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Narrator**

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Interviewer 1:	00:10	And that's the microphone, but you're a good distance. But I don't want to be the only one on there either.
Interviewer 2:	00:23	I'm going to take some notes while she's still talking to you and also because I need to type up a report later on.
I1:	00:28	Okay. When were you born?
EH:	00:36	June, 1909.
I1:	00:37	Okay. And how long have you lived in Stevens County?
EH:	00:40	Well, we lived in Stevens County for a few years when we first moved up here, which was in 1913. And then we lived in Stevens County, but then when I got married, then we lived in Swift County for 27 years.
I1:	01:09	Did you?
EH:	01:10	Um-hum.
I1:	01:11	So how long were you in Stevens County about?
EH:	01:18	Oh, dear. Eleven years.
I1:	01:33	We can do it because it was during the time of the radio. All right. And then did you like in a town or on a farm?
EH:	01:41	No, we lived on a farm.
I1:	01:43	Did you? Okay. Now, were you living with your family at this time?
EH:	01:53	With my folks.

I1: 01:55 Okay. So how many people were in your family?

EH: 01:57 In the family?

I1: 01:57 Yeah.

EH: 01:58 Well, there was 10 children in all, but the oldest one was married before the last one was born.

I1: 02:11 And then, so you got married and then you moved to Swift County?

EH: 02:15 Then what?

I1: 02:16 You got married and moved to Swift County?

EH: 02:18 Yes.

I1: 02:19 All right. Did you ever work? Did you have an occupation?

EH: 02:25 Did I ever what?

I1: 02:26 Work?

EH: 02:28 Yeah. I used to do housework for people.

I1: 02:36 So you would go outside the home usually?

EH: 02:38 Oh, yes.

I1: 02:40 All right. Where did you go to school?

EH: 02:51 Oh, dear, there was different schools because my parents moved different times, so it was quite a few different schools. I couldn't even tell you—

I1: 03:00 Oh, all right. That's okay.

I2: 03:01 So you moved around quite a bit?

EH: 03:04 Yes.

I1: 03:09 Well, do you know when you first listened to the radio, do you remember, like, was it at your house or was it at somebody else's house?

EH: 03:16 No, the very first—my sister lived in South Dakota and we went to visit some friends there and they had a radio, and they were just with earphones.

I1: 03:27 So only one person can listen in?

E1: 03:28 Only one. Unless one of them took one and the other one sat there and held it. That was the first I ever heard of a radio. Amazed me because that you could hear something that was coming over the air or something.

I2: 03:46 Yeah, that was really neat.

I1: 03:48 So when did you get your first radio?

E1: 03:51 I can't exactly remember, but we got a hold of a second one that had been used, and it was a big old box of about this long, and it had three dials on, you had to set all three dials to get one station.

I2: 04:04 To get one station?

E1: 04:05 Yes. Was very, I don't know, complicated and the batteries did not last very long. Those days, the batteries were not good like they are now.

I1: 04:18 Why did you guys get one?

E1: 04:21 Well, because we were lonely, out on the farm, all alone. You just didn't commute because, well, you couldn't afford it for the first thing. I meant, the '30s was very bad. I meant, when we got married in '30 and then following that, we—our crops were very poor for a few years, so we had nothing, no money, I meant. So we just happened to get a hold of an old one that had been used somewhere else before, and that was our radio, first radio.

I1: 04:57 What stations do you get, did you remember?

E1: 04:59 I can't remember at that time. It was not very many. I meant, not like now.

I1: 05:10 Well, before radio, what did you do for news or music?

E1: 05:16 For what?

I1: 05:16 Before you had the radio.

E1: 05:18 What did we do to—

I1: 05:19 What did you do to get your news?

E1: 05:21 News?

I1: 05:22 Yeah.

EH: 05:23 Not much news around out there, because it's only if you went visiting among the neighbors or if you went to town or to church, that's about the only news you got a hold of until we got papers mailed, and of course we got that.

I1: 05:41 What about music before radio?

EH: 05:44 Music?

I1: 05:45 Yeah.

EH: 05:45 There wasn't any. Unless some of the family could play and things. We used to go to a lot of house dances and then there was a few here and there that could play instruments and that's what our entertainment was. Otherwise, you just went visiting and visited with the neighbors, played cards.

I2: 06:09 Kind of like what we do today.

EH: 06:11 Well, kind of, yeah, in that way.

I1: 06:13 Yeah. Well, then after radio, how did you get your news?

EH: 06:20 How did we get what?

I1: 06:21 Your news.

EH: 06:22 News after the radio?

I1: 06:23 Yeah.

EH: 06:24 Well, we always tried to listen to the radio right at news time. And then in the evenings, if we were home or nobody come, then we would listen for a while. But like I said, your batteries did not stand up very long, so we couldn't keep it on. Like, now, you put the radio on and you've got it playing all day, you don't think nothing of it.

I2: 06:49 Were the batteries pretty expensive?

EH: 06:50 Well, I don't suppose they were compared to now, but they were—we had no money. That's why they were expensive to us because we just didn't have nothing.

I1: 07:05 So did you use—what about music and entertainment after the radio?

EH: 07:11 Well, we would have some on the radio. And as years progressed, things got better. We got a better radio and then you—we had no electricity at that time, no nothing.

I1: 07:31 No electricity?

EH: 07:32 No. No electricity.

I1: 07:38 Okay. Do you remember any of the programs that you listened to or anything?

EH: 07:45 Amos 'n' Andy was one of the funniest ones, and most entertaining besides news that I—they did have some programs, but not anything outstanding. I meant, just to—and whatever we could catch, that's what we'd listen to.

I2: 08:08 Did you have a hard time with the reception? Was it pretty bad?

EH: 08:09 Yeah, it was pretty bad. Yes, it was a lot of crack and a lot of noise. I meant, because the radios were not made good at that time compared to now.

I1: 08:27 Now, is this when you were living with your folks?

EH: 08:32 No, this was after I was married. In the dirty '30s like you call them.

I1: 09:04 So what time of the day was the radio on?

EH: 09:07 What time was the news on? At noon. And then it's at—in the evening. In the morning we had too much work, we had to go and do chores and things so we didn't have time to listen in the morning news.

I1: 09:23 And did you—when you listened, was it the whole family or who did you listen with?

EH: 09:28 Well, it was the family at that time because they'd all be—as farmers, we always ate at 12:00 and at 6:00 so we always was all together at that time.

I1: 09:39 So it was usually on at dinner time?

EH: 09:41 Pardon?

I1: 09:41 It was usually on at dinner time?

EH: 09:43 Yes.

I1: 09:47 Did you—so did you talk to other people while you were listening to the news or did you all listen?

EH: 09:53 Just listen. No. I meant, we had our little conversations in between and whatever, when you got little talks around.

I1: 10:06 Did you ever talk about anything you heard on the radio after you listened?

EH: 10:10 Oh, yes.

I1: 10:21 Did you ever look forward to shows?

EH: 10:24 Well, they didn't advertise them then like they do now. I meant, you just—there's no way that we knew what was going to be on because they didn't, like I say, advertise so you didn't—you just put the radio on and tried to find what was best.

I1: 10:47 Were there any rules about listening at your house, like, any shows that the kids couldn't listen to or something like that?

EH: 10:54 No, not at that time, nothing.

I1: 11:05 Did it ever—listening to the radio, did it ever help you solve problems? Did they ever give you tips on how to do farm information or household tips?

EH: 11:16 To some extent, yes.

I1: 11:24 Did you ever listen to soap operas?

EH: 11:26 Pardon?

I1: 11:26 Did you ever listen to soap operas?

EH: 11:29 I'm kind of hard hearing, so you got to talk a little louder.

I1: 11:31 Soap operas?

EH: 11:33 Soap operas?

I1: 11:34 Yeah.

EH: 11:34 Oh, yeah, some, as they come more and more.

I1: 11:48 Do you remember if some of the things that happened on those shows, was that anything that happened in your

family or anything that happened—any situations or characters?

EH: 12:03 I can't recall that. No, I don't.

I1: 12:05 It was just something you listened to?

EH: 12:07 Yeah.

I1: 12:11 What about looking at political events, did the radio help in that?

EH: 12:16 No.

I1: 12:18 Did you ever listen to fireside chats?

EH: 12:21 No.

I1: 12:21 You didn't?

EH: 12:22 No.

I1: 12:25 Or what about during the war?

EH: 12:29 Well, whatever we heard at news time, that's about the only thing.

I1: 12:41 Do you remember any of the advertisements? Did they—did you ever buy anything because you heard the advertisements?

EH: 12:48 No, because we couldn't afford it, we didn't have money, it was very, very hard. We lived on love then, I guess. No, there just was no money, I meant, whatsoever.

I1: 13:10 Did anything you hear ever hit you emotionally? Did you ever feel really happy or sad or scared or something?

EH: 13:22 Can't recall. Not really, no.

I1: 13:30 There was one show that we learned about and it was called the War of the Worlds.

EH: 13:36 War of the Worlds?

I1: 13:37 Yeah. And it was about a Martian invasion. Did you ever listen to that?

EH: 13:41 Unh-uh.

I1: 13:52 Do you want to say anything else about what you remember about radio? Any other shows you want to talk about?

EH: 14:01 I don't, because like I said, the radio was used very little because on come the batteries and lots of—I meant, it was very hard to get stations. It was not like now, you go and pull a button and you got it right there.

I1: 14:21 Yeah. It wasn't as easy as now. It wasn't—

EH: 14:24 No.

I1: 14:25 So when you listened to it, it was like—

EH: 14:26 Well, and you were not used to it or anything because you just had a quiet life and just nothing there, just nothing.

I1: 14:39 Well, when you got better radios or when you got electricity, then was it easier?

EH: 14:46 Oh, yes, much easier by that time. Because we didn't get electricity in years soon as most people did, because we were living out of the area where the line went, and when we did get electricity, we had to pay to get them to put it in because they had to come a whole mile to our place to get—and we had to pay to help put that in at that time.

I1: 15:13 When was that? Do you remember?

EH: 15:17 About 1945.

I1: 15:19 1945. Okay. And did you maybe listen to the radio more?

EH: 15:30 Oh, yeah. As, as the years progressed, we listened more and more.

I1: 15:56 How old were your kids around that time then?

EH: 15:59 My children?

I1: 16:00 Yeah.

EH: 16:01 Yeah. We were married in '30 and then in the fall of '31 then our oldest son was born. And five years later, my daughter was born, and 10 years later, my youngest son was born. So there was quite a space.

I2: 16:19 That's a big space, yeah., in between.

- EH: 16:27 When they were younger, they just never touched the radio because they didn't know how to—it wasn't easy like it is now, you just—it just never bothered it.
- I1: 16:43 Did you let them listen to shows like the Lone Ranger? Did they ever listen to a program?
- EH: 16:47 Not too much because they had—after they got a little bit bigger, they had their schoolwork to do and they did very well in school. So I meant, we didn't impress them that they should be listening to the radio. Another thing, they didn't have time because we had lots of chores and lots of work for them all the time, so they didn't have time that they could sit and come in and listen to the radio. They all had their jobs.
- I1: 17:50 I don't think you have any more questions. Unless you want to—unless you can think of something.
- EH: 17:59 As long as you're pertaining to radio, I just can't say too much.