

Michael Jepson: This is Michael Jepson with the Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage. Today is February 2nd, 1993. We are at the home of Mrs. Jones, where we are conducting an oral history as part of the Vanishing Culture Project funded in part by the Florida Humanities Council. Today, with me also is Mr. Wayne Nield who will be asking questions and taking photographs. Mrs. Jones, we usually start the interview by asking you to tell us your full name.

Elizabeth Jones: Elizabeth. The P is my maiden name. Elizabeth P. Jones, that's the way I get my Social Security.

MJ: What does the P stand for?

EJ: Pearson.

MJ: For Pearson.

EJ: I was a Pearson before I married a Jones.

MJ: What is your present address here? Do you know your street address?

EJ: Yes. It's 4515 120th Street, West.

MJ: 4515 120th Street, West?

EJ: Yes. That really and truly isn't my right number. But that's what I've been going by all this time, 4515. Because they gave me that somewhere up there, but they gave me the wrong number because my number is different than that. (But on the half there?).

MJ: That is what it says there?

EJ: This is 120th Street, though. It goes by 4515 120th Street.

MJ: What is your date of birth?

EJ: October the 12th, 1911.

MJ: October 12th, 1911?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Where were you born?

EJ: In Lowndes County in Georgia.

MJ: Lowndes?

EJ: I don't know just what place, but it's in Lowndes County. My twin sister and I were four

months old when they brought us from up there and we settled in Arcadia.

MJ: In Arcadia there?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: You were married, right?

EJ: Huh?

MJ: You were married?

EJ: When?

MJ: Your husband is deceased, is that correct?

EJ: Oh, yes. We were married fifty-six years and nineteen months – no, six months and nineteen days.

MJ: Fifty-six years, six months, and nineteen days. That is a long time.

EJ: Yes. See, the 20th, he was in the hospital. He died the 20th February.

MJ: What was his name?

EJ: James K. Jones.

MJ: James K. Jones. What did the K stand for?

EJ: (Kayton?).

MJ: Kayton. What was your father's name?

EJ: James T. Pearson.

MJ: James?

EJ: I see. James Thomas Pearson.

MJ: Your mother's name?

EJ: Ida. Before she married my dad, she was a – oh, I can't even think of her last name now. I got it down somewhere.

MJ: That is okay.

EJ: But Ida was her name.

MJ: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

EJ: Oh, I had no brothers.

MJ: No brothers.

EJ: I had my twin sister and my older sister, (Maude?).

MJ: Maude was your older sister?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: What was your twin sister's name?

EJ: Anna.

MJ: Anna?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Now, you said that you moved to Arcadia when you were four months old?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: What was your father's occupation at that time?

EJ: Well, [laughter] now I don't really know.

MJ: I see. Did you live in Arcadia then for a number of years after you moved down from Georgia?

EJ: We lived there until my mother died. Then daddy moved around different places, and we were just from here to yonder most of the time. We've lived in Clearwater. We've lived in (Braden?). We've lived in Sarasota. We've lived in Englewood. [laughter]

MJ: You moved quite a bit then. [laughter]

EJ: We sure have. Oh, yes. [laughter]

MJ: When did your mother die? Do you know what year that was?

EJ: Well, we were eleven months old when she died.

MJ: Really? So, you were quite young.

EJ: Yes. We were really young. So, she's been dead all that time. Yes. She's been dead a long time.

MJ: So, that was about 1912 or 1913. About that time?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Do you remember the first place you moved from Arcadia or were you too young to remember that? When your father first moved from Arcadia, do you remember that?

EJ: No. I don't know when because we were too young.

MJ: You were telling me that he moved you to St. James at one point in time.

EJ: No. My husband and I.

MJ: Your husband and you moved?

EJ: Oh, yes.

MJ: Well, when did you meet your husband?

EJ: I was going to school in Englewood. I didn't know him from Adam's house cat when I saw him. But he came along, he knew me.

MJ: He did.

EJ: He stopped and he said, "Do you want a ride?" I said, "No, I'll walk." Because daddy had always said, "Don't ride with a stranger." He wasn't a stranger. [laughter]

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: But I didn't recognize him, see? So, when I got home, he was there talking to my daddy.

MJ: He was.

EJ: Yes. James Jones. Yes. [laughter] Long time that I wouldn't go with him. He met other girls. I introduced him to another girl. He didn't think much of her.

MJ: You were introducing him to other girls, huh?

EJ: Oh, yes, so that we could go out with another guy, (Harry Taylor?). He's dead now and gone. He's got a widow down there, (Margaret Taylor?). I told Harry, I said, "It would just take one hundred pounds of salt to take care of you."

Wayne Nield: [laughter]

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: I never went with him anymore. Finally, James, he just wouldn't go with anyone I introduced him to. He was going to go with me. So, we got going together. He lived up here and he was down there working with a guy that was gathering oysters, this, that, and the other, and bringing them up here.

MJ: To Cortez.

EJ: To Cortez. So, he'd be quick. He'd come home, but every now and then he'd run right back down there. He had a Model T Ford. [laughter] He'd come down and we'd go riding in the Ford. Eventually, I went with him long enough that he said, "Would you marry me?" I said, "I'll think about it." [laughter]

MJ: How long did you have to think about it?

EJ: Well, I didn't marry him right away. We had moved up here to Cortez, daddy and us two girls. We lived across the street from the Joneses. They were across the street from us. It's that house down there. It's down there now. They built that house, the Joneses did. They lived over here, back of me, where their boat is, in that little house I told you about this morning. They lived there when they first came down here. They had a garden out there. Until they got their house built, they lived there. In the back, they had the most beautiful garden.

MJ:  
Really?

EJ: Yes, out there. I told Jim about it. I said, "That was really a beautiful garden out there." They raised watermelons that you had to put in a wheelbarrow to get them around.

MJ: [laughter] That is a big watermelon.

EJ: He raised black-eyed peas. James would haul them out and fix them for ten, fifteen cent a quart.

MJ: Fifteen cents.

EJ: Fifteen cents a quart, he fixed those peas. He sure did.

MJ: That is amazing.

EJ: Yes. He did. So, that was the beginning of them down here. They were from North Carolina.

MJ: They came from North Carolina then.

EJ: That pot right out there, it's got flowers in it every now and then. They'll spring back up. But that pot that the flowers are in, they brought that from North Carolina right out there in my yard.

MJ: They did?

EJ: Yes, the washpot.

MJ: So, when did you marry James?

EJ: I was almost nineteen years old when we got married. I was about two or three months to being nineteen.

MJ: So, it was about 1930?

EJ: Yes. 1930.

MJ: It was 1930?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: He was pretty persistent.

EJ: Oh, yes. He didn't want to go with anybody else but me. We never separated. I lived with him until he died.

MJ: Fifty-six years.

EJ: I stuck with him until he went.

MJ: That is something.

EJ: Yes. The girls stuck with their daddy too. Of course, they'd take me up there and we'd sit up at the hospital all the time we could. My son that works at Tropicana, (Bob Jones?), he was always up there every time he could get there.

MJ: Well, tell me how many children you did have with James.

EJ: (Geraldine?), the first girl, didn't live.

MJ: She did not?

EJ: No. I got a picture of her.

MJ: How long did she live?

EJ: She didn't live.

MJ: She was a stillborn?

EJ: No. They had to take her, and I think they just broke her neck or something when they took her.

MJ: Was she born here in Cortez?

EJ: Down there in that house.

MJ: Did you have a midwife then?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Who was that?

EJ: A doctor too.

MJ: You had a doctor also?

EJ: Yes. But the doctor, he sure wasn't much.

MJ: He was not?

EJ: No. He'd have took me to the hospital before all this took place if he'd have been the right kind of doctor. See, my doctor was (Dr. Blake?), but Dr. Blake was out of town at the time.

MJ: Who was the midwife that helped him?

EJ: (Kate?).

MJ: Kate?

EJ: Yes, Kate. She lived next door there.

MJ: She did?

EJ: Yes. So, she came over, was with me. Yes.

MJ: So, Geraldine was the oldest, but she did not live.

EJ: The oldest girl.

MJ: The oldest girl. Then?

EJ: Then (Wanda and Shirley, then Wallace?). I had five. Bob.

MJ: Bob.

EJ: He's still living. He works at Tropicana.

MJ: He is the one that works at Tropicana then?

EJ: Yes. He works on the electrical motors there.

MJ: About when was Geraldine born? What year was that? Do you remember?

EJ: Well, I was about twenty-one years old or something like that when she was born.

MJ: So, that was about thirty-two or –

EJ: Yes. Something like that.

MJ: Tell me, what were some of your first impressions of Cortez when you moved here?

EJ: See, I lived here. I went to school my first year in that school out there.

MJ: The one at the end of the block there?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: You did.

EJ: That was built in 1911. I went to school out there in the first grade, and my husband was in the fourth grade. I didn't know he'd ever be my husband.

MJ: [laughter] You did not know that?

EJ: [laughter] No. So, yes, I've lived in Cortez quite a bit. We lived in a big, red house down there. The house is gone now. My daddy fished. We stayed with grandma and grandpa there, and he fished.

MJ: So, he was fishing in Cortez for a while?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Did you move from Cortez then at some point in time?

EJ: Yes. We left Cortez and moved to Braden. There wasn't any road or nothing. There was only a cow trail to go to school in.



MJ: Really?

EJ: That's right. You just followed the cow trail, and you went to school.

MJ: That was it.

EJ: That was it.

MJ: Did your father continue fishing when he left Cortez, when you moved around?

EJ: Oh, no. He didn't continue fishing. He carpenter worked.

MJ: He did?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: You were telling me that he remarried earlier. Can you tell us a little bit about his other wives?

EJ: Well, he married a woman in Sarasota. I mean in Clearwater, and we moved to Sarasota. Just him and her didn't get along so very well. So, we finally moved, and he took us and went to Englewood, and she was left there. Well, about two or three, four years, five years maybe, that she died, and her daughter was killed, and her head almost cut off, (Jessie?).

MJ: It is a tragedy.

EJ: Yes. I went down there to see (Edith?). She was still living, one of the girls.

MJ: These were your stepsisters?

EJ: I took my babies with me. Huh?

MJ: These were your stepsisters?

EJ: Stepsisters. So, I went down there and saw her. She said, "How long have you been married?" I said, "Ten years." She says, "You've been here living with one man for ten years?"

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: She was just from pillar to post.

MJ: She was surprised by that.

EJ: Oh, yes. She married a guy, but she didn't stay with him long. She just went from here to yonder.

MJ: That is something.

EJ: That's right. But she didn't have no weight on me because I didn't believe in no such stuff as that. I never did. No.

MJ: So, you were acquainted with being in a fishing family when you married your husband.

EJ: Oh, yes.

MJ: You already were familiar with what it was like to be in a fishing family.

EJ: Oh, yes, because him and his daddy fished together quite a bit before he was married. Yes. They pompano fished.

MJ: He pompano fished?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Was that strictly what he did or he sell it to [unintelligible]?

EJ: Yes. His dad strictly pompano fished.

MJ: I will be darned. Well, can you tell us a little bit more about your husband and what type of a man he was and what type of fisherman he was?

EJ: Well, he was a good fisherman. He fished until he couldn't fish any longer. He had trouble with his feet some, and this and that and the other. So, he finally sold his equipment and never fished anymore. But he continually hung net, always hung net. Yes. The things out there now that he had his net hooked to and everything out there.

MJ: Right. He has several things out in your yard that he used to use to hang net?

EJ: No. Them, no. He built them just to laying that over to man net, them things out there now. But no, these are on a line, and they hang down with a hook and he'd hook his net along to hang, see?

MJ: Yes.

EJ: They're still out there.

MJ: They are still out there in the yard.

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Now, tell me, again, where was the first house that you moved into with your husband

before Cortez?

EJ: Down there with red-brick steps. You know where (Dorothy Schroeder?) lives?

MJ: Yes.

EJ: All right. It's this house right here with the red-brick steps.

MJ: Just to the west of it?

EJ: Yes. That was the Jones' place.

MJ: That was the Jones' place.

EJ: We lived there for quite a while. My first one, Wanda and Shirley and Buck, were born in the house down there.

MJ: They all were.

EJ: They were all born down there. The fifth one, Bob, was born in the hospital there. The hospital, it's not there now. It's something else, but that's where he was born.

WN: Did you say that the Joneses came here from North Carolina?

EJ: Oh, yes.

WN: Do you remember them talking about North Carolina and fishing there?

EJ: His daddy fished. He had to break the ice and get clams a lot of times to buy him a shirt in the wintertime. Yes. But he fished up there. His daddy did. Of course, he didn't because he was too young.

MJ: Well, you told me why he decided to come down here to fish.

EJ: Well, the weather was more like it ought to be. He could go fishing most of the time down here in Cortez. This is where he was until my husband's mother died. They just thought the world of all of each other. When she died, he just couldn't stay there. He went back to North Carolina, his father. He gave him the place. He came home long enough to deed it over to him, and he went back, and he never did come back. He died up there. They didn't let him know that his father was dead until he was dead and buried.

MJ: Your husband, they did not tell him?

EJ: They didn't tell him. No, no, didn't even tell him until he was dead and buried, and then they told him.

MJ: What did he think about that?

EJ: Well, he didn't think much of it, because he had went up there, see?

MJ: Yes.

WN: Do you remember which part of North Carolina that was?

EJ: Let's see. What is it called up there? (Boats Town?)?

WN: Quite a few people in Cortez came from that area, did they not?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: So, you moved into that house with James, and you had four of your children were born in that house?

EJ: Yes, in that house.

MJ: Were they all born with midwives, or did you also have doctors there?

EJ: Doctor and midwife.

MJ: So, was Dr. Blake the doctor that...

EJ: It's terrible when you can't think of the doctor. But he's the one I went to all while. I don't know. He came that time. The first one, I couldn't get my doctor that I had been going to. I got another one, and that's the reason the baby didn't live. Because if they'd taken me on up there to the hospital, that wouldn't have happened, see?

MJ: Why do you think he did not take you up there?

EJ: He was interested in his son-in-law on the beach. He was over there looking out to see if he could see a boat or anything, and worried about his son-in-law out on a boat.

MJ: Really?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: That is a shame.

EJ: Yes, it is. Yes. He was a sorry doctor.

MJ: Was it a hard life when you were first married living in Cortez?

EJ: Well, it wasn't. Nobody got rich.

MJ: Nobody got rich?

EJ: Because of the price of fish. They never did get more than up to three and three and a half at the most, cents.

MJ: Two-and-a-half cents a pound for their fish.

EJ: Yes. That's right.

MJ: That is not much money.

EJ: Not much money.

MJ: Was it hard to live on that?

EJ: Well, no, because you could go to town with \$5 and get enough to last you a whole week, at that time. But you can't now. [laughter]

MJ: [laughter] No. That will last you maybe half a day.

EJ: That's right.

MJ: Well, how did you get to town in those days?

EJ: Well, he had a little old, run-about car and we'd go up there. My twin sister had one, and we'd go with her, or she'd go with us. That's how we got back and forth to town.

MJ: So, your sister, she was living in Cortez also at the time?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Did she marry?

EJ: Yes, she married.

MJ: Who did she marry?

EJ: (Bernard Capo?).

MJ: Bernard Capo. Is your sister alive today?

EJ: No. She died in [19]71.

MJ: [19]71.

EJ: It was January 1st, [19]71, because we went down there. We were fixing dinner here at the house. See, it was January the 1st. We went down there, and we asked her if she'd come down, her and Bernard, and eat dinner with us that day. She would've, but she was sick at that time. So, she had gotten to the bathroom, and she couldn't get out of there. So, I called Bernard, and he carried her in there and put her on the bed. It wasn't very long when he put her on that bed, on that pillow, she drew her last breath.

MJ: Really?

EJ: That's right. You might as well have shot me.

MJ: That really affected you.

EJ: Oh, I'm going to tell you it affected me because my twin sister and I were just like that. Oh, yes. Where one was, the other was. If she went to town, I went to town. I mostly drove for her.

MJ: So, you were together a lot when you were growing up there?

EJ: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Our married life, we were together a whole lot.

MJ: You were?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Can you tell us a little bit about what it was like when you were growing up here in Cortez with your sister?

EJ: Yes. If she wasn't at my house mornings for coffee, toast, or something, well, I was at her house.

MJ: Really?

EJ: That's right. We just lived with each other as much as we could. Yes, we sure did.

MJ: So, you were really close.

EJ: Oh, yes. We were close. I got a picture of her, and they are a real good picture of her. We spent our last birthday that we had together, and that was the last time that we had dinner together at all. She carried her grandson with her, and we ate dinner together.

MJ: Going back a little bit...

EJ: She was fifty-nine years old.

MJ: When she died?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Fifty-nine. That is young.

EJ: Sure is. Sure is.

MJ: Do you still think of her a lot now these days?

EJ: Oh, I tell you, I'd go out to the grave and visit some, and it had such effect on me until I just had to quit going out there.

MJ: Really?

EJ: Oh, yes. Yes. When you talk to them and they don't hear you, why, I tell you it's one thing to – you just don't know how unless you had a twin and things like that happen. Yes. So, I just had to quit going out there.

MJ: Going back a little bit to what Wayne was asking you about North Carolina, you told me something that your husband's father had heard a story about fishing in Florida. What was that? What did he say about that?

EJ: Well, they moved out here. He heard that it was a good place to fish, and they immediately came down. They lived in this house back here, like I told you. They had that garden out there.

MJ: So, they had heard stories of good fishing in Florida.

EJ: Oh, yes. They lived there until they got their home built down there. Then they went down there, and they were there until she died. Until after he died, we still were living there. He came home and that was the last time we saw him alive. As I said, they didn't even tell him anything about it until he was dead and put away. So, that really hurt him. He asked them to send him one of his violin or something that he had. No, ukulele.

MJ: His ukulele.

EJ: Ukulele. They didn't send him not one, not even a piece of clothing.

MJ: Well, did his father play the ukulele? Do you remember that?

EJ: Oh, yes. He sure did.

MJ: Would he play alone, or would he play with others or?

EJ: No, he just played at home.

MJ: He played at home?

EJ: Oh, yes. He just liked to play the ukulele.

WN: Did people play much music here in Cortez?

EJ: Well, I used to play the piano. [laughter]

WN: Did you?

EJ: Yes. I played the piano for the church for a long time. But I got so out of practice now to – I don't think I could even. Of course, I can play, but I couldn't play for them to sing by right now because I'm just out of practice of it. I got a piano in my living room.

WN: But you used to play for services?

EJ: Oh, yes.

WN: At the Cortez Church of God?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Did your husband play any musical instruments?

EJ: No. But he wanted that ukulele that his daddy had, and they wouldn't send him nothing. They didn't send him nothing.

MJ: Well, was he an only child? Did he have any brothers and sisters?

EJ: He had a sister, but she died when she was three years old. Outside of that, why, he was a loner.

MJ: Was he sad to see his father go back to North Carolina?

EJ: Yes, he was. Yes, he was. But his daddy just couldn't stay there and his mother not there. See?

MJ: Did you and James ever go up to North Carolina?

EJ: Oh, yes. Yes. We went up there.

MJ: You did?

EJ: Sure did. We went with my youngest daughter and her husband up there. Yes. We went up there together.

MJ: Did you visit relatives, any of his kin?



EJ: Yes. We did. But we enjoyed ourselves while we were up there. Sure did. We went back there. He and I both went.

MJ: How long did you live in the house over there? The old Jones' house, how long did you live there before you moved to this house?

EJ: Like I told you this morning, my daddy wanted to give him a truck for the house.

MJ: He wanted to trade him a truck for the house.

EJ: Yes. That just set horses with my husband.

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: He heard down at St. James all you could do is go out there with a hook and line and you could really make a good living.

MJ: So, your husband heard that it was good fishing down there?

EJ: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. When we got there, it was everything but that. I despised the day that I left here and went. I never was satisfied until I got back to Cortez. I left him down there, took the kids, came over here and stayed with my twin sister and her husband for quite a while. I told him, I said, "Now, when you get ready to leave St. James, just let me know and I'll come help you move."

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: But I was sick of that place, and my (little old youngest?) down there in that snake-ridden place, I tell you.

MJ: So, what was it that you did not like about St. James?

EJ: Oh, it was all so growed up and rattlesnakes.

MJ: Everywhere.

EJ: Oh, yes. My daughter, Wanda – you know Wanda?

MJ: Yes.

EJ: She was over to my daddy's, her granddaddy's house. I'd sent her over there for something. I told her, I said, "Come right back." She didn't come back right away, but before she came back there was an awfully big rattlesnake that just crawled right out in the road where she had went out and went across, and she missed that just so much.

MJ: Came so close to seeing it.

EJ: Yes. If she'd come back, she'd have seen that rattlesnake. Oh, my goodness. I said, "I'm glad she didn't come across at that time." No. I tell you, I did not like it after we got down there.

MJ: How long did you stay before you came back to Cortez?

EJ: Well, I stayed quite a while. My two kids, Wanda and Shirley, started school down there.

MJ: They did?

EJ: Yes. They were in – both of them – in the first grade. I think Shirley went rather young because she'd become of age at that time to go. Wanda was a little late because her birthday was a little later getting started, see? No, I just couldn't stay down there with my kids down there in that place. Not any longer.

MJ: So, how long was it before then James came back?

EJ: It wasn't very long.

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: It sure wasn't very long. We came back to Stump Pass. Do you know where Stump Pass is?

MJ: I am not sure. No, I do not.

EJ: Well, we were at Stump Pass for quite a while.

MJ: Is that another fishing village just south of here?

EJ: Yes. Just below. It was down there Englewood. That's where it is. Stump Pass is down there. So, we lived there for quite a while. So, eventually from there we moved back to Cortez. We lived in this house over here.

MJ: The little one?

EJ: No. Not that one, the one way back over until we bought this place. As I told you, we bought it from (Mrs. Easter's?) and gave her \$300, \$350 for this whole strip from that post up there, clear to the water.

MJ: To the water.

EJ: Which was cheap. We paid her...

MJ: That was cheap. Was that cheap back then?

EJ: That was cheap then. You buy it now, see what it costs you.

MJ: [laughter] Now, you would not get it for three hundred.

EJ: [laughter] You sure would not. Oh dear, I'm telling you.

MJ: But then you said this house was moved.

EJ: Oh, yes. My father lived in the little house. As I told you, this kitchen and that front room is all there was to this house when we moved here.

MJ: There were just two rooms.

EJ: Yes. Just two rooms and we had two beds in that room. The girls all slept together, and the boys slept on the lounge in the kitchen, one of them. I was carrying Bob here. He was born in October 31st, 1945. So, he was the only one that was born in the hospital. [laughter] Yes. So, we only had at the time, is the one boy, Wallace, and Wanda and Shirley and of course they slept on one bed, me and James on the other bed, and the boy in their own lounge.

MJ: Did it seem crowded?

EJ: No. Didn't seem proud?

MJ: Did not seem crowded at all?

EJ: No. No.

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: No, we were just used to that. So, we just got along fine.

MJ: You said that this house, you did not have any indoor plumbing?

EJ: Oh, no. That little house over there that you saw over there this morning?

MJ: Right just behind here.

EJ: That was our little outhouse. It was out here. He bought that for me and moved it over there. Because I had to have that thing tore down, it was no good to us any longer. But he bought it and moved it over there because it meant a lot to him. It was just something that he had history to it, see? He wanted it. So, he's got it over there. [laughter]

MJ: Can you tell me a little bit about that building? You said that was your outhouse.

EJ: Outhouse and our bathroom altogether. I mean, where we took our bath. We had number three tub, carry our water out there, heat it on the stove, carry our water out there and take a bath out there. We had a linoleum rug on the floor, so you could mop it up and everything if it got

wet.

WN: What kind of a clean out did it have on it?

EJ: It had a lid in the back. You could lift it and clean it out and keep lime in there. See?

MJ: You would put lime in it to keep it fresh?

EJ: Yes. Every now and then, why, he had to dig a hole and clean it out. Then put plenty of lime in there and everything. So, kept lime in there so that there wouldn't be so much odor.

WN: How many seats did it have?

EJ: One. [laughter]

MJ: [laughter] Who would carry the water out for the baths? Would the children take their own water out when they had to take a bath?

EJ: Yes. They'd take it out.

MJ: They would? They heated up the water in the kitchen and carry it out and poured it in that wash tub and take a bath in there?

EJ: Oh, yes.

WN: I think that is the last one that is in Cortez. I do not think there are any more privy standing.

EJ: Is that right? Well, I'll say.

MJ: [laughter] Well, tell me a little bit about this other smaller building out here.

EJ: My father helped put that there, and we helped him with it.

MJ: Why did he build that?

EJ: He thought he could live with my oldest daughter and her husband, (Maureen?). But they had so much problems themselves until he just couldn't take it any longer.

MJ: Really?

EJ: Yes, he said that he could live here, that he could always get along here. So, he built that out there for himself and he lived there until he died. He died in that little house.

MJ: He did?

EJ: He sure did.

MJ: That is just a one room.

EJ: One room. He had a bed. He had a refrigerator. He had a stove.

MJ: He did?

EJ: He had everything to your convenience. But he ate with me. Every now and then he'd take a notion he wanted something that maybe I didn't fix, or something, like making whole cakes in a pan or something like that, which I never did. If I made cornbread, I baked my cornbread, see? So, every now and then he'd have a notion he wanted to have something, this, that, and the other out there. But most of the time he ate with me. He never did eat out there regular.

MJ: You call them whole cakes?

EJ: I guess so. Yes. Yes. [laughter] I always made biscuits or cornbread baked in the ovens. See? We had an oil stove. We didn't have a stove like I got now. But we finally got rid of that, begin building. We was building this porch, hadn't even got anything. It was just like it was. It was just open until we got the screens. We finally jalousied it because the rain – it was screened, and the rain would rain the porch. So, we finally jalousied it in.

WN: Do you remember – I'm sorry.

EJ: We were building this when my father passed away. He's been dead a long time.

WN: Do you remember when it was that he built the little house?

EJ: Yes. Oh, my goodness. See, he lived there so long, and I don't know.

MJ: But he built that after you had moved the house here and you had been living here for a while.

EJ: Oh, yes. He couldn't have possibly stayed with us until we had – but he had already built that when we was beginning to put more to the house. So, we built two more bedrooms. We built the bath. In fact, we built all that on the other side. That is the porch, see?

MJ: Who built all of that?

EJ: My husband and another guy. My husband was a good carpenter.

MJ: He was?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: Do you remember the other person's name that helped him?

EJ: I think (Albert Fu?) helped him with this. I'm pretty sure he did.

MJ: We ask you to remember quite a lot, do we not?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: Albert Fu is dead now and gone. But his son's over there, (Albert George?) and his wife. She called me this morning after you were there. [laughter]

MJ: Oh, she did?

EJ: Yes. She thought maybe I was having little problems.

MJ: Oh, I see.

EJ: See?

MJ: Because I was here twice.

EJ: Because you were just alone. She wanted to know if everything was all right. I said, "Yes." I said, "He wanted to know little history and this, that, and the other." I said, "They'll probably be back about two o'clock." She was satisfied. But she's always interested in me to know that everything's going along okay.

MJ: Well it is nice to have neighbors that care.

EJ: See, I never invited you in, because there was no need. I told you enough and you didn't have nothing to take it down with, so –

MJ: Well, that is good, to have neighbors that care for you.

EJ: Oh, yes. You mighty right. Yes. He came over and painted that. They had to chisel a lot off that back door, because I'd come home and under the door, I couldn't open the thing.

MJ: Oh, really?

EJ: Yes, it was so stuck, the rain or something, I don't know. Our neighbor over there, Martin, came over and fixed it. Well, it left it raw on the edges where he took it off. So, I called Albert George and I said, "How about coming over and putting a little paint on my –" he wasn't in the house at the time, but (Claire?) answered the phone. I said, "Where's Albert George?" She said, "He's out there dead doing this, that, and the other." I said, "Well, you go out there and ask him if he'd come over and dab a little paint on that door before it rains." I didn't want the rain to hit it and it was new lumber there, nothing on it. So, oh, yes, he was right over. Said he'd be over in

just a little bit. He came over, put a primer on it, let that dry, and came back later and put the other coat on. [laughter]

MJ: [laughter] Those are nice neighbors.

EJ: Oh, I tell you, I got the best neighbors going. The McIntyres over here, they're such good neighbors.

MJ: Are they really?

EJ: Oh, yes.

MJ: Good.

EJ: [laughter] They bring me the paper every day.

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: So, otherwise, before they came back, I was buying twenty-five cents through the week for a paper.

MJ: Let me ask you about Cortez and when you were living here. You had the two rooms, it was crowded. You mentioned that the Jones' had a pretty nice garden. Did most people in Cortez have gardens?

EJ: Oh, no.

MJ: Did they raise animals?

EJ: They raised animals. There were a lot of cows.

MJ: There were a lot of cows here?

EJ: Oh, yes.

MJ: Did you ever have any?

EJ: No, we never had. Well, yes. My aunt had a cow to milk. We had plenty of milk.

MJ: You had milk?

EJ: Oh, yes. They let them go. They just wandered around and eating the grass and this, that, and the other.

MJ: They did?

EJ: Yes. That's what I say, that there was a trail clear from, I guess, from the water clear to the schoolhouse, a cow trail.

MJ: Clear to the schoolhouse.

EJ: That's how we went to school, in a cow trail. No road.

MJ: What other types of animals did people raise?

EJ: There wasn't any road out there until they finally put a road.

MJ: Well, how was...

EJ: It was all dirt.

MJ: It was all dirt?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: It was probably a pretty rough road to drive on.

EJ: Yes. It was. Yes. I tell you.

MJ: Do you remember going to town when it was that dirt road?

EJ: Oh, yes. We had to go to town to get groceries. Yes. The storm done away with our store down here.

MJ: The twenty-one hurricane?

EJ: Yes, the twenty-one.

MJ: Do you remember much about that hurricane?

EJ: Yes, I do. Everybody left the home and went to the schoolhouse.

MJ: Oh, really?

EJ: Yes. You'd go on a boat from where you were at to the schoolhouse.

MJ: There was that much water?

EJ: Yes. We had a lot of mango trees in this yard. That water came up, and I think I had one mango tree that came through it, because there was enough rain that it saved it. It's that one that's out there right now. No, it was killed. My daddy put that out there later and that tree begot that tree. They were all killed.



MJ: So, none of them survived it. They were all killed.

EJ: Yes. My daddy put that tree there. The two boys, my nephews, they – as soon as he put the tree there, it hadn't been got put there very long. It was growing pretty good – they got an axe, went out there and chopping on the thing.

MJ: They were? [laughter]

EJ: They were going to chop it down and we stopped them. [laughter]

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: You can see where they kind of chopped in that tree now. But it's gone up and everything.

MJ: Doing fine.

EJ: But it lived. [laughter] Through it all, it lived.

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: Them boys was rounders, I tell you. (Lloyd and Floyd?).

MJ: Really?

EJ: Oh, yes.

WN: Mrs. Jones, some people said before there was much of a road out here, folks would travel by boat, that steams used to stop.

EJ: Oh, over to the other side, to the beach.

WN: Yes.

EJ: We went over there many a time. My daddy and all of us would go over there and take stuff with us to have a picnic over there. We'd land on this side, and it seemed like we'd walk for miles and miles. It seemed like we'd ever get to the water on the other side. It was further out than what they've got it now. They've built it in.

MJ: It was much wider.

EJ: Oh, it was a lot wider. You just had to walk, walk, walk, walk after you left your boat on this side, (go so far?) and then start walking.

MJ: I will be darned.

EJ: Yes. That's right.

WN: Did you ever take the boat down to Sarasota or up to Tampa?

EJ: Now, I didn't, but James' mother and father took it. That's the only way you went to a doctor, is to go to Tampa on that boat.

MJ: In those days, they would have to get on the boat and go through to Tampa to find a doctor.

EJ: Go to the doctor.

MJ: Well, how did they take care of their illnesses?

EJ: Well, I don't know. They didn't have a lot of, but anybody that did by, that's what they had to do. Get on that boat and go to Tampa.

MJ: Where did that boat come in?

EJ: Down here on the shore somewhere is where you got on it at.

MJ: At the (Albion?)? Would it dock at the Albion?

EJ: Yes. That wasn't a very big place at the time when they – yes.

MJ: What was there then?

EJ: Well, they had the post office in there for a long time in Albion. This building here, the post office in that building right there, up ahead there.

MJ: The old, little schoolhouse?

EJ: The old schoolhouse and the post office were in there. My husband went schooling there, his first schooling.

MJ: He did?

EJ: Yes, he did, until they got that one built out.

MJ: I will be darned. But that schoolhouse, it was moved, right?

EJ: Oh, they didn't. Yes. People began to live in the place then after the school started out there. They moved the post office back down to a store down there instead of this building here. They moved it back down there to a store.

WN: But has that little building always been sitting where it is now?

EJ: That's been there, I'll tell you, a long, long time, that building right there.

MJ: It has?

EJ: Yes. Because they had school in it.

MJ: While it was sitting there, they still had school in it?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: In that old schoolhouse?

EJ: Yes, that's right. Now, that's an old building.

MJ: It is.

EJ: They got on the corner there about the historical part. Have they? A part of it. I don't know.

MJ: Yes. It is still there. There is a sign. I want to ask you again a little bit what you remember about the 1921 hurricane, because that was a devastating hurricane for Cortez. You said you remember the water coming up. Do you remember much else about it, the wind or the damage that was done?

EJ: The water was the biggest part of the damage.

MJ: It was?

EJ: Oh, yes. Of course, it was blowing too. But the water was the biggest damage that there was in there. You could take a boat from your house right onto the schoolhouse.

MJ: Do you remember being scared during that time?

EJ: [laughter] I guess all people are scared when it's storming. Now, the other night when it blew here, oh dear, I'm going to tell you I heard limbs were flying. I heard all kind of noises. Next morning, I went out and looked and I said, "No wonder." Of all the limbs that's down and things flying around, and my yard was just full of stuff. Oh, yes, it was bad. But you remember.

WN: Yes. It was.

EJ: Yes. That was a bad night. Wanda, she was scared to death herself. She said, "If it just hadn't been for that wind –"

MJ: They say it might have been a small tornado.

EJ: Yes. I believe it was.

WN: After the hurricane of 1921, was it a long time before people could get back in their homes? Did they have food right away or was it hard times for a while afterwards?

EJ: No, we had food because a house that's set up like mine, it didn't get into your house.

MJ: It did not?

EJ: No. But if your house was sitting low, you got water in your house. I tell you, it'd come up on it where back there it was probably up to the second step out there.

MJ: It did?

EJ: Yes. We never stay here in a hurricane anyhow. If we hear anything about a bad time coming, we'd get our cars out and we'd go out to my daughters out there in Oneco. We've stayed out there quite a bit in storms and things, until it all passed over.

MJ: Do you remember much about the waterfront? What happened to the waterfront after that hurricane?

EJ: Oh, yes. The store went and, oh, a lot of things went down there. Just never was put back. It was never replaced.

WN: Was that (Mr. Brown's?) store?

EJ: Brown's store.

MJ: Brown's?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: What about James? Did he lose any boats or anything in the storm? Was he fishing then?

EJ: Yes, his boat.

MJ: Or his father lose anything?

EJ: I think his boat sank down there. My husband's boat sank, and he got it up. My nephew gave him money to get it fixed out and everything.

MJ: Do you have any?

WN: Another subject.

MJ: Go ahead.

WN: You mentioned that you are a member of the Cortez Church of God.

EJ: Oh, yes.

WN: That church has been there a long time, has it not?

EJ: It sure has. That church is every bit of, I guess, about sixty years old or better, maybe better. There was a steeple on it, and they took that off. That's when that little stoop is out there now like that. They took the steeple off and put that there.

WN: Did many fishing families go to that church?

EJ: Oh, yes. That used to be a big church. But so many people are dead and gone that belong to that church, see? They're dead and gone. They're just not here any longer.

WN: How is the Church of God different from other churches? What is your church like?

EJ: We're Pentecostal. We believe you're saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost because Jesus said, "It's expedient that I go. But if I go away, I'm going to pray that you'll receive another comforter. I'm not going to leave you comfortless." The comforter was the Holy Ghost. That's the difference in other churches and ours. There are a lot of people that don't believe in that. But I'm going to tell you, if you want to get heaven, you better go by a Christ-like way. Now, if Christ had the Holy Ghost, how much more should we have it? See? He had the Holy Ghost. He was baptized by John. He ascended back to the Father, and he said, "When I get there, I'll pray that the Father send the Holy Ghost back." He did, and the only way that we know that he's at the right-hand of the Father is through the Holy Ghost. The Bible says that, that's the only way you know it.

WN: Do you all say that you witness? Do you use that expression?

EJ: Yes.

WN: What does that mean, to witness?

EJ: Just like I'm talking to you. A lot of people don't accept it, but they going to wish one day they had accepted it. He's coming back because his word says, "I'm coming soon and I'm coming for those that are waiting and watching." He doesn't mean you don't sleep, that you can't sleep. But you've got your life straightened up and ready to go. See? The Bible says, "The only way that you know that He's at the right-hand of the Father is by the Holy Ghost." If you don't have the Holy Ghost, you don't know whether he's there at the right-hand of the Father or not.

WN: Were your parents members of the Church of God?

EJ: My daddy was saved before he died because I witnessed to him. The Jehovah Witnesses had got hold of him and he had books in his house. Let me tell you, he said, "You take them books out and put them on fire and burn them." Many a time I went out there, I always found my daddy on his knees praying. He was ready to go when he went. He witnessed to people that he

was. Sure did. I witnessed to my father, and he was saved by me witnessing to him. If I hadn't told him the difference, he probably would never have been saved.

MJ: Did that make you feel good?

EJ: Yes. My youngest son that worked at Tropicana, he was eight years old when my daddy was at church that night. This boy, Bob, went to the altar. (Brother Suggs?) was a pastor at that time. He knelt down at that altar, that boy of mine, and he looked just straight up there as if he had his eye on a nail, just looking at a nail right straight up in the house. He just looked and looked and looked until he fell over and began talking in other tongues. That boy, eight years old, done that. My daddy said, "That convinces me more so than ever." Said that child knew no more about what he was saying than nothing. It had to be the Lord. See? That convinced my daddy more than anything else. He said, "That eight-year-old kid did not know how to speak like that."

MJ: Have you ever spoken in tongues?

EJ: If I didn't, I'd do it all over again.

MJ: Really?

EJ: That's right. I sure would. Now, I'm telling you and telling both of you, there's a preparation to make to go when he comes. Because he's going to take them that knows him. They're going right up with him. The dead Christ is going to rise first, and we are going to be changed in the twinkling of an eye and go up with him.

MJ: You still attend the Church of God. How many people do you have down there now?

EJ: Well, at times we have quite a few and at times we don't have so many. The Bible says, "In the last days, there'll be a great falling away." That's what's happening.

MJ: Well, that is what I wanted to ask you, why you thought that was.

EJ: They're falling away. See? There's people I know that's fell away that once knew the Lord, shouted the victory, that's gone back. Don't think I don't talk to them.

WN: There is another church here.

EJ: Church of Christ.

WN: How are they different?

EJ: They just don't believe like we do. Maybe some of them are all right, but I've seen too many of them baptized and come up with a big old cigar in their mouth and all such stuff as that. I just don't believe in any such stuff as that.

MJ: Your daughter is a pretty good cook. Did you teach her how to cook?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: Yes. Yes. [laughter] She took right after her mother cooking.

MJ: She did, huh?

EJ: Yes, she did.

MJ: Was that a big part of your life, preparing meals and everything here?

EJ: Oh, yes. I prepared meals here. I had Christmas here for years, they'd all come home. Easter, they'd all come home. We'd had the prettiest grass at times, and they'd hide eggs and the kids, and they'd hunt eggs and this, that, and the other. Oh, yes, I cooked and fixed until – it's time now that they cook and fix for me.

MJ: [laughter]

WN: [laughter]

EJ: I'll say, "What can I fix to bring?" They say, "Just bring yourself."

MJ: What would you fix typically for a Christmas dinner?

EJ: Oh, I had turkey and dressing and with all the trimmings, everything else that goes with it, cranberry sauce and a lot of other stuff, desserts and things. When Wanda was out there where – (Terry?) was out there and she went out there with Terry when Terry was way out yonder somewhere. I fixed dinner for (Larry?) and his daddy that day.

MJ: You did?

EJ: Yes. Yes. They ate dinner with me that day, Christmas dinner.

WN: How did you learn how to cook?

EJ: Well, the hard way. I started when I was very young. I started doing dishes when I had to stand on a box to do them. That's what was the trouble with Palma Sola School, that she thought I couldn't do nothing but the dishes in the school. She kept me in the dish room, and I didn't like it because I knew how to do dishes. I kept my machine just as good because they'd come in and inspect it. They said, "You keep your machine up real well." So, she would not let me get in the kitchen and do nothing and I knew how to cook just as good as anybody. So, one day I called someone that was in charge of the Bayshore School. I said, "I want to change from Palma Sola to Bayshore." (Faye Graves?) was in charge there. She said, "Well, we will see that you get to Bayshore." So, it wasn't long, I went to Bayshore, and they put me in the baking business, the

first thing. See, I could read recipes and do just the same as anybody else. I knew I could. I made rolls and all the desserts. Everything that was baked, I did it with some help. I had a help, someone that was under me. We did all that. Then when I went from the baking, I went salad making. The teachers liked salad. They'd always order salads. Don't think I didn't make them some good salads. [laughter]

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: They told me if they ordered them late, just not to make them, but I didn't do it. If I could get that in at all, I'd make that salad for that person. See? They could always depend on me for salads.

MJ: Well, we have not really discussed you working outside the home. How long did you...

EJ: Yes. Oh, I worked at Palma Sola and Bayshore and I retired from school.

MJ: You did?

EJ: So, I couldn't live on just Social Security that I'm getting. I'd have to get retirement. Because my retirement and the social security is the only way I exist.

MJ: How long did you work for the schools?

EJ: Oh, I guess around fifteen, sixteen years.

MJ: You did? You started at Palma Sola, and you were not cooking then?

EJ: No. She just thought to just keep me in the dish room, see? Because I could really do the work. But that was heavier work than cooking. It was, because the basket they used for dishes then was heavy, see? But I got tired, and I went to her, and I said, "(Ms. Seacrest?), did you know I could do something besides wash dishes?" I said that to her once and she never did anything about it.

MJ: She did not?

EJ: So, finally, we left her.

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: You know what she done? She come to my house and wanted me to go back over there. I said, "Paddling a doe back would not let you have me for nothing in this world."

MJ: [laughter] They knew they had gotten a good cook when they got you.

EJ: Yes. I said, "No, she wouldn't let me go back over there. No." She said she wouldn't. When she came here, I said, "Ms. Seacrest, you never let me do a thing but wash dishes." I said,



"I'm doing everything over there at Bayshore, but wash dishes."

MJ: [laughter] That is a good.

EJ: [laughter] Oh dear.

WN: [laughter]

EJ: She thought she'd teach me how to do dishes and I'd done them ever since I was big enough to stand on a box and get to the dish bin and do the dishes.

MJ: [laughter] We are jumping around a little bit, I guess. But I guess that is okay too. Did you have a question, Wayne that you wanted to ask? I just wanted to ask you what are your impressions of living in Cortez for so many years? What do you think of Cortez now?

EJ: I wouldn't live anywhere else. I have dreamed that I left Cortez and went somewhere else, and I was the most disappointed chicken that ever was.

MJ: Really?

EJ: Yes, I was. I told my husband, "If I ever get back to Cortez and I don't have anything but a chicken coop, I'll never sell it."

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: You know what? He wanted to sell some of that out there, twenty-five foot of it. I said, "I'm not selling one inch." I said, "This belongs to my kids when I'm dead and gone."

MJ: You think that much of this?

EJ: Yes, that's right.

MJ: What is it about Cortez?

EJ: It belongs to them now. I'm just living here until I'm gone. It's theirs.

MJ: Well, what is it about Cortez that makes it special?

EJ: Well, I stay home and tend to my business. People that don't, well, they're always in the hot water. See? Some people don't like it. But if you stay home and tend to your own business and not the other fellas, you're okay. See?

MJ: There is one question that I forgot to ask you about this property. You said that that land to the south of you.

EJ: Goes in a foot of that oak tree in the other guy's yard over there. He's got an oak tree and

just a foot this size, this side of that tree, is my property goes right across.

MJ: Your property line. But that property originally belonged to who before they bought that?

EJ: That belonged to my nephew, (Lloyd Capo?).

MJ: Lloyd Capo?

EJ: Yes.

MJ: He built that house then?

EJ: Yes, my nephew built that house, and he built the little house on the other side of it that his mother-in-law lived in.

MJ: He had a fish house. Did he have a fish operation down there?

EJ: Oh, yes. He ran that house for a good long time. Yes, he did.

MJ: These were your sister Anna's children?

EJ: Yes. They were her twin boys.

MJ: She had married a Capo.

EJ: Capo. He had a twin sister.

MJ: He had a twin sister.

EJ: Their doctor had a twin.

MJ: My God. [laughter]

EJ: It was a twin. The nurse had had twins.

MJ: [laughter]

WN: [laughter]

EJ: Now that was a twin combination. It was in the Grit. [laughter] It was in all the papers.

MJ: It was?

EJ: [laughter] Yes.

MJ: That is amazing.

EJ: Yes. There were twins born in the house. [laughter]

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: The nurse had had twins, the doctor was a twin, and she had twins. [laughter]

MJ: Their mother was a twin.

EJ: Yes. Their mother was a twin, and their daddy was a twin.

MJ: That is something.

EJ: So, yes, I tell you it was a twin combination.

MJ: Have you seen Cortez change a lot?

EJ: I guess I have.

MJ: What is the biggest change you have seen?

EJ: Well, the building up of it. They built that house over there on the corner where (Albert George Hu?) is living. While I was living here, they were building that over there. They built, not that place over there, but out over there. They just built, built, built. This house over here on stilts, the –

MJ: The Baileys?

EJ: The Baileys, they built that. There have been a lot of places built here. Yes. I've seen a big difference in Cortez. The Harris house sitting down on the water, and they took that from the water and put it up there and fixed it and everything. That's where they lived until he died. He died here just a few weeks back, months, something like that.

MJ: That was (Max Harris?)?

EJ: Max Harris.

WN: Do you like it better now, or did you like it earlier on better? Do you like it being built up like this?

EJ: Oh, yes. Because my neighbors around me, it's a good day and they're good to me. The Martins is so good to me, and people are so good to me. Oh, yes, I think the world in all this place, I tell you. I said I was going to live and die here, and that's what I mean. Live and die here.

MJ: There are a lot of people that have moved here from other places. Do you think that is a

good thing?

EJ: Lot of people have moved here?

MJ: From other places.

EJ: They're from New York, but I couldn't have better neighbors.

MJ: You get along with them fine?

EJ: Oh, yes. She brought the paper and left it out there and put a little something on it. She knocked at the door, and I came, and she was walking away on down over there to Martins, I imagine, to see what he was doing to his house over there. She says, "I just put your paper there." So, they always bring me the paper when – so, I just couldn't ask for better neighbors, regardless of where they're from.

MJ: Do you think Cortez brings out the goodness in people? Or do you think good people just come to Cortez?

EJ: I think good people come to Cortez.

MJ: Really?

EJ: They're not all Christians, but there'll be people like that when Jesus comes and goes. Now, Albert George and (Clara?) are. They're Christians. They've been down to our church quite a bit.

MJ: Your church is going to have something at the festival?

EJ: Oh, yes.

MJ: You are glad to see that?

EJ: Oh, yes.

MJ: Will you be at the festival? Will you go down to the...

EJ: No, because where I used to go and sit and watch it all the time – (Litha?) passed away. So, I used to go down and sit with her and watch them go and come and this, that, and the other. People that I knew, I'd speak to them and hi.

MJ: That is the house I am renting.

EJ: Oh, yes.

MJ: You used to sit on that porch then?

EJ: Oh, yes. I'd sit on that porch, she and I, and we'd just watch people. Yes, all the time. Sure did.

MJ: So, you were close to (Mrs. Leaper)?

EJ: Oh, yes. Yes. I liked her real well. I went to see her as long as she lived up there at the home. Well, we'll all stay here until he says, "Come on, home."

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: They can put this old body down, but they're not going to put this soul down because it's going to take its ride. The soul is what counts. This old body's got to go back to its grave. But it'll rise again. But it'll rise. It's mortal and it'll be immortal when it goes. It won't be blood and flesh like we are. There won't be no given in marriage in heaven because in the Bible, it says, "This brother married a wife, and he didn't have any children. The other brother married her, and he didn't have any children, and so on until about six or seven had her. They all died, and she died, and it said, "Now, whose wife will she be when she gets to heaven?" He says, "There won't be any marriages and given in marriages in heaven." You'll know as you're known. But there'll be none of that.

MJ: So, do you think that you will see your husband up there?

EJ: You're mighty right. Yes, sir. I sure do because he was a good man. He went to church just as long as he could go. He went when he wasn't able to go.

MJ: He did?

EJ: In fact, we had to carry him from the church one night to the hospital. If I'd have known that it was like it was, I thought I had some orange juice to give him and put some sugar in it and I got it down to him. It would had brought him right out of that. But I had a time getting him to church that night. He didn't want to stay home. I started out with him and held his arm and I had to keep pulling him away from that. There's a cement thing that goes along there. I had to keep pulling him away from that and I finally got him in the car. I said, "Now, when we get to the church, you're not getting out until some man comes and gets you out of the car." Because I couldn't have got him out of the car and went and got him in church to save my life. I'd done good to get him there. Now, he wanted to go to church and him and not feeling good at all. But that's the way he was.

MJ: The church came first.

EJ: So, (Brother Kessler?) came out and got him and got him into church. Pretty soon, he sat there, and he then straightened out like this, and I could see it. I ran to him and everybody else that was in the pulpit, they stopped, came, and everybody went to praying. He came out of it. But the ambulance came and got him and carried him to the hospital. He was all right. They gave him some sugar. He was doing all right. See, if I'd had known to done that, and I have

done it at different times. So, I just didn't think of it that night and I ought to. We kept him here just as long as we could keep him here. But he got to where he couldn't go to the bathroom. They put a castor in him, but that wasn't taking care of everything. So, we just couldn't keep him any longer. He couldn't go to the bathroom for anything, see? So, we said, "Well, duh." I couldn't do anything with him. I'd have to call the girls. We just made up our mind that that would be the best place for him. They could do more there for him than we could do here. We were there every moment we could get there from the morning until evening. We'd go and stay some night until ten, eleven. We just happened not be there the night that he passed away.

MJ: Is it hard being alone now?

EJ: Well, I'm adjusted to it. I realize that he's better off than I am. He's better off, like my little daughter, Geraldine, that didn't live. I said, "I wouldn't ask her back in this world if I could ask her back here." Not the condition this world's in.

MJ: Do you think we are in bad shape now?

EJ: Yes, I sure do. Yes. People that are out of the ark of safety are in bad shape.

MJ: That are out of the ark of safety?

EJ: The ark of safety.

MJ: What is that?

EJ: Well, didn't Noah have an ark? Didn't he build an ark for the righteous? The rest of them, he preached to them like I don't know what, and told them that it was going to come, and that the world was going to be destroyed by water. He preached to them. "Why, Noah, it has never rained like that we ever known of. It's never rained like that." He'd tell them that it was, and that God had instructed him how to build that ark. They come and knocked on it and said, "Open the door." He said, "I didn't shut it. God shut the door and I can't open it. God shut the door." There were eight that were saved in that ark. The rest were destroyed by the flood because they wouldn't listen to Noah preaching and telling them. See? That's what's going to happen to people now. You tell them, but they don't accept it. That's all you can do. You can't take them by the hair of the head and say, "You've got to go."

MJ: No, you cannot.

EJ: No.

WN: Mrs. Jones, do you think the world has gotten worse in the time that you have been watching it?

EJ: Oh, listen to your television mornings. They went in there, someone shot that woman. He raped her and shot her and took her daughters and killed them. Those two beautiful children. Did you see them on TV?

WN: Yes, I did. I saw it in the paper.

EJ: Two beautiful children and they went to church. She was in church. She'd take them to church and that's what they done to her. She's still living, but her children. See? They looked so pretty with the little bows in their head and everything. I saw them on TV, how pretty they were. They were cute little girls. Yes, every morning. I never heard of so much killing in my life. Killing, shooting, going in restaurants killing people.

MJ: Do you feel safe in Cortez?

EJ: Yes, I do. Because the Bible says that he's appointed a guardian angel to watch over you. I have a dead boat there. They could get in this house regardless of the dead boat. But that angel, if they saw an angel out there, they'd say, "Well, somebody's out there watching out for this place." See? No, I come home from church. I don't go all over my house and look under every bed and in every corner like my aunt used to do. [laughter]

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: I just come in and make preparations for bed when I go to church and get in my bed and go to sleep, and I sleep just like a baby.

MJ: Well, we're about out of tape and I would just like to thank you for letting us conduct this interview.

EJ: Yes. Well I'm just glad you came.

MJ: Well, thank you.

EJ: Yes. I've witnessed to both of you. [laughter]

MJ: [laughter]

EJ: [laughter] I do mostly anybody comes in my house, I witness to them.

MJ: Well, that is good.

EJ: I don't let them go without telling them.

WN: Thank you, Mrs. Jones.

EJ: [laughter] No, because I don't want any blood required at my hand.

MJ: That is right.

EJ: See? If I don't tell people, their blood will be required at my hand.

MJ: Well, thank you very much.

[end of transcript]