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Matilda Kjørvem Moen Interview

AJ: Audrey Jones
MKM: Matilda Kjørvem Moen

AJ: Anniversary Celebration in the years 1987 and 1988, Moorhead State University is conducting a series of oral interviews with former students, staff, faculty members and administrators. I am Audrey Jones, present Director of External Studies, at Moorhead State University. And today's date is Tuesday, August 2, 1983. I am interviewing Matilda "Tilly" Kjørvem Moen, who graduated from Moorhead State Teacher's College in 1925. Tilly, do you want to tell us a little bit about your family? Where did your parents come from, were they from this area?

MKM: Well, my parents, of course, came from Norway. They were both-- they both came from Norway. My dad was 16 years old, I believe, and my mother was 3 years old, and somehow or other they settled, or got together, down in Minnesota and were married. And then they homesteaded in North Dakota.

AJ: I see. Where in North Dakota?

MKM: Up in Northwood, North Dakota. That's where my home has always been. And I feel that it is still my home up there in Northwood--it's where we were raised and went to school and . . . lived.

AJ: Uh huh. What a--what type of school did you go to as a child?

MKM: Oh, a country school, of course.

AJ: Uh huh. A rural school?

MKM: Rural school.

AJ: With one teacher and. . .

MKM: One teacher and a. . .

AJ: Eight grades?

MKM: Yes, eight grades, yes. And then . . .the folks retired and moved to town and then I attended the Northwood school from then on--on through high school.

AJ: I see. So you were a high school graduate and a. . .?

MKM: Oh yes, yes.

AJ: Some--you know, some of the Moorhead State early students came and took some of their high school work here. . .also.

MKM: Oh yes, I'm sure they did, yes. Yes I'm sure they did.

AJ: Ah, . . .do you have any memories of your . . .ah, grade school experience?

MKM: Oh . . .yes, I have memories, I could remember very well how we use to freeze walking back and forth to country school and--and how we'd eat a cold lunch, because at that time there was nothing--there wasn't such a thing as a hot lunch, you know. And. . . we'd have fun during recess, we enjoyed that. And. . .

AJ: What types of games did you play, do you remember or. . .?

MKM: Well, I can remember, we use to play ball a lot. And. . .then, of course, we had sled--our sleds along and so we'd go sleighing. We lived by a creek and we'd go down--down the hillside, you know. So, yes, we had good times. We had--in fact, I think I enjoyed country school more than I did after we moved to town and--and went to town--to town school.

AJ: There was something, probably about being together so much, you really developed close friendships I suppose.

MKM: Yes, yes. Oh yes.

AJ: How large was your country school?

MKM: Well it was ah. . .possibly--well, just a regular country school--it was. . .

AJ: Well, do you think ah... , if we were just looking at it from the number of students involved, would you say there were 15 or 30 or. . .?

MKM: Oh yes, maybe 20.

AJ: About 20 students.

MKM: Maybe 20, yes, 20.

AJ: Do you remember that early--any teachers you had in those early days?

MKM: Well, there was a Mr.--Mr. Nesdahl that taught. . .and he also roomed and boarded at my home.

AJ: I see, that's why you remember him. . .?

MKM: And there was Mr. Knutson that also stayed at our house. And ah, walked back and forth with us kids back, you know, to school.

AJ: Were they all male teachers that you had?

MKM: No, no there was a Miss Elliot, I remember her name. And there was a Miss Vanboost(?), I can remember those names cause ah. . . they were--we got to know them quite well.

AJ: Yes. Did they all stay at your home?

MKM: No--no, no-no. But the two men stayed at our--our house.

AJ: Did ah--ah, . . .did you remember whether they had any problems with discipline, or. . .?

MKM: Not like now, not like they have now days. It wasn't that kind--the kids weren't like that. They were more bashful and more backward and--and. . .didn't need a lot of entertainment, you know. They enjoyed the simple things more so than the kids do now days, I think.

AJ: Right. How about your high schools days? Do you have any strong memories of anything that happened?

MKM: Oh well,. . .nothing special. I was valedictorian, I remember that.

AJ: Were you?

MKM: In eighth grade, and then high school--why, I did as well as I could. Which was pretty good.

AJ: Pretty good, yes. Ah. . .how about your parents, were they strongly interested in education?

MKM: Yes they were. For that time, they were very much interested in education. My one sister went to Concordia at that time. My older sister. Another sister at that time taught school, went to Mayville and--took a course, you know. Which wouldn't be very much at that time. But enough so that she could teach country school. And another one went to a Business College in Grand Forks. And another.

AJ: They all went to school! So it was a family. . .?

MKM: They all went to school, and there were three of us that turned out to be teachers. And then they were interested in music. We had a piano, we had an organ, we had a . . .my brothers had violins, we had a mandolin, we had a . . .we had a harp.

AJ: Oh, you had really strong music background!

MKM: Yes. So they were very much interested in and of course, in church too. They--they helped build that one--home church up there. And that burned and then they built another one, so they still had--it still standing. That was our church.

AJ: Oh yes. Did you have a strong music program in the school?

MKM: No--no--no.

AJ: Not in the high school. It was mostly musical training through your home.

MKM: Yes.

AJ: Did your parents play instruments?

MKM: No. No, neither one.

AJ: So they found someone to teach you those . . . ah, instruments.

MKM: Oh yes, yes.

AJ: They found teachers for you. You were married when you came to Moorhead State. Did you marry before you moved to Moorhead, then?

MKM: Married before I went to St. Cloud.

AJ: Married before you went to St. Cloud. So your first year after high school you went to St. Cloud for a year, or . . . ?

MKM: No. No I taught in between. I taught country school in between.

AJ: I see, so did you get some training in high school then that would prepare you for teaching?

MKM: Yes, yes and then I went to Valley City and took summer school.

AJ: I see. Summer school in Valley City after you had already taught a year.

MKM: No--no. I finished my high school and the last year in high school they--they had high school or they had college . . . teaching subjects anyway. They went back and reviewed like government and arithmetic and different things, so you were half prepared for teaching. And then I would--took a year . . . ah, a summer school in Valley City. And then I got a job teaching in the country and I must have taught about five years, I believe, in different schools. And then I went--got married and then we went--I went to St. Cloud after that.

AJ: To St. Cloud after that, right. Where--ah, do you remember any of your first teaching jobs in the rural school?

MKM: Oh yes. . . I ah, . . . taught school at home for two years, that was down the road. I . . .

AJ: Was this the same school that you'd attended as a . . . student?

MKM: No--no--no. It was another district.

AJ: Uh huh. That was good I guess, probably so you. . .

MKM: I--I did later teach that home school, though.

AJ: You did teach in the home school.

MKM: One year, yes. The last year I taught. I taught in that home school.

AJ: Did you enjoy . . . ah, did you have large classes or fairly small?

MKM: No--no. They were . . .oh, probably about 15--about 15. . .

AJ: Twelve.

MKM: But the very first year that I taught, I taught down near Portland and there I had a lot of them. I think I had 29 in all the grades, and that was a hard school.

AJ: Oh, . . . that--that's a big . . .

MKM: That was the first year that I taught.

AJ: I tau--I interviewed Lenora Johnson from Ada the other day, and she said her first school she had 51 students in eight grades. Can you imagine how . . .how heavy a load that was. Twenty-nine was a great many to have when you were teaching.

MKM: Yes. In all the grades. . .

AJ: And all the subjects.

MKM: And the first year of teaching. Right out of high school, you might say, with summer school.

AJ: So you were actually about 19 at that time.

MKM: Yes, 19.

AJ: Were you expected to fix the fires and . . .

MKM: Oh, absolutely.

AJ: You didn't fix lunch for them though, they carried cold lunch.

MKM: They carried cold lunch, yes.

AJ: I noticed that in the rural preparation at Moorhead State at the time that you were there, they did have--they did ask the teachers--the students, who were in rural education to learn how to fix a hot lunch, so they could do that when they went out.

MKM: Oh, yes.

AJ: But that really would be hard when you had all the other things to do too.

MKM: What they fixed was probably. . .a soup, you know, or some hot dish like that.

AJ: And then they'd bring their sandwiches from home.

MKM: Yes.

AJ: So it would be just one ah, . . .

MKM: One hot thing at noon, yes.

AJ: Well now, your--how is that you happened to go to St. Cloud, that was quite a ways away?

MKM: Ah, well my husband needed work and there was work to be had down there.

AJ: I see.

MKM: He worked. . .ah, he worked--he helped build the. . .school and--in St.--in St. Paul. It was a state school anyway that he worked on.

AJ: I see. Well, St. Cloud State Normal School was probably there at that time.

MKM: Yes,--no, it was ah, . . .it was--I can't think, I can't remember.

AJ: You can't . . .that's what you were attending.

MKM: That's where--yes.

AJ: That's what you were attending was St. Cloud State Normal School.

MKM: Yes, but that wasn't where he worked.

AJ: But he wasn't working there, so there was some other type of state facility there.

MKM: Yes, state school, yes.

AJ: Okay, well you stayed there for one year, and then I guess I wish to ask how come you transferred to Moorhead State?

MKM: Well then, when school was out and his job was over, then we went back to North Dakota. Up to my home--up at Northwood, and. . . and then. . .we stayed there for the summer. And then, of course, I wanted to finish the--my year of schooling that I had left. So instead of going back to St. Cloud we went to Moorhead, it was closer.

AJ: It was closer. Then you actually moved to town, though?

MKM: Oh yes.

AJ: Did your husband come with you?

MKM: Oh, yes.

AJ: And he found work here?

MKM: Oh, yes.

AJ: Was he still in construction, then?

MKM: No, he was--he worked at the potato house.

AJ: Oh yes, the potato warehouse here.

MKM: Potato warehouse, yes.

AJ: Well, it was nice of him to come where you--so that you could go to school.

MKM: Oh yes, yes.

AJ: Well, your experience then, with the campus, was a little different than--than for some of the students. You wouldn't have lived in the dormitory. Did you feel left out of activities?

MKM: No--no. No, I had enough to take care of at home. I had my nephew staying with me, and then, of course, my husband--we had to cook you know, make supper, and prepare, you know.

AJ: Yes, because you were--you were gone and couldn't prepare the meals there, could you? Sometimes the school classes lasted until late in the day.

MKM: Oh yes, they did.

AJ: Well, you were a liberated women well before ah, . . .well before it was popular as is today. (Laughter)

MKM: Well, at least I. . .I was free to come and go.

AJ: Yes, you were free to come and go, and you had a husband who was very supportive of your--of your having a career and ah, . . .that type of thing. Were there many married students on campus?

MKM: Not at that time, no. Not at that time.

AJ: Not very many.

MKM: I can remember that the year in St. Cloud, the thing that I remember, was at the time we all had our hair long, you know, and done up on our heads. And that year I had my hair cut short--bobbed it--like they say, and I remember how--how I felt so out-of-place when I came back to school with my hair cut-off and all. Everybody had long hair and there I had--with my short hair.

AJ: Yes. But it wasn't long until they all followed suit, was it?

MKM: No, it wasn't.

AJ: No, because it became quite evident in the pictures, there were a lot of--lot of short hair. I noticed that there was a Mrs. Lucy Billings at that time, attending at about the same time. Do you remember her? That's another student. . .

MKM: No, I don't think I do.

AJ: You don't remember her. I no--I just noticed her, because she was upper grades. . .that was your--your major was in the upper grades? And a Mrs. Olive Rice, did you know her?

MKM: No.

AJ: No. Obviously that your--your contacts on the campus maybe weren't quite as ah, . . .but you had--you did have some classes with some of these people?

MKM: Oh yes, surely.

AJ: Did you by any chance know Vivian Hall from MacIntosh?

MKM: No.

AJ: No, ah, . . .Kay Fossay, she was Catherine Edland at that time.?

MKM: Oh yes, that's the one--that's was who I was trying to talk about.

AJ: That's the one you were trying to talk about.

MKM: Yes, I practice taught with her.

AJ: You practice taught with--with Kay. She's still around and she's one of the ones I inter--I have interviewed also.

MKM: Oh, you have interveiwed her?

AJ: Yes, yes. I have interviewed her as well.

MKM: Well, she and I taught--we taught. . .English together and. . .

AJ: Where did you practice teach?

MKM: In--in the Moorhead Model School.

AJ: It was in the Model School that you--that you practice taught. Did you have special projects that you. . .?

MKM: Yes, it was an English--it was a Shakespeare play that we had to teach and it was a hard one.

AJ: I see.

MKM: And ah, . . .

AJ: How did the students respond to it?

MKM: Well, they responded but ah, . . .I don't think ah, very enthusias-
tically. I don't think. . .(laughter).

AJ: No, . . .(laughter) hard to sell--sell Shakespeare to young people in those days. Do you remember what grade level you were. . .?

MKM: That was at eight--eight. . .

AJ: Eighth grade level.

MKM: Yes.

AJ: Did you have any special projects for them ah, . . .as part of teaching that Shakespeare play?

MKM: Well, . . .that I can't remember.

AJ: You can't remember. You didn't build a Globe Theater or . . . anything like that?

MKM: No--no--no.

AJ: Did you teach anyplace else, other than in the . . .in the ah, . . . Campus School for practice teaching? Did they send. . .?

MKM: In Dilworth.

AJ: They sent you out to Dilworth to practice teach, too.

MKM: I taught history out there.

AJ: You taught history. Okay, then were you there full-time during the day then?

MKM: No, just one period a day.

AJ: One period a day, that's the way it was mostly done then. You know when I practice taught, we went out and I stayed out at Kindred for several . . .months and I taught all day long. Well, probably not all day long, maybe half a day. But you--you basically when you taught in the Campus School, you taught one period there and you taught the Shakespeare play. And when you went out to Dilworth you taught one period and ah, . . .and was this American History or. . .?

MKM: American History.

AJ: American History. How long a period now would you do that? Would it be several weeks?

MKM: I suppose it was an hour or. . .

AJ: An hour, but how many weeks?

MKM: Oh, that would be the whole term.

AJ: It would be the whole term.

MKM: Oh yes.

AJ: So. . .so, what would probably be 3 months then, or. . .?

MKM: Yes, 3 months I imagine, yes.

AJ: How did you get out to Dilworth?

MKM: I must have taken the bus or. . .

AJ: Would there have been a bus or streetcar that would have gone out there?

MKM: Maybe a streetcar.

AJ: Streetcar.

MKM: More likely a streetcar.

AJ: They didn't--you wouldn't have had a car, of course, available at that time?

MKM: No--no.

AJ: The school didn't have a car that they used to take people out?

MKM: No--no. Not that I know of, no.

AJ: Well that would take a little while then to get out there and get setup.

MKM: I took. . .half a day, you know.

AJ: Uh huh, yes. For you to get out and back and then get your teaching done. Do you remember if someone came to watch you while you were teaching out at Dilworth?

MKM: Yes, ah, . . .the. . .she was at the head of the Model School. . .ah, . . .she was. . .

AJ: This would be Georgina Lommen, was she--was she the one that came to supervise you?

MKM: Yes.

AJ: Okay, how often during the course of that time?

MKM: Just one time--one time that I remember that she came out.

AJ: I see. That she came out and supervised. Do you remember what she told you afterwards?

MKM: No. (laughter)

AJ: Were you frightened when she was there?

MKM: Well yes, . . .I was. She was a little bit . . .particular, you know.

AJ: Yes, yes. Particular, was she--was she cross?

MKM: No, no. She wasn't cross, but. . .

AJ: No. She just expected it done right.

MKM: But you had to do the best you could, because you knew that she was quite. . .ah, . . .she was--she wanted you to do well, you know.

AJ: Yes, of course. Now in--in--I noticed that about--about 1921 they had done a study of the Campus School as far as IQ, and they were talking about some students that could learn faster and others that, you know, wouldn't learn as quickly. When you were practice teaching, were you aware that--that. . .were there--what I'm trying to say, were the students grouped? Did you have a fast group that would move faster on the Shakespeare and you would work with another group at another time. Or did you teach it to the whole group at once?

MKM: Taught the whole group at one time.

AJ: Taught the whole--the same thing was true out at Dilworth?

MKM: Yes.

AJ: There was no grouping as you would. . .?

MKM: Well, you took the group that they gave you. Whether that was upper. . .

AJ: Well, you didn't know--well in other words are you saying you just had a small group, or did you have the whole class?

MKM: I had. . .

AJ: When you taught this Shakespeare did you teach to all the eighth graders in the Model School?

MKM: No, it couldn't--couldn't have been--it must, well I don't know--could have been all the eighth graders, you know. I don't know how many eighth graders they'd have at that time in the Model School. But it was--was a whole class. . .

AJ: How large. . .it was a big group.

MKM: Yes, it must have been--possibly 15-20 kids.

AJ: Yes, it probably was the whole class, I would imagine, yes. Did they in your methods classes, when they were teaching you how to teach--reading and . . .children's literature and things like that--did they talk to you about grouping children according to their ability?

MKM: Not at that time.

AJ: They didn't.

MKM: No, it hadn't--they hadn't come to that, probably mentioned but not practiced.

- AJ: Not practiced. Well I just sort of had the feeling from this study that they might have been moving in that direction, but ah, . . . obviously if they just talked about and didn't apply it, why it wasn't really a very important--very important part of their teaching, their coaching at that time.
- MKM: No--no.
- AJ: There are a few. . .we--Hod Eckland was there at the time that you were there. Do you ever remember a music group, hearing a music group called The College Four or Hod's Hot Hands?
- MKM: Yes.
- AJ: You --you do remember hearing them. Were they pretty good?
- MKM: Yes.
- AJ: Did you have lots of musical programs at Moorhead State?
- MKM: No, not many.
- AJ: Not many. Of course with you being married and off-campus, you might not have. . .attended quite as many.
- MKM: No--no, that's true.
- AJ: Did you sing in a choir there or. . .?
- MKM: No--no.
- AJ: Play in a band or orchestra?
- MKM: No--no.
- AJ: But that's sort of strange with the musical background your family came out of.
- MKM: Yes, . . .(Laughter)
- AJ: It was probably a matter of time as much as anything.
- MKM: I think maybe so, yes.
- AJ: Yes. Did you know Harlow Berquist?
- MKM: Yes.
- AJ: You remember anything about him?
- MKM: I still remember him. . .he's--he's retired now.
- AJ: Yes, he's retired now.
- MKM: Well, he taught in Fargo, you know, for many, many years.

MKM: I'll never forget that "D".

AJ: Was that "D" basically based on that pageant because your . . .?

MKM: I think that was it, yes. I think that was it.

AJ: Well, evidently that was a big pageant. I remember Kay Fossay talking about that too. She was a part of it too. Was there a big crowd there to watch it?

MKM: Yes, I think so. I--supposedly we were so taken up with what we were doing that we probably didn't notice too many. I suppose the kids from school, you know, and . . .different people were down there.

AJ: Sure. In addition to that. . .play down--or pageant, down by the river, I noticed that you have--had a class play every year. Each class had a play, and the year you graduated it was ah, . . . Sherwood. Which was about Robin Hood--Robin Hood story. Do you remember seeing that? Or were you not involved in that one?

MKM: I don't think I was.

AJ: No, you don't--you don't remember that one. How about organizations like the YWCA, Country Life and Camp Fire Girls. As a married student did you have time to. . .?

MKM: No--no. No, I--not--not that I can remember.

AJ: No, you just don't remember being involved in those. How about the Witches?

MKM: No.

AJ: Nothing, had nothing to do with those. That was probably mostly people who lived on the campus and in the . . .dormitory.

MKM: Yes, it would be.

AJ: Were you able to make friends?

MKM: Oh yes, yes. Not really a lot of friends though, I was quite busy walking--see I walked clear from . . .11th street north and down to the college. Four times a day.

AJ: Four times a day. So you walked home for lunch then?

MKM: At noon. And . . .and then, of course, we had our own life.

AJ: That's right, your--you had--you had married couples that you were freinds with, probably, rather than the on-campus students.

MKM: Yes. So, and of course my husband didn't take any part in any of that. So naturally I wouldn't either.

AJ: No.

MKM: So. . .no, we didn't. We didn't attend much of anything like that at--at the college.

AJ: No. How did--ah, you would have some insights, however, into how the ah. . .town, viewed the college at that time. Did you find the attitude of the town's people basically. . .positive? Did they ah,. . .worry about those wild students over on campus?

MKM: I can't believe there were a lot of those wild students at that time.

AJ: I see, so. . .

MKM: I--I never heard of it.

AJ: I see. So obviously there wasn't much talk about it then?

MKM: There wasn't much talk about it and, of course, there wasn't near. . . like they have now. Ah. . .so, and it wasn't common for people to go into that kind of thing, I don't think.

AJ: No, no.

MKM: They probably had some parties around I--you know, but, I--you never heard about it. No.

AJ: So you--you felt that basically then, the town was supportive of the school?

MKM: I think so--I think so. Yes, I do.

AJ: Did towns people ever go over there for programs? Did you ever go with other couples to go over for a concert?

MKM: Oh, yes--yes. Yes, they do--we did and still do, you know.

AJ: Surely.

MKM: And have done all that--all the time, yes. Of course, I've been a widow now for--for, he died--my husband died in 51', so I've been been. . .alone, since that time.

AJ: I see, so you've been alone since that time.

MKM: Right.

AJ: So you've been taking part--you've been going to programs and things for a long time by your--with your friends?

MKM: Yes, yes.

AJ: Ah, . . . now you've talked about Georgina. . . Lommen and Jessie McKeller. Did you know Jenny Owens, the Registrar?

AJ: Did you know her well?

MKM: Not--no, just ah, . . .business.

AJ: Uh huh. Could you tell us a little bit about her? Do you remember, well enough, to. . .?

MKM: I remember. . .I remember what she looked like.

AJ: Oh, describe her, describe her.

MKM: I remember. . .yes, I think she was an attractive women and. . . and I think I still--has she passed away?

AJ: Yes, I believe she has.

MKM: Yes, I can--yes, I can remember her.

AJ: You do remember her. You thought she was attractive. . . Was she helpful as Registrar?

MKM: Yes, yes she was.

AJ: If you had problems, could you go. . .?

MKM: Yes, she was.

AJ: How about Flora Frick?

MKM: I never had her.

AJ: You didn't have her.

MKM: I never had her.

AJ: No, you had Jessie instead, they were in the same field. I noticed that at that time they had two--they had women doctors up on the campus. Did you ever have any contact with them?

MKM: Well only. . .they gave us shots, you know, . . .vaccinations.

AJ: Oh, did they?

MKM: Oh yes.

AJ: Was it--was it Katherine Pardee who was there when you were there?

MKM: Could have been.

AJ: You don't remember the name.

MKM: No, I don't. . .

AJ: But your doctor was a woman doctor?

MKM: Yes, the one--the one that gave the--must have been a vaccination.

AJ: It was a smallpox vaccination, do you think?

MKM: Must have been, at that time.

AJ: Uh huh. So they gave that to all the students. How about. . . if you had the flu, or--or. . . pneumonia or anything of that sort, would you go to the college doctor, or would you have to go. . . ?

MKM: Yes, I think I would to begin with anyway.

AJ: You did at first, uh huh.

MKM: And. . . of course, as--if it didn't get better you'd naturally--you'd probably go and see your own doctor, you know.

AJ: Yes. But--but she was available to you when you needed her?

MKM: Oh yes, yes--yes.

AJ: Did she live right on the campus or, right near campus?

MKM: I suppose she did, I don't know that.

AJ: Well, there aren't still a lot of women doctors, so I was surprised to see that there was a Florence Ames, who was a doctor in 1923. Resident Physician they called them. And a Katherine Pardee, who was a Resident Physician in 1924, so I presume. . .

MKM: Oh yes, that must have been. . .

AJ: She--she was probably the one that was there. . . when you were there.

MKM: Probably the one, yes.

AJ: Since you were history, did you know Samuel Bridges? Did you take some courses from Samuel Bridges?

MKM: Yes, yes.

AJ: Do you remember what kind of person he was?

MKM: Ah. . . I remember him. . . physically. And ah. . . I think he was rather easy-going teacher.

AJ: Was he?

MKM: I--as I remember.

AJ: You didn't feel you had to--he wasn't quite as strict as some of the others?

MKM: No, no. He's kind of easy-going--more easy-going, I think. And then, of course, there was Mr. Kise.

- AJ: Oh yes! You had--you had him.
- MKM: Yes, I had him. And. . .
- AJ: How did--he was history, too, wasn't he? Oh, no--that was Social Sciences.
- MKM: The class that I had from him was Sociology.
- AJ: I see.
- MKM: And my sociology class came right after my teaching period--my practice teaching period. And you know, you put all your time on your practice teaching, you don't think too much about the class that comes after. . .that kinda' slips by. But. . .ah, we were supposed to. . .give some oral talk of some kind--a report on something. And I read mine, I didn't give orally, because I didn't--I hadn't studied it, and he kinda gave me a bad time.
- AJ: Oh, did he?
- MKM: He was quite--he was quite particular, you know.
- AJ: Uh huh, right. Ah, sociology was a fairly new subject area, I suppose about that time. ?
- MKM: Ah, yes--yes.
- AJ: Did you enjoy it?
- MKM: Well, I guess I did, yes.
- AJ: If you were to look back on your favorite teacher at that time, who would it be?
- MKM: At Moorhead?
- AJ: Uh huh.
- MKM: Well, there was a Miss. . .ah, Erickson.
- AJ: Erickson. Emma Erickson.
- MKM: Emma Erickson.
- AJ: Emma Erickson.
- MKM: And she I liked very much.
- AJ: Did she teach you methods courses?
- MKM: No. I don't know--remember what she taught.
- AJ: She's listed as in the Education areas, so she may have taught. . .oh, Children's Literature, Educational Psychology, or . . .maybe, how to teach reading, would she have been any of those?

MKM: I don't remember what I had from her, but I liked her very much, but ah, . . . the one that taught methods, was. . . Miss Jacobson.

AJ: Oh, yes.

MKM: She had upper grade methods

AJ: I see. A Miss Jacobson, I don't think I have her name down here. I may just have missed it. I didn't try--I just picked out a few that I thought ah, . . . that you might know. You wouldn't have had much contact with Millie Dahl, the House Director of the dormitories, or Ina Fogg, the Dean of Women?

MKM: Oh no. There were just the two dormitories at that time.

AJ: Yes, yes. How about Maude Hayes, did you have her in literature? Harold Johnsrud in English?

MKM: No, no.

AJ: Katherine Leonard in Math?

MKM: Yes.

AJ: You had her, do you remember her at at?

MKM: Yes, I remember her.

AJ: Was she a good teacher?

MKM: I. . . suppose she was. (Laughter) I suppose she was.

AJ: You think so. Yes.

MKM: That leads me to think of something else ah, . . . but we better skip it.

AJ: Yes, well, I think--I think it's interesting that you can remember Emma Erickson so well. She must have made quite an impression on you--on you because. . .

MKM: She was a large women, . . . I remember.

AJ: Very large women. Was she well organized, enthusiastic, or. . . ?

MKM: She seemed to take a lot of interest in her students.

AJ: So it was the personal interest that she took in students that you--that made you feel very much at home with her, then? Ah, let's see. . .

MKM: Dr. MacLean was--was he. . . ?

AJ: Was the President then. What about--what about him? Did you have any personal contact with him?

MKM: No--no.

AJ: You heard him speak.

MKM: At that time they had ah, . . .chapel every morning, you know.

AJ: Every morning, and you had to be there.

MKM: And we had to be there. Chapel every morning. And, of course, . . .

AJ: Did he speak often at chapel?

MKM: I don't think he did a lot. I can't remember just how they conducted the chapel. But I know that we had to be there and all the faculty was up there on stage.

AJ: Oh, the faculty sat on the stage! So they were required to attend then too?

MKM: Oh yes, indeed.

AJ: Was there usually music with the chapel hour?

MKM: Yes, there was singing.

AJ: Was it a Chapel Choir, or was it a . . .solos?

MKM: No, I mean among the students--the students.

AJ: Oh, the students themselves sang. So that you had hymn sings, sort of. Was it always hymns, or might it have been folk songs?

MKM: No, no. It was hymns.

AJ: It was always hymns, so it was a real religious service.

MKM: Religious cere--yes, it was a religious ceremony.

AJ: Yes, it really was never then, a speaker who might talk on politics or. . .?

MKM: Oh, no--no.

AJ: It was always a service. Every day. Do you remember how long? Twenty minutes?

MKM: I think it was--no, it must have been, ah, . . .well, it couldn't have been a whole hour.

AJ: No, but maybe a half an hour.

MKM: Probably half an hour.

AJ: Half an hour.

MKM: Probably.

AJ: How about speakers at night or for special programs during the day, Did--do you rem. . .?

MKM: No--no.

AJ: You don't remember anything like that. Did you take part in the games and things that they would have. . .in the evenings?

MKM: Oh yes, yes. Oh yes.

AJ: Did you go as--to watch football games, is this it? Or did you actually take part in a basketball or ballgame yourself for recreation?

MKM: No, it was mostly watch.

AJ: It was mostly watch. So you knew Alex Nemzek then, who was. . .

MKM: Well, I knew of him, yes.

AJ: Knew of him. He was a football coach. Was there--were. . .did lots of people come to these games?

MKM: Oh yes, quite a few.

AJ: Quite a few from town, as well as ah. . .

MKM: And they had afternoon games too, you know.

AJ: Well, let me see here now. I presume--I notice that you had to pay \$10.00 per term of tuition, but if you were going to teach in Minnesota you didn't have to.

MKM: Is that right! (Laughter)

AJ: Yes, you don't remember anything about that?

MKM: No, I don't remember that.

AJ: No, no. When ah. . .when you were ready to graduate now, did they help you find a job?

MKM: The people that. . .yes, they did. You--you had one interview with some school board, from some school.

AJ: I see.

MKM: Everyone had--got one chance.

AJ: Everyone had one interview.

MKM: But, ah. . .I wasn't pleased by the college. I took a school on my own.

- AJ: You did, you found it yourself?
- MKM: Yes.
- AJ: Where did you teach then?
- MKM: Out near. . .Casselton, it was.
- AJ: That was your first job after graduating from Moorhead State. Did your husband move out there then, or did you go each day, drive. . .?
- MKM: No, he--he lived in--we lived in Moorhead, but I went out there and stayed during the week. Came home weekends.
- AJ: I see. How did you get out there?
- MKM: We had a car at the time.
- AJ: Oh, you did have a car. Uh huh.
- MKM: So he'd take me out and then come and get me.
- AJ: I see, and then come and get you.
- MKM: Yes.
- AJ: So your moving into the car generation about that time. (Laughter)
- MKM: Yes, that's right.
- AJ: Now, did you have any experiences with the school board at that time, that you thought were ah. . .unpleasant, or. . .?
- MKM: No. Not any of them.
- AJ: They were fairly supportive of. . .?
- MKM: Yes,. . .well, I don't know if they were supportive or just ah. . .I remember that you'd have to probably go when your month was up. You'd have to go and ask for your check, they didn't come and deliver it to you.
- AJ: Is that right.
- MKM: Yes, you'd probably have to go out and catch them out in the fields somewhere and ask if you could have your check for the month, you know. Or something like that. No, they were rather--not too concerned.
- AJ: I see, that's really--that's really not too fair (laughter), when you consider you worked hard all month, that you had to go and ask for the check. I would think they'd be ready there to hand it to you. Did they come and watch you teach anytime?
- MKM: Not the school board, never.

AJ: The school board didn't. . .

MKM: Never--never.

AJ: No, they just expected you were going to do well.

MKM: They hired you and ah. . .made out your check. Send, I suppose, your to the state--whatever, the State had come in, you know.

AJ: Surely. How about now, after you had taught, you said you did come back to school. Did you come back to Moorhead State for additional courses in summer schools, then?

MKM: I--well, I was out of teaching then while, Jean--we had a girl-- you know.

AJ: Oh, yes.

MKM: And. . .and then we had a restaurant, so we were doing things on our own, and then I thought I want to go back to teaching. And so then I went to summer--one summer school.

AJ: One summer school. At Moorhead State?

MKM: At Moorhead. And then I took a school out at Ponsford.

AJ: Oh!

MKM: And from there, things went from one place to another and I finally wound-up in Seattle--worked at the shipyard.

AJ: Oh, is that right! During the first World War, I suppose?

MKM: No, the second.

AJ: Oh, Second World War, yes. I'm sorry, get my World Wars mixed-up. I know lots of--lots of people went out to work in the shipyards.

MKM: And then we came back here in '45, when my mother died. And then I went teaching in Fargo and I taught there ever--until I retired.

AJ: I see, what year did you retire?

MKM: In Sixty-five.

AJ: Sixty-five, uh huh. But that was the only summer school you went to, was that one.

MKM: Uh huh.

AJ: You didn't ever. . .do you remember anything about the summer school?

MKM: Well. . .it was ah, it wasn't really what I wanted. I wanted just a brush-up course, you know, because I'd been out so long--such a long time. But, instead of that, I had to take subjects into a 3rd year. .

- AJ: Oh, into a third year of college, huh?
- MKM: Yes. I had to take subjects in that.
- AJ: I see, so you really didn't get any methods course to brush you up. What you did was just sort of get more information, maybe in history, or . . . mathematics, or something like that.
- MKM: Credits to go into--that would count another year.
- AJ: Third year program. Okay, so . . . did--did you have any difficulties then, when you went back to teach?
- MKM: No--no.
- AJ: No, it came back fairly naturally again.
- MKM: It came back, right. I think I enjoyed it quite a lot after. . .
- AJ: Well you stayed with it for quite awhile. Was your teaching at Ponsford--just wanted to be sure we're not running out of tape here--was your teaching at Ponsford with Indian students?
- MKM: No--no.
- AJ: No.
- MKM: No, it was up near Round Lake. . .
- AJ: Yes, well, that is. . . I think al. . .
- MKM: Indian area. . . but they were white, they were all white.
- AJ: Indian Reservation, but they were separate, yes. So you didn't have any Indian students at all, at that time. Can you think of anything else that I might not have asked you about, that you'd like to talk about?
- MKM: Well, no. . . the Science building was a new building at that time.
- AJ: Oh, yes.
- MKM: And I was trying to think of the science teacher at the time, which I. . .
- AJ: Dr. Bridges, was that Samuel Bridges?
- MKM: No, . . . I liked him very much. . .
- AJ: No, Samuel Bridges was History---Ballard!
- MKM: Yes, maybe.
- AJ: C.A. Ballard was. . . biology and chemistry. Ah, so that would have been one.

MKM: And there was another teacher that I like too. . .ah, he taught. . .

AJ: He taught in the sciences, huh? I guess I don't happen to have that name, so. . .but do you remember Ballard at all?

MKM: Oh yes, I remember Ballard.

AJ: Yes. Can you say anything about his teaching?

MKM: Well, he's the one that I thought was kind of easy-going, you know.

AJ: Oh--oh, I thought you said that about Bridges.

MKM: Oh, yes--yes, Bridges. Oh, Ballard, I remember him.

AJ: So you did have him?

MKM: And Preston, of course, was music at that time.

AJ: Yes--yes. Dan Preston, you probably still know him, he's all around and you probably see him.

MKM: Yes.

AJ: Did you know Ethel Tainter, Ethel Tainter, who was reading and public speaking?

MKM: Yes--yes.

AJ: She directed the plays, I know.

MKM: Yes, I remember. You see those are just memories.

AJ: Yes, it's--it's been so long, I'm sure it's hard to pull them all back, by any means. But you've done well for us, I surely thank you. Do you think of anything else I should have added--or should have asked you about?

MKM: I think you've done a very good job.

AJ: Well, thank you. (Laughter)

MKM: I think you've done fine.

AJ: Well, I certainly. . .

MKM: Brought up a lot of things that I had forgotten.

AJ: Well, you remember an awful lot, and when I--it just takes a little trigger and there it is. And I surely want to thank you for letting me come over and talk with you.

MKM: Well, I--I enjoyed it.

AJ: Well, good.

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