

DON'T DISCLOSE IDENTITIES

From the beginning of these studies, the identities of the persons under study have been kept confidential. We look to you to carry on this trust. Please guard the privacy of the persons involved by substituting fictitious names, or code symbols for real names.

Carton ^W

RECORD OF INTERVIEWS
RELAY ASSEMBLY TEST ROOM
OPERATOR NO. 4
June, 1931 - May, 1932

135 pages

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Volume 4

Record of Interview

Operator No. 4

Open

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RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

June 5, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 1.

Interviewer meets the employee at conference room.

I: "Hello. Are you Wanda? My name is X. Come right in, won't you, and sit down.....I think I've seen you before."

E: "Have you ever been up to the test room? I don't remember seeing your face before."

I: "I've been up there once or twice for a few minutes."

E: "That's funny, I don't remember you, but so many people come up to the test room you know. When you've got your head bent over your work, sometimes you just can't remember."

I: "No, I suppose not.....Do you know much about the interviewing?"

E: "Well, yes. The girls said that they were being interviewed, but that's all I know."

I: "You were interviewed once before, weren't you?"

E: "Yes, last year."

I: "Have you heard much about how the interviewing has changed?"

Employee shakes her head.

I: "Well, maybe I better tell you something about it."

E: "Yes, I'd like to hear it."

I: "Well, you see, when the interviewing began in 1928, it was sort of an experiment. (Interviewer tells of change in program since 1928.) I'm not going to ask you any questions. You may think it's kind of funny at first. I know I would myself, if somebody came and asked me to talk about our department, and didn't ask me any questions. I think it will be better for you to talk about just the things you're interested in, instead of me asking questions. You needn't feel funny about it, if you can't think of anything, and if you just want to sit there and think. We do that lots of times. We sit for five or ten minutes without even saying anything, so I won't think it's funny.....The interviewing I'm doing in the test room is

confidential. Nothing that anybody says to me has any way of getting to anybody else. It would have to be that way.

"And of course, if we're going to steady the test room, we have to study everybody in it, and not just you girls, so I'm going to talk to Bea and Celio, and Mr. Chipman, and Miss Chambers, and Mr. Hibarger. I guess that's all I have to tell you. Now you can do the talking."

E: "Well, it's kind of hard to think of what you want to say?"

I: "I know it is. You've got so many things in your head you don't know what to say first, do you?"

E: "Let's see, what shall I talk about.".....

I: "Why don't you just sit back and be comfortable and talk about anything that comes into your mind. I should think that would be a good way."

E: "You mean about my home, too?"

I: "Why yes, about anything. You see, if I'm going to understand the test room, I'm going to have to know the people in it, and I'll also have to know a lot about you, about your work, or your home, or anything you want to tell me. I didn't tell Mary or Jenny or Theresa this, but I was thinking yesterday, that it might be a good idea to just talk about whatever came into your head.....(employee coughs) Have you got a cold?"

E: "Well, I had a little bit of one yesterday, but it seems to be worse today. I don't know what makes me cough like this." (employee has been coughing steadily and it seems to be getting worse.)

I: "Why don't you go out and get a drink?"

E: "Oh, it will be all right in a minute. I don't know what's the matter. I never cough like this."

I: "Well, we'll just sit here quiet until your throat gets all right. (employee continues to cough) Let's go out to the fountain. There's one right outside here."

E: "All right, I guess that would be better."

They go to the fountain and have to wait quite a while for employee's coughing to stop. They go back to the conference room.

E: "I don't know what's the matter with my throat. Usually when I have a cold I just cough a little bit, but not like this."

I: (laughing) "Well, I guess I'll have to keep some cough drops down here."

E: "They don't help me much, not for the coughing. I guess the trouble is - do you know what June bugs are? They're those big bugs that fly around lights."

I: "Oh, yes. I used to see them when I was a kid."

E: "When I went to wash last night there was one of those outside the window. You see, the light was on, and you know they're apt to come in. If there's a little hole for them to crawl through, they get through, and I was afraid that it would find a place to get through. They can squeeze through such a little place. I turned off the light, and I just left the light shining in my bedroom, but then when I got ready to go into my bedroom, I heard one flying around the bedroom and gee, was I scared!! Did I jump into bed and cover myself up! I was so scared! Then I took off the light, and you know, I think they must be blind, because after I took off the light, I heard it drop. It was making a funny noise, like it was lying on it's back, and kicking, trying to turn over. I was so scared. Then I heard another one outside. You know, there's a light right outside my window and I heard one outside the window, trying to get in. Can you beat that? Well, believe me, I was scared, and then you know, during the night the quilt got on the floor. You know, my sister and I sort of kick it off, and when I woke up I was so cold. I woke up in the middle of the night, and found the quilt wasn't over us, and I guess that's how my cold got worse. I guess that's why I'm coughing today. Well, you know, I reached out for that quilt, and all of a sudden I thought of the bug, and did I grab it quick and throw it over us!! I was so scared! I couldn't find it anywhere this morning. I guess they hide themselves away so that you can't see them at all. I guess they won't bite you. I guess there's nothing to hurt you about them, but they just scare me so." I don't know why it is."

I: "Are you scared of other things like that?"

E: "Yes, I am pretty scared. I'm scared of little bugs, too."
(Employee stares through the window pensively.)

I: "~~But~~ what are you thinking about?"

E: "Oh, I was just looking at the fan.....watching it go round and round.....and thinking how the days are just like that.....you come to work, then you go home at night, and then you eat and go to bed -- and then you come to work again the next day, and it's the same thing over and over all the time. That's why I haven't very much to tell you. My life isn't very exciting. It's just the same thing all the time, real quiet.....I don't know, other girls come to work and tell about real exciting things, but I never seem to find it that way."

I: "You don't?"

E: "No, I can do the same things they do, and it doesn't mean anything at all."

I: "How do you mean?"

E: "Well, like they say they go out driving. (giggling) They are so excited about it. Of course, I suppose it's because they really care for the people they're with. Maybe that's why I don't get excited. I just don't seem to care for the people I go out with. I guess that must be the reason. I guess they must really care for the fellows.".....

I: "You mean they do things like going out riding with a fellow, and then they come down to work all excited."

E: "Yes, they'll go out with someone, and then they'll get so excited about it, but when I go out riding with a fellow, I don't feel that way. There's nothing exciting about it. I don't know how they get so excited. I guess it must be that. It must be that they really care for the person, and that I haven't found anybody like that yet. Maybe that's what's the trouble with me, that I don't get excited. When I go out with a fellow, it's just like going out with anybody."

I: "Do they feel like that with everybody they go out with?"

E: "Oh no, not with everybody. It seems it's just a certain person. I have friends that tell me they get so excited about going out with someone, but it must be because they really care for them.".....

I: "So you don't get much excitement."

E: "No, there's not much excitement in my life, but maybe I shouldn't express myself that way. Maybe I shouldn't expect things to be exciting.".....

I: "Do you remember the story of Cinderella?"

E: "Yes."

I: "Well, if you had a fairy Godmother like that, and she should grant you the wish of doing something exciting, what would you do?"

E: "I'd want to be rich for a week. I'd want to be rich for at least that time, just to know what it would feel like to do anything you would want to, not to work. Of course, I don't mind working. I suppose if I had to do that for a long time I'd get awfully tired of it, but I think it would be pretty nice for a while.".....

I: "Why do you think you'd like that best of all?"

E: "Just because I'd like to know what it feels like to do things that rich people do. Of course, I know it's always the things we can't have that we want. When you get them all the time you get tired of them. I suppose I'd be that way, too, if I were rich, but I'd like to know what it feels like."

I: "You mean you'd like to know what it feels like not to have to work, and to do what you'd want to?"

E: "Yes, for a while anyway. At least for a week."

I: "Well, then, if you could do what you wanted to, what would you do?"

E: "Oh, I'd do all the things that the rich people do. You know, you read about them. I'd get up in the morning and take a bath and get dressed, and then I'd go riding. You know I mean horseback riding. They always do that before breakfast, don't they?"

I: "Yes, I guess some of them do."

E: "And then you'd come back and I guess you'd rest a while. Then you'd get dressed for dinner or something like that, and then maybe you'd play golf. Gee, I think that would be swell, at least for a little while.".....

I: "Say, I have a friend who's always asking everybody what they'd do if they could have three wishes. What would you do if you could have three wishes come true?"

E: "Well, I guess that would be one wish. I'd wish to be rich for at least a week.".....(employee is quiet for a long time.)

I: "You're thinking pretty hard, aren't you?"

E: "Yes, it's kind of hard to know what you'd wish.".....

I: "Can't you think what your second wish would be?"

E: "Oh, I don't know what to wish for my second wish. I get along all right. It's real nice at work and I have a happy home, so I don't really wish for anything.".....(quiet again for a long time.)

I: "So you wouldn't have a second wish, huh?"

E: "Well, things are pretty bad now, aren't they? I've got a brother at home that wants to go to school and he can't. He can't get a job to put him through school. I'd like to have him have a chance to go to school, and I've got another brother that's out of work. You know when there aren't so many working, there are so many things you can't have. I wish we could have a few luxuries. It's pretty hard to have to go without things all the time. You want things and you can't get them because there isn't so much money coming in, and then we're not working such long hours now. It makes a lot of difference because we used to work until five o'clock and we used to get paid time and a half for that extra three quarters of an hour and that amounted to a lot. Then we used to work Saturday mornings for a while. We didn't work Friday afternoons, but now we're working again, so that helps.".....

I: "That makes quite a difference, does it?"

E: "I'll say, about three dollars.".....

I: "You can do a lot of things with three dollars, can't you?"

E: "I'll say. It goes a long ways. You can buy yourself some silk stockings and other things that you need. Why we used to make awfully good money."

I: "You did?"

E: "Yes. We never made less than thirty-five dollars a week, but now it makes a lot of difference.".....

I: "It makes a pretty big difference, does it?"

E: "Yes, it makes a difference of about ten dollars a week."

I: "Gee, that is a lot, isn't it?"

E: "I'll say. It means that you can't get a lot of luxuries. I wish things would pick up so we could get some luxuries."....

I: "Just how do you mean you wish things would pick up?"

E: "Well, I wish business would pick up so my brother could get a job and then my brother that wants to go to school could go."

I: "Oh, I see. I didn't know whether you meant you wished things would pick up in the test room or generally."

E: "No, I mean generally. Things are all right in the test room. Of course, we aren't getting nearly as much as we did, but the depression is pretty bad, isn't it? There are so many people that can't get anything to do. It certainly makes a difference in our family, but then when you get along real well at home, it's not so bad. That makes a lot of difference."

I: "I'll say.....So that would be your second wish, would it?"

E: "Well, I think that would make a good first wish, because it's more important that things pick up.".....

I: "Are you thinking hard?"

E: "About what?"

I: "Oh, I thought you were thinking of what your third wish was going to be."

E: "No, I wasn't thinking about that."

I: "Maybe you think I'm asking you too many questions."

E: "No, I don't think that at all. That's all right. I don't mind."

I: "I thought maybe you thought I was being too inquisitive."

E: "Oh, no.".....

I: "Well, what's your third wish going to be?"

E: "I'll wish that I could go on a real nice vacation this year.".....

I: "That's a good idea."

E: "I don't want to go to a place like I did last year."

I: "Where did you go?"

E: "I went up to a girls' camp at Lake Geneva, and it was too quiet there. They're too strict in a girls' camp. You have to do everything at a certain time. You have to go swimming at a certain hour, and you can't go in at any other time. They have a schedule for everything. I'd rather do things when I feel like doing them. I'd rather go to a resort where I could go in swimming whenever I'd feel like it, and where I could go in two or three times a day if I wanted to, and in the morning if I wanted to, instead of in the afternoon."

I: "I wonder why they did that."

E: "I don't know. They always made us go in at the same time."
(complaining)

I: "Did they ever tell you why?"

E: "No, they never told us anything. We just had to do everything according to the schedule.....Of course if everybody in camp would go in at a different time, they'd have to have the guards there all the time. Maybe that's why we all had to go in at the same time, because it wouldn't be safe to have people there when the guards weren't there. I suppose that's why they had to do it that way, because they always had guards when we went in swimming."

I: "Maybe that is why."

E: "I suppose so, but I'd like to have more things to do."

I: "How do you mean?"

E: "Oh, I'd like to be able to do anything I'd want to do."

I: "What would you do then?"

E: "Oh, I'd do something exciting, but I can't go to a resort this year. I can't do anything like that.".....

I: "Aren't there exciting things you can do without getting your wish of being rich?"

E: "Oh, yes, I suppose I can do some of the things they do, like playing golf or going to dances. I do those sometimes."

I: "You do?"

E: "Yes, once in a while.".....

I: "So those are your three wishes?"

E: "Yes, I guess so."

I: "Is that the order you would wish them in?"

E: "Well, maybe I would wish the second one first. First I'd wish that things would pick up so that my brother could go to school and so that we could get more things. I guess that's the most important."

I: "So you'd put that first, would you?"

E: "Yes, I think it would be selfish to put the other ones first, don't you?"

I: "So you would want to be selfish, huh?"

E: "No. The other one's more important, isn't it?"

I: "Yes, I guess so.".....

E: "Well, let's see now, what can I tell you about the test room? I've been here a long time. It doesn't seem possible. It's nearly eight years now. I was in the department for about three and a half years. I always got along very well there. Of course I worked all the time.

"You know, when I was there I was very quiet. I didn't have much to say when I was in the department. I always gave my attention to my work. I guess that's why I got along so well with the boss. You know, if you work you get along fine.

"But then when they opened the test room they put me in there. Of course, I wanted that type of work. The last two years they have changed two of the girls. Everybody in there now is not the same as when it first started. Mary and Jenny, you know, you talked to them, didn't go in with the rest of us.

"You know, we fool around so much in there and we have such a good time. Before I went in the test room I didn't used to go out very much, and now I go out a lot. You know, if you don't go out you're not so happy. You're more quiet.

"Of course, I like it in the test room..... You know we have no bosses. That's kind of nice because there is nobody watching you fooling around all the time. Of course I know they couldn't do that in the big departments. You know, if they had things that way in the big departments, the girls would take advantage of them, but when there's no boss, you can fool around as much as you want to. Of course, we make a lot of money in the test room and that makes it so much nicer.

"Another thing that we like is that in the test room you can put your piece parts anywhere you like. You know, in a department you can't do that. You know, in the department they have a certain way of doing things. Then you know sometimes you don't like to do them that way. You just don't take to them that way, but you can't place them where you want to. You know, everybody has ways which they can do things better, and they don't always know. It makes it so much easier if you put them where you want to.

"You know, like we have those jigs, that we place the parts on. We can put our parts anywhere we want to on the jigs, but in the department they can't do that. Of course, maybe they can out there now. I didn't work there so very long, and they may have changed since I left. Out there they claim that by putting parts on the jigs you drop them easier. Well, you know, if anyone comes up to the test room and looks at the floor, sometimes it does look pretty dirty, and in the department the floor is always real clean. In the test room we never have to pick anything up unless it's a big part you know. If it's just one of the small parts we never pay any attention to it.

"We're making a lot more money and we feel better since we're in the test room. Why you know, when the department just makes about fifty percent, we make ninety or ninety-five or a hundred percent, and you know, that's a big difference.....

"You know, if someone comes to work with something on their minds, it makes a difference to tell it to someone. You can work better with a free mind, but I have a happy home, so there's nothing there.....

"Another thing, if you don't feel like working you don't have to, and you can't do that in the department, but in the test room you don't get bawled out for it. You know how it is. Sometimes you don't feel good and then other times you feel good and you kind of step on it, and we can make more money there, too.....

"In the test room we all get along nice, too. (Employee has another spell of coughing. Interviewer hears her say under her breath, 'Oh damn!')

I: (laughing) "What's that I heard you say?"

E: (laughs but says nothing) "We've been playing tennis lately, and I guess that's how I got my cold in the first place. We got reat hot playing tennis the other day, and I drank some cold water. They say that that's apt to cause a cold.....Well, I can't think of anything else that I could tell you.....I guess I've told you everything that I have to say."

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RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

July 7, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 2.

Interviewer meets employee at conference room.

I: "It is not so bad down here this morning, is it?"

E: "No, and it is nice and cool outside this morning.".....

"Say, wasn't it terrible last week? But I didn't faint."
(laughing)

I: "You didn't? Good for you."

E: "No, and I didn't come near to it. None of us did in the test room."

I: "That's good."

E: "But we were down to the hospital Wednesday afternoon and just standing there a few minutes. You should have seen all the girls they took by. They took them by just as fast as they could to the hospital and they would just leave them at the hospital and hurry right back with the chair. Why they were just coming as fast as they could. Just to watch them a few minutes longer would have been enough to make you faint. They were so busy at the hospital. The doctor said if the hot weather kept up they would shut down the plant. It sure was terrible wasn't it? I never heard of anything like that before."

I: "You never did?"

E: "No, I don't think it ever was that bad before, not since I have been here. I've never heard of so many girls fainting. Say, I'm getting pretty tan aren't I and I was only out one day. Would you think anyone could get this much in one day? It was the first time I had been out and people kept saying to me, 'How many times have you been out to get the tan?' and I said, 'What tan? This is the first day I've been out this season.' You know how you can't see it while you're still out. Of course it was kind of red at first and it hurt a little."

I: "It did?"

E: "It just hurt on the shoulder blades though. The next day already it was all brown. You should see Mary. She came in yesterday all blisters. She got it over the week-end. She said she got it Saturday but I don't see how she could, do you? It was so cool Saturday. Why it was so cool I didn't even think of going to the beach all week-end."

I: "Where did she go?"

E: "Out to Jackson Park."

I: "I was over there too and I didn't get a burn but then we went kind of late.".....

"She is real light isn't she?"

E: "Yes, when people are real light they burn so easy. I guess you don't have to be out in the sun very much to burn when you're light, do you?"

I: "I heard of a fellow yesterday that was out just half an hour and was burned. Of course he was very fair."

E: "He must have been. You should see my brother, not the one that is out of work but the one that is interested in school. He has had so much education already but he can't go now because he can't get anything to do. He wants to work and earn his way through school. He is all through now but college you know. My other brother was working but he's been out of work for some time. They go swimming a lot. Of course one of them has his vacation now and he goes swimming a lot. Oh, he is so brown.

"He is the handiest boy around the house. He has been doing a lot of papering and painting lately. Mother wanted to get the house fixed up so he papered and painted and varnished. You should have seen him hang that paper. He was just like a regular paper hanger. The house looks wonderful now.

"He has some friends - they're a young married couple and they have a little bungalow and they wanted to get it fixed up. They wanted to get it papered and painted and varnished so they asked my brother to do it. He had never done anything like that before but he did such a swell job on it that it looks just wonderful. We went over to look at it and my mother said when she saw it, 'Well, you're going to have another one to do.' You know we live in a bungalow but we own the house next door. There are two stories to it. There are some people upstairs and some downstairs, so that is the one my brother did. The one we're living in didn't need paper yet. You know how you have to clean every year. Of course it doesn't need paper every year. Sometimes all you have to do is clean the wall paper and it doesn't need painting every year. You can wash the paint but he cleaned it all.

You know how people are. If you let them do it themselves they do it any way and then maybe the next people don't like it, so my mother decided to have my brother do it. Of course she let them pick out the paper they liked and everything like that. He is such a big help."

"Do you know where X quarry is?"

I: "I don't believe I do."

E: "Well, I don't know just where it is but it is a big quarry that people go swimming in. You know how they do. They strike a spring in a quarry and then it is not any good any more for a quarry because it fills up with water. Well, I guess that must be a real big one. Of course it is dangerous. Not very many people go there because only real good swimmers can go. It wouldn't be safe for anyone to go there that couldn't swim good. Well, my brother has been going out there a lot and he saved a man from drowning the other day."

I: "He did?"

E: "Yes, there was a man way out. He yelled for help and none of the people on shore paid any attention to him so my brother saw an inner tube that was near by and he threw it out to the man and told him to hang on to it and then he went out and brought him in. The man was so scared that he lay on the beach for about two hours afterwards just shaking."

"You know there was a girl that nearly drowned at a place where some fellows from Western Electric were and they had to bring her to by artificial respiration, and you know she was getting better. She was starting to breathe but her parents were afraid that it would be the death of her. You know they were from Europe and they don't know how things are. You know how people from Europe are. They didn't understand it so they wouldn't let them go on and she died. Wasn't that too bad?"

I: "Wasn't that a shame?"

E: "Yes, because they were doing her some good already and then they made them stop....."

"My brother only finished painting about a week ago, so now he has got more time. He said now he is going to get a real tan. I said, 'Well, what do you call what you have?' Why you know I am just white compared to them.".....

Following conversation is very animated.

"My brothers are trying to teach me to swim but I am just scared to death. I don't see how I'll ever learn to swim. I would be afraid to let myself go in the water. My brothers tried to teach me. Sometimes when I am floating my brother will just dive on top of me and take me down to the bottom. Of course he grabs me right away and I grab him so I am not scared. He brings me right up. He says he is trying to get me so I won't be afraid of the water, and you know what they do? They dive underneath and then they grab a hold of my feet and pull me under and you know I always forget to hold my breath. I always come up with my nose full of water and oh, it feels terrible. I just can't remember not to breathe.".....

I: "So they're trying to teach you how to swim."

E: "Yes, but I'm afraid I'll never learn.".....

I: "You say you can float."

E: "Yes, I like to float."

I: "Do you float on your back?"

E: "Yes, I float on my back."

I: "Haven't you ever tried taking any strokes when you're on your back?"

E: "Oh, I wiggle my hands a little and I can go a little ways that way."

I: "Yes, if you make your hands go this way (illustrating) just a little more they call it sculling. That is real easy, but you can bring your arms up like this (illustrating) and your legs like this and it is the easiest stroke there is as long as you can float."

E: "I don't know what makes me so afraid. There are so many things that can happen in the water.".....

I: "I guess everyone is afraid before they've learned how to swim, aren't they?"

E: "Yes, they are."

Interviewer tells of how she got over her fear of the water."

E: "That was a real good way but there is so much water in the lake." (laughing) "It's so big."

I: "One nice thing about the lake is that you don't have to go straight out when you're learning. You could go out to below your shoulders and swim along even with the shore."

E: "Yes, that is a good idea. Say, did you hear about all the people drowning lately? I don't know about right here but in Indiana there were a lot of people drowned. It was from the undercurrent."

I: "Was that in Lake Michigan?"

E: "I don't know where it was. It was in Indiana. There is a girl that worked at Western that went out over the week-end and when she came home she found her brother was dead. He was drawn in by the undercurrent and they haven't found his body yet.".....

I: "Was he a good swimmer?"

E: "Yes, he was a real good swimmer. They say the undercurrent has drawn in quite a few people."

I: "Yes, the waves were pretty high the last few days. I felt the undercurrent yesterday down at the sand dunes.....That was in Indiana."

E: "Where were you?"

I: "We were near Miller's beach."

E: "One of the girls in the test room went out there a week ago. She was just out for one day but she didn't like it very well. She said there are no trees or shade or anything. I should think that would be real funny. It would be like being in the desert, wouldn't it?"

I: "Yes, it would be sort of that way."

E: "I'd like to go and see it sometimes. I've never been there."

I: "I think you would find it interesting.".....

"I suppose when I come back from my vacation I'll find you swimming."

E: "Oh, I don't know. If I can ever get over being scared of the water.".....

I: "I guess it is a little harder to learn when one is older, isn't it?"

E: "Is it?"

I: "Well, I was just thinking how easy it is for most children to learn."

E: "Yes, the kids from our house go swimming all the time. It is just nothing to them. You should see one of my sisters. She just waits for the waves to come and then she jumps in them. She loves it.".....

I: "Did you say one of your sisters?"

E: "Yes.".....

I: "Are those your sister's children that go in that way?"

E: "No.".....

I: "Weren't you telling me you had two married sisters?"

E: "No, I have two married brothers. I have a young brother who is just ten years old. He liked to go swimming too and then my younger sister is thirteen years old and the next one is fifteen. She is going into high school in the fall. One of my older brothers is twenty-one.".....

I: "I suppose he is the one that has been going to school?"

E: "No, that is the older one. The one that likes to go to school in twenty-six or twenty-seven. He is quite old. It is the other one that has been working that is twenty-one.".....

"You know my mother doesn't like it when we go swimming. She says, 'Oh, you're in the water all the time.' She scolds us for going so much. You know how old people are sometimes. They can't see why you like to go swimming. She says, 'Say you're in the water all the time.' She scolds us for going so much. You know how old people are sometimes. They can't see why you like to go swimming. She says, 'Yes, you go swimming all the time, and you'll come home dead.'.....

I: "I suppose she worries about you.

E: "Oh, Yes, if we come home late she worries." (laughing)

"A week from today will be vacation, won't it?"

I: "That's right.".....

E: "Some of us girls are going to get together during vacation. Have you ever been to South Haven?"

I: "Yes, I have."

E: "How did you like it?"

I: "I haven't been there for about eight years but it was real nice then."

E: "We're going to take an excursion boat over to South Haven. I don't know if there is much to see there but we'll have three or four hours. I suppose we can take our swimming suits can't we, and cool off? It will be refreshing anyway."

I: "Yes, indeed. It's a very pretty town."

E: "Is it?"

I: "Yes, I used to live with a girl that lived there and I went home with her once. I used to go there other times too."

E: "One time we went to St. Joe and Benton Harbor. Have you ever been there?"

I: "I went up to Benton Harbor a couple of weeks ago."

E: "Did you see the men with the long hair running the street cars and everything?"

I: "I didn't notice the street cars but we went out and saw their place and saw a lot of men with long hair and long beards."

E: "I wonder why they've got long hair that way. Do you know why it is?"

I: "I've never heard why.".....

E: "I wonder why they would do that.".....

I: "I suppose it is connected with their religion in some way. You know the House of David is a religious organization don't you?"

E: "Yes, I suppose that's it." (Interviewer tells of similar sect in Seattle)

E: "Isn't that funny?".....We went around their place."

I: "On the Toonerville trolley?" (laughing)

E: "Yes, we went around twice. We had a lot of fun so we just went around a second time.....We're going to get together during vacation. I guess we'll go to the beach too."

I: "You mean the girls from the test room?"

E: "Yes, we usually do that.....How long are you going to take on your vacation, two weeks?"

I: "I was going to take a month but I think I'll just take three weeks now.....(laughing) If I didn't see you for a month you'd forget all about what you did during vacation."

E: "Yes, that is right.....I wonder where Lorraine - I mean Miss Chambers is. She must be having a wonderful trip."

I: "She must be.".....Well, I guess it is about time for us to be getting back, isn't it, Wanda?"

E: "Yes, I guess we'll just about get there. The next time I see you I'll have an awful lot to tell you, won't I?"

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

August 14, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 3.

When interviewer called for employee in the test room, supervisor said: "Here is something you may be interested in knowing about Wanda. Her production has fallen way down this week. I don't know whether it is because she went out to Riverview Tuesday night or not. I thought you might like to know how her production stands in case she tells you about it. You know she is supposed to be coming up near to Jennie, and she was even lower than Anna."

(Employee is very quiet today.)

E: "I don't know what's the matter with me this week. I have the most terrible feeling. You know usually when you go out over the week-end you like to get to bed early on Monday - Monday night we had company, and I didn't get to bed early, and Tuesday night we all went out to Riverview, and we didn't get home very early, and the next r I was out kind of late, too. I thought I was going to get it caught up long ago, but it just seems like I haven't. All this week I have felt just terrible. My eyelids are so heavy, and I'm so tired I can't work. You know out at Riverview - have you ever been out there?"

I: "No, I haven't, and I've always wanted to. I'm going to go before the thing closes."

E: "Well, they have the slides that go up and down, and on some of them you have to hang on real hard. You know at first it seems terrible. Of course when you go there a lot you don't get a thrill out of it anymore. Well, Monday, my arms were all tired from hanging on. Anyway I got a thrill. (laughing)..... But I'm going to catch up tonight.....I'm going to bed real early....."

"Usually when I sleep on Saturday I think I'm wasting time. I like to get up early and get things done because then I don't feel like I'm wasting time. I like to get up early and get things done because then I don't feel like I'm wasting time but I can sleep all day tomorrow and I wouldn't feel that way. (laughing) I think that would be nice, but I have too many things to do..... Say, what are all those people doing out there?"

I: "I think they are going to get laid off."

E: "Really? Say, that's too bad, isn't it? I wonder what they'll all do now. It's all right if they've got a home to go to. If you've got a home, they can always take care of you somehow; at

least, you've got a roof over your head. You can always manage to get something to eat. (laughing) It is pretty hard on some of these people that don't live in town.....Do you know Lorraine - Miss Chambers?"

I: "Yes."

E: "Well, you know there may be a chance that she will be laid off; in fact, there is a very slight chance that she may stay."

I: "Is that so?"

E: "Yes, she feels pretty bad about it. I wonder what she is going to do.....She hasn't anyone here to go back to. She couldn't keep up her place there now. If her folks lived here, it would be different.....She was saying something about there being another job she might get.".....Maybe she would get one..."...

I: "Maybe she will."

E: "I guess she can find one because there are lots of things that she can do."

I: "Yes, that's right.".....

E: "I wonder what these people are going to do when they have to get their coal and everything....."

"I had a real nice time on my vacation."

I: "Did you?"

E: "Yes, it was a change - something so different."

I: "Is that so?"

E: "Well, I mean you weren't working. You were going some place every day.....Of course I suppose if you had to stay home all the time you wouldn't like it so well. I suppose if you were laid off (laughing) and you couldn't look forward to going to work you wouldn't enjoy it.....Of course, it would be different if you had a lot of money."

I: "Would it be different with you?"

E: "I'll say. (laughing)Of course there are cases where people get tired of being at home - even then. I have heard of such cases.....I suppose that can happen....."

"I didn't get into the water as much as I wanted to during vacation. I didn't get much more tan. But then, I don't know as

I would want anymore, because it takes it so long to wear off, and I don't like it when you start wearing dark things, then tan looks so funny.....

"The professor was here the other day - did you know that?"

I: "Yes, I heard he was."

E: "Even he mentioned that I had a good tan.".....

I: "I don't think it is quite as dark as when I saw you last."

E: "I think I'm lighter, too. You know it's funny. I meet some people and they say - oh, how tan you are, and I think I'm kind of light.....It seemed like every time we planned to go somewhere during vacation, it rained."

I: "Did it rain much here?"

E: "Well, it happened two or three times. We were already to go and we couldn't go. Then it was cold for a while, and you know you never think of the beach when it is cold, so I didn't get swimming much.....

"I was out quite a bit the first week and I didn't get much sleep. Then, the next week it was funny. I would lie down and I didn't get much sleep.You know it isn't like me because I can go to sleep before I lie down - before I even know how I am going to lay I fall asleep, and I sleep so hard that my mother has to shake me to wake me up in the morning, but I would lie down and I just couldn't go to sleep. I don't know why it was. Maybe it was because I couldn't sleep very much the week before. I guess maybe I just didn't need it.

"I went to three movies the first week.....I don't care for movies in the summer time."

I: "You don't?"

E: "No, I would rather be out in the fresh air. It always seems too bad to me to go into a dark place when you can be outside where you have sunshine and fresh air. But it is nice and cool in the theatre in the summer time.".....

I: "What shows did you see?"

E: "I saw 'A Free Soul' and -----and ----- I would much rather be out of doors. That's why I like to go swimming. I guess I should say play in the water - not swim. I don't know, I'm so scared."

I: "Didn't you learn to swim?"

E: "No. Well, I'm better than I was, but I still just can't go into the water, and start right off. I have to hang around somebody's neck, and then I stretch out in the water and put my hands out and I'm all right, but I couldn't just jump right in and start going. I've got to hang on somebody's neck and then I get started."

I: "How do you mean?"

E: "Well, I put my arm around his neck, see, and then I lie on the top and then I stick my arms out like this, and then I can start swimming."

I: "I wonder why it is that you have to put your arm around his neck in order to get started off. What's the difference between that and starting off?"

E: "Well, they put their hand on my stomach to rest me see and then when I get started off, I'm all right. Maybe I will learn sometime. I guess it's kind of hard to learn when you're older, isn't it? I don't know. I never went into the water when I was a kid. My kid sisters go. You know how people from Europe are - my mother was afraid to have us go, so I had to go out for myself and see. Then I came home and told her. They don't understand it unless there is someone to tell, it seems. Now she lets my kid sisters go. She's changed a lot."

I: "She has?"

E: "Yes, she used to be afraid to let us go. If we don't get home until late she worries.....What kind of a vacation did you have?"

I: "Oh, I had a nice vacation." (telling something of her vacation.)

E: "That was nice.....I wonder if the stock is going to go down."

I: "How do you mean?"

E: "Well, with their laying so many people off, they have to give a lot of those people their money back, and I wonder if the stock won't go down."

I: "They say there are going to be about 2500 people laid off, and I suppose a lot of those don't have stock but I suppose the company is wealthy enough to be able to pay a few thousand without noticing it."

E: "Yes, I suppose so."

I: "I don't know that it would affect the stock market, besides they'll try not to sell their stock that's paid up."

E: "No, they'll try to keep what they paid up."

"You know I can't figure out how it is that some people have so much and others haven't got anything. I know I was down on 52nd and the other day with cars coming from the race track, and you never saw so many big cars with private chauffeurs. It sure didn't look as though they had to go without. I never saw so many cars, why it took them almost an hour to get by. You couldn't get across. I guess they don't have to worry about not having enough money! I heard the people on the street car talking and some were telling how much they lost and some of them how much they won. One man got a \$2.00 ticket and he made \$22.00 off it. What do you know about that for making money! But I suppose fellows with big cars wouldn't think of putting \$2.00 in. I suppose they put in \$100.....My brother used to work around the race track. He cleaned the cars there, and there was a fellow that worked there all the time, and he used to get tips. You know it seems like they know which horse is going to win. I think that's funny. There must be some dirty work about it, but they almost always know which horse is going to win. This fellow used to give my brother tips and tell him who is going to win, so one day my brother told a fellow that bets out there who was going to win that day, and this fellow bet on him. Say, he made a lot of money. He made way up in the thousands and he gave my brother a dollar - imagine that! He gave him a whole dollar! (sarcastically) But, of course, the kid thought it was a lot. That was several years ago.".....

I: "Weren't you telling me that you have a brother 15 and 10?"

E: "No, that must have been one of the other girls. I got three brothers - two of them are out of work - one is 27 and one is 21. The other is 18 and he is working here. I don't know how he keeps on. He doesn't have very much service. Of course, my other brother used to be here, too, but he got laid off. I don't know how he got laid off, and the other one stayed."

I: "Was he here longer?"

E: "They were here about the same time. This one is in the office. I don't know, maybe they haven't got to laying off so much in the office."

I: "I guess it does depend somewhat on where you are."

I.R. 8-14-31 Cont'd.

6.

04-3.

E: "I lost five pounds on my vacation."

I: "You did?"

E: "Yes."

I: "I gained five."

E: "Oh, did you?"

I: "I must have gained the five you lost."

E: (laughing) "Well, no Miss Chambers said she picked them up somewhere, so I guess there wasn't any left over for you. You must have picked them up from somebody else....."

"I must set my hair tonight. I used to have it set all the time. The place where I had a permanent they only charge 50¢ to shampoo it and set it if you have your permanent there. You know, you don't miss 50¢ every two weeks but I only have it set now when I'm going some place."

I: "Well, I guess we will have to be getting back, Wanda."

E: "Anyway, I don't have that terrible feeling any more. I guess it was the rest. But my eyelids feel heavy. I'm going to bed real early tonight."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

August 27, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 4.

I: "I will have to dust off this chair carefully so you won't get that white dress dirty."

E: "Yes, it would show a lot on this, wouldn't it? I had to put on something clean so I put this on. My mother starched it awfully stiff. I like to have a little starch in it, but when I took it off the hanger this morning, you should have seen it. I just crawled into it so careful so I wouldn't muss it. I had some coffee this morning and I stood up so I wouldn't get any wrinkles in it." (laughing)

I: (laughing) "It is too bad that you have to sit down here."

E: "Oh, I have been sitting down a couple of hours working, so it doesn't make any difference.".....

I: "Don't you eat any breakfast, Wanda?"

E: "Oh, I never care for breakfast. I never think of eating anything. Once in a while if I feel cold in the morning, I will drink something, but I don't seem to need it. Last night when I was going home I felt kind of hungry, but I just thought I wouldn't eat anything, so I went to bed without eating any food. So this morning I thought I might be too hungry if I waited and I drank some coffee. It felt kind of cold in the house this morning, too. You know, it is so damp today. It is so foggy out. Of course I come to work so early in the morning that it is that way.".....

I: "Yes, I leave the house pretty early too."

E: "When do you leave?"

I: "Well, this morning I left at seven."

E: "Yes, that is pretty early.".....

I: "How did you mean feeling hungry on your way home last night, do you mean after work?"

E: "No, I went out last night. I went to church.....On the way home I felt hungry, but I just said to myself that I wouldn't eat anything. You know some people say that it bothers your sleep.Of course it doesn't bother my sleep when I eat. I just fall asleep even if I do eat something." (laughing)

I: "What is it that makes you not want to eat then before you go to bed then?"

E: "Well, I think if I don't eat, I won't gain any more."
(laughing)

I: "Oh, that's it?"

E: "Yes.....On the way down here this morning I stopped at the restaurant. I lost a pound. I weighed 137 when we went to the hospital before vacation and when we came back, I had lost 5 pounds, and I have lost one pound since then. I don't know how I lost it. Of course I didn't eat anything during vacation. You know you don't feel like eating in the hot weather. That is why I thought I would gain this morning, and instead I had lost a pound. I have been eating a lot lately and yet I lost a pound."
.....

I: "It wasn't warm weather all during vacation either, was it?"

E: "I don't know why I couldn't eat then. Usually I eat some breakfast when I stay at home, but I would get up in the morning and I just wouldn't feel like eating and then I would have things to do and I wouldn't get ~~get~~ anything to eat until late in the afternoon and then I would eat some place, and at night when it was time to eat I wouldn't get anything. I don't know, I just didn't feel like eating.

"I can't figure out any reason for it.....It isn't like some people who worry. I am not the kind that worries. All that my friends that know me know that it couldn't be that because I never worry.....

"You know I have to laugh at Hibarger. He is always kidding me. He was just up there the day before yesterday, and he came over and said something. I don't remember what it was, but he said, 'You never get sore, do you?' I pretended I didn't know what he meant. I started to kid him, see? I said, 'Sure, sometimes my back is sore.' He said, 'Oh, you know what I mean.' I never get angry. My friends say that they have never seen me get angry in all my life.....

"You know I have a girl friend that is so different. She is always getting angry. Just the least little thing and she gets mad. Most people don't get along with her, but I do because I let her have her own way. That is the only way to get along with her - you just don't pay any attention to her. But I don't see how she can be that way. Everything always had to be done her way. She is always right. You are never right. She never seems to think of anyone else. She makes me think that I haven't got a

mind. She doesn't care what I think. I used to always do what she wanted to, I don't do that so much any more. I guess I have known her too long and I guess I had too much of it. You know she is that way with people that she knows a long time. After she gets to know them, she is like that.

"Well, I just thought I wouldn't do the things that she wanted to any more. You know sometimes she would decide that she wanted to do something and then she changed her mind and maybe I would want to do it anyway and I would go off and do it by myself..... Unless she changed her mind.....But that didn't happen very often. (Sarcastically).....She came to the Western Electric when I did. She was working at another place with me. Do you know where the Dash Gasket Company is? On Roosevelt Road."

I: "Yes, I have heard of it."

E: "Well, we were working there and I had a pretty good job. It was easy work, but just when I got to making good on a job, the Forelady would give it to a friend of hers and that got me sore, and then it got so that I wouldn't get as much money as I was supposed to. I would keep figures and I would be fifty cents or so off. And now, you know I would have to laugh to think of how I was then. I took the slips and I went right up to the big boss. I wasn't scared of him. I didn't care who it was and I talked to him about how I wanted my money that I got gypped out of. It makes me laugh to think of it. I'll bet they had a big laugh when I left there. Of course I would always get it. But it made me kind of sore having to do that all the time.

"At Western they were hiring a lot of people at that time. Everybody who came down here got a job, so one day three of us took the afternoon off and came down here, but they said they didn't want us. They said it was like that and you had to keep coming here in order to get a job, so the next week we took another afternoon off and then they took two of us. The third one didn't get a job. I don't know why. I started working here and I always liked it. I used to work real hard.

"I used to be so different like I was telling you before. I used to be so quiet and the bosses like it when you are that way, and they used to give me a job that I could make a lot on and I used to make good money and then of course we came to the test room and we all like it there. I don't know how they happened to pick me for it, but they picked me and another girl and they told us to choose the ones we wanted to go in there. You know, like ones that wouldn't leave the company real soon, and those that would be nice to work with.....

"I never could figure out what made my girl friend that way. I guess she was just brought up to be that way, but I think she is old enough to think about what she is saying. I think the trouble must be that she doesn't think what she is saying before she says it.....It makes everybody dislike her.....

"She even used to get blamed for things she didn't do - like the place we used to work. We had to have our papers sent to the Cicero School and then the Cicero school was supposed to send them over here. I don't know what was the matter - I guess they didn't want to lay us off, and I used to have to go back there every day for a week to ask them why they hadn't sent the papers. I guess they didn't want to lose me. I don't know why. I guess it was because they were so busy. Everybldy that applied could get a job. The fellow asked me why I was leaving and I told him that I was tired of getting gypped all the time. He said, 'Well, you get your money, don't you?' I said, 'Yes, but I was always tired of having to go up to see about it.' I told him besides that every time I got a job I liked, the Forelady gave it to her girl friend. He said, 'Well, that could be fixed.' I said, 'Well, it was too late. I had another job.' He said to my girl friend, 'It is on account of you that she is leaving then.' You know it wasn't her fault at all. I told him that I had talked her into it. He didn't believe it. He said it was on account of her.....

"You know when I was a little girl, I had a girl rriend whose father worked at Western Electric. My father didn't. He has always worked on the railraod. She always said that when she was grown up, her dad was going to get her a job here and I used to think to myself, 'What will I do when I grow up? My dad doesn't work at Western Electric. I can't get a job there.' I thought this was the most wonderful place.....and to think that I am working here now and she never did.....She was the kind that liked school, you know, so she went on to school. She went to high school and she had a little college. Then she got a job as secretary to someone. She always had big ideas. She never had the idea of just working some place year after year. She was always going to Honolulu and lots of differnt places. She always had big ideas, but she never got to go. She died.....She was real young too.....Of course I suppose if she were working there yet, she would be earning big money, but I know if I were working in the office, that I might be making less money than I am now, so I don't care. Of course if I were working in the shop, it might be different. They aren't making such a big percentage now. Now they are only making about fifty per cent. When I used to work there, they used to make a lot more - it was about seventy-five per cent then. I used to make big money, so I didn't care if I had an education. Of course they didn't ever make as much as in the test room.".....

I: "How much did you make then, Wanda?"

E: "Oh, I don't remember.....You would average thirty dollars a week and that is big money. It was always twenty-five or thirty dollars.....I was just a kid when I started. I had to go to continuation school. I had to study for a whole year steady and then another year too.

"I had the nicest teacher. When I was in grammar school, I never cared about school at all. I would just try to learn things by heart so I could say them. I didn't care about it, but in continuation school, I got so that I really enjoyed it. We had algebra in the morning and I don't remember just what subjects we had, but we had something else and then in the afternoon we had cooking and sewing.

"You know I used to be so scared. I used to be afraid to say anything. I would rather not say anything than have it be wrong and she used to encourage me and say, 'Now you know it. Don't be afraid to say it. What difference does it make if you do make a mistake? Everybody has to make a mistake sometime.' She used to encourage me that way and try to get me over being so afraid and I have changed a lot.

"One time she was having an investigation, you know, people were coming there that night and she wanted me to learn something and I said that I would rather not, that I was scared to. She told me that I could go ahead and do it if I just made up my mind to do it. She had me learn something about a statue of George Washington, no, it was a painting of George Washington in the Art Institute. You know I got up there and I wasn't a bit afraid and I said it real good. She told me afterwards that it showed that I could do it if I made up my mind for it.

"You know I got real interested in school then and I kind of thought I would like to go steady. She asked me why I didn't. She knew my brother in high school. You see my father wanted to give us an education, but you know how it is with the older ones. When they come along, the family needs their money, so the two older ones didn't get a chance, but when my brother and I came along, my father said we were going to have a chance, so my brother went to high school. I don't know, I just didn't care to. My father wanted me to go to high school, but I didn't care to learn. I never was interested in grammar school. But of course by that time, my folks were used to the money. She told me to ask them about it and see if I couldn't go steady, so I made up my mind I would. On the way home from work that night, I told the girls about it and they said, 'Oh, what do you want to go back to school for,' and you know, I kind of

of fell out of the idea and I never even said anything to my parents! So I never went any more. She was terribly sorry. I don't know, I am not sorry. I am making good money now.

"Of course if I had to do different work maybe I wouldn't like it. The job we are on now is real easy. It just seems like when I started to work, they couldn't get me to quit. I was a minor of course and I had to get my papers and they give you easy work when you are a minor. We didn't get the heavy jobs down at the gasket company. They had a lot of machines there, but they couldn't put the young girls on them, it was the older girls. I might not like it if I had to run a big machine. Why, it is terrible the accidents that used to happen down there. You would hear a scream every once in a while and somebody would get their fingers cut off. One morning real early we heard a terrible scream and we all stood there pale because we knew what had happened and a girl had three fingers cut off. When we went over and looked, they were still laying there. It was terrible. You know it wasn't like that at Western Electric. Here they are so careful and they have guards on so people won't hurt themselves, but in the smaller factories they don't care. They don't do anything like that.".....

I: "Of course that was a long time ago."

E: "Yes, that is right. That was over eight years ago..... I had a girl friend who got married when she was eighteen. I don't think that is a good idea, do you?"

I: "Don't you think so?"

E: "No. I don't think that girls know enough about life. Now she got married and they have a baby and he is out of work. He is only working two or three days a week and he is earning hardly enough money to buy food for the baby and they have to depend on their in-laws for their food even. Why they aren't any higher than their parents.....Her parents were European, you know, and I don't know - she has just kept the same idea all the time, I guess. She won't be any higher than her parents were.....Now my folks are different. I have to give them credit for what they have done. My dad and mother wanted the kids to have it easier than they had it. My father said that his kids weren't going to have to work until they were old, like he does. Now my father will have to work until he is old and the two oldest ones will too. That is why my father wanted to give the rest of us a chance. They wanted us to be better off than they were. You have to give them credit for that.".....

I: "How did you mean that some Europeans just keep the same idea all the time?"

E: "Well, I mean they don't try to get ahead. The kids are no better off than their parents were.....I am glad I am where I am. I am glad I didn't jump into it. I might be just where she is now. Of course it is different for the better classes. The young people there don't have it the same. It is the lower classes where it is different.....Now you take with somebody like me, I am just from the common people.".....

I: "How do you mean that it is different for the young people of what you call the better classes?"

E: "Well, I mean they don't get married so young. They don't get married and have a family right away, but among the common people, most of them get married so young. I am glad I didn't. Look where I would be now. Of course they say you should get married, but I am glad that I didn't.....I like it where I am now. We have an awfully good time. Of course I have changed though. I talk a lot more. I used to be so quiet. I used to come down to work and I wouldn't talk to anyone. Of course I talked to them if they talked to me, but I wouldn't talk to anyone I wouldn't know. If a girl sat right next to me and I wouldn't know her I wouldn't talk to her. Of course if she would say something to me I would answer her, but I didn't make friends with people. Now I talk to people whether I know them or not. I make friends easy. The girls tell me how I have changed. I used to be so scared to talk to people. I would have a fear of talking to people I didn't know."

I: "And it is just lately that you haven't been that way?"

E: "Yes, I have been that way all my life."

I: "How was it when you went to school?"

E: "Well, of course I had a lot of playmates, but I know even ⁱⁿ at the schoolyard, if there was a stranger standing there, I would never ask them to jump rope with us. The other girls would ask them to, but I wouldn't think of it. I would rather jump rope by myself than to ask them.".....

I: "Do you mean that you would want to ask them but you would be afraid to?"

E: "Well, I don't know if I ever wanted to ask them. It was just like I said to myself, 'Don't talk to her. You don't know her.' It was just an idea that I had that I shouldn't talk to anyone I didn't know. I suppose I learned that.....Maybe the reason is because I was the only girl for a long time. Of course I have a sister now but for a long time I had just brothers and I was alone with my mother. Still an' all I can't figure out the reason that I changed.".....

I: "So you don't take it from your girl friend any more."

E: "Of course we are still friends, but we are not friends like we used to be. We still speak to each other, but not like we used to. We used to be together all the time, but now I have other friends. I go places where I want to go and she goes where she wants to go."

I: "When did you get so that you would do that?"

E: "Well, I don't know. It must have been about a year ago. I don't know what made the difference. Of course I am glad I changed..I am not sorry a bit....."

"Say, I forgot to bring that piece of wood I was going to show you. I thought of it last night after I went to bed, because I thought maybe I would get called down today, but I didn't feel quite like getting up out of bed and putting it in my purse."

I: "Of course not."

E: "And then this morning I forgot all about it, but I will have to put it in right away so I will be sure and have it there. I don't know where it came from.".....

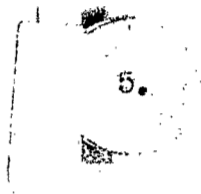
I: "Didn't you say a friend sent you that?"

E: "Yes, but he didn't get it where it came from. He just picked it up somewhere."

I: "Wanda, I haven't had a chance to tell you yet that now that I'm going to see you more often, we're going to make the interviews a little shorter. It's an hour since you came down and I've decided we might as well make the interviews about an hour, so unless you have something else you want to say, maybe we had better call it all for today."

E: "I think we had better, and I will see what I have to tell you next time. I think I will just be quiet now. I have said everything I have on my mind."

I: "That is what I thought."



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

September 4, 1931.
Operator No.4.
Interview No. 5.

The employee is very quiet today, and is not very friendly at first.

E: (After a long pause) "Well,, haven't we been having a lot of rain?"

I: "Haven't we?"

E: "It seems like every day it rains a little bit anyway. Every night.".....

I: "Did it rain last night? Oh, yes, it rained just as we were going home. But you weren't here then, were you?"

E: "I remember it rained. I was downtown, but I didn't care because I went right from work to the loop and it didn't hurt me."....
.....The weather has certainly changed, though, hasn't it?"

I: "Hasn't it?"

.....

(Interviewer tells the employee about moving, to break the ice.)

E: "Are you settled yet?"

I: "Not quite. I have to make a cover for a chair and a couch this week-end."

E: "Gee, you must sew good. Do you do much of it?"

I: "I don't have much time for it, Wanda."

E: "I used to sew a lot, but I haven't for a long time. When I was younger, I liked to, but now it makes me nervous."

I: "It does?"

E: "Yes, doesn't it make you nervous?"

I: "Well, I don't know, I like to if I have lots of time."

E: "That's what I mean. You haven't got very much time and then you get nervous."

I: "Just how do you mean, Wanda?"

E: "Well, you got to get something done in a hurry, and you make a mistake, and you've got to rip it and do it over, and it makes you so mad."

I: "Oh, that's what you mean. I thought maybe you meant just the plain sewing made you nervous."

E: "No, not that. It's when you have to do it over again and it takes so much time. So I don't do any of it."

Pause.

I: "Well, I guess I'll have to let you do the talking, Wanda. I'm getting a cold."

E: "Are you, that's too bad. I guess lots of people have colds, though, haven't they?"

I: "I guess they have."

E: "Well, with the weather, how can you help it. One day it's so hot you don't want to wear a coat and the next day you come out without one and it's real cold. So what are you going to do? One day it's hot and one day it's cold.".....
(Employee made some remark (?) about her childhood)

E: "It's funny the things you remember about when you were little, isn't it?"

I: "It is, isn't it?.....Can you remember many things?"

E: "Quite a few. I remember once I saw a man shot. I was real young then. I told my mother about it and she didn't think I could have remembered it, but I told her about it and it was true. I was real little, and I went with my mother and sister to call on some one, and there was a man came up and told the girl there that there was a man in her father's yard that was going to shoot her father. They were having an argument, and the girl got real excited, and I remember seeing the man fall over. He just tumbled over."

.....

I: "Was he killed?"

E: "Yes, it killed him."

I: "I wonder why he shot him."

E: "I don't know. I never found out. They had some kind of argument, but I remember the man coming up and saying it to the girl and she got so excited. And then she and my mother and I started running. I can remember looking through the fence and seeing him lying there.I was real small then - I couldn't have been more than two years old."

I: "My, that's young to remember that, isn't it?"

E: "Yes, but I suppose something like that would sort of stand out. Maybe I wouldn't remember lots of other things.".....

I: "I suppose you were frightened."

E: "No, I don't remember being frightened. I just remember seeing him fall over.".....

I: "Can you remember very many things about your childhood?"

E: "I can't remember very many things about when I was real small, but I can remember lots of things when I was five or six. I can remember about going to school..... I remember about the things we used to do like how we learned to write.".....

I: "Can you remember the first day?"

E: "Yes, I remember the first day. It was my brother that took me. He was in the seventh grade. You know how most kids don't want to go to school. Gee, I feel sorry for the teachers that teach the first grade. The kids have never been to school before and they go there and they don't want to stay, and then they go home and they don't want to go back again, but I remember that it was real nice the first day. Of course, I suppose they want to make it real nice so you'll want to stay there, especially at first. But I remember her explaining to all the kids what it was about. And then I remember later in the morning, she tried to teach us how to write."

I: "She started it right away, did she?"

E: "Well, it wasn't very much; it was scribbling on paper, really. And we drew pictures, and that was lots of fun, so when we went home to lunch, I wanted to go back again.".....

I: "Yes, I can remember going home at recess and making believe I thought that was the end of the day."

E: (laughing) "Say, that's a good way to get out, isn't it?".....

I: "Tell me more about your memories of when you were real small, Wanda."

E: "Oh, I don't remember much. (becoming reticent) All I remember is how we used to go to school. I can remember how we used to play before we went to school. I really haven't many memories from then.".....

I: "You didn't go to kindergarten then?"

E: "No, I went to first grade. They didn't have a kindergarten where I went to school.".....

I: "Say, that jacket you have on is a good idea, isn't it?"

E: "I think it is for weather like this. When it's cool you can wear it at work, and it's nice to wear home at night. It isn't bad to carry if it's too hot.".....

I: "You're feeling real quiet today, aren't you?"

E: "Yes, it seems like I haven't anything to say."

I: "Well, that's all right, Wanda. You remember what I told you the last time. (Pause) We certainly had a good talk last time, didn't we?"

E: "Yes, that's the way it goes. Why, last time I talked so much; I didn't know enough to stop, and this time I haven't anything to say.".....

I: "Maybe the next time you come down you'll have a lot to say again."

E: "Yes, you never can tell."

I: "Well, that's the way I want you to feel about it. That's the way it goes with all of us. Sometimes I feel that way myself. I'll go to see someone and I'll feel like talking all the time sometimes, and the next time I won't feel like saying anything."

E: "Yes, that's the way it is, isn't it? I guess I'm kind of sleepy today. I didn't get to bed early last night. You know, that's the way I am. If I don't get enough sleep, it shows up in my face right away. Honestly, I get green in the face."

I: "You look kind of tired today, don't you think?"

E: "Yes, a little bit."

I: (laughing) "But I don't notice the green."

E: "It seems like I just have to get enough sleep. I can't go more than two or three nights running, without making up for it. Maybe if I would get used to it, I wouldn't need so much sleep.".....

I: "But you've never given it a trial to see."

E: "I'll get tired and then I'll go to bed to make up for it. Well, in our family everybody goes to bed early, and you know, if everybody else goes to sleep I don't like to sit up alone. So lots of times I go to bed about 9:00 o'clock, and then that spoils you. Now if I didn't go to bed until late every night, I'd be all right, I suppose. But I just have to catch up every once in a while.".....

I: "Well, I'm glad you're taking the interviewing like I want you to."

E: "Maybe after while it will be different."

I: "Sure, I think so. You have to get used to everything. After while you'll know more what I want, and I'll know more what kind of questions I want to ask, too. I never interviewed people more than once or twice before, and we'll all have to get used to it."

E: "Oh, I'm sure we will."

I: "Well, I hope so. I wouldn't want you to make too hard a job of it. I just want you to take it like you feel."

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MILWAUKEE

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

September 18, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 6.

E: (After a long pause) "My, the weather is a lot better, isn't it?"

I: "Isn't it?"

E: "It's nice and cool today.".....

Employee is very quiet this morning, though not unfriendly as in the first part of previous interview.

I: "I suppose you wondered why I didn't see you before, Wanda. I had some trouble with my arches, and I had to see the doctor. Then I had some other things come up, too, that I was busy with.So I had to give you a vacation."

E: (laughing merrily) "Yes.....I guess it's two weeks since I saw you, isn't it?"

I: "Yes, I guess it is.".....

E: "Say, I remembered today to bring down that wood to show you. (Here she took a piece of wood from her pocket) See, this is it. I don't think it is perfumed, do you? Because I had a bigger piece - when you split it, it splits way down, and when we broke it open, it was stronger than ever inside."

I: "You mean you don't think it could have been soaked in perfume?"

E: "Yes, that's what I mean."

I: "No, you would think that the perfume would wear out, wouldn't you?"

E: "Yes, I think so.".....

I: "I suppose this came from somewhere in the tropics."

E: "Yes, that's where it's supposed to have come from. I don't know what kind of a tree it is, though. I used to keep it in my purse, and when I would open my purse, it would smell so sweet. Now I keep it in my handkerchiefs, and they smell real nice."

I: "It might be that the sap of the tree has a perfume that gives the wood an odor, but I don't know."

E: "It might be that. Cedar has a smell, too. Of course, it isn't like this.".....

I: "Do you like the smell of cedar?"

E: "Yes, I like it.....My mother has a cedar chest at home. She has a great big one. She keeps the quilts in it, and things like that.....Then, it has another box on top, you know, it fits right on the top."

I: "Oh, like a tray?"

E: "Yes, it's a tray. She keeps her doilies and things like that in there.".....

I: "That's pretty handy, isn't it?.....Is it the kind with the cedar lining or all cedar?"

E: "That one has just a cedar lining. On the outside it's walnut. Then, we have another one that is smaller. That one is all cedar. We keep our swimming suits in there.....I have never had anything eaten by moths, but a lot of people say they're terrible. I hear people talking about them all the time.

"You should have seen the bugs in our house last night. You know, in that cool weather a couple of weeks ago, my mother wanted to wash the kitchen and dining room windows on the outside, so she took off the screens. She said to me, 'Shall I put them back on?' And I said, 'Why do you want to put them on? Maybe it will stay cool.' And then it got real hot. Last night we had the windows closed down in the basement - we eat down in the basement, see - and I said, 'Oh, it's so close with the windows closed.' So they had to be opened, and, you know, somebody left the light on upstairs. Somebody was reading, and you should have seen the bugs in our house. They weren't in any of the dark rooms. Just in the lighted one. It took us the longest time to catch them all. I guess we finally got all of them. But it took an awfully long time. Some of them were great big things. There was one with white wings with big black spots on."

I: "Do you mean a bug or a moth?"

E: "Oh, they were all moths. You know, the big kind that lay the eggs. They don't live very long, I guess, do they?"

I: "I don't know what the length of life of a moth is."

E: "I don't know either. I wonder how long they live....I think bugs are interesting. I'd like to know more about them.....Of course you have to be careful of moths, though, don't you?"

I: "I was reading in a magazine last week, of how you could build a cedar closet - then you can hang things in the closet instead of laying them in a chest."

E: "How would they do that?" (Interviewer explains.) That would be a good idea.....I was reading in a magazine one time about how you should put all your things in a closet, that you use during the winter time. Your quilts, and everything like that, and then you seal the door up. You should past paper all around the cracks in every place.....Of course you'd have to use a closet that was some place where it wouldn't be seen. It would look funny in a bed-room if you had it all pasted up."

I: "Is that all you had to do?"

E: "Well, I suppose you would have to put moth balls in." (laughing)

I: (laughing) "I was just thinking that if you didn't, the moths would have a grand time."

E: (laughed heartily) "....."Say, did you know that today was Miss Chambers last day?"

I: "Yes, I heard it was."

E: "I think it's too bad that she has to go. It would be different if she had a family here, but she hasn't anyone.....It would be different if she could get a job.".....

"I wonder what is going to happen this winter. They say it will be a terrible winter. Why, last year they used to tell about people going between buildings and building a fire to keep warm. Things don't seem to be picking up either, do they?"

I: "Well, there doesn't seem to be any sign of it around here, does there?"

E: "I'll say not."But there are so many people that are out of work. It's pretty hard for those. Why, there's somebody coming around all the time. There was an old man came around in our neighborhood asking to mow people's lawns for five cents. There are lots of people that are always coming around for little bits of work that they can do for you. Of course, it wasn't that man's fault. He wanted to do anything.".....

I: "Did people give him much work?"

E: "Well, most of the people gave him money without giving him any work.....There were two young fellows came around the other day and wanted to know if there were any furnaces to clean. I don't know whether they got any furnaces to clean or not." (laughing).....

I: "Are there many furnaces in your neighborhood, or are there a lot of stoves?"

E: "There are not so many stoves left any more. They are all going out more and more.....Gee, do you remember when we used to have stoves, though? We would all sit around in one room trying to get near to the stove.".....(interviewer tells anecdote about getting burned.).....I remember one time when my father and mother were gone, there was a glass of water standing on the stove. The water was boiling to beat the band. Nobody noticed it at first, and then finally somebody saw it, so I got a big piece of cloth to take it off. We were afraid that the water would boil away and then the glass would burst and then fly all over and hurt somebody. I folded the cloth a lot, and I don't know what happened, the glass must have hit cool air and that broke it. The water didn't spill anywhere, but there was hot steam all over my hand. I hadn't even picked it up, yet. I had these two fingers all burned, and part of this third finger. I didn't even notice it at first. The kids noticed it at first and then I saw it and then it started to hurt. When my dad and mother came home, they put all kinds of things on it."

I: "Oh, you hadn't put anything on it."

E: "I don't remember, but it was funny. I don't know where all of the steam came from. Just all of a sudden the water was boiled away.".....

I: "And you didn't even lift it up."

E: "Well, I just started to lift it up and then the glass broke."....
.....(yawned)

I: "Is that the way you feel?"(laughing)

E: "I don't know why I do that." (yawning again).....

I: "Did you ever sprain your jaw when you yawned?"

E: (laughing) "No, I never heard of that."

I: "I've done it two or three times. If I yawn real hard, something snaps and then it hurts for two or three days."

E: "You want to look out. You'll be scaring me. When I go to yawn I'll be afraid I'm going to sprain my jaw. (laughing) You know, I've got a knee that cracks funny. Every time I go to kneel down in church, it cracks real hard. I feel so embarrassed. I guess maybe I don't kneel down enough, huh?"

I: "Maybe you don't kneel down to say your prayers enough"
(laughing)

E: "Yes, I do that every night, and it cracks once in a while then. But every time I kneel down in church it cracks. It's so quiet you know, and it'll make such a loud noise. Every time I kneel down I know it's going to crack, and it does. It makes me feel so cheap.....

"You know, this morning when I was coming in to work, I was down on the fourth floor. I heard something drop behind me. I didn't look back, because I was just afraid something had fallen out of my lunch. Oh, I was so angry!. I wouldn't look around. I walked right along as if nothing had happened, and if a girl didn't go and say to me, 'You dropped something. I think you dropped your peach.' And I said, 'Oh, that's all right.' I hurried on and I could hardly wait until I got into the test room. And just when I was punching my card, if another girl didn't have to go and say, 'You dropped your peach.' (laughing) You know, I was so mad. You know, when I wrapped up my lunch this morning, there was only one sheet of paper there. It wasn't double and it dropped out.".....

I: "Why were you angry, Wanda?"

E: "I don't know why I should feel that way. (laughing) Isn't it silly? I couldn't help it that the fruit dropped, yet I was so angry that I could hardly wait until I got upstairs. There's no reason why I should feel that way.....Like the little boy and girl in the story book. They went to take their father's lunch to him in the woods, and they dropped something on the way so they could find the way back.....I don't know what story that was in. They got lost in the woods."

I: "Wasn't that Hansel and Grethel?"

E: "I believe it was. I don't remember the rest of the story."

I: "Isn't that story where the mother didn't like the children? Maybe it was the step-mother and they dropped crumbs on the path into the woods so they could find their way back?"

E: "Oh, yes, and the birds ate them all up so they couldn't find their way back.....Maybe it was some other story. I don't remember.My, how I used to love fairy stories."

I: "Did you?"

E: "Yes, I loved to read them. I used to read them all the time. Didn't you like them?"

I: "Yes, I read them a lot, too. Were there any in particular that you liked best?"

E: "I can't remember what ones. I liked them all.".....

I: "Did you read them until you were very old?"

E: "I don't remember just how old I was when I stopped reading them. I must have been about ten years old.....Why, you know, right now I believe I would enjoy reading some of those..... Wasn't it funny? They all ended the right way." (laughing).....

I: "And then they were married and lived happily ever after." (laughing)

E: "Yes.....(speaking under her breath) I wonder if things will turn out like that in our lives."

I: "What was that you said?"

E: "I was just thinking how much they aren't like real life..... In real life when you get married, that's the beginning of all your trouble, they say.".....

I: "There's a lot of it, isn't there?"

E: "I'll say. Those stories weren't very much like real life."

I: "Do you think that in real life it's never true that people are happy after they're married?"

E: "That's what you always hear.".....

I: "I'm always interested in what people have to say about that. I know some people who say that they don't know anyone that is happy after they're married. I'm just wondering if it's really true."

E: "Well, I don't know. I can think of a few people that are happy after they're married.".....

"I know a girl that got married, and she's a lot happier now than before. But that's an unusual case, because she was real unhappy when she was home. She had a mother that was mean to her and she never had anything that she wanted.....Now, she likes her husband pretty well. She has about everything she wants.....So why shouldn't she be happy? She hasn't anything to kick about.".....

I: "Wasn't it you that was telling me about the girl friend that married a man who was telling her to go out with other men?"

E: "No, that wasn't me. It must have been Theresa. She was telling me about a girl friend of hers whose husband told her that."

I: "Oh, that's right. Say, don't tell her I mentioned that, will you, because I was thinking it was you."

E: "All right, I won't tell her. I guess she didn't like it.....
I guess some girls like it all right, though.".....

I: "Do you know any who do?"

E: "Well, yes, I guess some of them would, because some of them
tell me that married life ties them down so. I guess they'd like
to go out, if they say that.".....Are you going to see Bea this
afternoon?"

I: "I don't think so."

E: "She wanted to know."

Additional Material

E: "Wouldn't it be terrible to get a bat in your hair? I know
when I went in the woods one time the fellow said that to me."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

September 24, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No.7.

I: "I'm sorry to have kept you waiting."

E: "You didn't keep me waiting. I didn't get down here right away. I wanted to finish the lay out I was on. I only had five more relays to do before the lay out was changed, so I stayed and finished them, so Bea could change the lay out while I was gone."

I: "Well, I am glad you did."

E: "If I didn't do that, I would have to change those five relays when I went back and then Bea would have to change the layout and --"

I: "It would have wasted a lot of time, wouldn't it?"

E: "Yes, you know we have the layout on a tray in front of us there. There are a lot of little baskets on the tray for all the different parts and Bea had to change the tray."

I: "You mean she had to take the parts out of each place and put in others."

E: "Well, she just changed the trays, see. She just took one away and brought another."

I: "Oh, I always thought those were all fastened together and stayed on the bench."

E: "No, they are separate for each one and when we finish one layout, she just changes the tray for us.".....

I: "About how many parts are there to most of the relays?"

E: "Oh, there is a different number for each relay, but it is about thirty-five. Somewhere around there."

I: "That day Mrs. Lovekin was up at the test room, ~~and~~ she asked me that, and I had never ^{asked} asked that before, so I told her about forty." 1

E: "That was a good guess. You see, in the test room we count the pins. Out in the department, they don't count the pins.".....

I: "How do you mean?"

E: "Well, you see you have two pins to put in and put out again, and it takes quite a little time to lay them down and everything when you figure it all up. You see they keep figures of how many piece parts you turn out, and when you count the pins, it makes about forty or forty-two."

I: "That's interesting. I like to know all about the details on these jobs because that is the only way I can find out about them."

E: "Yes. (Interviewer's last remark seems to make employee resistant. Up to this point she has talked very freely, but for most of the rest of the interview is spent in long periods of silence.).....My, it is cool today, isn't it?"

Discuss weather for some time.

E: (Yawning) "I don't know why I get sleepy every time I come down here."

I: "Do you?"

E: "Yes, I get so drowsy.".....

I: "Of course most of the time you have come down the weather has been very hot."

E: "That's right too, but today it is very cool."

I: "Maybe we will have to allow a little while to get over the hot spell."

E: "Yes, that's true, we might. When the weather gets cool it usually gives you a lot of pep.....I could go right to sleep."

I: "It is too bad I don't have a morris chair down here or a couch so you could be comfortable." (laughing)

E: (laughing) "Say, if I did that, I would go right to sleep. (employee brightens up for a few minutes.) Maybe I would talk to you in my sleep then." (laughing)

I: "(laughing) "Say, that's an idea."

E: "I tell you what you could do then. You could take a hold of my big toe and hold that and I would answer anything you wanted to ask me. You know they say that if somebody is asleep and you grab a hold of their big toe and pull it, that they will answer any question you ask them. They will talk right out in their sleep. All you have to do is grab a hold of their big toe. I wouldn't like to do that. I would be kind of afraid. I wouldn't want to take a hold of anyone's big toe and make them talk. It would be so spooky.....(interviewer tells funny

story of sister who used to talk in her sleep.)

E: (laughing) "That must have been funny.".....(employee says nothing for over five minutes.)

I: "You're feeling quiet today, aren't you?"

E: "I know it. I haven't anything to say.....You know during my vacation I had a talking streak. It seemed like I talked all the time. I talked so much to everybody, even to people that I never knew before. They were even strangers, too. I talked to them just like I knew them. I don't know what was the matter with me that I talked so much then. You know when I meet them now they want to know what is the matter with me. They want to know why I am so different than when I met them. I don't know why I am so quiet lately. I just don't feel like talking. Sometimes I just like to be alone. When I feel that way, it makes me angry to have to talk.".....

I: "Do you feel that way too?"

E: "Yes, sometimes you meet people and they try to make you talk. It makes me so angry when they do that. If I don't feel like talking, I don't want to talk. Sometimes I have things in my mind that I want to think about, and I don't want to talk.....You know when I have things that I want to think about I like to get away and go for a walk all alone. I don't want to meet anyone that I have to talk to.".....

I: "I do that sometimes too. I go over in Jackson Park and walk.Do you have a park near you?"

E: "No, I just have to talk in the neighborhood.".....

I: "I suppose it is kind of hard to keep from meeting people you know, too."

E: "Yes, you know a lot of people in the neighborhood."

I: "They would be apt to talk to you if you felt like it or not."

E: "Well, I guess so. (lamely).....I didn't know I wasn't going to talk when I came down here today. I didn't think I would be so quiet."

I: "That's all right with me. You know what I told you.....I think it is all right when you don't talk with people that you feel comfortable with, don't you?"

E: "Yes, if they understand why you are quiet. It makes me angry when they try to make you talk. Sometimes I will be with friends and they will not feel like talking, but I won't know if it is me or not. I will say, 'Is there anything wrong?' They will say, 'No,

there is nothing wrong.' Then I go ahead and keep quiet as long as I know nothing is wrong, I don't want to talk to them if they feel that way because maybe they have something on their minds to think about. Maybe they have troubles of their own. I just like to let them alone. I don't like to be with people that try to make you talk.".....

I: "I know some people like that too. They want to talk all the time and sometimes I like to be quiet. On my job, you know, I have to talk to people all day long, so sometimes in the evening, I don't want to say anything."

E: "No, sometimes you just like to stay quiet, don't you? I like to be with people that are comfortable when I am quiet. If they know you, they don't care if you are quiet.".....

I: "Maybe you would feel more like talking in the morning, Wanda?"

E: "Usually in the morning is the time when I feel quiet."

I: "Is that so?"

E: "Yes, you would think that in the morning you would talk most wouldn't you? Maybe I would have more to say in the mornings, I don't know."

I: "We might try it for a few times and see. Maybe right after the lunch hour when you have something to eat and drink."

E: "We could try it and see.".....

I: "You haven't dropped any more peaches, have you?"

E: (laughing) "To think that you would remember that! You know I was going out to lunch that day, but I just thought I would bring a peach or two. My mother usually wraps my lunches up, but I did it up that day. I guess I was lazy and I just grabbed a single piece of paper. My mother always does it up real carefully. I didn't even bother to tie it up, or put a rubber band on. I just folded it up and ran off because I was in a hurry. I just took a little that day because I was going out."

I: "That's right. You have to pack your lunch for two lunches, don't you?"

E: (indifferently) "Yes, I usually eat a little then. Everybody usually eats a little at nine thirty."

I: "Oh, don't they always bring a lunch?"

E: (indifferently) "Yes, they usually do.".....

I: "Well, our time is more than up, Wanda. I had no idea that it was so late."

E: "Yes, we didn't do very much talking either. That's funny, isn't it? Usually the time drags so when you don't talk."

I: "I guess we both must have felt like being quiet."

E: "I guess that must be it, because otherwise at least one of us would feel uncomfortable. Well, maybe next time I will feel like talking."

I: "Well, don't worry about it if you don't."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

October 1, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 8.

I: "Well, I almost met you right outside, didn't I?"

E: "Yes, I saw you crossing the street but you just weren't looking my way."

I: "I guess I must have been thinking about something else.....
I guess I was thinking about how good it feels to walk today.
I was telling you the trouble I had with my arches, wasn't I?"

E: "Yes, I believe you were." (Interviewer tells of going to doctor for arch supports.)

E: "Yes, I imagine that would make you feel kind of funny. It would make your feet kind of wobble when you walk and that would feel uncomfortable. You know I've been having a lot of trouble with my feet. See those shoes. (employee is wearing low-cut, high heeled, imitation lizard slippers. Her insteps are badly swollen and are taped at the top of the slipper.) I had to put some tape on my feet because they were cutting so. I like to wear them but they make my feet swell. They don't make them swell if I just wear them a little while but if I wear them a week then they swell terrible. I've got some other shoes to wear to work but they're so big. You know you don't like to wear them when they get that way. I just don't feel right in them. (employee goes in some detail as if defending herself for wearing the shoes)

"It all started like this. I danced all night in some shoes and then the next morning they were the only shoes I had to put on, and you know my feet were swollen so that I couldn't get into them because they were new shoes, and after dancing all night you know how your feet swell anyway, and then I didn't get much sleep and I had to get up early in the morning, and I hadn't rested my feet enough so that they would go down and so I just had to put them on. My feet were too big for them but I didn't have anything else to put on so I had to put them on, and when I got back from church I was nearly dead. Did I feel terrible! Well, that was how it started you see. They cut in and then I put them on anyway when I went to church."

"Oh, no, this was the way it happened. I was staying away from home and so they were the only shoes I had to wear. I slept with my girl friend and so I had to put them on to get home and then I stopped at church on the way home and by the time I got home were my feet terrible! Well, from that time my feet started hurting me. It got so bad I could just hardly walk. I guess it would have healed up all right but then I put these shoes on and they cut into it some more and I wore them to work. Maybe they'd be all right if

I wore those other shoes of mine down. I suppose they'd heal up right away but you know I don't like to. I feel terrible in them. You know you can tell by looking at them that they're too big for me. I just don't feel right in them.....But I really ought to wear shoes like you've got there, oxfords. I know that those are what I should wear to work. I wouldn't have any trouble with my feet then, but you know I never used to have any trouble with my feet at all. I could go out and dance all night, even with new shoes, and my feet would never bother me a bit, but I think it must be on account of my wearing those shoes when I really couldn't get into them. You know it got so bad after that that I just had to rush out for a pair of shoes in the neighborhood. I just could hardly walk any longer and I couldn't wait. I usually get my shoes at Berman's.".....

I: "Is that on the west side?"

E: "Well, they have several shops in the city. They have one in the loop. I've always bought my shoes there but you know the last shoes I got there, they haven't fit me at all. Well, I finally got a pair that did, but for a long time, they just won't fit me right.

"You know, (indignantly) those shoe men are just terrible! It doesn't make any difference what you say to them they won't give you the size shoe that you want. They are always fitting me in something that I don't want. They always give me shoes that are too long and too narrow. Now you take these shoes, I think the trouble with them is that they are too narrow. My foot isn't long, it's short but it's not narrow, and they always try to give me a long and narrow shoe. Why in pumps you can't do that, you know. They slip right off at the heel. The last pair of pumps they gave me, I could hardly keep on my feet. I don't know why, they always get you to take shoes like that.....You know you can't tell, when you're just sitting down and trying them on. Then you wear them a little while and you walk around and your feet swell you know. Of course they don't so much in the cold weather but in the hot weather they do, and it seems to me they ought to fit your shoes for that. They make me mad.".....

I: "If you can't tell when you go in if they're going to fit when they're swelled a little, I wonder if they can always tell if they measure your foot and give you a shoe that size."

E: "Well, they ought to be able to. My feet aren't exceptional. I don't think they swell any more than anyone else's but everyone's do a little bit but they just fool you every time. I tell them the size that I want and then they don't give it to me."

"Like when I went in to get these shoes I told them I wanted a four and a half but I think I am supposed to take a C width, I think is it, and he gave it to me narrower. What can you do when they do that? I was afraid before I went in that he might make me take pumps because if I saw pumps I would fall for them; so when I went in I said to him, 'I don't want any pumps and don't let me see any because if I see them then I'll fall for them. I don't want to see any pumps at all, just show me slippers! (laughing) So in that way I got slippers but they're too narrow. They do that to everyone. Why my girl friend got a pair of slippers there that split on her. That shows they're too narrow. She took them back and he said, 'Well, I'll give you another pair of shoes for them. Shall I give you the same kind?' She said, 'Look here, these shoes are too narrow. You always fit me with long and narrow shoes and my foot is short and wide. I want something that fits my foot.' You know you can tell if it fits you. Why that one that they gave her almost fell off her foot but it was too narrow across because it split. Well, you know the way I happened to get shoes to fit this time was that I happened to go in there when she was there. I met her there. The fellow had just got her shoes fitted. He asked me what kind I wanted and I told him I liked hers and he said all right, he'd get me some like them, so while he was gone I tried on hers and it just fitted exactly. You know our shoes always did fit each other but lately she's been saying to me, 'Your feet must have got bigger. Your shoes don't fit me any more,' so when he came back I said, 'I want one exactly like hers, the same size and everything. It just fits me,' so then he gave them to me and that is how I got fitted.".....

I: "You got one on him that time, didn't you?"

E: "Yes, you just have to watch them fellows but you never know when they're going to fool you.".....

I: "When he came back first didn't he bring you a shoe just like hers?"

E: "No, he brought an entirely different style but I got what I wanted."

I: "Isn't there some way you could be sure of what they're giving you?"

E: "No, I tell him that I want a four and a half C but what are you going to do if they don't give it to you. You find out later it isn't what you asked for at all."

I: "Can't you tell by the numbers inside?"

E: "No, they've got numbers inside but that's a long number and I can't tell anything by it. Can you?"

I: "Yes, I always tell by the inside of the shoe."

E: "I don't see how you can. It's just a long number. It doesn't mean anything to me."

I: (taking off shoe) "Well, this has the size right in here, see."

E: "Well, yours is written real easy. Mine is different than that. It just has a long number. It has several of them. How could you tell from that?"

I: "I used to get shoes that were marked like that and I remember they marked different ways. In a five and one half shoe it might have a long number like 38455 or it might have 3845 $\frac{1}{2}$. It might have 55, you know like decimals that you learn in school." (employee nods) Only they don't put the point it. Or they may write out the half."

E: "I never noticed that. How do you know which one it is?"

I: "Well, what size shoe do you wear?"

E: "Well, in this kind of shoe I take a four and a half. In a slipper or pump it is a four and a half, but if I take an oxford all I need is a four a little wider. I can't wear a four and a half in an oxford. It's too long."..

I: "Well, if you know about the size of your shoe you can look for some number that ends in four or it might be 45. There is always some number that represents the size."

E: "I'll have to look for that next time, but I don't know if I could read it. I wish there was some way I could be sure."

I: "Couldn't you ask him to show you how they mark there?"

E: "Say, I could do that! The next time I go there I'll do that."

I: "Then you would know before you left the shop.".....

"Of course they say that you don't take the same size in every type of shoe."

E: "Oh, yes, that's right of course. I have to have a longer slipper than I have an oxford, but when I get this kind of shoe I can tell him I want a four and a half, and if I want an oxford I'll make him give me a four. I'm going to do that.".....

"It's not that I care what size shoe I wear. I am not that way. It's just that I want it to fit my foot. I wouldn't care if I had to have a ten in order to make me feel comfortable, but you know a shoe isn't comfortable if it doesn't fit your foot.".....

"Of course I know this isn't the kind of shoe to wear to work. I don't know what makes me wear it. I know I should wear those others even if they are bigger. I could wear these shoes sometimes you know but it is just if I wear them steady for more than a week that they hurt me. I could wear them for a couple of days or even a day and they won't hurt me. I guess I'll have to do that. I could wear them down at least a day every week and then the rest of the time I could wear my other shoes. I don't know why I wore these down today. I should have known better. I'll just have to give my feet a good rest and get them healed up. You know if I wear oxfords to work my feet are all right. Then I can wear these in between, at least for a little while. I could wear these for an hour or so in the evening. Then I'll only wear my pumps when I go out dancing, if I do this year. You can't wear slippers for dancing can you?"

I: "Well, my feet are so flexible that I almost have to. You always wear pumps, do you?"

E: "Yes, I always like to."

I: "Why do you like them better than slippers?"

E: "Oh, I think they're more dressed up, don't you? I feel better in them. I don't really feel dressed up unless I have pumps on.I'll have to get myself some more slippers for going out." Then I'll have my pumps for dancing. My feet won't hurt me at all if I let them heal up now and just wear this kind of shoe in the evening.".....It isn't so bad on this foot (right) but this one (left) is the one that bothers me. It is interesting (thoughtfully) how people's feet are different sizes, isn't it, and the hands too, I suppose. (looking at her hands) I think it is interesting."

I: "It is, isn't it?".....

"Have you ever noticed the two sides of people's races?"

E: "Yes, we were noticing that up in the test room the other day. We were sitting there at noon talking about it."

I: "You mean with your photographs?"

E: "No, we were just looking at each other. It sure is funny when some people are so different on one side."

I: "Did you ever notice your lips when you were putting on lipstick?"

E: "Yes, they're higher on one side than the other."

I: "Yes, I noticed that too. I wonder what the fellows would say if they knew we had to put our lipstick on that way to even it up." (laughing)

E: "I don't think the fellows would notice anything like that, do you?" Say, I know of another embarrassing moment that happened the other day to tell you about. I thought of it and was going to tell you because I thought you might be interested. You know there was a lady over on X Street who went to the grocery for a loaf of bread and she got the ready sliced and you know she had it under her arm and she was going down the street and she wondered why everybody was looking at her. She looked at herself and she couldn't see anything wrong and yet everybody kept looking at her and finally somebody said to her, 'Lady, I think you're losing some of your bread,' and she looked around and here all the way down the block there were slices of bread laying." (laughing hilariously)

I: "Say, that's a good one, isn't it?"

E: "I'll bet she was as embarrassed as I was when I dropped my peach. She said she never again was going to get ready sliced bread, that she would slice her own bread after that."

I: "Did you see this happen or was the lady telling you?"

E: "No, I was reading it in the paper. They told about it in there."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

October 9, 1931.
Operator No.4.
Interview No. 9.

E: "I hurried down real fast because I thought I was going to be late. I almost went up and apologized to that girl out there because I thought it was you. (laughing) Instead I have to apologize to you."

I: "No, because I just got here."

E: "Are you going to ask Anna down this afternoon?"

I: "Yes, I am."

E: "I was just wondering if you were."

I: "Well, I got held up this week because I had to work on some things for my boss a while day and I couldn't have anyone down."

E: (pleasantly) "Well, that is good. You can have Anna down this afternoon and it will be all right."

I: "I figured I could get caught up today."

E: "Sure, that will be good.".....

Employee seemed to have nothing to say.

I: "How are your feet, Wanda?"

E: "Well, I wore those old shoes of mine and they were all right. Then I got a nail in them and I had to wear something else, and now they are all swelled up again."

Employee has on high heeled kid dress pumps.

E: "I had to wear these this morning. I really have been wearing those tan ones I had on last time and they didn't bother me, but when I put them on this morning, I could get them on, but when I stepped on them, it hurt me so. I thought I had better not wear them, so I put these on. My right foot foesn't hurt me, but I can't put my foot all the way in with the left foot."

I: "Oh, you can't step on it flat then, can you?"

E: "Yes, I step on it."

I: "Oh, it doesn't make you limp?"

E: "Yes, it makes me limp. Of course I can't put my full weight on it."

I: "That is what I was thinking."

E: "Yes, I wore those old shoes of mine that I had dyed and they were all right but I had to go and get a nail in them. Have you ever heard that you get blood poison if you wear shoes too soon after they're dyed? I was reading once about someone that died that way. It said you were supposed to wait a week."

I: "Do you think it would affect everyone that way? Some people get poisoned easier than others."

E: "I guess it's just those that are weak that way. I know I've done it lots of times. I left my dark shoes home for my sister to fix the other day and she didn't take them to the shoe maker like she should of, so I had to wear these today. They had a nail in and when I tried to take it out, the inside part all came out. It was wet out and I guess that is what made the inside part come out. You know the shoes have been dyed and the nail kind of made a little hole in my foot. I was so scared when I looked at it. My stockings were all black and it was bloody too. When I took off my stocking, I could see the hole in my foot. It was all black. I was so scared, but I washed it with water and it came off. It wouldn't come out of the hole. I kind of dug around in there but it wouldn't come out, so I put iodine on and it has been all right. When I wore my black shoes to work the other day, I went home a cripple. I had some old shoes that are real comfortable that I wear around the house. I always keep old shoes when they are comfortable, so I can wear them around the house."

I: "You couldn't wear them to work when you sent the others to the shoemaker?"

E: "Oh, no! They were too old! but I always wear them around the house, I don't have to wear these when I am at home. The other day when I went home a cripple I put my feet in cold water and then I put my salve on. When I go home and they hurt, I always do that and they feel pretty good. I did that last night but then this morning I could hardly get any shoes on. They were so swelled up..... I picked the scab off of these last week and you know when I went home after wearing those black shoes, it looked just as though there was a blood blister under there."

I: "Was there one?"

E: "Well, it looked that way. There was blood underneath. It was just fiery.You know they say if you let one sore come on top of another that way, you are apt to get cancer."

I: "Do they?"

E: "That is what they say. Didn't you ever hear that? You know they say when you get hit real hard, you get cancer too."

I: "Yes, I have heard them say that, but I don't know if it is true."

E: "I guess it is just when you get hit real hard?....."

I: "Maybe it is like you were saying about people who get blood poisoning."

E: "Maybe that is it."

I: "Maybe it would effect some people more than others."

E: "Yes, I am always hitting myself. You know they say lots of things. You hear people saying that about cancer."

I: "Yes, I know it.".....I guess they don't know much about the cause of cancer, do they?"

E: "I can remember reading about it in high school and I guess they didn't know much about it then.".....

I: "And I guess they know quite a bit more about it than they did a few years ago, don't they?"

E: "Yes, I suppose so."

I: "I have a brother-in-law who studies cancer. He is what they call a bacteriaologist, he studies germs. And I don't think they know much about it."

E: "No, I guess not."..... (Employee seems to have nothing more to say.)

I: "I was going to tell you, Wanda, I was down to the Library the other day and I saw a book on moths. Do you remember when we were talking about moths a couple or weeks ago? You said it would be interesting to know more about them. Well, I thought I would get the book. Here it is. (Marcy C. Dickerson, Moths and Butterflies) I looked it over and thought it was real interesting. It isn't hard reading, you know. It is written for somebody like you or me that has never studied moths and butterflies. This introduction is written for people who have studied them, but the rest is real interesting reading." (Interviewer goes through different sections of the book with the employee, pointing out things of interest and looking at the pictures.)

E: "That looks very interesting."

I: "I didn't know, but I thought you might like to look at it."

E: "Could I take it out?"

I: "Yes, if you care to, you are quite welcome to it."

E: "Yes, I would like to. Then I could get it back to you the next time I see you. I think it will be real interesting. You know when we first moved out to where we live, there weren't very many houses there and people had gardens. They had a lot of flowers and they had vegetables too and there were all kinds of butterflies and all kinds of caterpillars. I can still remember a lot of them. Of course there are more people there now and you don't see so many of them, but I can still remember them. And the moths (enthusiastically) there are so many of them. Maybe when I read about them, I will find out more about them so I won't kill all of them. Then there won't be so many to go after. You know I have to kill them all because I don't know. Maybe now they will get their lives saved. (laughing) When do you have to get the book back?"

I: "Not for two weeks.".....

E: "Say, how do you like the weather we have been having. Isn't it cool?"

I: "Isn't it?"

E: "Last night it was quite cold, wasn't it?"

I: "Yes, I was quite cold on the way home last night."

E: "They say we are going to have a hard winter this year. Everybody says that, haven't you heard it?"

I: "Yes, that is what they say."

E: "I think it must be so, because look at the weather we are getting now. You know that nice cool weather that we had last week, well it is supposed to be that way all during October, I think."

I: "I guess it is, isn't it? You know I can't tell much about the weather yet because I have only been back here two years and last year it was so mild and the year before that it was so severe."

E: "Well, I guess we are going to get a hard winter all right. Remember that blizzard we had last year or was it year before last?"

I: "It was the year before last that we had the bad storm, wasn't it?"

E: "Well, we had one last year, don't you remember? I remember it was terrible on a Saturday. It was so windy. It snowed real hard all Saturday and the girls couldn't come down to work, but I walked to work, so I was there alone."

I: "Wouldn't that be funny to be in the test room all alone?"

E: "Well, it wasn't exactly alone. Some of the girls walked to work too."

I: "I was wondering about Bea and the inspector before Josephine. I wondered if you meant them too."

E: "I think Bea was there that day if you were on the "L" you could, but the other girls couldn't come down. Then I think I had a cold. Yes, I remember very clearly now. Then I had to stay home from work when they came down. It was funny. (laughing) I remember there was so much snow on Sunday that I couldn't go to church and you know I never miss church on Sunday, but I couldn't go through snow up to my knees to make a path.....But I suppose coming from where you do, you wouldn't think much of that."

I: "Well, you know we used to have an awful lot. Sometimes we would have five feet of snow in the back yard."

E: "Just imagine that! And I suppose you like it."

I: "Yes, when we were kids, we used to go out and wade in it."

E: "Well, you probably don't think anything of the storms around here then even when they have a lot of snow, but people around here make an awful fuss. They don't want to go out in it.".....

I: "Well, I guess our time is up."

E: "Yes, I guess it is. (picking up book) Say, if you need this book before I see you next time, I will send it down by one of the other girls."

I: "No, you don't need to bother because this can be out for two weeks."

E: "Well, I suppose you want to go inside this morning, don't you? You will be too cold to go outside."

Employee seemed reluctant to leave.

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RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

October 15, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 10.

Employee is very quiet at first.

E: (Smiling) "You know it was the funniest thing about that book. You know all the pictures of caterpillars there are in there? Well, Sunday afternoon I was reading it and those pictures made me feel so funny. It makes me kind of sick. Well, I thought I would put it down for a while and get over it, so I made some fudge and then when the fudge was done and I took some of it. I sat down and I thought I would read that book again and honestly, I kept seeing those caterpillars all over. I could see them all over the fudge. It was just as if they were really there. Why you know I couldn't even eat it. Of course I don't like bugs and I guess that is the reason, but you know they were so life-like in there."

I: "You mean the pictures."

E: "Yes, and it seemed as though I were seeing the real thing all over my fudge. I put nuts in the fudge and everytime I bit on a nut I thought I was biting a caterpillar. (laughing and grimacing) And yesterday I brought it down to work and I thought I would read it. I was eating an apple and you know I started seeing caterpillars all over that apple. I couldn't even eat it. I would think to myself, 'Now I won't look at those pictures.' I would keep reading and seeing them anyway. Then I would look at the pictures of the butterflies and try to forget about the caterpillars, but I couldn't. I never could stand caterpillars. The girls were razzing me about it something terrible. It was so funny. We had a lot of fun. I said, 'Do you girls want to know something about caterpillars?' 'They lay their eggs about five or six at a time, and then about twenty little caterpillars will come out of them.' Then they would start talking and they tried to talk louder than I did. They would try to talk so loud that they couldn't hear what I was saying and I would try to talk above them. (laughing) We had a lot of fun.....They were razzing me when I was eating my apple. You know the seeds in it were black and I saw them there and I didn't think of it. They said, 'Look out. There is a caterpillar on your apple.' I said, 'You can have it.' That was enough for me!I have always been afraid of caterpillars. I was scared real bad by a caterpillar once when I was real young. We had a big tree in our yard and it was full of caterpillars, and one time when I was playing under it, one of them fell on me. I was so scared, I wouldn't touch it. I yelled so loud my mother thought someone was killing me. I couldn't stand to touch it myself and I ran to her to take it off of me. Oh, I screamed like everything. I was so scared of that caterpillar. I have never liked caterpillars."

"There was a corner house near us that had a big tree and it was just full of those caterpillars. Why they were even crawling all over the home. When I would go to work I wouldn't go past there because I would be afraid that one of those caterpillars would fall on me. The tree was just full of them. You know there were a lot of trees on the way to work and I don't like to go on streets where there are a lot of trees. Even now I would be afraid to go past that corner home for fear that one would drop on me.....Of course I don't like bugs, but I am not afraid of mud turtles. My brother had a couple of them. He kept them in the back yard and put some mud in the bottom and kept them there for quite a while. I would go out and play with them every once in a while. One of them snapped, but the other one didn't."

I: "Did it ever snap any one?"

E: "No, nobody ever let it. They would just play with it with sticks. They would take little sticks and poke at them, you know. When you would go out there, they would come to the top."

I: "Oh, they kept them in a pail of water."

E: "Yes, they had them for quite a while. Did you ever hear of turtle soup?"

I: "Yes.....But I never ate any."

E: "I never did either. I imagine it would be quite good. We make soup out of chicken and everything.".....

I: "Yes, and clams.".....

E: "Yes.....I don't know why I should be afraid of caterpillars. Some people aren't afraid to touch them.".....

I: "Yes, some people think they are just soft and velvety to touch."

E: "Velvety! That isn't the kind of velvety I want! I would rather have something hard and rough.....You know I didn't feel that way when you read it to me. That didn't make me feel funny at all. It was just when I read it myself and saw the pictures of the caterpillars.....The sun is shining kind of bright today, isn't it? We haven't had any for quite a while."

I: "Yes, it is nice out, isn't it?It is warmer today too, isn't it?"

E: "Yes, it is kind of warm.".....(Employee sits for five or ten minutes saying nothing.)

I: "How are your feet now, Wanda?"

E: "Oh, they are fine. They are all right now because I am wearing these shoes. (employee has on high heeled ties - the ones she didn't want to wear because they were too large) Of course the scab hasn't come off yet, but I can tie these real tight. Then it goes down."

I: "You mean you tie it tight to make it go down?"

E: "Well, it is going away, see. I tie it tight and then it goes down. I will have to tie it even tighter yet because it is going down still more. They aren't swollen like they were, see. My left foot is the only one that bothers me though. The right one doesn't at all." (employee is very quiet for a long time and apparently has nothing more to say.)

I: "You are feeling pretty quiet today, aren't you?"

E: "Yes, I guess I have nothing to say."

I: "That is all right, but I guess if you have nothing else to say, we had better call this all because I am not going to be here this afternoon and I have some things to do."

Before leaving, employee says,

"Well, thank you so much for bringing that book anyway. I looked at the pictures even if I couldn't read it. It was nice of you to bring it."

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RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

October 22, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 11.

E: "I hope we're going to get some more of this weather, because we haven't had very much of it have we?"

I: "No, we haven't.....Did you read in the paper last night what the man at one of the zoos said about the winter?"

E: "No, I didn't see it. What did he say?"

I: "Well, he predicted a mild winter because the fur on the squirrels was so thin that you could see their skin."

E: "Is that so? Well, I wonder if that means anything. Do you suppose they can tell?"

I: "Didn't you ever hear that before?"

E: "No, I never did."

I: "When we were children we used to hear the the Indians told the weather that way. If there was heavy fur on the animals in the fall, they predicted a cold winter, and if the fur was thin it was supposed to be a mild one."

E: "I never heard that before. Do you suppose they can really tell that way? Still, I suppose if it's going to be a cold winter, the animals have to have a lot of fur to keep them warm, don't they?"

I: "I don't know what the weather man would say about that way of figuring the weather.".....

E: "You know, there are some people say we are going to have a hard winter.....because we had such a warm summer. I don't know how much truth there is to that, but you hear.".....

I: "Yes, you hear people say things like that lots of times..... Say, I was reading an article by a geologist, or a meteorologist, I don't know which it was, a while ago. It was about the weather, and he was telling about how people will say, 'Well, the winters are a lot harder than they were when I was a child,' or, 'The summers are getting a lot hotter than they used to be.' He says in a way they are right, because sometimes for a period or ten years or so we may have severe winters, and then maybe for another long period we will have mild winters, so it seems that the weather is getting hotter or colder."

E: "That's right."

I: "He said it seems that way, but really, it's only changing from hotter to colder and back again."

E: "Yes, I suppose so.....Well, it certainly would be nice if we could have a mild winter this year, wouldn't it? There are so many people out of work, and you know it takes a lot of money to buy coal to keep you warm."

I: "That would make a big difference, wouldn't it?"

E: "Yes, I certainly hope it will be warm."

"Say, did you hear about the Company making an appeal to everyone to give money to the poor people - just a few cents a week? You are supposed to sign a card and then you get a button like this." (Displaying her button)

I: "Oh, are those the buttons? Yes, they told us about it yesterday. Did you get one of those letters?"

E: "Yes, we got them. You know I think that's an awfully good idea. What's a few cents a week? You know, you really don't notice it at all. You might just go and waste that, but it might mean a lot to some people. I think that was nice of them."

I: "I do, too.".....

E: "You know, the girls were crabbing about the color. They get so silly up there sometimes. They said they ought to be black and orange because Halloween is coming." (laughing)

I: "Who suggested that?" (laughing)

E: "Somebody said that up there. I don't remember just who it was, but we had to laugh.....I hear you're going to that party."

I: "Yes, I'm going for a while, but I have to leave at seven to get downtown on time for a concert I'm going to."

E: "Well, that's too bad, but you can be there part of the time, can't you? We girls are all going."

I: "Oh, are all of you going?"

E: "Well, some of us. Anna isn't going, and I guess Bea isn't, but the rest of us will all be there." (beaming)

I: "Well, maybe I'll see you."

E: "Yes, you'll be sure to see us. We'll be dressed up."

E: "I wonder what they are planning for us. I imagine it will be rather nice. I wonder if there will be dancing. I suppose it will last quite late, till about ten o'clock, won't it, if there's dancing?"

I: "I suppose so. They have a program planned, then after that is judging of costumes."

E: "Well, if they have dancing, too, it will last quite late."

E: "Well, I've got my feet all healed."

I: "Have You? That's good."

E: "Yes, I took the scab off. These shoes kind of cut in, but when I wear shoes that cut in I put a piece of cloth around my foot and then it don't hurt me." I put it on kind of thick, and then it never cuts in."

I: "Are they all healed up, or is that a little swelling left?"

E: "Well, they stick out when I wear shoes cut as low as this, but my foot is kind of fleshy there. I've got plenty of flesh all over. (laughing).....I'm gaining a lot. I'm gaining as fast as I lost during vacation. I lost so fast, but I'm gaining a lot. I wouldn't stop at the hospital. I could just as well have stopped there, but I didn't want to. (laughing) I'll wait until next week. This is the fifth week, so we go to the hospital next week. You know, it was funny the way I lost during vacation. That first week I ate so much I thought sure I was going to gain a lot, and then the next week I didn't want to eat at all. I figured I must have gained some during that first week, but then I found out that I had lost five pounds, so I must have lost at least that the last week. And then I lost after vacation, too, don't you remember? But now I've started to go up again..... since the cool weather."

I: "Isn't that funny that you should lose so during vacation."

E: "Isn't that funny? I just didn't want to eat at all. I was too busy to eat, I guess, but now I'm going up again plenty." (laughing) Say, have you been noticing the moon? I don't know whether it was full last night or not. Did you notice?"

I: "Well, I remember when Theresa and I were walking over to the other building, that I called her attention to it and it wasn't full."

E: "No, I guess it wasn't. You know, I always watch the moon. I was coming home last night about ten o'clock. You know there are a lot of trees on our street, and to see the moon shining down between the trees was beautiful. Maybe we notice it more on our street

because usually it is dark there. There aren't any lights in the middle of the block, but last night it was so bright. You should have seen it. I like to look out at it from my parlor window. There are a lot of trees out there, and to see the moon shining behind the leaves is so pretty. Last night I saw it behind the trees. I think the moon this month is wonderful. I always watch it - when it begins and when it fades away. You know, it's funny when it's real small it doesn't come up very far and it goes down real early. When it gets full it's up higher, and it stays up all night. Why, last night it just didn't seem to move. Oh, the moon was wonderful in July. (enthusiastically) I never saw anything so beautiful as the July moon, but you know - well, I guess it was all right in August - but I didn't care for the September moon at all. I don't know why. It just didn't seem to mean anything to me. I looked at it, and I didn't feel anything, but this one is beautiful. I don't know why I felt that way about the July moon, but I was just crazy about it.....I was asking the girls if they were noticing the moon, and you know Theresa was so funny. She said, 'My, somebody must be Roman tick.' We had to laugh. When I was talking about it, she said, 'Gee, somebody is getting roman tick.'

I: "You mean she made a slip or she was being funny?"

E: "She said it on purpose, but she said it that way.....Well, I'm afraid it's getting time for me to go back. There are a few little things I have to do."

I: "I suppose you have somethings to get ready for the party, don't you?"

E: "Yes, I have some things I want to do."

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RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

October 29, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 12.

Employee is in a very quiet mood today although not uncommunicative. Much of the time was spent in talking about the weather and the girls' party of last week. Interesting remarks are as follows:

"Say, I thought that Jew was awfully good. You'd think she was a born Jew, wouldn't you? The way she was selling her things. Were you there when Josephine was up on the stage? I don't know how it happened, but she was up there, with the Jew I think it was, acting silly and she didn't know the Mike was turned on. I've forgotten what she said, I think it was, 'Hail, hail the gan's all here' and it just shrieked out. All the girls had to laugh though. Gee, she was funny. Didn't she cut up though? That was a nice lunch we had wasn't it? I had coffee. I don't like milk."

I: "Say, did you see the moon Sunday night, Wanda?"

E: "Sunday night - let's see.Yes. I saw it about eleven o'clock. It was real bright and did you see it Saturday night?"

I: "I don't remember."

E: "Well, let me see. It was Saturday night that it was so beautiful. It was just so bright and when it came out from behind the clouds on Friday night it was too. I know about eleven o'clock when I turned out the lights I looked out the window and it was out real bright. Before that it had been behind the clouds. Saturday night when I was going down the street I was going right towards the moon, and it just sort of stunned me it was so beautiful. But did you notice it Tuesday night? It just didn't seem anything to me at all. I didn't have any feeling when I looked at it. I don't know why it should be that way. Sometimes I will come down to the test room and say, 'Did you see the moon last night? Wasn't it beautiful?' and they'll say, 'Oh, here comes the Moon girl.'"

I: "So that's what they call you."

E: (laughing) "Yah. They think I have something to think about. (derisively). But you know I always watch the moon. Now did you notice last week about Thursday? It was coming up about four o'clock and Saturday it was about six o'clock. Now towards the end of this week it will be about eleven o'clock and now it will

start getting smaller too. You know I never noticed that before. I just thought it got full and then it disappeared, but it doesn't do that. It starts real small and then it gets back to where it started. I watch the moon all the time now.".....

I: "Did you notice how it was Sunday night early?"

E: "I saw it later when it was bright."

I: "Well, I never saw it look like that before. It was about five o'clock and it was a little bit dark, but the moon wasn't bright enough to send out many rays, and you know it looked just like a bright ball hanging up in the sky."

E: "I have noticed that too. I think Tuesday night early it was like that. I like it when it's that way. It's that way before it gets real dark and the moon doesn't send out any rays. You know I like to watch the moon. I think it will be fun to watch the moon in the winter time, don't you? I always notice it, but sometimes it looks so cold to me. Whenever I get outside the first thing I say is, 'Oh, look at the moon,' and then I'll say, 'I don't like it. It's a cold moon,' and people will say, 'Cold moon. What do you mean?'"

I: "I've been watching it more since we were talking last time. You know how I was telling you last time there are so many tall buildings around where I live that I've sort of gotten out of the habit."

E: "Yes. You can get out of the habit, can't you? (laughing) Well, you know I have all of my friends looking at the moon! (laughing) I'll ask them about the moon and then they'll say they didn't notice it and then they'll start looking at it and then they all get interested in it."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

November 5, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 13.

Employee seems to be in a pleasant mood this morning, but not very talkative. Time is spent in silence and in trivial remarks about the weather, etc. Interviewer makes same explanation as to Operator 3 on previous day regarding function of interviewing in improving industrial conditions; confidential nature of interviewing; need for continuous interviewing; supervisors' training, etc.

I: "I guess that is about all I have to tell you. Are there any questions you want to ask me?"

E (Who has been rather indifferent to interviewer's story.)
I don't think I have anything to ask you. It is just that there isn't much to say. There is not much happening right now."

I: "That happens lots of times, doesn't it?"

Employee laughed.

I: "As I said before, I expect that. (casually)....."

"Well, how is your moon getting along?"

E: "Oh, I haven't been looking at the moon all this week. I just haven't thought to look at it. It is getting real small now though. Last week and it was just a quarter moon."

I: "As I was sitting reading last Saturday night, I caught a glimpse of the moon out of the window, but the shades were down and the book I was reading was too interesting to leave and then later I couldn't see it." (laughing)

E: "It came up late on Saturday. There isn't any now. There will be one about the sixteenth of seventeenth.....For a long time now it has been the seventeenth, I have watched to see. The last time it came it was the sixteenth, so I suppose it will be the fifteenth this time. It comes a little earlier.....but for a long time there, I know it was for three months I watched it and it came on the seventeenth every time. Isn't that funny?"

I: "(laughing) Maybe it got delayed."

E: "I know it did that for three months, but I think it will be the fifteenth this month."

I: "I wonder if that is what it shows on the calendar."

E: "Yes, it is down there.".....

I: "How are your feet getting along?"

Employee is still wearing high heeled low cut shoes and one foot has a bandage on it.

E: "Oh, they are all right now. I still keep that bandage on there so it won't cut in because I had these shoes soled."

I: "Oh, and they are a little tight now."

E: "Yes, these are the shoes I had dyed and they get my ankles dirty."

I: "I always get mine a little dirty though, don't you?"

E: No, I don't unless they are dyed. How are your arches now?"

I: "They are just fine now. I haven't had any trouble with them for a couple of weeks. (etc.)

"Say, I have about decided something, Wanda, and I want to tell all you girls about it. I think I am going to have to interview all of you in the mornings some weeks and in the afternoons other weeks. Like last week, I had to see you all in the afternoon. This week I will have to see you all in the morning. I think I will have to keep on doing that - I am not quite sure yet."

Employee looks agreeable but says nothing.....

I: "There is something else I think I am going to change. How would you like to be interviewed inside now so that we don't have to go outdoors?"

E: "That would be nice."

I: "I have the use of a room now near our office. I thought maybe with bad weather coming, that it would be better."

E: "That would be nice."

I: "Would you really rather have it up there?"

E: "Well, I don't mind it outside, but it is rather a long walk."
(making a face.)

I: "Don't you like to walk?"

E: "Well, I like to, but I get plenty of walking. I walk to work and home again and that is a lot of walking and then around where we live, there aren't many places close, I get a lot of walking done there. It is three miles to work and home again. You know when I come down in the morning I will be real warm because I got all warmed up from walking and the other girls will be so cold with winter dresses on and I will just have a summer dress on, but you know pretty soon I will get cold. I guess it is just because I get warmed up."

I: "That must be it."

E: "I think it would be nice to be interviewed inside. Then we wouldn't have to put on our wraps to come down here."

I: "Well, it really doesn't make any difference to me, so if you would rather be interviewed inside, we will do that. In the winter time it might be snowing or blowing or raining some time when I want to see you and it wouldn't be so nice coming down here."

E: "No, it wouldn't."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

November 24, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 14.

Employee seems to be in a genial mood this morning, but reflects changes in interviewer: when interviewer is vivacious, employee is also; when interviewer is quiet, employee is quiet. Discussed weather at some length.

I: "How is your moon getting along?"

E: (laughing) "I haven't been watching it lately.....I noticed it last night, but I didn't think it was nearly as pretty as it was last month? Did you see it?"

I: "Yes, I saw it last night. There was a ring around it, wasn't there?"

E: "Well, you know it was changing so much last night. First it was behind a lot of clouds and then it had a ring around and then later it was real bright. It was funny it changed so.".....

Theatre

E: "We are going to a theatre party on Friday night. Some of the girls are going, not all of them. We decided to go to Strange Interlude."

I: "How did you happen to decide to go to that one?"

E: "Well, I'll tell you - it was this way. You have to go at five forty-five you know. Then you go back again at nine o'clock. You go out and have your dinner in the middle of the show. (laughing) We just thought that would be something different.".....

I: "You ought to get your money's worth, hadn't you?"

E: "Yes, and we are only paying a dollar. We are getting half rate tickets. Mr. Chipman got them for us. You can get a lot of those down at Hawthorne Club. He came back one day with tickets for the Blue Ghost and Girl Crazy and Unexpected Husband. Oh, there were a lot of them."

I: "Did you go to all of those?"

E: "No, we didn't go to all of them, but he brought up the tickets so we could if we wanted to."

1. Romance

E: "Did you see Joan Crawford and Clark Gable at the Chicago?"

I: "No, I haven't seen that."

E: "That is a wonderful picture." (in a romantic voice.
Picture - "Possessed" - has been described in newspapers as
"full of passionate kisses - hot stuff.")

Unemployment

E: "You know we are only working four days a week now. That makes a lot of difference. We get about six dollars a week less than we did and it is more than ten dollars a week less than we used to get when we were working full time. Why that makes a difference of over forty dollars a month."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

December 11, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 15.

Employee seems to respond very well to interviewing in new conference room. She is quite loquacious today.

Re-Conference Room

E: "Say, this is going to be pretty nice, especially in the winter.....You know if it was bad out, we would have to put on our galoshes and everything.....And it isn't hard to get here."

Weather

E: "Say, didn't you like that cold weather we had last week? You know, the days that were clear and bright. I like it like that. It makes me want to get out and walk."

I: "Does it make you feel that way too?"

E: "Yes, I am not one of those people who are arraid to get out even when it is real cold. I just put on more clothes and walk faster. I never like to wear too many clothes though. I would rather walk faster and make up for it. I don't like to wear galoshes."

I: "You don't? Why?"

E: "Oh, I don't know. They are kind of heavy. I don't like anything heavy on me. Of course you have to be careful not to freeze yourself when it is real cold. I did that once. You remember that storm last year when it came on a Saturday afternoon?"

I: "Yes, I remember that." (telling something about it)

E: "Well, you know I didn't mind that at all. I just put on my coat and ran over to my girl friend's, but you know on Saturday afternoon when it is cold like that, I always like to do the shopping because my mother doesn't like to go out."

I: "Yes, I know. My mother is that way too."

E: "You know when you get older you don't like to go out when it is cold like that. Well, I was going shopping on Thirty-first and we live on Twenty-first and I could have taken the street car but I thought it would be a nice walk, so I walked over there and I walked back, but when I got in, my mother said, 'Now you aren't going out, are you? You had better not, it is too cold.' I said,

'Sure I am going out.' She said, 'You had better not. Look at your nose.' Sure enough, it was all white and it started to swell right away when I got in the heat, so my mother put some alcohol on it. Of course we used some snow first, and you know after that I had to be so careful when I went out. I had to put something over my nose. You know, when you freeze yourself you have to be awfully careful if the weather is real cold and keep it covered up, so I would hold something over my nose. I would try to do it so nobody would see me, but my friends got wise to me. They would laugh at me. (employee relates most of story hilariously and interviewer joins in laughter) They laughed at me for holding my nose. You know it is funny when you come to think of it to have to hold your nose, but every time I went out I would have to hold it. (etc.) I didn't use a little handkerchief. I used a big handkerchief and I folded it up and held it over my nose.

"I froze my ears once too. I didn't know they were cold. I didn't feel it but they were all swollen and they commenced to feel sore.".....

Family

E: "Say, weren't you surprised the other morning. Let's see. When was it? Wednesday when it snowed? There really was quite a bit of it, wasn't there. You had to wear your galoshes. My mother came in and called me and she had gone up in the attic already and had gotten my galoshes and brushed them off. I said, 'What do you expect me to do, wear those things?' She said, 'Don't wear them then. Go out and see.' I went out and then came back and got them."

I: "You mean you started to work but you came back?"

E: "Well, I didn't really start. My mother had it swept off a little ways and I went out and you could see how deep it was. You could see where the dog had stepped in the snow and it was quite deep, but I didn't mind walking in the snow, except coming to work. I don't like that. I don't know why I don't like to come down here."

I: "I wonder why that is?"

E: "Well, I guess that is because there isn't any path. I have to make a path for myself and the boots aren't very high. You have to bring an extra pair of stockings and you have your purse and your lunch to carry. (etc.)"

I.R. 2-11-31 Cont'd.

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4-15.

Complaint on Hospital Trip

E: "Say, did you hear we went to the hospital last week. I suppose you heard we aren't getting any more coffee."

I: "Yes, I heard that."

E: "We said we weren't going down any more. They told us that the lady got laid off, but we asked the nurses and she said she was still there. When we came back, we told Mr. Chipman that we saw the lady and she asked us when she could make the coffee. We told him she had the table all set. One of the girls even said there was ice cream on the table for us, but you know we were laughing so. We tried to stop but one girl would say something and then we would all laugh and then another one would chip in and we made a whole story out of it. I guess we didn't take him in. He said that maybe she had a lot of work to do. We said that they were just trying to cut expenses."

I: "Do you think that is the reason?"

E: "I suppose it is. You know we have had that for a long time now. I guess they spoiled us. (laughing) But you know they have done that ever since we went down there."

I: "Ever since the first time?"

E: "Yes, and that is a long time to get used to it. We used to have such a good time down there. Everybody would be laughing so much, but now we are real quiet. When the doctor took our blood pressure, it was real low. She asked us why it was and we told her it was because we didn't get any coffee." (laughing).....

Theatre

E: "Have you seen Girl Crazy yet?"

I: "No, I haven't seen it."

E: "Well, you will have to go to the Oriental."

I: "How is that?"

E: "Well, they are moving it down there." (etc.)

I: "Say, you've been to see the Strange Interlude, haven't you?"

E: "Yes. We all enjoyed it."

I: "Let's see. You and Mary and Bea went, didn't you?"

E: "Yes, and there was another girl." (This girl was Mary's sister, but employee does not say this.)

I: "That was Mary's sister, wasn't it?"

E: "Yes.".....

I: "So you really liked it."

E: "Yes, we enjoyed it very much. You know it started at a quarter to six, I think it was."

I: "Yes, you were telling me about that."

E: "And then you got out about eight."

I: "Were you gone for an hour?"

E: "Until nine fifteen, I think it was. We didn't get out until after eleven. We wouldn't move. We were so interested in what they were saying. The acts were real long and we wouldn't even move because we were afraid we would miss some of it. Their voices were real good.....All the girls liked it."

I: "They really did, did they?"

E: "Yes, they liked it.".....

I: "I was interested to find out what you thought of it. I know a lot of people were shocked by it."

E: "Well, of course they talked real plain."

I: "They didn't mince their words, did they?"

E: "No, but we all liked it. We were real interested in what they were saying. We didn't want to miss a word."

Attitude toward Interviewing

E: "Say, do you remember how I coughed the first time I came to see you down there. I haven't had one since." (first interview was six months ago.)

I: "Was that the first time you were down?"

E: "Yes, that was the first time. It seemed like I just couldn't talk. I guess maybe that was because I got out in the cold air."

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I: "Well, I guess we will have to call this all today, Wanda. I would like to see Anna before the whistle blows."

E: (In a decisive but not antagonistic voice) "Gee, that will cut down our percentage an awful lot."

I: "Will it?"

E: "Yes.....When one person goes, that cuts down your percentage." (Trying to explain in a confused way.)

I: "I understand that it doesn't make a bit of difference as long as Bea's time goes in. I know how it is, if Bea isn't given credit (laughout operator) because when one is gone, that means that only four girls are supporting her."

E: "Well, I don't know. I guess that is it. There are only four of us working."

I: "When we get through with one round, Bea's slip is supposed to go in. We'll have to find out about that."

E: "Well, you like to have a little extra money for Christmas presents."

I: "Why of course. I don't think it would be fair to make you girls lose out when we are asking you to cooperate on the study. I wouldn't think of doing that. Is that the only thing you object to about taking two in one day?"

E: "Yes, that is all. We just thought it cut down our percentage."

I: "Well, then if I ask Chip and find out for sure that it doesn't make any difference, it would be all right to take Anna this afternoon?"

E: "Sure, that doesn't make a bit of difference. We don't care about that. It is just that we thought it cut down our percentage."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

December 23, 1931.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No.16.

Employee is very quiet this afternoon. For the entire hour of the interview she says practically nothing although interviewer introduces various topics. In explanation she says:

"It is a sleepy day, isn't it? It must be the weather. I didn't eat much lunch and I had plenty of sleep last night, so I don't see what else it could be."

Theatre

I: "Say, I didn't get to see Girl Crazy yet. Is it still here?"

E: "Yes, you know I told you it was going to the Oriental? Well, it is there this week instead."

I: "I thought it was there last week."

E: "Well, I hadn't read it myself. I heard the girls talking about it and I thought it was going to be.".....

I: "Have you been to any good movies lately?"

E: "No, I haven't been to one for a long time.".....

I: "I didn't get to see Possessed yet."

E: "Oh, I saw that down at the Chicago. (in a slightly superior tone.)I think that is the last one I saw."

I: "Did you see Eddie Cantor in Palmy Days?"

E: "No, I didn't see that one."

I: "Did you ever see him in anything?"

E: "Not in the movies. There is a program on Sunday evenings. I forget just when it comes and it is Eddie Cantor. Last Sunday evening he was saying that this year people would have to hang up spats instead of stockings. (laughing) I like him." (enthusiastically)

The Moon

I: "Have you been noticing the moon lately?"

E: "Yes, I have been noticing it quite a bit. It was nice last night. There has been a new moon. It didn't show for three or four days. It has been so cloudy, but it was beautiful last week and last night it was real beautiful too."

I: "Was it clear when you saw it?"

E: "Yes, it was real clear."

I: "When I saw it, it was real cloudy and I think there was a ring around it."

E: "Yes, the girls were telling me there was a ring around it, but I didn't see none.".....

I: "Are you noticing any difference in the moon than it was when we talked about it last Fall?"

E: "How do you mean?"

I: "Don't you remember you were telling me about how some months it was so much more beautiful than other months? You said you were going to watch it during the winter and see how it was then."

E: (rather indifferently) "Well, I have been watching it..... During November it wasn't so much, but of course the October moon we were talking about was real beautiful."

Unemployment

"There is a family in our neighborhood that need help. Two of them got pairs of shoes last week and another one got shoes this week. Don't you think that's pretty good?"

I: "That is, isn't it? I suppose they needed them real badly?"

E: "I don't know. I suppose so, but you know they get lots of things. You know they get coal every month and lots of groceries.".....

I: "Where do they get those from?"

E: "I don't know. I guess from the city."

I: "It isn't the United Charities?"

E: "No, I think it is from the city. I guess it must be the county. The county gives coal and shoes.....And they get a quart of milk every day. Just think of that! And you know some of the groceries they get they wouldn't think of getting for themselves. They get

potatoes and lots of things. She is working too."

I: "Does she work full time?"

E: "Yes, I didn't think they gave anything to people that worked. She is working in a hospital."

I: "If she did cleaning or something like that at a hospital it wouldn't necessarily bring in very much, would it? She wouldn't get over twelve or fourteen dollars a week."

E: "She irons their uniforms for them or something like that."

I: "That ought to pay pretty well, hadn't it?"

E: "Yes, that is what I think, and they get three fifty a week from the church. Why say they are doing better than they ever have. It makes you wonder because I thought they weren't giving money to anyone that worked." (Employee goes on in this vein for some time. Interviewer tries to bring out point that among so many families to be taken care of, there would always be some who would take advantage. Employee agrees with this.)



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

January 7, 1932.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 17.

Employee is very lively and talkative today.

Leisure Time in Relation to Holidays

I: "Well, it is a long time since I've seen you."

E: "Yes, it's two weeks."

I: "It seems longer, though. Doesn't it?"

E: "Yes, there have been too many holidays, haven't there?
I don't like so many of them. You can't keep track of the
time.".....

I: "When Saturday comes it seems like Sunday, doesn't it?"

E: "Yes, you don't know what to do with yourself. Your work
is mostly done because you cleaned up before the holidays and
you haven't anything to do but to go out all the time.".....

I: "Yes, I suppose your mother gets it all cleaned up before
hand, doesn't she?"

E: "Yes, and there is hardly anything to do. Of course you
go over things a little bit on Saturday and there is nothing
to do but to go out.".....

I: "Now some people would like that, wouldn't they?"

E: "Yes, I suppose so. All you do is "go someplace, go
someplace" all the time. It wears you out!..... "

I: "I had a very quiet time.....Well, I did go to two shows.
I went to see Private Lives and -----"

Movies

E: (Interrupting conversation continuing from above) "I heard
that is funny! (Critically)

I: "Did you?"

E: "Yes, I can't imagine them playing in that picture! They
always play in such -----refined pictures, you know. I
can't imagine them in one that is funny."

I: "What did you hear about it?"

E: "Well, I heard you had to laugh. They were pulling each other." (laughing)

I: "Yes, they pulled each other's hair. She broke a record on his head." (laughing)

E: "Yes, wasn't that funny? I can't imagine her acting that way.

"But you know in a way I think it is a good thing they changed her part. I have been getting kind of tired of the parts she has been playing. A lot of people have. I don't know, in the last two or three pictures I have seen her in, I have felt that way."

Interviewer tried to get employee to describe what it is that she doesn't like, but employee seems unable to make it explicit or is evading. Other test room operators have indicated a dislike for the sensuousness of some of Norma Shearer's pictures. This is probably what employee is referring to.

Attitude Toward Change

E: "Isn't it funny, no matter what happens, you don't like it. The way they made her pictures before we didn't like and now that she has changed we don't like it."

Participation in Movies

E: "I went to see Delicious. That is the cutest show. That is Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell again, you know. They are so cute together. I was crazy about that movie. You know it is funny when I go to a movie I just forget where I am. I laugh with them and I will feel everything like they do. Why sometimes I catch myself and I think that people around me will think I am silly. I will be laughing away, you know."

I: "You mean when you go to the movies by yourself?"

E: "Yes, and when I go with other people too, I won't be talking to them at all. I won't be paying any attention to them. You know how you just feel that you are there and you are feeling everything and hearing everything, just the way it is in the picture." (very confidentially)

I: "You know I am inclined to feel that way too."

E: "Isn't it funny?".....

Taste in Movies

I: "You must like the movies then if you reel that way about them."

E: "Well, no, I really don't care for them much. Of course I like to see a picture like *Delicious*. I'll tell you, I like pictures if they are real sweet, but I don't like to see things too often. I will go to one and I will say to myself, 'Well, now you have had enough of those. You needn't go again for a long time' and then after a while I will go to another one, but if I go to two or three shows very close together I am fed up. I don't know, I just like to see them once in a while. Of course when I go to a theatre in the neighborhood there, they usually have a crazy movie. You know how they have pictures of cowboys and things like that on Saturdays.".....

I: "Do they?"

E: "Yes, the kids are all crazy about those. My brother thinks they are wonderful. He will say, 'Gee, Buffalo Bill is here. I have to see him.' You know I think they are awfully silly, but I get so excited about them I forget where I am. You know the hero will be hanging over the cliff by a rope and you will hear those horses' hoofs coming along, but I will get so excited I will almost scream. I only go to see those pictures on Saturday afternoon when I don't know what else to do with myself."

As they are leaving conference room, employee says,
"You know it's kind of nice not to have to go back and work after you're interviewed. I like it best the last thing in the afternoon 'cause you don't feel like working when you go back. I'd rather come down at the end of the day."

I: "That's what the other girls have said but I didn't know how you felt about it because you never said anything."

E: "If it's all right with you, I'd rather do that."

I: "Sure we can do that. I've tried to call the other girls down then because they mentioned it to me but you never said anything. I'm glad you brought it up today."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

January 21, 1932.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 18.

Employee seems more unrestrained in her conversation today than she has ever been before - as if she is chatting with a friend. Weather is talked about for some time.

E: "We had a few cold days there, didn't we?"

I: "We did, didn't we?".....

E: "I like them. I like it when it is cold and clear.".....

I: "We miss that storm the weatherman said we were going to get though, didn't we?"

E: "Yes.....And I am glad we did too. I don't like storms."
.....

I: "Yes, you were telling me you didn't a couple of weeks ago."

E: "I don't see anything nice about them.....Of course if you are inside looking at it it is all right. I don't mind it then.".....

I: "Some people like them then."

E: (Surprised) "They do?"

I: "Yes, I was just thinking how some people think they are beautiful to look at."

E: "Oh, yes, they are, but when you've got to walk to work in it, it is not so nice.".....

I: "Yes, it's different when you've got to walk, isn't it?.....
When your feet are uncomfortable."

E: "I don't know about that." (Previous interview employee has said she dislikes storms because she has to carry extra stockings to work) The thing I don't like is that it is so hard to walk. You can't walk so fast." (laughing)

I: "Oh, that's it, is it?"

E: "Yes, you take a step forward and you slip one back. I like to sleep in the morning."

I.R. 1-21-32 Cont'd.

2.

04-18.

I: "Oh, you mean you don't like storms because you have to get up earlier."

E: "Yes, that's it. I like to sleep until the last minute."

Time of Interview

E: "Did I keep you waiting? I took time to finish a couple of relays because I thought maybe I would have to wait for you."

I: "That is all right. I came down right away today. I wasn't delayed."

E: "Well, I thought I would have time to finish a couple of more. I thought I might as well do that."

I: "I don't blame you.....I've been thinking that it might be a good idea if we have a definite time for all of you to leave the test room, then on the days I see each of you, we would know just when to leave."

E: "I guess that would be a good idea."

I: "Sometimes I think I'll have to wait too so I'll do something. If we had a regular time, we would both get here at the same time."

E: "That would be good."

I: "I wonder what time would be best, 3:00 o'clock?"

E: "I think three o'clock would be too early."

I: "What time would you get down here then?"

E: "Well, it just takes a couple of minutes."

I: "Don't you go to the washroom first?"

E: "No, we just wash our hands. That just takes about a minute. We would be down here by five minutes after three.".....

I: "We might watch for a while and see."

E: "Yes, we might do that."

Days Off

E: "We're not coming down on Monday."

I: "Is that something new?"

E: "Yes, we have to take one Monday off and then work for three weeks and then take it off again. I guess the idea is - they want everybody to work thirty-eight hours, so they are going to have us do that.".....

I: "How do the girls like it?"

E: "Well, no one is kicking as long as we only have one Monday off."

I: "That is a lot different than having every Monday, isn't it?"

E: "I'll say. There's a lot of difference!".....

I: "Some people say they like the days off."

E: "Oh, sure! If you've got the money, it is all right, but when I turn in my pay at home, it makes a lot of difference if you get a whole day off."

I: "How do you mean?"

E: "Well, if you don't turn in so much, you don't feel that you can ask for so many things.....Like me, when I don't turn in much, I don't feel that I ought to ask for things that I want.I suppose everyone would like to have the time if they had the money. Gee, you could go to all kinds of shows!".....

I: "Is that what you would do?"

E: (noticed that in employee's last interview, she said she could only stand shows once in a while) Well,.....of course right now there are a lot of good shows in town, but I don't always feel that way!.....

I: "I was thinking about what you said last week about not liking to see shows too often."

E: "Yes, it makes a lot of difference what shows there are to see. Have you see Eddie Cantor and George Jessel?"

I: "No, I wanted to see them but I didn't get there."

E: "Say, that's an expensive show. Eddie Cantor is getting \$10,000 and Jessel's getting \$4,000 a week."

I: "That's a lot of money, isn't it?"

E: (laughing) "I'll say."

I: "How did you like them?"

E: "They were real funny, I laughed a lot. They told such crazy jokes on each other. You know George Jessel has such a big nose and Eddie Cantor said he had a dream the other night that he had George Jessel's nose full of nickels. Wasn't that crazy? (Laughing) Of course they didn't say those things to hurt each other's feelings. They were good natured about it. They would both say things about each other. Then Jessel came out and said that he had a dream the other night that he had Eddie Cantor's eyes and he popped out of bed. They were awfully funny.....Say, how do you like Greta Garbo? Did you see her in Susan Lennox?"

I: "Yes, I got to see that."

E: "I heard she was terrible. I saw her in Inspiration. Jennie and I went to see her. Jennie and I said we were going to give her a break and go to see her in Mata Hari, but even before I saw her, I wouldn't go to see her. You know how the critics talk her up so high. They think she is so wonderful and so marvelous, so I wouldn't go to see her. Even before I saw her, I wouldn't go."

I: "So it was on account of the critics you wouldn't go?"

E: "Well, you know anyone can't be as marvelous as they write them up to be, but finally Jennie and I said we would give her a break. Jennie said, 'Come on, let's give her a break.' We went to see her in Inspiration."

I: "What didn't you like about it?"

E: "That voice of hers! The way she said Andre (employee drags it out in a deep mock tragic voice, making it sound ridiculously melodramatic.) What did she have to go and say it that way for? (laughing derisively) We've been making fun of her voice ever since."

I: "What is it that you don't like about her voice?"

E: "Oh, I don't know. I just don't like her type. I'll tell you who I like. That's Janet Gaynor. Everybody thinks she is so sweet. She plays with Robert Montgomery and they're so cute together. Have you seen any of their pictures?"

I: "I saw them in Private Lives."

E: "They've played in a lot of plays together. I guess Divorcee is the one that Robert Montgomery really made himself in....."

"But Garbo is so - but I won't say any more." (Voice is full of suppressed antagonism)..... But maybe I ought to give her a break and see her in Mata Hari.....I guess I'd be willing to see her in a fifteen cent movie, but I wouldn't think of paying eighty-five cents just to see her.....

"Maybe it is just her type. Frances Kay is the same way. I don't like her either. Did you see Girls About Town?"

I: "No, I didn't see that."

E: "Well, she was in that and honestly in one place she had on a swimming suit and she was so big. She is tall, you know, and she is so flat. There isn't anything sweet about her..... I guess maybe that is why I don't like Garbo.".....

I: "You mean that she is the same type as Frances Kay?"

E: "Yes, I guess she is something like that. She has big feet, you know, and she is so skinny - and not thin, you know, but just skinny, and she never smiles. And she is always alone. But I guess when you are broken hearted you can't help being that way.....Maybe I shouldn't say the things I do about her. Maybe I should say that there are certain ones that are my type.....It's hard for me to say just why I don't like her.".....

I: "It isn't always easy to say why, is it? I'm that way too."

E: "No, it isn't. I really don't know why, I just don't like her. Maybe it is her voice."

I: "What is there about her voice that you don't like?"

I.R. 1-21-32 Cont'd.

6.

04-18.

E: "Well.....It's so rough, you know.....(thought-fully) It's not right for a woman. There's nothing sweet about it.....Well, it's nearly ten minutes after I guess we'll have to get back."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

February 11, 1932.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 19.

Some time spent in desultory conversation about the weather.

Family Relationship

E: "Well, how did you like that snow we had last Thursday?"

I: "Let's see. I don't exactly remember."

E: "Don't you remember when it was blowing so hard. Gee, you could hardly walk against it. My mother woke me up early and she had my boots out already." (laughing).....

I: "Did you get here all right?"

E: "Yes, I got here early. My mother got my brother up and had him bring me."

I: "In the car, you mean?"

E: "Yes, so he brought me down.".....

I: "That was a break for you, wasn't it?"

E: "I'll say so. The kids have to leave real early to get to school. They have to leave about seven o'clock. You see they go to church before school so he took us all where we wanted to go.....And then he called for me to go home, so I liked that snow." (laughing)

I: "You sure did have a break, didn't you?"

E: "He always calls for me."

I: "I thought you walked both ways."

E: "Except lately he has been calling for me. He stops by on his way from work.".....

I: "Would you rather ride than walk?"

E: (laughing) "Yes, it is lots easier. You don't have to make yourself work. You make the car do it for you."

I: "You're kind of lazy, aren't you?" (laughing)

E: "It isn't that I don't like to walk, but you would rather walk when you get home. You know when you have to walk a certain way all the time, you don't like it, but if you go for a walk from home, you can go different places.".....

I: "There is something in that, isn't there?"

E: "Yes, I would rather walk where I feel like walking.".....

I: "Do you have any parks around your place?"

E: "No, there aren't any parks near us.....I do a lot of walking. You know the stores in the neighborhood are real little ones. You can't do much shopping there. Of course mother does the shopping there. You can't do any big shopping in the neighborhood. You have to go across the bridge for that. You know that big bridge over there that runs from Twenty-Sixth to Twenty-ninth."

I: "I don't believe I do."

E: "No, I don't suppose you know that part of town. Well, you know it doesn't seem like a very big bridge to me, but you take a stranger over there and they say, 'My, what a long bridge.' You know it doesn't look that way to me at all. I walk across it so much."

I: "You mean the shopping district you go to is across the bridge?"

E: "And there aren't any big theatres in the neighborhood either. They're just little ones and you don't like to go to them....."

"You know when I am in the loop, there is a certain part of it I always get mixed up in. Isn't that funny? You know where you are perfectly well, but I always think the lake is over at the west."

I: "You mean if you look at the stores and places that you know, that you feel that way."

E: "Yes, but I always think the lake is the other way..... When I get on State Street, I always get mixed up.".....

I: "Sometimes when I come out of a smaller place that I don't know very well or a movie, I will get mixed up on State, but if I look at the bigger places like the Boston Store or Carsons or some of those places, I know where I am at."

E: "Well, I know where everything is and where I am at all right, but still I think the lake is the wrong direction..... The way my mother used to get mixed up when she came out of one of those big stores! She would go in one door, you know, and then come out some different door and she wouldn't know where she was at.".....

I: "Has your mother lived in Chicago long?"

E: "No, my mother never lived in Chicago before.".....

I: "You have lived here all your life though, haven't you?"

E: "Yes, I was born here.".....

I: "Were you born in the same place that you live in now?"

E: "No, it was about two blocks away. I guess my mother couldn't get away very much to get down in the loop. There were too many of us to take care of."(laughing)

I: "Yes, it makes a lot of difference if you have children, doesn't it?".....(Employee has little to say so interviewer decides to participate a little more in the interview) I have a friend who has a new baby and it certainly keeps her in a lot more. They used to go out quite a bit.....Of course she is lucky that her mother can come in once in a while now that the baby doesn't cry so much. For a while it cried from ten to two every night."

E: "Isn't that terrible?.....My sister-in-law has a couple of little girls. They're my nieces, and say, they don't want her to get away anywhere without them. She can't ever get away in the evening because they want to go with her. In the day time she gets away by saying she is going to church. (laughing) But you know those kids are so smart, they hear everything. Sometimes they will be playing and you don't think they know anything that is going on, and maybe a friend of hers will be over and they will decide to go somewhere the next day and then the next day when my sister-in-law says she is going to church, they say, 'We know where you are going. You are going to the show.' She doesn't think they know anything about it. I'll tell you, kids are smart.".....

I: "Are they very old?"

E: "One of them is three and one is five."

I: "Say, they are pretty smart, aren't they?"

E: I'll say.....Last night they were over to my house and I had picked up a little dress for the little one. I wanted to get one for the big one too, but I couldn't find what I wanted. Then I was looking around a little further and then I found another one, so I got two for the little one. But I didn't give it to her until I got something for the big one. I called my sister-in-law into the bed room to look at them. I told Phyllis to take care of the kids while I took her in there."

I: "Is that your sister?"

E: "Yes, so she showed them her valentines. You know they missed us pretty soon and they came running to the bedroom right away and said they wanted to get in."

I: "What did you do then, let them in?"

E: "Yes, but I put them away quick before they saw them. You know you have to be careful not to hurt their feelings because everybody always fusses about the little one more anyway. She feels kind of bad anyway.You know the other day I picked up a little necklace with pearls in it. Just a cute little one with a bracelet to go with it. Of course I had to get two, and you should see how crazy they were about them. They thought they were wonderful and they were cheap little things, you know. You know every time I see them now they say, 'We haven't worn our necklaces yet.' You know how kids are, they always want to wear the new things right away, but that jewelry looks real sweet with summer dresses, so I told them not to wear them with their winter dresses. You know they have long sleeves and the neck comes up pretty high, so I told them I wanted them to save them until summer. Now they tell me every time I see them that they haven't worn them yet.".....

Movies

E: "Did you see Delicious?"

I: "No, I didn't get to see it. It was at the Picadilly last night too, and if I hadn't been too tired I would have gone."

E: "I thought maybe you would tell me how you liked it."

I: "I thought I would be able to by today, but maybe I will next time." (laughing)

E: "I would like to hear what you think of it.".....

I: "Have you seen any movies lately?"

E: "Well.....Not any that I liked very well.....I saw Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.".....

I: "You got to see that, did you?"

E: "Yes, I didn't like it. I didn't think it was very much. Why I didn't even get scared at all. They said it was supposed to be so much, but I didn't think it was anything."

I: "You were supposed to get a big thrill out of it, weren't you?"

E: "Yes, but I am so calm. (making fun of herself.) I wasn't even scared.".....

I: "Let's see. Who is in that?"

E: "Isn't that Frederick Marsh? I think it is. He is really very good looking, you know, but then he drinks something that is supposed to turn him. He is supposed to be terrible then, but you know when you can see how it is done, it doesn't scare you.....That's the way it makes me reel. If I know why something happens, I am not scared..... You know you see him doing it so you know why he changes so it doesn't scare you at all... ..

I: "Does he really look terrible?"

E: "Well, yes, but while it happens, you don't think anything of it.".....

I: "You mean you might be frightened if he had been that way all the time?"

E: "Yes, I think so, but when you see him take that drug, you can't feel that way.

"I saw Sooky." (Indifferently)

I: "Wasn't that any good?"

E: "Oh, that was a swell picture. You ought to see that. I think you would like it.".....

"Say, did I tell you that I saw Rich Man's Folly?"

I: "No, you didn't."

E: "I went to see that but I didn't think it was going to be any good, but it was real good.".....

I: "Who's in that?"

E: "That's George Bancroft. Then right after that my sister wanted me to go to the theatre in the neighborhood. You know we never want to go there and we walked by there and it was Fanny Foley herself and I wanted to see that. They had two pictures there and the other one was Rich Man's Folly."

I: "So you didn't go then?"

E: "Oh, sure we went in. I said, 'Oh, I would like to see Rich Man's Folly again it is such a good picture. They were two good pictures.'.....

I: "Did you have to sit through Rich Man's Folly to see the other one?"

E: "No, we got in just at the beginning of Fanny Foley herself. The other was such a good picture that we stayed to see it all through."

At beginning of interview, interviewer offers employee some gum. During the interview she has a bad coughing spell and interviewer gives her life saver. As she was leaving, employee remarked, 'You know I think that life saver helped my throat. My, I haven't had a coughing spell like that since the first time I was down to see you. Do you remember?'

Employee maintains the same free and easy attitude today that she has in the last two interviews.

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

March 18, 1932.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 20.

Employee talks about a cold which she has acquired and about a funeral she attended yesterday. She is in a rather quiet mood today but seems quite at ease, that is, she talks when she feels like it and sits quietly the rest of the time with no appearance of strain.

Boyfriend

Employee talks about boyfriend for the first time since interviewing began.

E: "You know the other day I had to write a letter to someone and I didn't feel like writing a letter so I made believe I had a cold. I said, 'I can't write much of a letter because I have a cold, but I'll make up for it next time.' And then you know a couple of days later my head started feeling funny and then my nose started running. (laughing impishly) I guess I was getting punished, but you know I didn't want to write that letter and I had to because I had gotten a couple of letters. It was just like I was being whipped. I had to write it and I didn't want to. I don't like to write letters to him unless I just feel like writing because he's so intelligent and he writes such interesting letters that I think I ought to make mine as good as I can. I get a letter from him two or three times a week and at that I only write once a week.".....

I: "It's kind of hard to write letters when you don't feel like it, don't you think?"

E: "Yes, I think it is. I usually say something just to get it written and then he misunderstands and it takes a couple of letters to get it straightened out.".....

I: "This sounds pretty serious."

E: (laughing and sticking up her nose) "No, it's not serious.He just hasn't anything else to do. He writes such interesting letters and tells me all about the place he's in."

I: "Does he travel about, that he has such interesting things to tell?"

E: "Well, no. He's been in one place now for quite a while, but while he's there, he wants to tell me all about what it's like."
.....

T.R. Relationship

E: "You know Anna is gone."

I: "Yes, I heard that."

E: "She's been gone a couple of weeks now. We've got another girl in her place.".....

I: "Does it make much difference when a girl who has been there for some time is gone?"

E: "Yes, it makes a lot of difference.....Of course Anna is real quiet. She doesn't talk a lot and act crazy like some of us loud ones. The new Operator 5 is quiet too.You remember I was telling you I used to be quiet too."

I: "Yes, and I was thinking about that just the other day. I was wondering when it was you stopped being so quiet."

E: "I guess it was when I came in the test room.".....

I: "Right away or after you had been there a while."

E: "Oh, I think it was after I had been there a while, maybe about a year.....Because I remember when they gave those books to us that they had it written down - "Operator 4, very quiet, doesn't say much.".....(laughing impishly) Gee, I wonder what they write down now. I can't figure out how I happened to change. I don't know what made me different."

I: "Did it come gradually?"

E: "Well, I don't know, just all of a sudden I was different.".....

I: "You say some of the girls are loud. Which ones of you make a lot of noise?"

E: "Oh, it's to Operator 5. The first four of us cut up a lot. Why you know even yesterday when I was gone, I planned to come down in the afternoon, but then my head felt funny so I didn't and Jennie says to me, 'Say, I missed you. I didn't have anyone to razz.' And you know when she was sick for a few weeks, things were so different.".....

I: "How about Bea? Where does she come in?"

E: "What do you mean?"

I: "I was wondering if she was one of the noisy ones or one of the quiet ones."

E: "Oh, she's real quiet too. Of course she is not in the test room much, but she and Anna were together more."

I: "How about Josephine?"

E: "Oh, she's a real jolly girl.".....

I: "I could tell that from that Girls' Party. (employee laughs)Do you see her outside of work that you know she's jolly? You said they were all quiet but the first four operators."

E: (Apparently not resenting question as she used to) "Well, you know she comes and talks to the rest of us. It's because she's by a quiet operator that she doesn't have anybody to talk to up there. There is a quiet operator between me and her.".....

I: "Well, what have you been doing with yourself lately?"

E: "Not very much.....Mostly visiting.....I got tired of the shows."

I: "Oh, you got another spell of being tired of them."

E: "Yes. Did you see the 'Champ.'?"

I: "No, I didn't."

E: "That was real good. It was real touching the way he took care of his father. You know, he was a gambler and he would drink too much and his son would undress him when he got drunk."

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

April 21, 1932.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 21.

Employee is quiet at first so Int. introduces topic of weather and they discuss this for some time.....

Time-off:

I: "Well, how is it since things are changed?" (referring to new seven-day-a-month work plan for employees under 8-10 years service.)

E: (earnestly) "Oh, gee. It's pretty bad.....(lost in thought) Of course if you've got plenty of money it's all right.....It's really terrible, you know, only seven days a month, and you know they aren't getting that all over either." (complaining slightly)

I: "How do you mean?"

E: "Well, I guess it does with departments. In some departments it's under eight years, but in ours it is ten."

I: "Do you know anybody in a department where it's only eight?"

E: "Yes, I have a girl friend that works in a department where they only have to take seven days for less than eight years." (still complaining).....

I: "I hear that in a lot of departments they are only working five days a month."

E: (immediately pacified) "Is that so?.....Gee, that's pretty bad.Probably they didn't have enough under eight years in our department so they had to make it ten. That's probably what was the matter."

"It's pretty hard though when you have a lot of things like insurance policies coming around all the time."

I: "Do all of you have insurance?"

E: "Yes. They took it out for all of us kids.".....

I: "How many are there in your family? I've forgotten."

E: "There's seven kids."

I: "That makes nine that you have to pay insurance on?"

E: "Then there is my grandmother too."

I: "And does she have one too?"

E: "Yes, we all have. They're twenty pay life, you know and that mounts up quite a bit. The "life" costs less but you have to keep paying it all your life."

I: "Even after you have paid as much as the value of the policy?"

E: "Yes, it doesn't make any difference. You have to keep paying it as long as you are alive so they figured the twenty pay life was better because us kids were real young you know, and when you paid it up, you could take out half of it."

I: "Can't you take it all out?"

E: "No, you have to leave half of it there as long as you live. You can only take out half of it.".....

I: "How did your folks happen to take out insurance for all of you? Was it for some special reason? (Wondering if it could be for education, dowery, etc.)

E: "No, just to have it so if something should happen. Not that you expect a death, but you would never forgive yourself, if you stopped paying it and something happened...It seems like there is always a bill coming in. You just think you are paid up and another one comes along.....Of course you could stop paying your insurance but then something would be sure to happen."

Funerals:

E: "If someone died you could use the money for the funeral, especially nowadays when funerals are so expensive. You know I had a friend that died not long ago and the money they spent for her funeral! Why they spent over five hundred dollars on the casket and altogether it was over a thousand dollars."

I: "What do you think of spending so much on a funeral?"

E: "Well, I don't like it. Of course when someone died, you want to do the best you can.....but they never know how much you spend on them anyway.".....

I: "If you had a death, what would you do about it?"

E: "I don't know. I wouldn't think it was right to spend that much. Why those friends of mine even went in the hole for it!Of course you like to do the best you can for anyone that dies.....but if the head of the family died, it's pretty hard to spend a thousand dollars, especially if the lady has some children to think of.".....

I: "How do you feel about yourself - if you were to die?"

E: "Well, I wouldn't want them to spend much. I would rather have them keep the money for themselves. I think it's terrible to spend five hundred for a casket when it all goes to rot anyway, doesn't it? (laughing) If they bought a cheap casket, I would be in the same place as the one they put in an expensive casket."...

I: "I understand some undertakers will take care of the funeral for two or three hundred dollars."

E: "Oh, yes, anyone could do that. Some caskets are as low as twenty-five dollars but (laughing) I guess nobody would want to be that cheap, would they?".....

Time-Off:

E: (Cont. from above) "When they told us about the two weeks off we were so disgusted!".....

I: "I suppose you were."

E: "They called us out and told us. Of course we knew it was coming.We were so quiet when we came back. We didn't say a word..... And then we started laughing again. We just thought 'What's the use of being mad - it won't do you any good.'"

I: "Even then it is not as bad for you as some of the other girls in the test room, is it?"

E: "Why not?"

I: "Well, I was thinking of girls who have no one else working like Antionette and Jenny."

E: "Well, maybe they haven't got so much to pay out either. (rather assertively) Like if they are renting a place, they can just let the rent run. If anyone is buying a home, you just can't stop. You don't dare stop.".....

I: "You own two places, don't you?"

E: "Yes, but one of them is not paid for and it costs a lot to keep on paying for them. You wouldn't want to lose your home and taxes are terribly high. Of course they put off the date. I think it is the twenty-second now and they'll probably put it off again because they have serveral times.".....

I: "Will they let you carry a tax over until the next year?"

E: "You have to pay interest.".....

I: "It's pretty hard on people who own property, isn't it?.....
Some landlords can't even collect the rent."

E: "Yes, we've been pretty lucky to have people that are working.
But you have to come down."

I: "You mean on the rent?"

E: "Yes".....

I: "How many are working in your family, Wanda?"

E: "Well, my father is working, and I've got my brother working here."
.....

I: "That's right, you have a brother here, haven't you?"

E: "Yes, he's in the office. He's not making much though. I'm
surprised that he is still here. He hasn't much service."

I: "How much has he got?"

E: "Something around two years.. I'm not quite sure.....But I
don't let it worry my mind." (Up to this point employee has been
more confidential than ever before, but above remark was less so.
She sounds a trifle irritated.)

I: "How do you mean?"

E: (indistinctly) "Oh,.....these things."

I: "You mean having to pay the insurance and the payments on the
house?"

E: "Yes, (lightly) but I'm not the head of the family so why should
I care! I just turn it in."

I: "What do you do now that you have the two weeks off - turn in
less?"

E: (rather emphatically) "Oh, I just turn in the whole thing! I
always do that, and I just ask for things when I want them."

I: "And this way you just have to ask for less?"

E: "I'll say. You can't ask for very much now.".....

(Employee is quiet for a long time. Since it is possible that she is resistant because of Int's. more pointed questions, Int. tries to change the subject by talking about the weather and telling about her gardening. Employee still remains quiet.)

I: "You haven't had anymore of those colds, have you?" (laughing)

E: (smiling) "No.".....

I: "I was just thinking about the cold you told me you got for punishment. (laughing. Employee smiles but says nothing and is quiet for about five minutes) Have you seen any shows lately?"

E: (dryly) "No, I don't see many of them any more. (She is quiet again for a long period, so Int. concludes interview.)

I: "Well, I guess we might as well be getting back, hadn't we?"

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Relay Assembly Test Room
Recorded by: I. Rousseau

May 27, 1952.
Operator No. 4.
Interview No. 22.

Employee is an unusually expansive mood today. She talks very easily and what she says is closer to her intimate thinking, particularly in relation to the test room, than it has ever been. This is the first interview held after the two weeks off under the 7-days-work-a-month plan. Entire interview centers around this fact. Discuss the weather.

I: "Well, what have you been doing with yourself since I saw you last?"

E: "Not very much! All you could do is just sit around the house and do the work there is to do.".....

I: "How did you like that?"

E: "Well, it's the checks! When you haven't got any checks coming in, it's not so nice. Of course you don't mind being home, but it was kind of nice getting back to work.....Of course if you have checks coming in all the time, you wouldn't care about the work.".....

I: "So it wasn't so good to get back."

E: "Well, in a way it wasn't, but it was really nice to get back together again. You know we always razz each other so much. We have more fun. Some days we just get started, and we just keep it up for a long time. We get so silly. You ought to come up and hear us sometime when we get started.....

"But of course you can't laugh all the time.....especially now.....When you've got things to think about (the depression)you can laugh for a while, but then you remember how things are again and then you're quiet. Gee, sometimes we get to thinking about things and we are so quiet!.....

I: "I was wondering about that. That's why I asked you if it was good to come back."

E: "Why yes, it's different when you're around home all the time now. Gee, you come down here to forget about it, but when you're home you hear them complaining." (Int. tries to find out who complains with no success except to learn that it is not the youngest children.) Honestly when I came back I was so quiet I was just my old self again."

"Say, have you heard the rumor going around that they are going to lay off everyone under ten years of service? That's what they are saying in the neighborhood.....Gee, that gets me sore. My folks will hear about it and then they will say, 'Have you heard anything yet?' It makes me so sore. I say, 'Why do you listen to them? That's only what they say.'

"Say, do you know if we have to take off those two weeks before vacation?"

I: "I was wondering about that."

E: "That's what we are wondering about. We don't know if we have to or not. That will be terrible to have five weeks at a time. It's bad enough to have two. Well, the first week wasn't so bad because you had a check coming, but the second one was terrible, but worst of all was not to get any that first week of work. You don't know if we have to take it?"

I: "I haven't heard. Did you ask Chip?"

E: "I don't remember if we asked him or not. It seems to me we did and then we haven't heard anything about it.".....

"Of course if you had a lot of money, you could go places all the time. You wouldn't care so much about work then."

I: "You mean you wouldn't be so glad to come down?"

E: "Yes. Of course we miss seeing each other. Two weeks is a long time to be away from each other when we see each other every day.".....

I: "Didn't you get to see each other at all?"

E: "Let's see - I believe we did get together once. (vaguely)
(E. is withholding information here as Obs. reports a party during the time off.) There isn't much to do. There's just a little sweeping around the house and when you've cleaned up, you're all through. Of course we had the washing one day.

"We had more to do those two weeks than usual, though because my little niece was with us. The little girl that's five has scarlet fever, so she's staying with us. They aren't quarantined, but her father is staying some place else too. Her father came and got her Saturday night to take her to his folks and it was kind of late and he didn't want to disturb us, so she slept over there. Say, when I came in the first thing I said is 'Where is she?' And they said she was over there. Say, the next morning I missed her so, I had to send my brother over after her!"

I.R. 5/27/32 Cont'd.

3.

04-22.

I: "So you like to have her around."

E: "Like to! We're crazy about her. We're going to miss her so when she goes home. Her little sister will be all right in a few days now. Her mother's been taking her out for walks but there's no use of taking any chances....."

"Say, do you know what I did yesterday? I bought a hat for twenty-five cents. One of the girls came down to the test room the other day and we kidded her something terrible because she said she bought one for twenty-five cents, but then I did it myself. Isn't it funny? Why before you wouldn't even look at it. You would pass right by but now it is good enough." (laughing)