of lead?

BE: Oh, it was about 75-80 pounds.

MM: That's pretty heavy.

BE: Yeah, I know. I put them up on racks when they'd come in on big trucks, and the lowest rack was this high [gestures], and I had to lift them that high.

MM: Maybe two feet high?

BE: Oh, at least. It was close to three feet high, but getting it up that far was tough enough. And then, carrying them to the spot where they went ...

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

MM: Did they have 5-gallon jugs with just round handles?

BE: Yeah.

MM: That probably dug into your hand, I would imagine.

BE: Oh, that dug into my hand, and my gut, and my back and [chuckles] everything else! My legs.

MM: Yeah. And what did you do after that?

BE: I went to Alaskan Copper Works. That was at the start of the war. And, of course, their bronze shafts and stuff for ships, they got to real military-oriented. I worked the warehouse there, and I made, I think, 5 cents an hour more than I did at Schwabacher Hardware. So I made 78 cents an hour. And that was a raise, which is something you weren't used to in those days.

MM: So what was it like? It seems like there had been really hard times during the Depression.

BE: Oh, yeah.

MM: And it had been hard to find work. Then, it seems like the war breaks out and most of the men get shipped off. What happened in terms of jobs and prosperity?

BE: Well, the first thing, it created a lot of jobs that they didn't have before. Because *everybody* was not working.

We lived down here, as I told you, where I-90 crosses now. The railroad tracks were just about a block away where they are now, you know, going down. People who didn't have jobs were homeless, riding the rails. They'd get off the train here – they were looking for jobs if they could find them – and they'd get off the train and come over to my folks' house and knock at the door and say how hungry they were and ask if there was any work they could do. They'd do anything. They weren't afraid of work. They'd chop wood and wash your car, or anything you had. Work in your yard or anything else.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

So we fed lots of people because we did have a garden, and we had our old well. And it was deep enough, so it was real cold.

There were no such things as refrigerators. Well, they had refrigerators with iceboxes, but we didn't have one. We had something like a cupboard, with a screen on the outside and a door on the inside to keep things cool. We'd throw a hunk of ice in there in the summertime, when it was real hot.

My dad used to make root beer. He'd bottle it, and we'd keep the bottles on ropes down in the well. And that kept it cool.

MM: That's smart. I've been camping, and we'd put bottles in a cold stream to cool them, but I never thought that people would use their wells as a kind of a refrigeration, but that's perfect.

BE: Yeah, right.

MM: So you had this bad Depression and you'd had people out of work, and you'd had people hungry. Then was it all of a sudden like there was a new industry? The whole country shifted toward a military-industrialism?

BE: Even before Pearl Harbor happened, in 1940, things were picking up, because the war was in Europe from [19]39. We were supplying and lending, all this sort of thing. So industries were popping up like crazy, all over.

MM: There was work.

BE: Yeah.

MM: Also, that's a time when a lot of women entered the workforce as well.

BE: Yeah – Boeing – “Rosie the Riveter.” Yeah.

MM: I remember that.

BE: You don't remember that. [chuckles]

MM: I mean, I remember that poster. That's a very familiar image, “Rosie the Riveter.”

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: Yeah. That stayed through the whole war, and all over the West Coast, that I know of.

MM: Now it's sort of emblematic for feminist women, you know?

BE: Uh-huh.

MM: You left off at that job that you'd had. I can't remember exactly where you were working, but you'd mentioned something about metal and copper. Where were you working?

BE: The Alaskan Copper Works. It was down on First Avenue South.

MM: And what were you making for the war?

BE: They had a shop down on Spokane Street in Seattle where they actually milled the big bronze shafts and copper plating, and that sort of thing. The shafts were mostly used for Navy shafts, for ships, from the prop to the turbines. It turned the shaft, which turned the propellers. And that's where they made them.

There were many shipyards by that time: Todd Shipyard, and Houghton Shipyard, over by Kirkland, which was the Seahawks place to train when they first came into existence – that was a shipyard there. That was going, and there were shipyards all around the Sound. Big ones and little ones.

MM: So when did you enlist?

BE: I didn't enlist, dear.

MM: When did you get drafted? [laughing]

BE: Well, I tried to enlist. In those days, in [19]41, Walt [Seil] probably told you that he went to Pearl Harbor right after Pearl Harbor happened. We saw him off on the train to San Francisco because he went down there to catch a ship.

He had an arm that he'd had half-shot off, and he never did recover the use of that arm, really. So he couldn't get into the service anyhow. But at the same

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

time, I didn't want to get in the infantry. At the time, there was the Army Air Force and the Navy Air Force. I tried the Army Air Force first.

I passed my mental test. And then, for some reason, they all took the mental test first. I guess to see whether you were as dumb as you look or what. And then they give you the [physical] test. Well, when I was twelve or thirteen, I got scarlet fever. I woke up in the middle of the night, probably two or three in the morning. I remember I turned on my light – I had the bedroom next to my folks' bedroom – and I was covered with blood. This fever had built up so strong that it broke the blood vessels in my nose.

I woke up, and I was soaking wet with blood from the fever. Scared the devil out of my mother. She came in and here was all this blood – I'd yelled for my mom – and she used cold packs, I know, to try to stop the blood. She got it fairly well stopped.

The local doctor up in the bank building, which is now the bicycle shop. Upstairs was the doctor's office, and he cauterized the vessels in there with some kind of metal, heated iron, and stopped it.

But it left me, for quite a while, quarantined for six or ten weeks in my house. My dad had to sleep in the garage. He was still working as a miner. Mom was quarantined with me, to take care of me. And that probably left me 5'3" and 105 pounds. [chuckles] That's when I was in high school.

All it left me with, other than being a little on the puny side, after I lost all that blood, was 20/30 in one eye, and 25/ or 30/ in the other eye. So later on, when I went to join the Air Force, I couldn't get in because they demanded 20/20. So I tried the Navy Air Force. They gave me my mental test first. And then I tried to tell them, "You better check my eyes,"

"Oh, we'll get to that." And I flunked out there.

Then I went to the Coast Guard, and I flunked out there. Then I went to the Navy, and I flunked out there. All about my eyes, 20/30.

Let's see, in [19]42, I was working at the Alaskan Copper Works still. Because in [19]42, there were no buses to speak of that ran past midnight. Well, in [19]42, I was in school, and dating girls and so forth. And I'd be out till one, two o'clock in the morning. Well, at that time, I was living in Seattle

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

with my folks, and there weren't any buses to take me home. So I had to catch a cab. I was out in the cold weather in the wintertime and so forth, and it really bothered my ears. I got an infection in my ear.

I went to the doctor. It was all swollen up, and he was checking it out. And he put me in the hospital. He said – my ears used to be like this – and he said, "Let's pin your ears back at the same time." It was the start of physical therapy – not physical therapy – you know, when you change your looks?

MM: Uh-huh.

BE: He pinned them back. And I had this infection in there, too. Then he put me in the hospital and corrected everything. I was still seeing this doctor in the Stimson Building, treating this infection and stuff. I'd just come from a Navy recruiting office across the street. Used to be in the old Embassy Theater. Have you lived in Seattle very long?

MM: No, but I know a little bit about Seattle.

BE: Yeah, well, that's where the recruiting office. I just had flunked out because I had 20/30 [eyesight]. And the doctor said, "Have you tried vitamins?"

And I said, "What's a vitamin?"

"Well, it's a pill." They weren't out like they are today. And he said, "Vitamin A will get your eyes in good shape. It'll take about two weeks if you take vitamin A."

I said, "How do I get this vitamin A?" Because I'd tried bananas, I'd tried orange juice, I'd tried cabbage juice. I'd tried everything I was told, and nothing worked. So he gave me a prescription to go to the pharmacy and get vitamin A. He was right. In two weeks, I had 20/20 vision.

He warned me. He said, "Now, if you stop taking the vitamins, in two weeks your eyes will go back to normal."

So I went back to the Navy real quick, and I said, "Here, swear me in! I'm ready to go." By this time, it was about March of [19]42. They said, "Oh, you come back in four months because we'll send you to Farragut, Idaho."

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

Of all places for the Navy to train you, you know. There was no water around in Idaho! [laughter]

And I said, "Well, OK, I'll wait. But swear me in!"

"No, we'll swear you in when we call you up."

I knew I was dead because I'd been in the State Guard. Teenage kids and old men were in State Guard. The only ones who weren't drafted, or in the service. We wore coveralls, and we'd go out in the fields by Puyallup, and lay in the rain with a shotgun. We'd do close-order drill. The now-food circus [at the Puyallup Fairgrounds] used to be the Armory. All they did was teach me close-order drill, which you learn in any camp, you know.

So I knew I was dead. I thought, well, I'd try the Merchant Marines. So I went down to the Merchant Marines and they said, "OK, but we have to have your parents' OK that you can get in the Merchant Marines."

I was going into the Merchant Marine because there used to be a butcher shop about two doors down from Fischer's Meats. The father of this guy was in the Merchant Marine during the [19]30s. His son, who was a year younger than me, Don Finney [unable to verify spelling], got in because of his father. He went from here, to Alaska, to Vladivostok, Russia and then back again. He was home every three months. I didn't know when I'd see home if I got into the Army or something.

So I thought, well, hey, that's a possibility. I can be home. And I'd get double pay in Alaskan waters because the Japs had already infiltrated Attu, Alaska and so forth, way up north.

MM: How come you'd get double pay?

BE: By carrying weapons and munitions and so forth. Dynamite. Anything that could blow up your ship.

MM: Oh, so it was extra-dangerous.

BE: Yeah, right. So I was all set for that. I had to talk to my mother until four o'clock before she finally gave in. So my dad said, "OK, if that's what you're

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

going to do.” So I went down with my paperwork all signed. He said, “Well” – Merchant Marine, Pier 92.” He said, “OK, you have to go out to lifeboat school.”

I said, “Where do I go for lifeboat school?”

“Well, you have to have lifeboat training if you’re going to be in the Merchant Marine. So we’ll have it out at Pier 92.”

So I said, “OK.”

Well, I got home that night and I had a call from the draft board. So I knew I was dead. So they said, “Well, they won’t release you.”

So I went back the next day, crying the blues to the Merchant Marine.

“We called them, and they won’t release you because you’re draft material.” So, OK, I was defeated. I went out to Tacoma to be drafted to the sixth floor of a building where they had the draft board located. There was a guy sitting at the desk where you first came in.

He said, “What do you want, Army or Navy?”

I said, “Do I have a choice?”

“Oh, yeah. If you qualify, Army or Navy, either one.”

I said, “The Navy!” I thought, *Boy*, there’s life yet!

So I went into a back examining room, went through the physical – most of the physical. And the mental, again. And I got to the eye exam. The room had been a classroom, and the charts that you’d close your one eye and look at were at the front of the classroom, hanging over a blackboard. Then you had to go down to the back of the room, turn around and take the eye test.

I knew what was going to happen. So, I flunked. I went out and there was a chief petty officer, about a thirty-year man. He had hash marks all over his arm.

MM: What are hash marks?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: For every four years you spend in the Navy, you get a gold stripe across here.

MM: I was thinking he had been scarred.

BE: Oh, no, no. [chuckles] But he was going to direct me, see. And I said, "I couldn't see all the letters" because of some reason, there was a shadow or something. I lied my head off then.

And I said, "Let me take it again because," I said, "I know I can see those letters. Something is wrong here. I don't know what it is."

He said, "You stupid jerk. Why do you want to get in the Navy?" He'd been in the Navy for so long, he couldn't understand that.

"Let me go back and take it again," I said.

I knew what lines I could see. So when I was standing there, getting in line to go back to the back of the room again, I memorized the letters I couldn't see, because I was up right alongside of them. So, I took my test and all of a sudden, I became 20/25 or 20/20. [chuckles]

So he looked at me and he said, "Well, you said you could see them. I don't know how the heck you did it," he said. "OK, you want to get in the Navy, go in that room over here. There are naval officers to take your paperwork."

There was a lieutenant commander, and a commander, and a lieutenant JG. And an ensign on the end. And the highest-ranking officer looked at my papers and said, "OK."

"OK" right down the line. They got to the ensign and he said, "Fellow, you were in the State Guard, weren't you?"

I said, "Well, it's all close-order drill. You do close-order drill in the Navy."

"Yeah, but you look like Army material."

I said, "Why do I look like Army material?"

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

And he said, "Well, you've had this training."

I said, "I'm willing to call, at my expense, my commanding officer at the State Guard in Seattle and he can explain it to you."

"No, we don't have time for that. Put this man in the Army."

So I was shipped from Fort Lewis to Camp Roberts, California, by Paso Robles. I went right into the infantry. When I get there, I thought, *Ohgod*, the worse possible thing that could happen to me now has happened to me.

I was on KP the following Sunday morning, and the first sergeant came to get me. I said, "Where are we going?"

He said, "Down to get your gear. You're going to a different barracks." So you don't ask any more questions, you just go. They transferred me because of my scores entering into the Army, the test scores, they sent me to message center and code work training. So I thought, Well, at least I'm not carrying a rifle in a foxhole. So I took my training there for three months. Now, I'm shipping out. I had graduated with a diploma and everything, talking about message center and code work.

So I said good-bye to the guys, and I still didn't know where I was going. They loaded me on a big two-ton truck, along with a bunch of other guys. Sent me 50 miles south to Camp San Luis Obispo, California, to an infantry outfit gathering together to go overseas. So I got my one eleven-day furlough in three years, before they shipped me overseas. That's the last furlough I got to come home.

Then I got to Hawaii for more training. I was there two weeks, and the commanding officer called me in and he said, "Soldier, we're over-strength. We've got too many men in our outfit."

I thought, Well, this is strange. "You're a combat outfit and you've got too many men? If you get into combat, you're going to lose men! You'd think you'd be building up."

He said, "No, our table organization is too high. You're one of the last guys in our outfit, so I'm transferring you out."

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

I said, "Where am I going?"

He said, "Oh, you're staying in the same battalion, same regiment. But," he said, "you're going to be a medic."

I said, "A medic? The only thing I've ever had in the way of training is high school public health, you know? How does that qualify me?"

He said, "Well, you'll get training."

So they sent me out to north central Oahu. Well, first they sent me to Kaneohe, which is a naval base on the other side of the mountain from Honolulu, and I took amphibious training. They'd send us out in little landing craft, and circle around until the guy flags your wave in, you know, an amphibious landing. And you'd hit the beach. And, of course, the diesel smoke from this landing craft are coming into the boat because it's windy out there.

Everybody's getting sick. Vomiting in the boat. Well, I stood it as long as I could, but I was not feeling very good either. Then we go ashore, and hit the beach. And guys were still sick on the beach. [chuckles]

One guy who was an officer was a dentist in private life. He was a little Filipino guy. And he was *so sick* out there. He ran out of the landing craft on the beach. Turned around. Ran back in against all of us who were coming out. Heaved in the boat. [laughing] Turned around and come back out again. Went back in there to do it again! [laughter] But he'd lost so much, I didn't think there was enough in him to lose in the boat.

Then we'd lay on the sand until we felt a little better. And then back in the boat and out again. We did it about three or four times a day, until we finally had enough. Then I had to take jungle training. After about four months in Hawaii, they figured we were ready to go.

But oh, I didn't tell you the important part. Two weeks after I joined this infantry outfit, I got my medical training. When I talked to the first sergeant in this company, out at the Dole Pineapple plantation, I said, "When do I get my training? I was told I was going to get training. I don't know a darn thing about medicine."

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

He said, "Oh, you'll get it. It starts tomorrow." He said, "After breakfast tomorrow, you report back to your tent."

They were wood frameworks, but tent top. And he said, "I'll have another guy go with you. He's going to take medical training, too." So they came and got us the next morning, and we went back to our tents.

The guy said, "Now, you straddle this cot, the Army cot that you're on. And you face him this way, like you're sitting and looking at each other. Here's a needle and a syringe. Now, you stick him in the arm till you can learn to hit the veins. Because you can go right through a vein, you know, if you don't hit it proper. Then you have to pull it back out and try it again, until you get it."

And I said, "This is the first training we're getting?"

"Yeah."

And the other guy didn't know any more about it than I did.

MM: So, you'd stick each other?

BE: Stick each other. One would stick the other one until he could hit a vein, or an artery. I think these were veins then. When you'd get sick to your stomach from the needle and the pain and everything, then it's your turn to stick the other guy. That was the first medical training I got. I didn't get much more for a long time.

MM: That sounds like a form of torture. Did it feel like a form of torture?

BE: Sure did! [chuckles] After two days of doing this, we couldn't even lift our fork to eat our dinner. We couldn't raise our arms!

MM: Were your arms bruised?

BE: Oh, they were – all over. Because we didn't know any more about it than anybody else. We were black and blue all over from blood leaking out of the veins. You had saline, I think, that you put in, or something. Anyhow, it wasn't blood you put in.

MM: Did you each have your own needle that you used on the other?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

MM: At least there was that! [laughing]

BE: Right. Then we shipped out to New Guinea. That was our first time in combat. I had four landings in New Guinea, from one end of New Guinea to the other. We landed in Milne Bay, which is the southern tip of New Guinea, only about 400 miles from Australia.

I had a pen pal when I was in school from Australia. We got to be good friends, by mail. So I really wanted to see Australia. I figured I'd take my first furlough, and I'd get to go to Australia for thirty days. It never happened because when I got the chance to take my first furlough in New Guinea, they couldn't keep me there because they said they couldn't keep me there for more than a year without a furlough.

They sent me on an amphibious landing at Maffin Bay, and the rest of the time I was in New Guinea, a year and a half. I had four amphibious landings from one end of New Guinea to the top end. It's one of the biggest islands in the world. They had a drawing when they had to give furloughs. And the kid who was shipped in later, as a recruit – we'd been there almost a year – he won the drawing, and got to go to Australia. He never did catch up with our outfit. When his furlough was over, we were moving to other landings.

Then, on New Year's Eve of 1944, we were already onboard ship, leaving New Guinea. There was a bomber used to come over every night. There was a big mountain range right from the beach, right the whole length of the island. We were always fighting that.

There were a lot of Japanese there, but the Aussies had already pushed them over the big mountain range. They were over the Stanley Mountains. And so there were just spotty attacks.

Other than the ones we fought on the landings, further up – we mostly set up crews out on the trails. The jungle trails were just like a tunnel. They'd grow right over you. You'd get just off the trail a little bit, and we'd set up machine guns. When the Japanese troops would come along, we'd just mow them down.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

Then we'd have to bury them. Some of the guys said, "Well, the heck with this noise." An arm would be sticking out, or a foot would be sticking out, or something, which would give away our positions.

The rest of us were on the beach – the Japanese would bomb us every night. We did have army cots there, I'll say that. But right alongside it, we'd have a foxhole. So we'd get to go around the bed into the foxhole.

MM: Did you sleep in your foxhole?

BE: I did in a lot of them, on those landings in New Guinea. But not at Sansapor, which is the northern tip, when we were ready to invade the Philippines. Then we took off for the Philippines.

But what I was going to tell you was that this big Japanese bomber would come over the mountains every night. Here's the peak of the mountain here. And we had klieg lights and everything else – the big, bright lights that would go up, you know? The lights would pick up this bomber, and it looked like a big, white fish up there, like a big, old whale. They'd drop their bombs and leave. One time, about a month before we left, they came over. They didn't hit us, but headquarters, down the beach about three miles got hit and killed a great number of guys because they were supposed to be back of the lines – they were always back of the lines – and they got it that time.

The last night we were there – we were already onboard ship, going to the Philippines, we hadn't left the port yet – and a 5-inch gunner, a little black fellow – Navy – with a 5-inch gun hit the bomber and brought him down. And that was a big celebration.

Later, we were in the Philippines Islands by that time, two days out of Lingayen Gulf, where Manila is, we got kamikazied. And that was a story. We had one of the biggest convoys of the war till that point. We had Navy ships all around us – destroyer escorts, destroyers, battle wagons, the whole bit – because it was the invasion of the Philippines in Lingayen Gulf, which is where Manila is, down there.

We passed Leyte and everything else. They got hit first, and we could see the fireworks every night out there.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

We were two days out of Lingayen Gulf, and I was tired of hearing “to your quarters” on the loudspeaker about every hour. I was about two decks down, and it was nice weather, so I got tired of this. I’d be up there reading a book or something on the weather deck, and sunshine. Then I was laying under the landing craft we were going to take to make our landing, and hiding under there. I thought, well, I don’t have to go up and down. I’ll just hide under this deal.

Pretty soon, the AKAK guns were going like this on ships near us, Navy ships. We were getting closer and closer. So I thought, *Mygod*, maybe this is for real. Because I’d been up and down about six times already that morning. Maybe a plane got through.

I had to go to a forward hatch to get down to my deck. I’d just got inside the hatchway, and right behind – it wasn’t 4 feet from me on the steel deck – machine bullets digging in! [chuckles] I was down two decks in nothing flat, I tell you.

It was a kamikaze that came over. And again, the 5-inch gunner on the front end, when he spun around, he shot part of his tail assembly away. So the kamikaze knew he couldn’t get away. So he just banked around and come from behind us again. Dropped his bombs. But they went between our ship and the ship behind us and just exploded in the water.

Then the pilot tried to drive his plane down the stack because then we’d have gone up, the whole ship would have blown up. But he missed it by about 25 feet. But he got the whole deck on fire, gasoline and everything. And twenty-three sailors were killed, right at their gun mounts. Two days later, we made our landing on Luzon. I was in the fourth wave hitting the beach.

I almost drowned because the medics have something like a jacket without sleeves. Their bags on either side had all their medical supplies in there.

MM: How much did it weigh?

BE: Well, it didn’t weigh a lot in itself, but when I got into my first combat, where I came close to getting it. We even took our Red Cross armbands off our arms because they’d pick the medic first. The snipers would aim at the armband and get you in the chest someplace, went through your body, anyhow and killed an awful lot of medics that way. Then they’d go after the

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

troops. So I didn't wear an armband. I wasn't going to give them any more chances than possible. But I went down after my first combat, I went down to the supply office, and I insisted in getting a carbine.

MM: What's a carbine?

BE: A carbine is a small rifle. Holds 15 shells in a bracket on the gun itself. I think it's a .32 caliber.

And then you always have a case on the gun, too, holding other brackets. You've got them on your belt. So you've got about a hundred-and-some cartridges on it. Semi-automatic.

MM: Were medics usually not carrying guns?

BE: No. They weren't supposed to. By, I guess, a Geneva law or something from World War I.

MM: People weren't supposed to kill medics. You weren't supposed to shoot at another's army's medics, were you?

BE: No. You had rules to play by, but the Japanese didn't honor that. And so I carried it through the whole war. But when I landed in Lingayen Gulf in the fourth wave, we almost drowned. In my outfit, we lost about 28 men. Because there was a sandbar that nobody knew about. The coxswain didn't know any more about it than we did, running the landing craft. A lot of them came in and hit that sandbar, thought it was the beach, and lowered the ramp. Guys went out with all their equipment on, and drowned.

But our coxswain, we were lucky because he came to the same sandbar, but he didn't lower the ramp. He might have seen something, or else somebody else radioed him or something. He gunned it when he hit it and went over the sandbar. And *hell*, we went another probably 100, 200 yards before we finally did hit the beach.

We were still up to our waists in water. But I was so loaded down with my medical equipment, and my ammo, and my gun and other stuff that if we didn't have the beach under us, we'd have been in real trouble. Might not have got ashore.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

MM: Tell me about the first time you were in combat, and you were dealing with actual wounds, what that was like.

BE: Well, I wasn't much more educated than I told you about. I got to New Guinea and I appealed to my commanding officer, who was a medic, a doctor. I said, "You know, I haven't had any training at all yet, except this episode with my arms." I said, "Can't I get some training if I'm going into combat?"

He said, "Yeah, that makes sense. I'll send you down the beach about 20 miles."

There was a station hospital, and down there they had a series of big squad tents. That's a station hospital. They're all tents.

He said, "We'll get you some training at the hospital."

So I said, "Fine. Great."

And he said, "You'll be down there about two months."

I said, "OK."

So I packed the gear I needed to go down there. Still took my rifle with me. And got down there to the station hospital.

But they had so many wounded. Broken bones caused by gunshot. These guys are coming back from the Marshall Islands and those places that were invaded before we got to the Philippines – not by our outfit, by other outfits.

You get wounded and shot with rifle shot or shrapnel and so forth. A lot of times, you get broken bones as well as the wound itself. So they were having a lot of them coming in by the boatload to the station hospital down there – Navy men, Army men, everybody.

And so what did they do? They sent me into cast surgery.

MM: What's cast surgery?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: Well, I thought I was going to learn something about surgery that would help me. But no, what they had me doing was making casts out of plaster of Paris on people who had back wounds – their backs were broken, or some part of it. We had them on ropes – lines. Their feet were down, and their back and shoulders were down, but their body was up in the air, like making an arch.

So all I was doing was wrapping plaster of Paris, learning how to make a cast for a broken back, but who's going to do that in combat? In combat, you get somebody who you've talked to a half an hour before, and thirty minutes later, he's laying on a litter, covered with blood, or lost an arm, or ribs are all shot up or whatever.

You couldn't put a cast on. You would do what you could to bandage him up, stop the bleeding, give him a transfusion or whatever, and put him on the back of a Jeep and send him out of the jungle. So I learned the hard way. At the end of the war, I was up at the northernmost point on Luzon with the Pygmy people.

They used Pygmies as carrying parties because I had to go in each 4 miles each day. The so-called "front line" was 8 miles in. And the road was stopped 8 miles back, where we slept at night. But I had to go in and set up an aid station 4 miles in, so when the wounded came down, I treated them there, if they could make it. Then, I really was good at the needles. Yeah, I never missed a vein in giving a transfusion.

MM: Right. When you say the Pygmies, are you still, at this time, were you in the Philippines?

BE: Yeah. At Luzon. That's where Manila is, at Luzon.

MM: Right. And you mentioned, or you kind of showed me with your hand, they were very small people?

BE: About 3, 3 ½ feet tall. They were real muscular. They lived on the side of this mountain in thatched huts, and just G-strings. And they had a chief. In fact, when I left and the war ended, he honored me by giving me his spear.

MM: Really?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: Yeah. I brought it home with me. Or, I sent it home, because I went from there to Korea. Instead of getting home after 2 ½ years, the war ended in August, and we were getting on a ship, we thought to come home. It was the start of October. We were out one day, and the captain of the ship got on the horn and said, “Now hear this! Now hear this! We need you in Korea.”

We didn’t even know where Korea was! And “Why are we going to Korea?”

“Well, there’s a garrison of 10,000 Japanese in a city south of Seoul about 250 miles named Honshu.”

It’s a big, walled city. But the Koreans, you see, had been under Japanese rule since 1934. And they *hated* the Japanese, because they just mastered over them all the time. Just like the Filipinos did in the Philippines when they were invaded. They tortured them and everything. They’d feed them rice and then put hoses down their throat and made them swallow water till their stomachs extended. Just tortured so many of them.

So I had to go to Korea for three months before my time came up to go home. It was the worst hole I’ve ever been in, in my life. I said on my way home, if I ever had to go back to Korea, I’d commit suicide. I felt that strongly about it.

MM: How was it different from the Philippines, where you’d just come from? Or from New Guinea? How was Korea different?

BE: Well, in the first place, the whole city stunk. Because they’re walled cities, and the Koreans were under the rule of the Japanese there, and were tortured and everything else. They had the gardens outside the walled city, and they had to use human dung for fertilizer. The whole area stunk.

We got there to protect 10,000 Japanese who were killing a month earlier. That’s pretty tough to take when you’re in a combat outfit for 2 ½ years, and you’re fighting against the Japanese.

MM: How long were you in Korea, and when did you get out?

BE: See, you’re on a point system. For every medal you get, it’s five points toward coming home. For every month you spent overseas, it’s five points. For every month you spent in combat, five points. You build up. The ones with the most points come home first. I didn’t know that until I was already on

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

the ship, thinking I was coming home. I had turned down a Purple Heart when I was wounded in the Philippines.

We'd had an attack on a city called Munoz, and there was a Japanese armor division holed up there. They were in trouble. So they had one big blast to try drive our troops out with their tanks. A tank hit a young Filipino boy, who was helping us by carrying ammunition – they were teen-aged, or probably college-aged, kids carrying ammunition for us. This kid had a sack of rifle grenades. A rifle grenade is like a little rocket. You can put it on the front of your rifle, an M-1 rifle, and you can shoot at a tank or at personnel or whatever, and the shrapnel just wipes everything out. This kid had a sack of them for us, carrying it along.

This Jap tank came down through a field. The only thing I can remember is that the main gun on the front of the tank must have hit this kid right square. Because he was there, and all of a sudden there was just a big cloud and a big bang, and he was completely gone. We never found any trace of him, except little bits of skin and meat and stuff.

I got some shrapnel. I thought it was from the tank, but it knocked me down to my knees. I looked down, and I was covered with blood on this leg. I thought, *Ohmygod*, he shot my leg off.

MM: Your right leg?

BE: No, my left leg. So I laid there. Of course, I got a Bronze Star for it.

I turned down a Purple Heart because of an episode I had with a captain on patrol in New Guinea, where he got hit on the eyebrow with a limb. Instead of being the lead guy – most company leaders are out in front, taking the first brunt – he was in the middle of the troops. One of his troops let this limb swing back after he cleared the limb, probably on purpose. It came back and hit him right in the eye.

I was the medic on that crew. I volunteered to go out on this patrol. When we had somebody wounded or injured, we had to write up a medical tag because it said on the tag "any medical," if we gave him any treatment.

If we gave him morphine, if he was wounded bad enough and they didn't know it – if he was unconscious and he was shipped back, he couldn't tell him

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

about the morphine he had gotten. Then he could have been given more morphine, which could have killed him. So we always filled out these medical tags. We had a whole supply of them in our kit that said "Wounded in action." Or "KIA," which is "killed in action." Or "WIA."

MM: "Wounded in action" is WIA?

BE: "Wounded in action," WIA. And IIA is "injured in action."

MM: What's the difference between wounded in action and injured in action?

BE: Well, if it's not a gunshot wound or a shrapnel wound, you weren't wounded by the enemy. You're injured, but say you broke a leg or something, falling down, or whatever. You're injured.

This guy only had an opening, had split open his eyebrow, and he was bleeding a little bit. But *hell*, it was nothing serious. And I was writing up an "injured in action" on him, and he insisted – pulled rank on me and insisted that I would suffer, he'd see to it, if I didn't write up "wounded in action." He wanted a Purple Heart for that crack in the head he got.

I stood in formation in the Philippines when we weren't in combat. We'd pulled back. And I refused to take my "wounded in action," my Purple Heart, even though I was wounded by the shrapnel. It was because of that captain. I thought, I don't want to put myself in his category. I wouldn't stoop that low. So I turned it down. But later on I found out, when the war was nearing an end, they came out with this point system going home. Then, I wished to heck I had gotten that. [laughter] But I got a Bronze Star in Luzon, and that gave me five points.

But I – to answer your question – I got there in about the middle of October, and went right to Seoul. And then, by truck – er, by train – to Seoul from Sinuiju [unable to verify spelling]. We had to go in landing craft there because they had no piers. The ship had to anchor out in the bay, and climb over the rail and go down a rope ladder. It was the same way going home. I had to climb up a rope ladder with all my gear on me.

And what did I do? I brought home Japanese flags; I brought home Korean flags; I brought home a Japanese rifle. I brought home two Japanese swords. All stuff, useless, but good souvenirs.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

Do you know what an Eisenhower jacket is?

MM: No. Well, I've heard the term.

BE: Formfitting, made out of good material. It was fashioned after General Eisenhower, who wore them in Europe. Everybody liked them because they weren't sloppy jackets, they weren't too hot or too cold.

I'd give my eyetooth for one. But stupid me, I was only 21 at the time. When I came home, I was even afraid of people. After the war, when I got home to Seattle, and I'd brought all that junk home. Some of it's still in my other house where my daughter lives now. I gave my grandson one of the swords.

I gave a granddaughter who's taking one of these karate-type classes for years now. She got intrigued with that, for self-protection and so forth, which I thought was smart. But she's a shy gal, and I couldn't imagine that she would take something like that. So, I gave it to her.

MM: You said something interesting. You said when you came back to Seattle, you were afraid of people. Is that true?

BE: See, my folks, as I told you, still lived on Beacon Hill. They could see out in the bay. It was right across from the Veterans Hospital on Beacon Hill, on Beacon Avenue. My folks bought it. Had the home built in [19]42. And so when I got in the bay, I could see my house from there.

Anyway, I got out of the service right before Christmas. So I was downtown, buying my folks a Christmas present, and buying for my aunt and uncle and other friends I had. I was standing at Third & Pike. Everybody was Christmas shopping and everything. And the signal lights ... I'd been three years in the jungle [chuckles] and I was just afraid of people. I'd stop at the intersection and I was afraid to cross the street. I thought, You've got to get a hold of yourself!

MM: When you were in the jungle, did you think of home? And when you thought of home, did you think of Seattle, or did you think of Issaquah? What were some of the things that kept you going?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: I'd only lived, all my life, in Issaquah and then Seattle, so yeah. But, you know, when you're in combat – and seeing death all around you, and being a medic – I was involved with it every day, hour by hour – you didn't dare think about going home. You thought about making it through another day. Because we're sleeping in foxholes, and two-man holes. Japs – one thing they were good at was infiltration. We'd set up wires along the ground that they could trip over, with tin cans, filled with pea gravel and stuff, so they'd make a noise when they tripped. You didn't dare think about home. You just lived from hour to hour, day by day.

MM: When you did get home, and you said at first you were afraid of the city, and the traffic lights, and crossing the street. At what point did you come back into knowing you were home?

BE: Reality?

MM: Yeah. And at what point did you meet your wife?

BE: Well, that was one key point right there, in how I got back to normal. I got to work for the Navy, decommissioning ships for the Navy at the end of the war. I had to take a bus from Beacon Avenue out to Pier 91 to get my assignments every day, to go out with a crew and unload guns and so forth off the ships. A lot of minesweepers for in town and that sort of thing. The Navy moored ships all over the coast so they could dismantle them and stuff, and surplus them.

So I'd take the bus every morning at the same time, like everybody else going to work. So I was up at the north end by eight o'clock. I got to be on the same bus every day with the same people, all going to work to get to their job at the same time. Well, I met a gal who was a real chatty girl, probably 19 or so, and she was yakking all the time. Because she got on about six or eight blocks before me, she always got a seat in the back end of the bus.

When people are getting on after you, they're pushing – you're standing up – they're pushing you back to make more room, you know. This was like a Japanese subway or train.

So I knew her, just because she was a chatty type of person. This one day, I got on the bus, pushed back with the crowd – always standing up – and I saw her. And then I saw the girl next to her. [pause]

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

It was love at first sight. [choked up] But it took me two years to have enough nerve to ask her out. And I just happen to have her picture in my truck, if you want to see it before you leave.

MM: Yeah, I do.

BE: Because she was a real pretty girl. Of course, she was five years younger than me. She was *beautiful* then. She's a white-haired lady now.

MM: Tell me what she looked like on the bus that day.

BE: I noticed her eyes mostly. Beautiful brown eyes. Real striking eyes. I didn't notice her hair or anything until after I got used to her a little bit. Didn't know a thing about her figure until we'd been going together for *months*. So it wasn't sexual attraction. It just clicked. Her personality was fantastic. I always liked to have fun. She was a fun gal.

For example, we'd go places after we were going together. Down on Fourth Avenue South there used to be a hot dog stand, and we'd stop once in a while for a hot dog there. And the gal would come up – a carhop – and I'd say, "What do you want today, Betty?"

And she said, "I'll have one of their hot dogs."

I said, "Well, me too. I have a feeling for a hot dog." And so I said to the waitress that come out to the car, "Two hot dogs, please, and two Cokes."

"Oh, you want a hot dog?" [said in a high nasal voice] And it was so funny, because it was no accent I'd ever heard in Seattle before. I thought her nose was plugged up or something. We had to laugh about that. We still laugh at times about it. Then one time we were in a Chinese restaurant in Chinatown. A male waiter came up to wait on us – this is after we were engaged – came up to wait on us. I said, "I want a cocktail."

This waiter was effeminate. I'd never seen a Chinese man before who was an effeminate type. He sort of waddled up to the table. I don't like Scotch, but I'd heard about Rob Roys, which is, naturally, Scotch, because Rob Roy was a Scotsman. So, I said, "I'd like a Rob Roy."

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

He said, "Oh, you want a Lob Loy?" [said in a high voice]

I said, "Yeah, I'll have a Lob Loy!" [laughter] And then Betty burst out laughing. Not right in front of him, but after he was leaving the table to go get the drink. And like I said, I don't like Scotch – but when I reordered, I said, "I'll have another Lob Loy." He didn't think there was any difference.

MM: So when were you married? What year?

BE: [19]48.

MM: And when did you have children?

BE: I was a senior in college, and we had our son. And I'd been a janitor all that time, for three years. Betty was a year ahead of me in school; so she graduated a year ahead of me, but she didn't go to the graduation exercises. She was going to go with me.

We lived out at veteran housing at the University of Washington. I guess she was two months pregnant before we found out. We thought, Now what do we do? We were both in school and the whole bit. She was going to quit school, and I said, "You can't quit school now! Besides, you're close to your graduation and I want you to finish."

When she was carrying Craig, my son, I took her classes as well as my own. And *boy*, that was tough. Because I still had to go to work nights, as a janitor. I had to be at work at the courthouse. Well, first of all, I started out not as a janitor, but as an elevator operator. I had to be on the floor of the elevator at four-thirty in the afternoon. I didn't get out of class, you see, until one-thirty or two, sometimes later.

But we lived out by the U, and I had to find the shortest route to get to the courthouse. I had it down pat where I could make all the lights and everything, and then park about two blocks away from the courthouse, up on the hill, and still get into uniform and on the floor in time.

I thought, *Oh boy*, this is going to be tough. I was working nights as a janitor. Betty was going to school. Then, when she was three or four months along, I started taking her classes for her. I'd just give her the notes, and she took her classes and passed her exams from that. She was a Phi Beta Kappa.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

She was sharp. She's never worn her Phi Beta Kappa key. I always kid her about that. I said, "Most people wear them to show achievement. Look what I did!" She never did wear it.

MM: So what did you each get degrees in?

BE: She's a teacher. I stayed in business law. I took business law for three years.

Then my last year, my son was coming along, and I was going to have to go to law school for two years more. I was accepted into law school. I passed my exams for it. I knew most of my professors in law. They practiced in my court, so I knew them. I was 25 by that time. So I was serious about getting my college degree. I wasn't 19 or 18 and fooling around and playing.

Like I said, we were married in August, and I started school in September as a freshman. So it was all business. But Betty graduated ahead of me. And she had Craig. Then we went to live with my mother and dad for a few months, until I got out of school. Then, when Betty graduated, she went to work as a secretary to one of the deans out at the U. So we had income coming in, as much as I was making as a janitor.

I couldn't quit and just concentrate on my school. So that was another factor in me forgetting about law school. I graduated with a business law degree in law and marketing. I've never been sorry.

Because at that time, when I graduated, there were so many veterans in school with me. A lot of lawyers' sons were going to law school. So the only place there was openings for somebody who didn't have a family member in law that they could go to and work as an assistant, or start out as a junior member of the faculty or whatever, was in Spokane.

Even with my knowledge and help from lawyers in Seattle that I met in law office or the court, I didn't dare try it. I took many interviews at first at the U, but I couldn't take them in law because I still had three years to go there. So I decided not to stay in law school. I thought maybe I might go back someday, but not at the time. So I took interviews at the U for about a month. And every time I took an interview, there was 250 applicants along with me. I said, "I don't like this competition."

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

So I picked up the Seattle phonebook, and I called bigger companies, and companies I had known about for a long time. I got the name – through papers or whatever – I got the name of the sales manager. I knew his first name. I called up and I said to the operator who answered from the company, “Is John there?” So they’d think I knew John.

And she said, “Yes, just a minute. I’ll connect you.”

When I got John on the phone, I’d say, “Mr. Jones? My name is William Evans. I’m a new graduate from the University of Washington. I’ve got a degree in marketing and I’m very interested in your company. Would you take the time to talk to me, to see me?”

In a month, I had 82 interviews. I was offered about 40-some jobs right then. I went to work for a wholesale appliance company – RCA, and Bendix washing machines, small appliances and so forth. I was in the wholesale business with two outfits. I went to Motorola, too. Then I was offered – through a friend of mine – I was offered a job. He was opening a furniture store, a retail furniture store, out in Burien, when Burien was just starting to build up.

They needed somebody to sell for them because they had three partners and they were running the business as well as selling. So I was their first salesman. I really liked it, but the hours were pretty bad. You worked every Saturday. Every Monday and every Friday, you worked till nine o’clock at night from nine o’clock in the morning because that’s what they did in those days.

So I was kind of looking around, even though I didn’t want to disappoint this friend of mine. I got good pay. I always lucked out in my life. Every time I made a move, it was for the better. More money, and I learned a lot. I’ve had a lot of experiences. I went from the furniture business to hairdressing. A next-door neighbor of mine was a hairdresser, owned two salons, one in Bellevue and one in Laurelhurst in Seattle. We were out together one summer day, with his family and my family, and we had a real nice picnic out at a resort. As I said we lived next door to each other.

We got home, and were enjoying our day and the whole bit. In those days, we had country kitchens. Off the kitchen, there would be a little eating area

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

and gathering place, if you wanted more informal than the living room or dining room. We both had new houses. So he had a real nice country kitchen.

He said, "It's been such a great day with your family, and we had so much fun together. Why don't you come over and have coffee this evening?" Even though it was eight or nine o'clock.

We enjoyed it, too, and thought it was a great idea. So we went over there and he said, "I hope you don't mind. I've got to make out my payroll for my beauty salons tonight." He said, "Do you mind if we have our coffee and talk? I can make them out automatically, so it won't be any trouble so come on over."

So that got me talking about the beauty business, and about him and how he got started, where he went to school to get the training and so forth. He showed me his books. Our families went home and went to bed, and we were up till midnight, one o'clock in the morning. It sounded interesting, and I thought it was a business that I could get into without much money. A business of my own. I had the training, I had the education, but I didn't know about the beauty business. Every time my wife went to a hairdresser, it turned out to be a man. There was something about him that turned her stomach. He was along the effeminate side, and he was jolly around the place.

And she'd come home and say, "I'm not going back there anymore!"

So I thought about that, and so I had questions. My friend, when I found out he was a hairdresser before I ever met him, I tried to get out of my contract with my builder because I thought, Ah, I don't know if I could live next door to somebody like that or not. I met this guy, after this person moved in, not knowing he was a hairdresser. I thought maybe he was an Italian butcher. He had big hands. He was real masculine. We had a lot in common, and we got to be fast friends.

MM: Was this here in Issaquah?

BE: No.

MM: Oh, this was in Seattle?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: It was in Seattle. We lived in the north end of Seattle. North 145th & Corliss. But he had his shop in Laurelhurst, and he opened a new shop in Bellevue. We got to be friends first, and we really talked about the beauty business after that. He suggested I go to school under Mr. Lee, who I think is probably dead now, but who had a school in Seattle. Also, he had a salon, one of the biggest ones in Seattle, for a long time.

I went to the school, and he used to call me the “Professor” because most of them starting out are 18- or 19-year-old kids, just out of high school. They have to go to school. Before you can manage your own shop, you have to be a licensed individual. So I went to the school. I graduated when I was 30 years old out of college, and this was about five, six years later. So I was 35 years old when I was in beauty school.

I worked for my friend for a while. He wanted me to go to Florida with him and open up a salon down there. He was from the East Coast, but he married a Seattle girl, so he was out here. He always wanted to go to Florida because in East Coast, they all go to Florida in the summertime.

So he wanted to go down and open up there, but he went to Florida ahead of me to get the business started. Then he was in contact about every week, writing about the business and the clientele and so forth. I could see in his letter, his attitude was changing, like I don’t know if I want to do this or not. So not long after that, he and his family moved back. Forgot all about Florida and bought the salons up here. He wanted me to go to work for him in Bellevue.

Well, by that time, I got in the business not to be a hairdresser – even though I ended up being one – but because I had advertising experience by that time. Buying experience. Management experience. I figured I could have my own salon. I could start with one salon, and then I’ll get a second salon after I got this one manned and operating. Then a third one. Then I’d have a chain of salons.

So I went to work for Mike Sarzello [unable to verify spelling] in Bellevue in his salon there for a little while because I had an ulterior motive. He knew it. I wanted to move back to Issaquah.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

There was only one salon in Issaquah, down where the Eagles Lodge is. There was a gal who'd been in biz for a long, long time. Her styles were not styles. They were something from the [19]30s. Her permanents were on electric machines with rods right on them, and they all came out the same way. The styles were the same way. She was the only one in Issaquah.

I started getting so many Issaquah people in my salon in Bellevue – I could tell they were Issaquah by their because of their area code. At that time, 392 was the Issaquah exchange. So I always took a phone number when I took a booking. When they were from Issaquah, I knew ahead of time.

And so I built a clientele for Mike. And he knew I was doing it. As soon as I could – he even acted as my manager before I finished school – he let me be a manager of a shop in Issaquah. I started a shop in Issaquah with a readymade clientele. I hired one girl, and then I hired a second girl, and I ended up with six in my shop. You know where the Issaquah Brewhouse is, across the street?

MM: On Front Street?

BE: On Sunset Way and Front Street. That's where my beauty salon was at that time. That's all there was to rent out here.

In 1969 to [19]70, I had been friends for a long time with a fellow who had an insurance agency out here. We had belonged to a dance club together and everything, he and his wife and Betty and I. He was having trouble renting his space on Front Street. There's a little cocktail lounge in that spot now. We were having trouble getting things done around the place and so forth. Our landlords weren't cooperating. So, we got together and decided, Hey, let's build our own. So I kept working in my shop over there, but the building right across the tracks here – the two-story building you can see, right on Sunset Way, he and I built that building.

MM: Oh, really?

BE: And he had his insurance agency upstairs, and I had the salon. Well, there's still a salon there.

MM: What was your salon called?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: Evans Salon & Beauty.

MM: You were gone from Issaquah for a long time, right? When did you come back?

BE: [19]58.

MM: So you had left in what year?

BE: Well, late [19]41 because my dad had got his job in [19]40.

MM: So, 17 years you'd been out of this town? So how had it changed when you came back?

BE: It didn't change that much.

MM: Really?

BE: Still the same. Well, I was president of the Issaquah Chamber of Commerce, and we were just Front Street and this way. Where the Front Street Market is now, that street, or part of the parking lot, was a street. And it was all residences backed up to the businesses facing Sunset Way. I got involved when I was president of the Chamber. That's when they built that supermarket outside of town. I didn't want to see downtown die.

At that time – see, that was in [19]67 – most of the merchants who I'd grown up with were old by that time. Some of them turned their businesses over to their sons, but their sons didn't really want it. Their sons were going to college, and they didn't want it. So the businesses were starting to vacate and leave town, and I didn't want to see that happen.

So, I went to the Chamber of Commerce – that was before I was president – and I said, "We've got to do something to build this town up. I want this to be the center of Issaquah still. I don't want it to end up out here someplace because there's a lot of history here."

So I got a hold of a developer, and he said, "If you will give me a bank chain, a supermarket" – which turned out to be the Front Street Market – it was Thriftway when it first started – "and a drugstore, preferably an existing chain..."

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

The old Rexall Drugstore was next to the gift shop I told you about, down where Bennett Investment is. That used to be the drugstore, in that building. The owner was getting older and sick. So, he sold out to a young man just about that time. So I got the young fellow to come into our development.

The developer wiped out the whole block and a half of residential area, and the old stores here, and so it's all changed. That was in [19]67-68-69 when that changed.

Then I got a friend of mine who had a bowling alley in Bellevue, who was also a director of a bank chain, Bank of the West, in Bellevue. They had 13 branches and were looking for another one. So I talked him into coming out to Issaquah. They put in the bank chain, which is now the end building on that line this way.

I talked to Willard Rhodes, who had Associated Grocers. He had this Thriftway hydroplane, *Miss Thriftway*. And he said, "You give me first opening on the supermarket," he said, "and I'll put it in there."

Then, the young fellow who took over the drugstore, which was Rexall Drug, he said, "I'd like to move into a new location, and have my own size" and so forth.

Of course, the developer was going to do all of this. So I changed the whole town. I had help in doing a survey of the whole community of 6,000 people, which included people out of town, too, because there weren't that many in the town. We made a survey of what was wanted in Issaquah. What they wanted in terms of recreation for their kids, for example, and that's how I got into the bowling business.

I got two millionaires and myself, and my other partner was a guy I grew up with who had the land, 4 acres, over on the highway. Hadn't been developed yet, but it was a good spot to put the bowling lanes. We thought in the summertime we'd put in a golf driving range. So that would take over in the summertime and bowling in the winter. So that's how all that came together.

MM: Who was the mayor at that time? Was the mayor onboard?

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

BE: I had a good relationship with the mayor and the whole city council because I figured that the only way for the businesses to grow is if we got the city government involved.

We were called “magic.” It was our business community involving the city government, the businesspeople in town, school superintendents and the principals, garden club people, churches. We had the whole group all organized.

MM: And who was mayor at the time?

BE: I think when we first started it Bill Flintoft was still alive. You know the Flintoft funeral home?

MM: Right.

BE: The father, who started the business back in the [19]30s, he eventually became mayor of Issaquah. I think his picture is still hanging in the police department.

MM: Did you have any resistance to change?

BE: The only I had people resisting change [chuckles] was when Chuck Powers, my insurance friend, who partnered with me and built this building got involved with the old substation of Puget Power. It was Snoqualmie Falls Power at that time. Their building had been built back in early 1900s. It was brick walls about this thick, and it wasn't functioning anymore. It had been laying there vacant for a number of years. Rats were in the *doggone* thing because the windows were knocked out of it. It had a tower, so it had all kinds of equipment when it was operating up there.

It was just sitting here next to the old Grand Central Hotel, next door. I made Puget Power an offer to buy that old building and tear it down. That's where I got my people who were unhappy because they wanted that for history. Well, for history, it had been fine. But for a rat maze, and empty, it contributed nothing to the community. It was just an old, dilapidated building – dilapidated from the standpoint of being vacant, and rats and everything in there.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

So, *by gosh*, they sold it to me for a dollar a square foot, at a time when everyplace else cost you a dollar and a half a square foot.

MM: How big was it?

BE: I forget now. If you look at the building you see the parking behind it. We put the parking in because we needed to get parking off the street for our own people. There was no parking on either Sunset Way or the other way because that's where the businesspeople and everybody else had to park.

When I was president of the Chamber, we got the railroad to lease us this acreage back here for the Depot, and the parking that we have there, behind these buildings. So it was pretty tough. But I had a gal who worked at the *Issaquah Press*. She and her husband, they were nice people. But she was hell-bent for everything old, even the dilapidated places.

She thought it was terrible that I'd take that historic building down and put a brand-new building there. We thought we did a good job, because we had one of the newest buildings in Issaquah. In fact, it was the newest building back in 1970. We tried to keep a Spanish motif. We had windows curved. We did the same thing with the upstairs. Everybody complimented us, and everybody patronized us. We already had our clientele filled up. It was good.

I could never get out of the beauty business. At the same time, I managed the bowling lane. But I had people who I had to work behind a chair to get started. I had to go to school and get everything. I even went to California to Clairol's Color Laboratory in Hollywood and learned all about bleaching blonde and blonde hairstyling and everything.

MM: That's so amazing. You did all that. You learned all that. From being a medic in World War II!

BE: [Laughing]

MM: And doing women's hair. And Chamber of Commerce president. Manager. Janitor. Bailiff! We didn't talk about that. You know, you've lived quite a life.

BE: [Laughing] Like I said, I've had many jobs, and all for the better.

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

MM: Yeah. [laughter] That's great.

BE: My last job, I was Washington state sales manager for Lindal Cedar Homes, which is international. I've got homes all over the world. I had a problem there. You talk about bosses. Sir Walter Lindal, the founder of the company, hired me. I worked directly for him.

But he had four kids, three sons and one daughter. The daughter was fine. But the son was about thirty-five years old, out of engineering school. Earlier I'd been deputy director up at Providence Point when it was the Sisters of Providence College. And they were failing as a college, so they made it into a center for training or whatever.

And I was hired from Boeing. I was in charge of helping with education training there. I used to hire engineers when Boeing was at their peak at that time, in the [19]60s. That's where I went when I left the bowling lanes. Still had the beauty shop at the same time.

I hired engineers from the University of Washington. I even hired engineers all up and down the coast from out of school – from USC and UCLA and Stanford. They'd come to Boeing and they'd get depressed because Boeing put them through more schooling, teaching them how to be an aeronautical engineer. We're building airplanes here. So, I had those people, engineering and so forth.

MM: The many lives of Bill Evans. Well, you've done a *great job*. Is there something else that we should talk about that we haven't talked about? Anything?

BE: Probably lots of things. [laughter] I've had lots of other jobs, too.

MM: Any other Issaquah memories you want to share?

BE: Well, I was president of Issaquah Church and Community Services, which still is in existence. It helps needy people. And the Merry Christmas Fund that happens every Christmas – Thanksgiving and Christmas – at the *Issaquah Press* – that's where we got our budget from to help people all year long. I was president, and I had about 25 volunteers. Most of them were women whose husbands worked, but they wanted something to do to help. I

Issaquah History Museums 2006.49.1
Oral History Interview with Bill Evans
September 28, 2006

was president of that until I moved to Providence Point. Then I had to turn it over to somebody else.

MM: I did want to ask you one thing. When you moved back here in 1958, where did you live? What was your address?

BE: I rented a house. There was hardly anyplace to rent. I rented an old home a street back of Sunset Way. It was really something.

It was a real old home, from back in the 1920s. But it was a place to rent, and it was sturdy, except that we'd get rats in our toilet, and we'd get mice run across the room in our living room, but our kids started to grow up there. Then when I had the bowling lanes, my partner had a home right behind the bowling lanes. He rented it to me and my wife.

I got to be friends with Julius Boehm, the candy maker, at that time. His dog played with my dog. I had a Scottie even then. And he had, from Switzerland, a big Saint Bernard. They were both about the same age, both young dogs. But the problem was the Saint Bernard was like this [gestures indicate a big dog] and my Scottie's like this [gestures indicate a small dog].

MM: Big and little, yeah. [laughter]

BE: I wondered how they were ever going to play. I used to watch them. Finally one day, I guess they got the same idea. So the Saint Bernard got down, laid over on his back, and my dog was standing up and got on top of him. They'd wrestle and play! [laughter] They were on an even keel then! Really something.

MM: That's so sweet.

BE: Yeah.

MM: Well, I'm going to let you go for the evening. I really appreciate this. You've done a really terrific job.

BE: I don't know how terrific. [laughing] It's just things I've lived.

MM: Well, that's what we're aiming for.

END OF INTERVIEW WITH BILL EVANS