

## Emily Davis

**Wayne:** This is Friday, September 24, 2021. I'm Wayne Summers with Judy Williams and we are interviewing Emily Davis. Also present is her daughter, **Holly Phinney**. Why don't we start out by telling us when and where you were born?

**Emily:** Detroit, Wayne County [born July 4, 1920].

**Wayne:** I know your family, I believe, was originally from Clinton County. Is that correct?

**Emily:** My mother and father or their parents?

**Wayne:** Their parents.

**Emily:** My mother came from a county way up north, Rogers City area, and they were German. My dad, actually, he was born here in Clinton County near Elsie. He went to Detroit, when he was of an age to get a job and worked on the railway. It is a railway. They didn't have cars and they went along Gratiot Avenue at Roseville, Michigan. My mother came down to work for her uncle in a bar on Gratiot Avenue and that's how they met.

**Wayne:** How did you end up back in Clinton County? How did your family get here?

**Emily:** Well, that's quite a story because my dad and mother had bought three stores and had a grocery business in Detroit. Then in 1920, an upheaval of funding, and he lost it. He lost everything so in order to have a job that would pay, he had to travel. He was a collector for R. L. Polk & Company. You know what that is. The Polk Company goes around and gets a listing of who lives where and he was a collector for them. My mother went with him and here I was ready to go to school. What's to do? So she said, "Would you like to go to Elsie and live with your Grandma Emily that lives there?" "Yes." I had been up there many times and I always liked it because all the kids would come when I was there to play with me. You didn't find that at Detroit. My grandma was keeping house for her brother and I could live there and I loved Elsie and I still do. I stayed for four years to graduate. My grandma died though, my second year, and what to do? Coach Richards came forth. He knew my situation. He was a very, very prominent coach. He ended up going to Flint as a coach and I could go to his house and take care of his two little children. Then something changed that he had to go. The music teacher, as well, stayed at my house. She had no children but they were just kind. They were keeping me in Elsie to graduate, which I did. Do you want me to continue?

**Wayne:** How old were you when you went to Elsie?

**Emily:** I was a freshman in high school so I would have been what, fourteen or less?

**Wayne:** Do you have any particular memories of Elsie High School when you attended there, things that maybe you did?

**Emily:** Oh my goodness, yes! It was the old high school. There's a new one there now so you had steps you to go up. They were just teaching us to use a typewriter and the typewriters had to be in the hallway because there were not enough rooms. There was an assembly room. What was his name that was the principal? Knight was his last name, Ernie Knight. [E. E. Knight] He's very well-known too and he tried to keep order. Do you want me to tell you anything more about high school.

**Wayne:** Sure, go ahead.

**Emily:** All right. There was a young man in my class named **Roy [Charles] Davis** and he played football. There wasn't much extracurricular. They started a band and he played in the band. I didn't have the privilege of doing these things and he had Model T's that he'd fix up. Those who went to the Sunday School, he'd load us up and we'd drive all over town in it. He was, I thought, pretty nice. Both of us happened to go to the Baptist Church and all the young people in the Baptist Church rallied to do things together. It seemed to work that way, which church you went to.

**Holly:** Do you want to tell them about basketball team?

**Emily:** The basketball team played in the Baptist Church hall. They didn't have a regular place. Well, it was smaller, of course, and people that sat on the edge watching sometimes would have a player right up against their knees. The boys could travel by car with their parents or in a group to play in other towns. There were no buses at that time. When I was at the coach's house, he said, "Emily, if you could find a group of young ladies that would like to play," he says, "I'll get you uniforms and set it up for you." "Okay." So I did and then he would help us out but not much. He was with the boys but the mothers would come forth and take us to different towns. He got us uniforms and that was pretty nice.

**Wayne:** So you were on the basketball team?

**Emily:** Yes.

**Holly:** Want to tell how you played, Mom?

**Emily:** The game then, you couldn't go from one end to the other, dribble to play. You could go halfway and then you had to have someone receive it. That's the way girls' basketball was. We were pampered because we were female, I guess. After I left is when they built a school that had a place that they could play sports. To play football, Coach Richards, once again, was outstanding as a coach. **Theron Richards** was his name. His football players played in a field on the edge of town. You walked from high school to the games and no buses, of course, so as you got there, there were no seats either. You just followed the team up and down the edge of the field. We came in first, and in fact, I think the one year he didn't lose a game and so he was accepted in Flint as a coach.

**Holly:** You want to tell him about the play you were in?

**Emily:** Thank you, Holly. Well, we had plays at the church. Where we played basketball, they built a stage and we had some kind of a play when I was a senior that I was supposed to be a freaky person, hair all over, and I had a candle. I was to go up on the stage, I mean out on where they were, where it was taking place, and wouldn't you know, my hair caught on fire. Well, I dropped my [cane?] and put it out but Coach Richards was in the audience and he came running back to see just how dire that was but it turned out all right. I was kind of dumb, I guess. Thank you, Holly.

**Wayne:** Did you do any other activities in high school then besides the playing basketball? Were you involved in music at all back then?

**Emily:** No. I have no musical ability. Of course, Roy did. He was one of just a few boys that could play an instrument without lessons. They didn't even have lessons. Saturday nights was a big night in town. The young people would gather in groups and go down one side of the street, cross it, come back the other side, cross it, and they spent Saturday evenings that way socializing with the young. Finally, they brought some movies to Elsie. Out behind the fire hall, they had a little space. They set up some benches that drew because movies were something then. Many of us would congregate there and watch probably movies. Of course, they weren't in color. I guess they moved in them.

**Wayne:** Is this when you're in high school?

**Emily:** Yes, All this took place within four years '34 to '38.

**Wayne:** Do you remember when the first movie theater came into Elsie?

**Emily:** There's no theater. I shouldn't say that. They did finally have a theater. They had some seats. I remember you could sit on either side but you had to be careful because the regular floor was there and they built up some seats on either side. Well, if you went to get out of the seats, you'd fall if you weren't careful. They finally did it. I don't know what building was there first. The post office was right next door and then Wooley's Hardware was right on the Main Street. After I graduated, they didn't have really a place for me yet in the fall so I worked for a collection company that was going to collect all the funds that are owed them over a period of time. It gave me an inspiration to go into business school. My dad was able to send me--I think it was five dollars a week--and I put it in the bank there and I had accumulated enough that I felt I could go to a business college. So I did. I went to Cleary College and lived in a house with a lot of other young girls and within a year, I graduated. Do you want me to go on?

**Wayne:** At what point did your future husband and you then decide to get married? How did that go about?

**Emily:** He would come down from Houghton Lake. When he graduated, he couldn't wait to go up to Houghton Lake. His dad [**Albert C. Davis**] was a drainage contractor and he wanted to do this. So his man was **Harold Cook** from Elsie who was very good at teaching and so he taught him to use a crane for ditch digging. The first work that Roy's father contracted for him down here was in Clinton County. Roy, by that time, had enough practice that he could come down here

and do that. In the meantime, I was in Ypsilanti going to school and he'd come over once in a while to see me. We weren't like some young couples, really, that you didn't have other friends or that you saw them every week but enough to know that you cared about each other. Then his dad was approached by International Harvester who said they were getting men to send overseas for the Army to do construction work in Europe and Roy enlisted in that. He went overseas as a soldier and I was there in Detroit working for Michigan Bell. I was in their business office. We were getting closer even though we were very far in distance.

**Wayne:** What years did he serve in the army then?

**Emily:** Well, let's see. I graduated in '38. I would judge '39 to '40.

**Wayne:** Just before the WWII?

**Emily:** No, the war was on. When did the war start?

**Wayne:** '41.

**Emily:** He went in shortly after that. They wanted construction men over in Europe at that time and he was practiced in that. He spent most of his time in France but then the war progressed. Who was the last general that took all the troops towards Germany? General [George H.] Patton, you're right. So he was with the group that went across and they had all this heavy equipment. I remember him telling about what it was like to get in a tank and move forward. The only really close time was on the ship going over. They were bombed. Those boys that were in this International Harvester Battalion were so close all their lives from then on when they came home. We associated with them and their wives. That pretty well covers it.

**Wayne:** After he got out of the war--

**Emily:** The war ended, then he came home.

**Holly:** When did you get married?

**Emily:** He had a furlough before he went overseas and so we were married.

**Wayne:** So all the time he was in Europe, you were married then?

**Emily:** Right, and I was pregnant and here's the result.

**Holly:** How old was I when he came home?

**Emily:** I don't know, Holly.

**Holly:** I was six months old.

**Emily:** You were so that he could play with you. You were just a little bundle. I remember we were going up to Houghton Lake and you were a little bundle and I had to do something and I had to give you to him. He was so uneasy. The sweat was just pouring down his face. "What'll I do?" He wanted to live at Houghton Lake. He really enjoyed his father in particular. His father had remarried. His mother [Hazel M.] was still in Elsie. The first work that his dad was able to get for him was down here. I think it was either Gratiot or Clinton County. I was relieved, frankly. I wanted to live down here and so we got a trailer and his first work was south of town. I remember he did have a problem. The first ditch something went wrong with his crane but he got it fixed. Then he had some more work for him over in this county. It was both Clinton County and he had an uncle that lived down the road on--what is the street, Holly?

**Holly:** Silvers Road.

**Emily:** Silvers Road. Yes. It's down here a mile and so he let us put our little trailer there with our little girl and we built an annex so we a little room onto that.

**Holly:** 17 ½ foot long Airstream.

**Emily:** You know that.

**Holly:** Oh yes, I do.

**Emily:** I was pregnant and I had Alan, my son. We went south one winter. Maybe I'm going on too much. He couldn't work winters so we traveled and we took our trailer and went down south. Where are we going to end up at Houghton Lake, Clinton County, or what? We went to a sort of rest stop. When we came out from the restrooms, there was a man standing by our car and he said, "I see you're from Clinton County." "Yes, and we're trying to find a place to build or that is built that's kinda in the country." "Well," he says, "Right back of me there's a fellow that has forty acres. He hasn't put it up yet but it's going to be. It's north of town." Oh, boy, we rushed home! I remember there was a woman. The man was ill and we talked to her to and she hadn't yet posted it. Roy said, "We would like it," but we didn't have money. So Roy's mother advanced us money enough to make a down payment, and that's where we are. We loved it always.

**Wayne:** Did he become mostly a farmer or did he continue dredging?

**Emily:** No. He never farmed.

**Wayne:** So you had 40 acres?

**Emily:** It's right here and a lot of it is woods and other farmers rent it to use the land.

**Wayne:** So you rented out some of the land that was farmable?

**Emily:** Right.

**Holly:** The uncle that they stayed with in their Airstream trailer was **Earnest Davis**. He had a hired man named, Art Motz. Art Motz and his family and Mom and Dad were very, very close so Art Motz farmed the ground for us for a long time.

**Emily:** We had our trailer in his yard and there was no outdoor plumbing. Even from the house, there wasn't plumbing so we all used the same old outhouse. As I say, my son was born then.

**Holly:** When you took the trip out west, you were pregnant with the third one? You were pregnant with Delia.

**Emily:** I think it was Alan. Well anyway, it wasn't long after that that I was pregnant with Delia and then we moved in here just as she was coming into existence. We had the three babies.

**Holly:** The rest stop they were in in Oklahoma was Will Rogers. They had gone to see this big set-up there and that's when they met the fellow that knew about this place that was for sale.

**Wayne:** Your children, I assume, went to the local one room school. Was it the French school?

**Emily:** Yes, they did and then I had one more girl after we lived here and all four of them went all through eighth grade there. That year, after the last one went there, they closed it. They were fortunate they could all four go through their eight grades there. I think it was good. They loved it, didn't you? Yeah, and good local teachers.

**Holly:** Tell him about the music, the piano.

**Emily:** Roy was always musical. He could sing with quartets and play the piano. He had a few lessons when he was a child but only going up and down the keys. So well, maybe our children have some of his abilities. So we got an old upright and found a teacher and one by one they started taking piano lessons. The teacher--it was in Lansing that we ended up with at the conservatory there--and she said, "You should have a different piano." She arranged it that we got this piano and all four of the children had their dad's talent. So it was trips to Lansing at least once or twice a week to her piano lessons. As it turns out, three of four have their own [baby] grand pianos. My youngest daughter, financially, couldn't, but they all, fortunately, took after him.

**Holly:** The first teacher we had Mrs. **Maxwell Smith [Opal Smith]** at St. Johns and her husband happened to be a cement contractor. That played into the life story too, that family connection, and he did all the cement work on this house when they built the house.

**Wayne:** When did you build this house?

**Holly:** 1967.

**Emily:** Yeah, the old house, the road was going through. It was a one-way deal when we bought it and they were going to put in another lane on [US] 27 and so Roy borrowed—who was the fellow that had the big hardware store in St. Johns? It wasn't **Al Dean**. It was right on Main

St. He had a trailer and he let us rent it and we all moved into that. Then they took the house, moved it across the road. **Dick Kingsbury** needed a house at that time so he used that house and we built back here.

**Wayne:** You built a bit farther away from the road than you used to be.

**Emily:** Yes. We were right in the middle of the new highway, and the interesting thing to me was, they finally came back and they say, "We can't go another day, Roy. You're gonna have to get rid of that house." "Okay." So he found a mover. They moved it and he came back. By then he knew about grades and so forth. He asked them, "Would you please bring some of this grading that you have here back so that we could build a house back away from the road?" Well, that would be illegal for them to do that because whoever hires them-- They were nice enough to do it and he went to town and got a case of beer to pacify them and then build it up so that we could build a house right here. He was very successful, I would say, as a contractor. As I look at the things now, you don't see very many cranes digging ditches and things, only for huge changes.

**Holly:** He dug the basement for this house, did all the grade work. Can I go back to the music part? Mom was very good at getting us where we needed to be when we needed to be there and she was able to establish schedules when we all practiced. Me, being the oldest, meant that I got up early. When we got a little bit older, I was practicing an hour a day. I would be up at six and I played from six to seven. Alan would play from seven to--maybe he'd have only half hour at that time. And then Delia and Lisa would practice after school because they were still going to French School when I was in high school. Then they would practice in the afternoon. There wasn't any choice of whether we practiced or not.

**Emily:** As it turns out, Alan is choir director at our church; Holly was for a while; Delia was for a while but Alan took over and he's still there. Delia got her degree in music when she was a teacher. She's out in New Mexico and is in charge of the music at her church.

**Wayne:** Were your children involved in 4-H?

**Emily:** Oh Yes. 4-H, that was their summer activity. They had a baseball team, 4-H team that they were part of and I was a 4-H leader, taught sewing. I don't know what else. Riding, they had horses. We had horses and some of our neighbors did and they competed in 4-H at the fairs with sewing.

**Holly:** We had a softball team. Each club had a 4-H softball team back then. Dad and the neighbors built a softball backdrop and the whole field there behind French School. I remember going there so that meant traveling all over and practicing.

**Wayne:** This was a 4-H activity, not a school activity?

**Holly:** There wouldn't be enough--little French School, I don't think. French's Corners was the name of our 4-H club.

**Holly:** All of the Motzes were involved. Fran and Harriet's [**Francis and Harriet Motz**] family all went to French School and we got to know them real well. Art and Rita's [**Arthur and Rita Motz**] kids went there too for a while.

**Wayne:** **Peter Motz** owns the French School now.

**Holly:** Yes, he does.

**Emily:** He's trying to get rid of it.

**Wayne:** Are you going to buy it?

**Emily:** No, his brother is. He doesn't want anyone else having it. He has that business there [The Plum Line landscaping business].

**Wayne:** Did you work with other construction businesses? Did your husband work with them?

**Emily:** The Motzes? There wasn't that much to do.

**Wayne:** I thought maybe he was doing basement work for them or something like that.

**Emily:** Anything they needed, he would do but there wasn't that much. If they needed drainage for their farm, he would do that. He did only crane work and bulldozing. He bought a bulldozer. He hired the man that taught him from Houghton Lake to work for him. I would say he was pretty successful in earning enough that we could do the things we did.

**Wayne:** Did he ever do any float dredging where the crane is on like a float?

**Emily:** No. His dad did in Clinton County, the first ditches that would have been way back. We have pictures of him. They'd have a kind of like a shack built on things that stuck out over both sides of the ditch and this shack would have a shovel that you go in and get it over off-- They were creating a ditch, really. Roy's mother was the cook and she would cook for these men. It took several men you know to do this. They would eat their meals in this little shack. I don't know how they ever did it really, but it was the beginning of ditches where they needed them.

**Holly:** There's a lot of pictures up in Ithaca in the courthouse there of the early dredging.

: It created farm land.

**Holly:** **Ray C. Davis**, he was the one that did the dredging. He was the one who helped Dad. And after the war, no one was able to buy any drag lines at all because all the iron went to the war. Grandpa had ordered a drag line way before the war and it never came in. So when dad came home from WWII, finally the crane came in and he offered it to Dad and that's the only way he could have gotten started.



**Wayne:** Going back further in time, I read that your family is related to **Samuel Woodworth**, the poet. Do you have some stories that you could share about that?

**Emily:** All I know is that on my dad's side of the family-- My mother's was a German family and they went from Germany up north but my dad's family came over here. We've got--what are those, Holly, in there that show how far back they came?

**Holly:** The genealogical charts?

**Emily:** Yes, the charts. So they came over here early. They were British and they came to New York State. I've heard stories how they got to Clinton County. In fact, one that came first, as I understand it, was able to take a train finally to come here and then he walked from Ann Arbor. There was no train service all the way up here. He had already, I think, contracted through-- must have been mail service--to get this plot right along the Maple River and they built a house there. It's still there. I can't believe it. It looks like the same house that we had pictures of. His name was Samuel Woodworth. I looked at the--what is it they give you when you get your land--? Well, anyway, it was signed by the governor. I have that signed by the governor and it was the first, apparently, that anyone had this land. Samuel Woodworth was grandfather, I guess, of my Grandma Emily who now resides in the [Riverside] Cemetery in Elsie. Roy is there too. He passed away several years ago [2011]. He lived a long time and he could pick out his stone and it's right near the mausoleum. It's quite large and then there's kind of a cross. He was religious. He believed in his religion and I'll be there with him probably anytime soon because I am just getting older and older. I'm very fortunate. I don't have serious--. I just started with this. I was pulling my blouse up like this and I lost my balance and I fell. From then on, I have to have a pushcart. I didn't land well so I tell all my friends, "Be sure you keep your balance when you're doing that."

**Holly:** You want to tell him the pot story, the wrought iron pot that you have out in back?

**Emily:** No, Holly! Oh, she gets such a kick out of that.

**Wayne:** If she gets such a kick out of it, I'm sure other people would too.

**Emily:** Well, there's an iron pot out there. You know how they used to have those, all iron. You can see it right from here. You can't move it, one person even. I had it so that I could put flowers in. Water would fall off the roof and it got way too much water and there's no way to drain it because it's a solid piece of iron. So I was trying to walk out that door. That was before I needed this. I hurried or something and I lost my balance and here was this big pot full of mud, the water and dirt. I really rationalized, if I don't fall the right way, I'm going to break bones. So I got a hold of the door there and turned so that I sat right down in that. Holly likes to think about that, me sitting in that iron pot, all mud. So then, how do you get out of there? It's just awful hard. I was able to grab the screen door and very carefully make it out.

**Holly:** You have an ID alert button and she didn't push the button because then people would come. I couldn't get myself out of a pot but she could.

**Wayne:** Why, if you can get yourself out? Are there any other things that we should talk about?

**Holly:** I couldn't get myself out of a pot but she could.

**Emily:** Holly remembers them. I choose to forget them, I guess.

**Holly:** Well, that was just a couple months ago that she fell on the pot and she has bruises. She did that, bruised it all down the side. She goes once a day to visit with my youngest sister, Lisa, who lives upstairs. So she goes upstairs and she lost her balance. We counted seventeen steps and she rolled down the steps. It was loud enough. She hit the side of the wall at the apartment down below. [Herb?] came running out. "What happened? What happened?" So they called the ambulance and they couldn't take her to Clinton Memorial Hospital because she's too old. They had to take her all the way to Sparrow in Lansing. This was just a year ago, I think. They tested her and tested her and did X-rays. She kind of argued with them that that wasn't necessary. They did it anyway and she had to wait for the X-ray results to come back and she didn't break a single bone and she had just rolled down the steps, I guess. She kind of argued with them that she wasn't hurt so they finally sent her home.

**Emily:** When you know you're gonna fall like that, you think before it, "What should I do? If you don't, you're gonna hurt something." I remember thinking, when I was going down those steps, that I had to go a certain way.

**Holly:** As of last spring, she was playing bridge. She's quite alert as you can tell.

**Emily:** I didn't hurt myself playing bridge.

**Holly:** With the genealogy, she and dad got involved with that and they traveled all around visiting relatives here and there and fixing up cemetery lots, especially the stones had gotten lost or fallen over. That was kind of the project. Mom took all of those records. All of those charts that you see, she typed them all by hand on an old Remington typewriter and so we have all of those and she did a fantastic job. It's fantastic.

**Emily:** I don't know, but I remember, when I first started it, one of my high school teachers was still in Elsie. I was over to see her and that's the first time I'd seen a television. She had a television! Oh my goodness! She kind of helped me get started at that, the records from the library and people in Elsie that I was involved with. I would say that we were very fortunate. The big decisions we made we didn't regret. We had a big family. I'm proud of them. They are all able to have the good qualities of music and work. All went to college. I didn't. I went to a place where you learned to operate a typewriter and Roy didn't have any education beyond high school other than from his dad and his dad's workers. They taught him.

**Holly:** After you got married and before Dad went overseas, you did a lot of traveling too.

**Emily:** I did or both of us?

**Holly:** Well, there's one really good story that she has to tell.

**Emily:** Good thing you're here, Holly. You remember.

**Holly:** He was in the service and went for training down in Abilene, Texas [Camp Barkeley]. At the time, the International [Harvester] Battalion was being trained and deciding where they were going to go so Mom went down and lived down there in Abilene with all of the soldiers. Anyway, Dad had just bought a new car and so Dad wanted Mom to drive the car down to where he was down in Abilene.

**Emily:** It wasn't a new one. It was a used car.

**Holly:** Okay, a used car. She had lived in Detroit and really didn't drive big equipment. She had to get all of the relatives to give her gas ration cards to be able to buy enough gas to get down there and it just seemed like one thing after another happened. She had flat tires and it just seemed like, I don't know, the fender kind of got loose and had to be wired on. She was driving all by herself. How she made it, I don't know but Dad had all of his army buddies out there in Abilene ready to see this new used car that he had. She drove up and, of course, there was a lot of mud all over it, fenders were just barely hanging on. The story goes that Dad didn't talk to her for quite a while after that.

**Emily:** He just looked at it and his face fell and he walked very slowly all the way around looking at that wreck.

**Holly:** Then there's another story that Dad got out of the service and they came back on a big ship. You were supposed to pick him up at--

**Emily:** It was in Texas someplace.

**Holly:** No, you'd come in on the east coast, I thought. You were in Texas when he got home the last time?

**Emily:** He was dismissed from Texas.

**Holly:** Okay, so when you went to pick him up--

**Emily:** He had called me in Detroit to come.

**Holly:** --and you left the directions at home--

**Emily:** I was to meet him at a corner of this road and this road, two names. I forgot to take it. "What were those roads? I know one. I'm not sure, but if I go down the road I remember, he'll be there because I'll eventually go by it." But it didn't work that way. It was a huge, huge camp and I tried to go from one end to the other. It was a main road and there were soldiers everywhere and I thought he'd be out standing on the corner. As the evening wore on and it was getting dark, "What do I do?" There was a PX store so I just went in it and sat. I don't know what to do, and he came in. I don't know how he happened to come in. Well, he didn't

speaking to me again for quite a few hours. I wasn't very smart. I remember Holly was just a baby when he came home. We were going up to Houghton Lake and right up here in Ithaca we stopped for lunch and I had her in a highchair and Roy and I were ordering our food. She started to cry and she fussed and she fussed. Roy was so unused to a baby crying his sweat just poured off of him. He was so uneasy having some little kid making noise like that.

**Holly:** Patton's army was considered a mystery army--I don't know if you knew that--because they didn't always know where he was. He wasn't good about reporting where he was going. One of the big stories is that, when they have these army reunions, and there's an International Harvester Battalion Museum in Abilene, Texas. I don't know if it's still there or not. They had big reunions and parades and things when the soldiers were still alive. I think it is Burma Shine [Burma Shave?] or something. Somehow that rings a bell. They planned a reunion to take them back to the Alsace-Lorraine area between France and Spain where Patton was going back and forth. They took all of the soldiers and the wives to this little town and they wanted to have a big celebration. So the story goes that they were supposed to walk up Main Street to get to the township hall for the meal. No band; no nothing; they just walked up and Mom told the story that the women would run out and just touch the soldiers' hands. Some of the 12th Armored Battalion--they were called the Hell Cats. When they had their reunions, they were called the Hell Kittens and the men were called the Hell Cats, but they walked up and all of a sudden they realized there were no men at all. Some of the 12th Armored Division and the POW camps there in this town and so no men--all women. They'd run out to the men and touch their hands, crying. They had to walk all the way up the street to where they were going to have their special meal.

**Emily:** I don't understand what you're saying about that, Holly.

**Holly:** It was just something that happened with—

**Emily:** Where were the men?

**Holly:** All gone, dead, in WWII, and it was just the women left. They had, like I said, a lot of reunions and they went a lot of places. They traveled all over.

**Emily:** War, as they say, is Hell.