

**00:00 - 19:31 Coming to the USA, life in Iowa, parents**

**This is the 2nd of April, 1976, and we are interviewing in the Thousand Oaks area. And would you please give us your name?**

Enga Olena Eastvold.

**Now, you are Mrs. Eastvold.**

Yes, I am. Mrs. Seth Eastvold.

**But what was your maiden name?**

My maiden name was Enga Olena Eastvold. And the reason for that is that it was a custom in Norway that they took the name of the farm that they moved on to. And my father's name was Kluge, then he moved to Eastwald, and so his name was Eastwald. My mother's name was Galsel, and she moved to Eastwald, and her name became Eastwald before she was married. And she married in Eastwald and kept the same name there.

So her name was Eastvold before she was married, and my name has been Eastvold, always.

**So the Eastvold girls marry Eastvold.**

That's right.

**What was your mother's first name?**

Marie, and M-A-R-I-E, Maria. And my father's name was Ula Rasmus Kluge.

Where in, you said they came from Eastwald, Norway. Is there any way of telling us where in Norway that is?  
From Stavanger.

From Stavanger, yes.

And my mother promised my father, before they were married, that he would never move to America. There was such a flock of people going, and my mother was fearful of it. But she was the one who finally urged him to move to America, because she noticed all these unmarried men going to America, and she said that when we get married, our children will go too, and we will never see them again. So she was the one that really decided that they should go to America.

**About when was this?**

They went in 1884, and it took them 24 days to cross the ocean. It was very stormy, and mother was seasick most of the time. They had five children when they came to America. And they landed in New York, and they took a train to Iowa, Austin, Iowa, because my father's brother lived there. His name was Thore Eastwald, T-H-O-R-E, Thore Eastwald. And they lived with him for quite a while. My father had \$300 in his pocket when he came to America.

**Do you know how he got \$300?**

Well, he had a good farm in Norway, and he made pretty good on that. So that's how he had happened to have that much.

**May I interrupt also? Did your mother ever tell you what she brought with her on the trip? Did she have to bring the food?**

Oh, yes. I don't know if they had any food on the boat or not. It was not a pleasant boat.

**You don't know the name of the boat.**

No, I don't. It was quite small and was very stormy. And she was seasick most of the time, but she did have food along.

**Did she tell you any stories about how the children behaved, or did your father tell you what his responsibilities on the trip may have been?**

Well, he had to take care of the children much of the way, because it's my mother being so seasick. But she always spoke of the children as being very good on the trip.

**Do you have any heirlooms from Norway that your mother or father brought to this country?**

I can't think of anything, no.

**It may come to you. They went on the train to Iowa. But did they speak English?**

Oh, no. No, they didn't speak English at all. But they went on the train from New York to Iowa, and they stayed at Austin, Iowa for a while. And then they went to... Oh, another place in Iowa. Then they moved to Chester, Iowa, lived there quite a while. Then they moved to Ler Ly, Minnesota, just across the border. And then they bought a farm. And that was really the place that we all lived together. I was born on that farm.

**You say we all. So there were more children than the five that came across?**

Oh, yes. They had thirteen children. And I was the third from the youngest. And on Sundays, my father would hitch up his wagon. He had a good-sized wagon. And then he would start for church. And they had certain places where these newcomer boys would meet him. And by the time he got to church, the wagon load was full.

### **These were unmarried young Norwegian men?**

They were unmarried. I wouldn't say they were so young. They were the same age as my father, most of them.

### **But they didn't have families?**

No, they weren't married, and they didn't have families. And then the service didn't start at the church before my father came with his load of newcomers. Of course, the family was along, too. And if they were a little bit late, the pastor would walk from one window to the next, rather nervous. And then he said, they're coming. And then the service started, and my father always had the opening prayer. That was the custom at that time, but a layman should have the opening prayer.

### **And was this in Norwegian then?**

Oh, yes, it was all Norwegian. And the pastor had two, three churches that he served. So when there wasn't service in the church, then they'd all meet in my home for a prayer meeting. And they'd bring some food, and they had a big festive day along with a prayer meeting.

### **It became a social gathering.**

It did. Fine fellowship.

### **Again, driving to the church and your father picking up the young bachelor Norwegians, did you sing along the way?**

Oh, yes, they sang along the way. And one of the men who was in that group was Carl Johan Eastvold. And he got married later on, and he was my husband's father. He worked on a farm, and he had a team of horses. And those who could furnish horses also had better pay.

And one day, or several days for that matter, he felt a great urge to go into the ministry. But he hesitated because he didn't have the money. But one day the urge got so strong he couldn't resist. And he said, OK, Lord, I'm going to throw this metal tool.

And if it points toward me, I'll go to the seminary. He threw it, and it pointed toward him. And he said, well, now that could have been just an accident. I'm going to throw it again, Lord. And it pointed toward him. He said, OK, I'm throwing it three times. He threw it again, and it pointed toward him. He said, well, that's it. I'm going to the seminary.

### **What about money?**

Well, he unhitched his horses. And he said, Lord, you'll have to help me to sell my horses because that's all I've got. And so he took his team of horses back to the barn. When he got to the barn, there was a man waiting for him. And he said, do you want to sell your horses? He said, yes, I do. So he sold his horses.

He went to the seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota. That was the seminary half that time. And he just became a preacher. He became a preacher. Carl Johan Eastvold. And he became very outstanding. And he could speak both English and Norwegian.

**Was this the Lutheran Church?**

This was the Lutheran Church. And at that time, there were three synods in the Lutheran Church. And he became president of the Hauge Synod. And he was president of Lutheran College we had at that time, too. His college was in Iowa. And he was a powerful preacher.

**You knew him?**

Very much so, because he was my husband's father.

**Yes, but what I mean is that after you married your husband, he was still alive and was still preaching.**

Oh, yes, yes. He lived quite a while after that. I think he died in about 1925. So he lived a long time after that.

**Do you know where he came from in Norway?**

I think he came from Stavanger, too. I'm quite sure he did. And he was on the farm. I don't remember what his name was when he was a young boy, but he moved to Østfold before he moved to the United States. So his name was Østfold also. He called it Eastvold.

**May I go back a little bit to your own father and ask a few questions? He was married with five children in Norway. He must have had a profession or a job in Norway. Do you know what that was?**

He was an excellent farmer. Yes, he was an outstanding farmer. And he had quite some success in his farming.

**Did he have education? Do you know how much education he had in Norway?**

I don't know how much. They both read a great deal. But how much education he had, I don't know. But one of the pictures that I have in my mind from my early days, when we had moved to Leroy, Minnesota, that's where we all lived for a while.

And in the evening, my father would always ask us all to sit down after we went through the dinner. And he'd take the Bible and he'd read a chapter. Always a chapter regardless of the length of it. And then he would have his prayer. And then we would close with the Lord's prayer. Then while Mother got the work done for the evening and the children to bed, he still sat by the table reading the Bible. And finally he'd fall asleep over the Bible. That's the picture I have of him.

But every night, Father went to sleep over the Bible. And then when Mother had her work done, she'd wake him and they'd go to bed. That's one of the pictures that I have of him.

**Did he have any Norwegian magazines in the home there?**

Oh yes, Scandinavian. They couldn't afford to have many papers. But all good Norwegians had the Scandinavian.

**And you spoke Norwegian in the home?**

We spoke Norwegian in the home.

**All of you 13 learned Norwegian?**

Oh yes, yes. I majored in Norwegian at college too.

**Would you give us one of your favorite prayers in Norwegian? Or one of the favorite sayings you have? Oh, is that asking too much to bounce on you all?**

I don't. I haven't used Norwegian for so long, but I don't know now. You mean a prayer and all?

**A little grace or something that you maybe remember from your childhood.**

[NORWEGIAN]

**Oh, thank you. That's what we wanted.**

Well now, I don't know.

**Did your parents keep a contact with Norway?**

Oh yes, they did. And another picture that I've had in my mind of my father, my parents were very religious, and they were also very patriotic too. Mother had gotten the service flag from the church of the World War I. She wanted to put a gold star on it from someone, some distant relative. And so when she had the star put on, she asked my father to take the flag back to the church. And it was, we wanted it back before Sunday. And this was quite a stormy Saturday. I felt sorry for him going to church in that stormy weather. But when he came back, his face just gleamed. He said it was so good to be in church, even if it was empty because God was there.

**Then it wasn't empty.**

No, it wasn't empty then.

**Do you have any pictures like that of your mother?**

Yes, I have.

**No, we mean a mental picture, when you think back on your mother.**

She was a great manager. She made the money reach. And we had a big garden.

**And she tended that?**

Oh, yes. And then of course it was the responsibility of the children to help in the garden too. And she'd let them know how much she had to pay for things that she didn't raise. But they raised chickens and they had their own beef. Of course they had their own milk, their own butter.

Mother made cheese and very little cash went out. And she sold the eggs and the chickens. And that was practically the cash that covered what we didn't raise on the farm. So there was very little cash put out.

**Did she sew your clothes too?**

Yes, she did. And my sister, who was just older than I am, she became a great seamstress. And we didn't buy much that we didn't make ourselves.

**What about going to school when you lived in the country?**

Well, it wasn't too bad. We walked about two miles.

**Each way?**

Yes, each way.

**How did you manage in the winter?**

Well, we put on storm doors and storm windows.

**But in the walk to the school, two miles in that... For a little child. It's cold two miles?**

I suppose there were days when we maybe had to miss, but not very many. We were husky young people and we dressed well. We were just covered with clothes, overshoes and heavy stockings and heavy underwear and stocking cap and scarf and so on. So we had lost the clothes on.

**Mrs. Eastvold, would you give us the dates of your mother's birth and your father's birth?**

Yes. Mother was born in 1853. She died in 1923. And Father was born in 1845. And he died in 1927.

**And would you give us your birthday?**

My birthday is November 29, 1894.

**So you are 82 years old.**

82 years old.

### **19:31 - 37:52 Christmas, memories of childhood**

**You came from a very religious and very honorable family. Would you tell us about Christmas in your family?**

Yes. Some of the boys went out and found a nice tree in the forest nearby. He chopped it and brought it in and put it up. And we made all the decorations for it. We did have candles on it, so we couldn't make them. But we made the chains of paper. We popped corn and we put that on. We didn't put cranberries in with the corn because that cost too much.

So it was very simple, but it was very decorative. And we did enjoy it. And we sang Christmas carols around it. And we had our devotion at those evenings by the Christmas tree. And we always, of course, closed for the Lord's prayer. So it was the time that we looked forward to. The presents were very simple, but they meant a great deal to us. And they were all paid for it.

**Was your main celebration Christmas Eve or Christmas Day?**

The main celebration was really Christmas Eve. And we really celebrated two days. Christmas Eve, we'd have our devotion by the tree. And Christmas Eve, we'd have the fair and we'd also have it on Christmas Day. And then we all went to church on Christmas Day, too.

**What was your Christmas Eve meal like, the Christmas dinner?**

Oh, that was all with rice. And we'd have a bowl of rice and then we'd have goma. That's made from milk. And you make curds out of it by putting buttermilk into it. And then letting it boil slowly all day until it became a light golden brown. And then, of course, we had lefse and flatbread.

And then for our noon meal, we always had lutefisk. And butter and potatoes. It was a good substantial meal, but no splurging.

**Was there such a thing as dessert?**

The dessert was, oh, it's called a prune soup. It's made with tapioca and raisin and prunes. That was the dessert.

**Was that something that you enjoyed?**

Very much so, and that was very special. And we realized that that was expensive and we didn't have more than one dish each.

**Now, were there many other Norwegians in the neighborhood?**

Very much so. It was really a little Norway. And very sociable. We entertained a great deal because we had quite a large house. And the prayer meetings were all at our house. And we were very sociable. So we weren't loathsome, homesick for Norway or anything like that.

**Did I ask you the question if your parents ever came? Did they have a chance to go back to Norway, either one of them?**

No, they didn't.

**Have you been to Norway?**

Yes, I've been there three times.

**Did you feel any kinship to the people of Norway?**

Very much so. I had quite a few cousins there. And they just outdid themselves to make it nice. And all of it served waffles in the morning for breakfast. But they'd bake them real early. So they'd be able to sit down when we came for breakfast. I'd wake up in the morning and I'd smell these waffles. And I thought, have we overslept? And after a morning we realized that they had baked them about six o'clock in the morning. So they served them cold. Which was different than what we do in this country.

**You have several times mentioned the farmhouse that your parents had to raise as a big group of children. Can you tell us a little bit about that house? What was it like? The house you were born in.**

Well, it had a good size kitchen, a large dining room, a large living room, and one bedroom downstairs, and three bedrooms upstairs. And some of those bedrooms had three beds in them. Some had bunks. And we had a couple beds out on the landing, top of the stairs we call landing. And that space was quite large and we had a bed there. So we all had a place to sleep.

**Now your mother when she cooked, can you picture her cooking in that kitchen? What kind of stove she had? What kind of equipment did she use?**

They used a range and they had burned wood. And they chopped their own trees and chopped them in the size that we needed for the range. So there was no money spent for fuel. There was practically nothing spent for anything that the eggs couldn't pay for. Eggs were the source of income.

**What about on Saturday night when you all had to have baths? Did you have any kind of baths?**

Oh, yes. That was really quite a problem. They'd bring the boiler in and fill it with water and put it on the stove. And kept it there until it was real hot. And we'd be about two or three using the same water. And then we'd empty it and refill. And then two or three take a bath. So we all had our bath Saturday night.

**It must have been a project.**



It certainly was a project. We didn't do any complaining. We were just glad that we could... We brought in the wash tub.

**Do you remember any of the things your mother did if you had a toothache? Or one of your brothers or sisters?**

Yes. We put a hot cloth on that cheek. And what was the medicine that all the Norwegians used? I can't think of the name of it now. But every home had one kind of medicine that they felt could cure anything.

**Did it have a particular color?**

Yes. It was reddish.

**How did they get this medicine?**

There was a canvasser that went around.

**A peddler?**

Yes. And it's strange. I can't think of the name of it. But that medicine every family had.

**Do you remember the name of the peddler or the peddlers?**

No, no I don't. But I do remember when we first got a telephone. That was really quite an event. We had the kind of telephone that you ring it by hand. And my brothers would take turns just calling their friends. And the telephone wasn't used so much because it was such an exciting thing to be able to just ring a bell and then have some relative or some friend answer. We were really, for the first few days we had it, it was really almost wild. My brothers would keep on ringing on that telephone.

**By any chance do you remember your father's first car?**

My father, I don't think my father ever, father never drove a car.

**Did he use a tractor?**

No, I don't think he did. We girls didn't help with the farm work. So some of that doesn't come to me so readily. [TAPE CUTS] – turned down my chest and she'd put a cloth on it, woolen cloth.

**Were there any serious illnesses in your family while you were growing up? The kind that need a doctor?**

Yes, and we had a good doctor and he was very good about coming. One of my brothers had an appendectomy right in our living room, on the table.

**What year was that?**

I couldn't say.

**Approximately, how old would you have been at that time?**

Let's see.

**It was while you were a child at any rate?**

I was a child, because we were all shooed out of the living room. We were told we couldn't go in there. They put up some kind of, what would you call it, they could lie on.

**Oh, a table?**

Yes, some kind of a table they could lie on.

**Did your mother and father help the doctor?**

No, the doctor did it all alone. And he was a good friend of the family. And he was willing to come night or day.

**Now, how far did he have to come?**

Oh, see, Le Roy, not too far. I'd say maybe about three or four miles. It wasn't so bad.

**The children were all born at home.**

Yes.

**Now did this same doctor help with the birth of the children?**

Yes.

**Do you remember his name?**

Hensel... I couldn't say definitely. It started with H. He was really a friend of the family. Very much a friend of the family. And we had that surgery in the home.

**Would you tell us some of the games you and your brothers and sisters played back on the farm?**

We played hide and seek, hide and go seek. We played various games of ball. Let's see now.

**Did the neighborhood children join in on these games?**

Oh, yes.

**Were you allowed time to play?**

We didn't have too much time to play. But we did do some playing, though. I know we played hide and go seek. That was one of the main games we all played.

**In the evening, especially, say, in the long winter evening, were there amusements in your house for you children?**

**What did you do then?**

We played dominoes. And we played checkers. We had these checkerboards that we could lay across our laps and play down them.

**Were there any card games you were allowed to have?**

I can't remember that we played any card games.

**Did you girls have any dolls?**

Oh, yes. Not very many, but we certainly took good care of them.

**Were they storebought or were they homemade?**

We had mostly homemade dolls, but we did have a few store dolls.

**In this bigger family, were there any opportunity for any of you to learn to play any instruments?**

Yes. Quite early, we got a piano. It was the second hand, and it wasn't in too good a condition. My sister and I, we take piano lessons, but it wasn't every week. We got once a month. I can't remember what we paid for it, but it was very cheap.

**Did the teacher come to your home, or did you go to the teacher's home?**

He came to our home. You know, even ten cents meant something, so I couldn't say just what we paid for it, but I don't think it was much over ten cents a lesson, especially if there were two of us, and she got twenty cents, that was lots of money.

**When you were growing up, you went to grade school?**

Yes. Went to grade school, and high school, and teachers' training school.

**Now, where was this teacher's training?**

It went on in Minnesota.

**How many of you children had an opportunity to go to college?**

Oh, several of them. I have two brothers who were colonels in the Army, and my brother Dennis is still living. We're only three girls, and one brother left living, and some of them did farming, but there were two doctors, and one was a post-office man, and one had a store of his own, and I think all my brothers and sisters had high school education, because it wasn't very far. It was walking distance.

**Who paid for your education?**

I finished my college after I was married. I had teachers, of course, at Winona, Minnesota, so I taught, and I saved my money, and I really helped my husband through the seminary. He had some seminary left. He went into service, and then he had some seminary left when he got out of the service. I'd been teaching in the meantime, and a hundred dollars went pretty far at that time.

**37:52 - 58:27 Meeting husband, life together, moving to PLU**

**Where did you meet your husband?**

I met him on the train. I suppose that isn't the proper place to meet someone.

**In that day and age, anyway.**

But my sister, Karen, went to Luther College, and she graduated from there. She hadn't gone to high school from a folk center there, and then a friend of mine who had graduated from there, we, too, went down for Karen's graduation. And when we were on the train, this girl came over to me, and she said, "Do you know who's on this train?" I said, "No." She said, "Seth Eastvold."

And she mentioned the other one, too. He had attended the same college that Karen graduated from. And it didn't mean anything to me. I said, Oh, I just went out resting. I was a little tired. I'd been teaching until the last minute. And our train was late. I say the Lord made a train late so that Seth and I could meet. Our train was late. We were supposed to change one place. But when we got to that place, the train was gone. So we had to wait for a late train.

We didn't get out of there before about 11 o'clock. And these two boys, who were both from Red Wing Seminary, they wanted to take us out for lunch. It wasn't a very big lunch. Seminary boys couldn't afford much. But we had a good visit. And Seth was going down for the graduation because he was going to make up with a girl that he had been going with. And she wasn't at the train when we got there because it was pretty late. And instead of meeting her, he didn't date her once. From then on, we dated.

**Oh, how lovely.**

And I used to say that the Lord made a train late so that we'd have those couple hours to get acquainted because he didn't even see this other girl that he was going to make up with.

**How many years were you married?**

Before we were married?

**No, how many years were you married before your husband passed away?**

We were lacking two years of 50th anniversary.

**Now, he became a minister. Would you tell a little bit about his work?**

Oh, he did great work. He was a great worker. Our first call was to Parshall North Dakota. And he built, that was a mission call. He built that call up so that it was independent, wasn't supported by the mission anymore. Then we went to Jackson, Minnesota. We were there about three years. Every place we went, there had been some difficulty and he helped patch it up.

At Jackson, Minnesota, the congregation had divided into two and there was some trouble and so he helped fix that up. And then we went to Madison, South Dakota and there the pastor had left so there were some problems and he helped patch them up. Then we went to Eau Claire, Wisconsin and we were there ten years. And then there had been some difficulty there. We got that nicely patched up and that congregation became the largest one in the Synod at that time.

Then Dr. Osgard called my husband, told him he wanted to come to Minneapolis and see him. And my husband did. Then he told him he wanted him to go to Pacific Lutheran College – It's now Pacific Lutheran University but at that time it was Pacific Lutheran College at Parkland, Washington – And patched up. He said, "If you don't go, I'm going to close the school." And he said, "If you do go, which I want you to do, if the school closes, no one is going to hold it against you because no one thinks it's going to stay open and continue." And he said, "I'll give you \$40,000 to go out and save the school." And with that, he's supposed to pay the teachers some and pay those who want to foreclose on the school and just put it on his feet.

So my husband came home and told me this, I said, "I don't want to go." I said, "Every place we've gone, they've been to build up something and the Lord has helped us. We've done so. But I'm not going." And so my husband went to Minneapolis and told Dr. Osgard, "My wife has never acted like this. She's always been willing to go wherever I want to go. But she says she won't go." And he says, "We've got to be smart enough to know how to handle these women." He said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll get a pass for you both and you go out on the train." That was the time when they were getting passes on the railroads. My husband did have a pass on most of the roads. So he got a pass for us.

And then he called Parkland and talked to some of the women to the head of the education department and said what problem they had that I didn't want to go and that they should see it and just try to do all they possibly could to get me interested in coming. And so I was really surprised when I got to the way everyone covered around me and were so nice in every way. I didn't know before years later what Dr. Osgard had done.

Oh yes, and also when we got to on our way going out, we had to stop in Minneapolis. We didn't get off the train but we just had to stop in Minneapolis. And there was Dr. J. C. K. Price, Lincoln Price's father. He came in on the train and brought a magazine to me. He didn't have a magazine for my husband, just for me. That really hit me. And I thought, "My, they're trying to warm me up. They must think I'm a bad woman. And while we were at Parkland, my husband was dashing around. He was so interested in this. He just thought it was going to be great. And he said, "Come here, honey, and see this." I said, "Look here. If we're going to move here, don't show me anything more. I've seen too much now."

**So you decided to say yes.**

So I decided to say yes. And I thought about it many times. And if I'd said no and stayed by it, there might not have been any PLU today. So we better be careful how we say yes or no.

**And you were there how many years?**

We were there 19 years. And when we first came there, my husband would go out on Saturday evening to the congregations around. And he'd stay until about Wednesday. He'd preach on Sunday, and then he would solicit the rest of the week. Then he'd come back to the college, and he would do up the work of the college in about three days, and then out again he'd go. And I didn't see much of my husband, but it seems as though the Lord took care of that too.

The lady who had been head of the athletic program had retired. She became a good friend of mine, and she said, your husband is gone so much, let's play golf. So she taught me how to play golf. And sometimes when I felt really blue because I missed some of these good friends we had in Eau Claire and my husband was gone. So I thought, "Well, I'm not going to stay in my kitchen and cry. Somebody might come in." So I'd go out on the golf course all alone. And I'd play a game of golf, and I'd cry and play golf. It isn't such a bad way of learning how to play golf. And sometimes I'd play two games a day, and I won a prize too in playing golf.

**But the university is a growing and a very successful institution.**

Very, very much. I don't think it has the largest student body of all the colleges, but it's one of the top ones.

**Now there's a bust over here of Albert Schweitzer, and I noticed it the minute we came in. Does that have some connection with your work at the university there?**

Yes. Well, the college grew by leaps and bounds, and the enrollment got good, and my husband got government help in putting up buildings, and it was just plain terrific. And as far as Dr. Schweitzer is concerned, that was in 1958. We went to Dr. Schweitzer and gave him an honorary doctor's degree.

**That meant going to Africa?**

Yes. We went to... We had written to him and told him that we wanted to give him an honorary doctor's degree, two main letters from PLU, and he was very happy about it and wanted us to come. We went, and we had a great time with Dr. Schweitzer. We stayed at his hospital four days, and he entertained us most royally, and he

was so pleased in getting that doctor's degree. And my husband read the citation in English, and I read it in German.

Before we went, when our German teacher at PLU knew that we were going, she'd come over practically every day and have me read this citation in German so I'd get the right accents and all.

**Had you studied German before then?**

Oh, yes. I minored in German at college, and we had a great time with him. Oh, yes. And after we had... I was rather concerned about my German that I would make the right accents and so on. And she had written in the margin corrections, and I read it from that paper, not knowing that Dr. Schweitzer was going to stand by me and look over my shoulder when I read it. But I didn't let him bother me, because I thought, well, he can see that I have corrections there. But when I got through, he kissed me on both cheeks.

**Oh, how lovely.**

So I realized that it was okay. And I wrote to our German teacher and told her that he had kissed me on both cheeks and that I felt that one of those kisses belonged to her.

**Oh, how nice.**

And she wrote back... She had the places along the way where she could reach it. She wrote back and she said, I'll accept the kiss on your cheek.

**Oh, lovely.**

Well, it was interesting. I can't thank you for her name... The German teacher was Mrs. Little.

**51:40 - 58:27 Leaving PLU, life after**

**Oh, thank you. Now, your husband and you retired from PLC.**

PLU.

PLU.

Yes.

**But what happened then?**

My husband wanted to retire because he wanted to do some writing. And he had reached retirement age. And so we decided that it would be nice to live in California. So we came down here and picked out a place out at Hope Ranch. That was in 1962 that we moved down here. He had some writing he wanted to do. And then they were

without a president at the college, CLC. They asked him if he wouldn't take over. He said, "Yes, I will until you can get a man. But," he said, "I don't want to be a permanent president. Because," he said, "I want to do some writing." We had a house out in Lynn Ranch, not Hope Ranch, Lynn Ranch. And so he took over in 1962 in the fall of 1962. And then he died in February in 1963.

So he wasn't president there more than just a few years. And after that, I moved in on the campus. A couple of the men came out and told me that Seth wouldn't want you to live out here. He wanted to come and live on campus. And go on to the living Kramer Court. I said, "That's meant only for teachers." They said, "We'll take care of that." And they said, "We brought it up to the board meeting. And they said that you should have the privilege of living on campus." And he said, "One person said Mrs. Eastvold should have free rent." I said, I never accepted. And this board member said, "That's what I told them, that you wouldn't accept it." So he said, "I spoiled that." I said, "You didn't spoil anything because I wouldn't accept it." But I said, "I'll be glad to live there." So that's how I happened to get on the Kramer Court.

### **And you now live here by yourself.**

And then when CLC was growing and they needed more space for dormitories, I offered to move because I realized that they needed the space I had. And they were turning all the other apartments in the Kramer Court into dormitories for boys. So I realized that I couldn't live there, claim that place, and have all the others used by the students. So that's how I happened to come to Biltmore.

### **How does it, looking back on your life and looking back on your Norwegian ethnic heritage, how do you feel the two have helped you become what you are?**

The Lord has been wonderful. I was so dependent on my husband in many ways. In fact, I'd hardly written a check before he died. And I told many women that they should do more of their husband's business and not do as I did. My husband was so efficient in everything that I just left everything to him. But the Lord has been marvelous and I look back. I see the way he has helped me in so many ways and given me strength and undergirding, good friends, and a comfortable place to live. So I have much for which to be thankful.

And a statement that one of the pastors made after my husband died did me a lot of good. I got the flu shortly after I had moved in on Kramer Court and I was really quite ill. And the pastor at that time came and called on me and he said, you don't come to my place anymore so I decided to come and call on you. Then when he left he said, "Enga, you have enough good memories to last a lifetime." And after he was gone I thought, Lord, forgive me because you've been so good I've had enough good memories to last a lifetime.

### **And you have children?**

Two

### **What are their names?**

Eleanor Holian, her husband is a surgeon in Santa Barbara. And then Don Eastvold. He's now in Honolulu in real estate. He's been in government work, great deal. And he enjoys it in Honolulu very much.



**And do you have any grandchildren?**

Oh yes. I have to stop and think. I have six grandchildren. Wait, I'll name them: Diane, Carl, Junior. I have six grandchildren.

**And any great-grandchildren?**

No, no great-grandchildren.

**As you live here in this community now, do you attend a Norwegian Lutheran church here?**

No, there isn't such a thing.

**No, but then is there a Lutheran church?**

Oh yes, Ascension Lutheran.

**And that is your church home?**

Yes, very fine.

Well, we certainly thank you for sharing your memories with us.

**Thank you so very, very much. And the apple cake was delicious.**

Thank you. I could fix something a little more for you.