

Hotfoot/50 Side A
Interview with Emily Gaylord
November 20, 1981

EG You're meeting alot of strange characters here aren't you? We're all strange.

KF Not so strange. This is tape 50 20th of November, interview with Emily Gaylord you're on tape. You lived in Iran for?

EG Let's see, probably close to nine months.

KF How did you like it?

EG I loved it.

KF Why?

EG I don't know, the culture, gee how do I explain it. It was all so different it was a new world, we'd never done that before, we've lived alot of different places in the states. Never been overseas before. We really enjoyed it, the kids and Bill and I really enjoyed it. It was, if it hadn't turned bad, I would think, if you're talking, you've got to separate it. And I think we've all come out with good memories. Probably because it ended up good, we all came out with fairly good memories. You know we all still wonder about what happened to some of the people, and think about some of the ways we shopped. Some of the differences in Iran for some people might have been alot different than they were for me. My father when I was a little girl owned a grocery store, so some of the grocery shopping was very familiar to me. In Washington, D.C. we used to shop like that. And then I belonged to a coop before we moved to Minnesota so I was used to going down to the market and shopping exactly like we shopped there. So some of those similarities didn't bother me too much.

KF Alright, let's talk about when it started to go wrong. Now you were evacuated probably the 8th or 9th of December.

EG Ruth and I were the first ones to go out, Ruth the kids and I we went out all together, we all went out at the same time.

KF Was that because they knew...

EG About Bill and Paul, the other evacuation they had started planning ours a couple of days ahead of time and the evacuation of everybody the plan for that started during the time they've already had the plans for us.

KF And how did you feel about being evacuated?

EG I didn't want it. I don't know whether he's told you this story about the time I threw the plate at him but it's the only time in 20 years of marriage that I've ever thrown a plate at him.

KF No, tell me.

EG Well he came home one night, I knew that we had the passport problem, he had already told me that, what was transpiring. He had not turned his passport in yet, the work papers I think had been turned in to the Iranian government. The passport the next morning was going to be turned in to the...

KF The Embassy.

EG I, he told me and the children that we were to leave with Ruth and her children [couldn't hear]. I wanted to send the children on without me, I don't know why. I think mainly because I felt with me there he at least would always have somebody to talk to. I didn't know whether I could anything but I could talk to him. So I just really got mad. I just really threw a plate.

KF You threw a plate at him.

EG Never done that in my life, never. I don't think he'll ever forget that. I guess that was all my anger and my frustrations and I just could not seem to (reason freely?) I'm sure it was a wise decision but you know...

KF Well in retrospect.

EG My thinking, I just kept thinking that there was some other that could avoid this. And I know I know, Joe O'Keefe I know alot of people who were taken to him. And we had been in out of the country twice, in September we had been to Munich and then they told us there was a war, and somebody else had been taking care of the children and we came back. And then we went to Kuwait and we had to fly all the way to Britain and come back. You know so we had been out of the country twice and probably I think that was probably the reason we saw more of what was going on, because of those trips. Coming back the night we came back from England, the night we came in after curfew, it was real late., I don't think I've ever...

KF But you still didn't want to leave.

EG No, I didn't want to leave.

KF When you did leave where did you come?

EG We went to Copenhagen froze to death one night because the windows in the hotel wouldn't the kids had to sleep in their clothes and Ruth and I just giggled about this. But it was freezing, it had to be 20 degrees if it was anything in that hotel room. Spent the night there, flew to New York. Landed in a sleet storm, missed our connection to Washington, D.C., so some EDSers picked us up and took us over to the shuttle and shuttled back to Washington, and my parents were

there to meet me. I stayed with my parents, Bill sent me home to them. He knew that if nothing else we could get them into school there, because that's where we were from. We still had quite a few old friends there. So they were in school. We flew home, got home on a Saturday night, little ones went to school in the morning, Monday. My highschooler had [couldn't hear] she was in school down there.

KF Sounds as if you were planning a long stay?

EG I think he was, I think he was. My parents didn't have the best facilities but they had facility to be able to house on us on. His parents lived in an apartment, my parents have a townhouse. You know my parents are kind people but when there's any problem they're right there to help. There's no question of help from my father it was my stupid ass husband. My father's a very unusual man, he and the Colonel would have gotten along very well.

KF Oh, really?

EG Yea. Their language, their personality, alot of just their gut feel or honesty, [could not hear] of course I did not tell my parents. Let me see, I told my Mother the day Bill went to jail my Uncle died, one of my Mother's brothers. I told my Mother then, I didn't tell my Father [couldn't hear]. I did not tell my children until I had to.

KF Where were you when you got the news that Bill had been arrested?

EG I knew, Bill and my Brother-in-law had talked let's see, I guess about three times before that meeting of the 28th. When I came home I found out, my Brother-in-law's family, my Brother-in-law's Father was JFK's Administrative Assistant. And Timmy grew up around the Kennedy's, Timmy wrote speeches for Ted Kennedy, worked his way through law school. And he just, whenever he has problems, there could be, so we talked Tim. I told Tim what was going on, Tim wanted to talk to Bill directly, so we talked to Bill three times to Tehran.

KF But this was before?

EG Before he went in, yea.

KF Okay.

EG Now, he knew about the meeting and he knew when it was supposed to be and he had talked to Bill Gayden and I guess that he had told Bill if things do not go well that Bill was supposed to call him or talk to me. So that morning, I waited all night, I knew the time difference and I knew when, Bill had a plane ticket in his pocket. And I knew one way or another I should hear yes, they're on their way home. Or things did not go, we had hoped that they would be home for Christmas which didn't work out. The 28th didn't work out very well either. So my Brother-in-law called me and asked me to come down. And I went down before I even got down there I knew that something had happened, and that he wasn't free to leave. He told me what had happened, from then on it was downhill, wasn't very good. Timmy starting talking to Ross and he started, he went to Senator Mathias because I was, my parents [couldn't hear], one of his old friends and somebody both Bill and I both knew. And he knew Bill very well was his Administrative Assistant so he went to Joe and he went to Senator Mathias. And they ended up with Tip O'Neill and anybody else that...

KF Okay. But what did you do?

EG What did I do?

KF Yea.

EG Thought about, oh I don't know Ken, it's hard for me to sit back and really think. I didn't cry, I'm not much of a crier. I just really, I guess I was very frustrated, I don't know the jail part sink in, but I don't know whether it really sank in as much as it did, as you progressively go out that long. Because I had had contact with him, I had talked to him, so the 28th didn't hit as hard because I talked to

EG him the day before. I guess just sitting there with Tim and my Sister and just trying to figure out where we could go and what we could do.

KF This still on the 28th?

EG Yea.

KF And they live in Washington.

EG Yea. He's a U.S. Attorney for the Justice Department and in between what he was doing was working with some very big (drug in Texas and some very illegal xxxxxxxx?) he was trying to help us. I don't know how he did that.

KF And his name is Tim?

EG Reardon. R e a r d o n.

KF Okay. So you just sat with him and your Sister, what's your Sister's name?

EG Dorothy.

KF Dorothy.

EG S. Reardon, for Swaggert, it was Swaggert.

KF And talked about what you could do. Basically what it came down to was contacting people in the government.

EG Yea, he really worked with Bill Gayden and Ross and especially with Tom Marquez and Tom Walter, or whatever, that they thought that they could do on this end. And Ross had been doing something on that end and he was very aware of what Ross had been doing, how he had been doing. And they kept him very well informed. He was just

EG up there trying to do whatever else he could do, and with his family connections it was a big help because when he went to Senator Kennedy, when he went to Tip O'Neill, or when his Dad did and said this is what I need, they did it, they did it without question. In fact, I think it was three weeks or so before, Ross sent a whole bunch of information to Timmy, written down so that, if the Senator wished he'd have them. It was a good three weeks before they got back to us, [couldn't hear] I think that's where for me the whole business came in, I knew how far they could go, you see they could have been, it's just stupid...

KF About how long did you think for that to set in?

EG For that to really set in?

KF Yea.

EG A couple of weeks.

KF A couple of weeks.

EG It didn't take very long, and the reason that it didn't take very long was because, with what they were doing they were seeing how the State Department was to help the Senator is one thing, and then over here in Iran was something completely different. The Senators get through that ruling but it wasn't easy. And then without the White House to help them, there's only so much you can do, there's only so much they could do. They could get cables back and verify Bill was there, alot of times those cables weren't... I guess that's when it really got, really sank in for me that it was going to be completely different. I had no idea about the rescue, never, I think Tim might have, I think he might have known something. The funny thing was it was New Year's I think, the New Year's party that my Brother-in-law and Sister gave that they had expected to give and it was a coming home party for Bill, okay. Ross called us that night that Bill wasn't going to be home, that they had expected that they would be out of

EG jail the first week, that there wasn't going to be any problem. They couldn't see them keeping them, there was no reason for it. And he called that night to apologize for them not being home for the party and then he had Tim talked for along time about what they're going to do. Tim looked at me and said "We need Lee Marvin" and there's another actor I can't think of his name now, "to go over there and rescue them. And it was just so funny that the Colonel looked so much like Lee Marvin that it ended up, I don't think he knew the Colonel or anything about the Colonel at that point in time. I know Ross had contacted him before. But it's so funny, because that part sticks in my mind because it's just something he came out of the clear blue sky. But he was thinking along those lines, he talked to some of us to get, because he knew some detectives he worked with. He pulled thoughts from anybody he could pull thoughts from, and he was also thinking of [couldn't hear], trying to figure out different things. But I think he knew alot about the rescue, yet he never let me see it, there was always there I could think of, there's always some other way we could go. And he eventually wrote a letter for Senator Kennedy and Senator Mathias that they hand delivered to the President themselves. It was a very, very nice letter, and then I wrote one to Mrs. Carter, I guess it was about three weeks before they came in, because it was [couldn't hear] same day I told his parents about it.

KF You had told your Mother on December the 28th. Okay. And who had died?

EG My Mother's brother.

KF And what was his name?

EG Gus, it was really Constantine, their Greek.

KF Gus what?

EG Basilica.

KF Basilica as it's usually spelled.

EG Yes.

KF Okay, you told your Father you said two or three weeks later. You told Bill's parents.

EG I can't remember, but I know it was three weeks before they got out.

KF About three weeks before they got out, and the children?

EG The children I told, had the jailbreak on that Sunday, that Monday the news started to break down here in the papers we weren't sure it would be in the press up there. They had already tried to Ross Perot, I went to school that morning, I told the pastor who was a very good friend of ours and what he also knew, I had told him along the way. I told him we didn't want the press to know, we didn't want the children to know, I was going to have [couldn't hear] so he took their records, he didn't want anybody to know that they were going to that school.

KF Let's talk about each of those incidents, because they're each landmarks. Now on the 28th do you remember what you said to your Mother?

EG Yea, my Mother was very upset about my Uncle, she's very close, she's very close to all of them. She has nine brothers and sisters. And it was very hard for me because I knew that she desperately needed [couldn't hear] so I went back home on that Saturday night and I told her that, I explained to her what had happened, and how. And in some ways looking back on it, it was probably a good time for her, because what was going wrong with the other situation this did not hit me, it didn't hit me right then, it did later but it didn't hit me right at that point like it normally would.

KF Do you remember what she said?

EG She just went blank, she just couldn't believe it. One comment she's made all the way through the whole thing was of all people, it was like putting my Father in jail because she said the two people she felt were the most honest about everything, I mean the way they did an expense account to the way they did anything. My Father's always worked for himself he's never had someone else's pay. But those were the only two people that she could never see being put into jail for anything. She was very worried that psychologically [couldn't hear], and she said one of the worst things you could do to somebody is to put them in jail when they are that honest. It was the one thing all the way through that she was very, very worried about. The first letter was a big help because she saw as well as I saw exactly how his mind was running, it was running normal, you know worry about the insurance, keep it paid up, you don't know what's going to happen, you know the normal thing.

KF When did this letter come?

EG Keane, I didn't get any letters personally, they would call and say they knew they could get a pack of letters over, so we would write the letters real quick and get them down to the office and they would fly them over so he got some of my letters, he actually got them. Keane Taylor would phone me and read me the letters, I guess it was after he had been in jail three weeks that I got the first letter.

KF Read by Keane Taylor over the phone.

EG Oh, poor Keane he says "I don't this very often it's scribbled on a very small piece of paper, it must be eight pages long, I don't read other people's love letters but I'm going to do it anyway, and if it gets a little mushy and I hymn and haw I'm going to tell you like it is.

KF And was it a little mushy?

EG Yea, not too bad. But it's exactly what, I think he felt that my first couple of letters were a big help, I think the last one he thought at that point that I had really gotten over the edge. That I never thought it was going [couldn't hear], I had one too. I don't know you know, I am not a person that looks at things negatively, I'm very positive, I am very happy, it was a very difficult time for me. I found myself, I love my children, but I found myself realized how much more I was in love with Bill. That I could go on and raise my children but it's not the same, my whole world is Bill, it's a very hard thing to face yourself with, it really is.

KF Is that the point that you left Washington?

EG No, I reached that point before I left Washington, I left Washington, it was a combination of things when I left Washington. That was the weekend I told his parents.

KF Where do they live?

EG They live in Washington.

KF But tell me about that incident when you must have gone to see them, and they live in what a house, apartment?

EG They live in an apartment they live about ten minutes, 15 minutes and at all this time they have been really rotten to him. That was the day I wrote the letter to Mrs. Carter and Mitch Hart came in to town. And I told Mitch I was going to have to tell his parents, there just wasn't anymore reason not to tell them. So he told me anything I needed and he'd back [couldn't hear] if I thought having dinner with him would help, he was willing to do anything. So I went and told them and I told them all this time we had not been telling them the truth, but Bill had asked me not to. The first letter he sent me he asked me not to tell his parents, his Father had a history of strokes, and his Mother is marvelous but she just would fall apart. And he really just did not

EG want them to know until it was absolutely a necessity. And I probably played the game a little long. I probably should have told them earlier. His Father just blew up.

KF Pardon?

EG His Father blew up.

KF He was angry.

EG Very. Very. Didn't understand why, couldn't understand why I hadn't told them, could not understand what was going on. Just really couldn't comprehend how it could happen. I don't think any of us could. Living there I could comprehend it alot more than they could, but for my parents and for his parents that reaction was basic. There just isn't any reason why that should happen. And the funny thing throughout is there was never was a question (that didn't affect everyone.)

KF Yea.

EG It's just strange I guess because they had grown up with us being in EDS so long, they basically, even with Timmy who doesn't know any of these people, or didn't before this, there wasn't any questions, it's just one of those crazy things that happens, and nobody will believe it really happened. So I did take them to dinner with Mitch Hart and we went to Maxim and Mitch was great with them. Just very positive, very up it was a good experience. His Father had a couple of times where he did go off the handle a little bit, basically it was good, and it was good for them, I think they needed that. They needed some personal contact and not just telephone with somebody. Tom Walter and Tom Marquez were just excellent with keeping them informed, if they ever needed to call... Now Bill's Sister was aware of that, I guess I told her a week before I told his parents, and she was with NBC. And one of the reasons I told her is because Timmy felt that there would

EG be some communication coming around might pass her that we wouldn't see. It would be very important for us. Plus we knew that they had crews in Iran and if there's anything needed that way, she knew the people that were there, and maybe could do something for Bill.

KF Did she in fact help to get Ross in because he went in with NBC tapes.

EG No, that's coincidental. It was very coincidental, no. As he looks back at that says you know, that is weird. No this one of those things, because she's actually with that station in Washington, WRC and she's not with New York. She does happen to know some people that were over there. And if we needed to she could've done it. She was a big help in trying to get, when you take a letter to the White House except by a Senator or hand taking it you need to know the right process for me writing a letter to Mrs. Carter which was Mitch's idea. You need to know the proper channel to address the letter to, to be able to take it. So between she and my Sister they would be able to use connections to figure out who I really sent the letter to to get into Mrs. Carter's hands.

KF I see, and did it get to her hands?

EG It must have, I got a letter in March from the State Department answering my letter to Mrs. Carter. Never got anything during that period of time, but the interesting part was the letter that came from (Washington?)

KF What did it say?

EG That they were very happy to hear my husband was home and hoped that we could go on with our normal life. One of those Pat letters you know from the Iran desk, answering my letter.

KF From the Iran desk which was headed by Henry Precht. Oh boy.

EG But it was out of somewhere, it wasn't [couldn't hear] I really got, that arrived after we got back from [couldn't hear] Bill and I just got a big kick out of it. Merv's got a copy of it.

KF Why did you leave Washington?

EG My Sister, all my Sisters and Brothers were very close to my husband. When Bill and I were married they were still young. They are like his sisters and brothers. His sister was seven years older. His relationship, well I think part of why I got him was because of my family. They adored him, and he adored them, he brought them through some rough times, you know that first love, we went through all that with my Sisters and Brothers. They were as close to him I guess as you can be. My Sister was extremely close, this is my second Sister. And she especially is extremely close, there have been a couple of things that have happened during her life. Bill really from being what he was was more helpful to her than even my parents. And, I needed to be with her, I really needed it. Dorothy was helping me in one way, my Brother was helping me in another way. But I was still there under pressure, what I needed was to be away from the children, their school, everything. And I knew that I could just sit down with Ruthie and nobody's going to be around, nobody's going to say anything. They were the only ones that knew. I think what I really thought what I needed, I needed not to hear what was not happening. I needed not to have a phone call from Ross, and those phone calls were very necessary don't get me wrong, I mean I needed that everyday that they called. I needed to hear, yes he's fine, yes he's doing this, that was very important to my, and if I didn't get I called. For some reason that connection was just what kept me. Of course, some of it they did not know as much as I knew what was happening. But still I needed that connection, it was just like a lifeline, it was my lifeline to him. I just thought it would help. I found myself going into a routine, there was no, I tried to hug the kids and I tried to kiss the kids but it got harder and harder. You know I would drive to school I had a routine that I just did. I'd drive one to school to Impetoma the high school, I'd get back in time to drive the

EG other three to the elementary school they were going to. And then I would probably been off to be with Sister and with Timmy, I'd either hear from Dallas or talk to Dallas. Now I would do anything I could to keep busy. The afternoons were spent trying to do homework with the kids, but even then, I just found myself not doing what I needed to do, all I'd (do in a trance?) Do you know what I mean, it was getting everything done that I needed to get done, no feeling. So I knew that if I got away, even if was just Ruth, my parents thought that was what I needed.

KF Where does Vickie live?

EG North Carolina, little town in North Carolina, went out and played tennis, walked alot, we talked alot, she has two little girls and she lives on a golf course.

KF And you started smoking.

EG Oh, yea, I haven't stopped either. My poor little son he told me that my smoking would come back because when I had my gall bladder removed, first day he told me that, smoking was xxxxxxxx because he didn't want Mommy to go into the hospital. I had been in twice since [couldn't hear]. I don't even know whether he remembers or not but he must have, because I know went in the afternoon, it seemed to be very traumatic for them. Usually going to the hospital kids his age just aren't that, you know Mommy's going to be gone for a couple of days, but with the other kids it had never been a problem. For him it was very traumatic, but I had tumor removed when he was about 14 months old, in my stomach, which we didn't know I must have had it when I carried him. So there's two times in his life that it must have been bad times so if we told him I was having my smoker, and of course I came back not smoking and he just thought that was glorious. He was very upset because I might have to go back in and have it removed again. Yes I did start smoking very definitely.

KF But now do you have any idea what date it was you went to North Carolina?

EG No, but we probably could figure it out because I still have the train tickets. I've kept everything, if you can believe it, I have kept everything.

KF I can believe it.

EG Everything's sitting in there, we have all this stuff to get, I know it was in January.

KF In January.

EG I also know that they called me [couldn't hear]. I believe it was the 2nd or 3rd.

KF Do you know whether it was before or after they had been moved to another prison?

EG It was after.

KF It was after.

EG That did not please me. It didn't please me, I'll tell you why it didn't. It came across funny and I guess part of it was because I was so worried where they were in the first place and I'd been assured this poor guy that was dealing with them from down here I mean really, know I look back on it and think that poor man I don't know how he did it. He had told me how safe they were where they were, and then when he called me to tell me that they had been moved he had to be dieing. Because know he was telling me they were much safer, when he had been telling me how very safe they were in the first place. So I think I was a little bit, I was scared at that point, that bothered. And that really, I don't know why it bothered me so much but it really did. I think that's the only and the first and only

EG time I really almost yelled at him. And I said but Jim you've been telling me that for three weeks now and now you're telling me that they're safer, come on. Please don't lie to me. Just tell it like it is and be up front.

KF Who called you?

EG Jim Nyfeler was doing alot of the calling.

KF Jim.

EG Nyfeler.

KF Oh, Nyfeler. Okay.

EG I don't know how he put up with us, I really don't poor guy. Now I look back on it and think well he's trying to give us the good news and you know he's got to be light and happy, I just don't know how he did it. I don't really know, I'm not sure he was aware of how much I knew. We even had that first, we even had that when Ruth and I went and we got to Copenhagen and we were to call Tom Walter and tell them you're safe. So we called Tom Walter and told them we were safe and Ruth and I our first questions are, how are our husbands? Well Tom's saying they're just fine, what do you mean you don't know how your husbands are. Finally, I kept asking and Ruth got on next and Ruth said Tom we know what's going on, will you please tell us how our husbands are. Bill says they got a call back from Bill Gayden and Tom Walter wanting to know what we really did know because they didn't know how much the guys had told us. That was the kind of I'm sure Jim did not know how much I knew. I think that was to keep everything in a small area. So alot of the things I knew from Timmy and from what Ross and them were doing. I did not say anything about it because I knew that they were trying to keep information in a small area too. I know that there were some things that Tim knew that I didn't know.

KF When did you hear about Colonel Simons after you got out?

EG Yea. Well.

KF Let's talk about the...

EG Colonel Simons I did hear about the phone call from Bill so you know after they were out and when Bill called me when they had to go back I guess it was Germany at that point.

KF Okay. But tell me about February the 11th who called you then?

EG I was at church and they called and talked to my Mother.

KF Which church?

EG The Sacrament, Catholic, in Washington. We had had oh, they have like it's done every year, and you have cook so many things and bring it in. So I had had to take our food down and I had gone to church at the same time. They must have called my Mother early, because I guess I got back about 10:00 or 10:30. And I called down there and talked to Tom Walter and Tom Marquez. They told me that they were out of jail. Then Jean called me back later and told me not to tell anyone.

KF Who's Jean?

EG Tom Walter's wife.

KF I see. When you spoke to Tom Walter did he know that they were in the Hyatt Hotel.

EG No, when he called me they were out, they knew there was a jailbreak, okay. That's all they knew, now we were aware of this, Tim and I were aware of the military airlifts supposed thing that was

EG supposed to go on. So my felling was the same as Bill's feeling over there. They're out, terrific. I was excited about their being out but at the same time I knew Hieser was back here. They weren't aware of it. Timmy was aware of it and when I told Tim about them being out of jail of course the elation, that part of it, we'd at least felt we had made the first step. But Tim's a realist and the thing was now what are we going to do. Now, he didn't seem to be as upset so I don't know what he knew of that I didn't. You know looking back on it now I can realize that he obviously knew more than I knew. I did not know what was going on. I did not know about the Colonel being there. I knew there were still EDSers there and I knew most of the people that were still there. I knew that from the process of elimination, there were alot of people that called as soon as Bill was in jail that knew him, very, very upset and I knew from the ones whose husbands aren't home who was where.

KF I see so you were talking to the other wives throughout this.

EG Mary Taylor mostly. When Keane would call and didn't have a chance to talk to her I relayed a message. We were both aware of what was going on, she knew he was there. She was the only one that I probably dealt with on the up front, you know we know what's going on, because I knew she knew. And she would call me with things Keane had told her to relay to me. So I had that connection with her.

KF But you probably didn't see any of the other wives. Did you talk to Ruthie, you must have talked to Ruthie?

EG I talked to Ruthie quite a few times I talked to Ruthie she was in Chicago before she went to Dallas and then we would talk quite often.

KF Do you remember any of those conversations in particular?

EG I talked to her the day they went to jail.

KF Who called who?

EG I called her. She had tried calling me, I don't remember.

KF Remember what you said?

EG I know she talked to Tim, I wanted to reassure her. I wanted her to be aware that there was somebody else helping, that they were the connections and Timmy wanted to know who the Senators were that she felt might be some help there in that state if we needed to use them. And I think she was very helpful to him.

KF What kind of an emotional state was she in?

EG Probably better than I was.

KF Why?

EG Because she was, she was in a situation where she had to put a front up. She couldn't tell anybody, there wasn't anybody there she really could talk to, and I was aware of that and I think that was why I made that call so quickly. I think as soon as I heard she was the first person I talked to.

KF I have forgotten, where was she by then, here in Dallas?

EG Chicago, she was still in Chicago, she was in with her parents and I knew she could not, I don't think she ever told them. I think that was one of the reasons I think she came to Dallas. Besides wanting to put the children in a school in a place where she thought she might be, I think she felt she needed to be away from things, it was probably a good decision. Although with four the decision for me was the most right for me to stay where I was. My parents pulled together all those things that I couldn't be at that time. My children they knew something was wrong with Mommy and they knew Daddy wasn't home and I think the older ones really suspected something was wrong. But,

EG they pulled it together so that the children had a good Christmas and they had good holidays. Really had the normal life that they really needed. It didn't interfere with anything.

KF You were in North Carolina for just a few days.

EG Three.

KF Three days. Tell me, so most of the time you were in this townhouse in Washington tell me what kind of a house it is.

EG It's got a living room, it's got a basement, a dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, three baths. It's not easy living there with four children. You know my parents are good sports I will have to admit that, my Father put up with alot and loved every minute of it. They're very energetic, there's not too many people that you could back to your families with four kids, and stay for six months. Who can you think of, right. And they hated that we're here and they're there. He misses them too.

KF Did I ask you their names?

EG It's well my Mother's called Happy her real name is Ephetehia my Father's John Swagart.

KF How do you spell that?

EG S w a g a r t.

KF And what district in Washington?

EG They live in what's called Chevy Chase, Maryland, right outside of D.C.

KF Chevy Chase?

EG Maryland.

KF Maryland, okay.

EG It's right by Chevy Chase Circle, it's right outside Washington.

KF So they really were the sort of support for you at that time.

EG Very much so.

KF We were talking about February the 11th when they got out. When did you learn that they had reached the hotel?

EG I don't know, recollect that I ever found out. All I knew was that they had gotten out of jail. The next day if I'm not mistaken or that night, I'm not sure which I learned that they were in EDSers hands.

KF I see because of course it was difficult to tell anybody because they were pretending they were still looking for them. It must have been Monday I think that you learned they were at the Dvoranchik house.

EG I didn't whose.

KF How did you learn that?

EG Somebody told me, it might have been Tim. But I was talking to somebody down here the other day, but I never knew that they had xxxx the hotel.

KF And of course you didn't know in advance they had going to the border, that was a surprise.

EG No, I had no idea how they were going to get out, I just knew they were in hiding.

KF So the next piece of news you've got was that the phone call from Frankfurt?

EG The next piece of news I got, I got called when they had crossed the border, I got a call when they got out. When they were actually out of Iran I got a call and said they were out of Iran. And I knew about...

KF That must have been Friday?

EG And I knew about the plane.

KF Ross' plane?

EG And I knew about the plane later on, but I knew about the plane sometime in that week. Now I went to Marriott out there by the airport, DF

KF Dulles.

EG Dulles on Friday. I took the children out for a bite. We were supposed to have a snowstorm and they wanted to fly me to Dallas, so I got the call Friday sometime. Because I had them packed and ready to go by the time they got home from school. My Father took us out there, Mathias and my Brother-in-law [couldn't hear] and said good-bye to my mother.

KF So you stayed at the airport hotel just to make sure that you could get to the airport when you had to fly.

EG Right. Plus they were thinking of bringing us down to Dallas Saturday. Then they changed that.

KF I see. And then you talked to Bill on the phone on Saturday.

EG I talked to Bill on the phone it was before, Gary Fernandes was going to pick me up, I was going to take a Braniff flight down with the

EG children on Saturday. Then they changed that decided because we were going to have this plane they'd have to refuel someplace, Dulles would be the best to refuel they'd pick the kids and I up and we'd all fly down together. So we changed those reservations and I know, I'd talked to him before I went out to the airport. Gary and I were supposed to go out to the airport that I talked about. The children knew I was near the airport, they were sound asleep. [couldn't hear] It had to be the 10th, because they had gotten into bed, they were in to bed later so I'd know they'd be asleep. [couldn't hear]

KF Do you remember the conversation?

EG In the room he called was the kids first, I think that's in Frankfurt Friday.

KF No, Saturday.

EG No, Saturday.

KF Or it might have been Friday night here.

EG Yes, that's what I was thinking about, that's what it must have been.

KF It must have been 10:00 Friday night in Washington.

EG Had to be. Because I didn't talk to him Saturday because they were flying. I didn't have any idea that they were having plane problems until we got to the airport, I couldn't have talked to him then. The conversation was I don't know, he talked to all the kids, we had two rooms. So the phone rang in the children's room and I didn't suspect it was him at all, and they were just so excited, I just couldn't get into the conversation. So Bill and I could probably get the tail end, but that's normal they're your kids and you don't really mind them. As long as I knew he was coming home.

KF You must have heard them getting all excited talking to him...

EG I came right over, they were just screaming ecstatic because Dad called them. I guess, I don't think till I really saw him I really felt he was home. The phone conversation was a hell of a big help, talking to him on the phone and really hearing and he sounded good. I didn't expect him to sound as good as he did. I think I said that to him. Gee you sound good. I don't know why I didn't think he'd sound good. I guess because I knew the way they had ended up coming out...

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

EG You have a beautiful view, you know that?

KF Yea. So then you finally saw him on Sunday, it must have been about midday.

EG I guess they got here about 11:00 or 12:00 when they got here. Because I took an 8:00 flight down, maybe it was later, it was later than that. I got here at EDS about 12:30, and we had an hour and a half wait before they got here. We got on the buses, they looked a wreck, just looked a wreck, dirty, they didn't even look dirty to us. We look at the pictures now and none of them looked dirty, they looked marvelous, they acted marvelous. Bill was tired. I can remember Bill sitting on a chair talking to Ed that night and falling sound asleep. Just absolutely sound asleep.

KF Talking to who?

EG Ed Pickering, we stayed with the Pickerings. They were going to put us up in hotels and of course Ruth and, Ruth had been staying with the Nyfeler's so I think that's where Ruth and Paul wound up staying. But with us they decide not to put us in a hotel room we were afraid the press would try to get to us. So Mr. Pickering, we stayed at his house for a week. We got snowed in, Washington got snowed in, the kids didn't miss any school so we got to stay here for a week and that's what we did.

KF Okay. Tell me a bit about yourself where were you born?

EG Washington, D.C.

KF And when?

EG October 22, 1941.

KF Now you told me a bit about your parents, your father always had grocery stores.

EG No, he had a grocery store when I was a little girl, he was in the real estate business. My Father had to get out of [couldn't hear], he had an arbitrary infection. Played ball...

KF Got a what?

EG Strep infection. They told him he couldn't do the I didn't know that, when you own your own grocery store you cut your own meat, you live in the ice box most of the time cutting meat and stuff, so he had to just... My Grandfather who died when he was 19 and left it so he was the supporter of my Grandmother and he ran the grocery store. And I remember that ... So he went into the real estate business, very successful one, just wanted to be a pro ball player, Grandfather wouldn't let him. Of course under the circumstances he probably ended up fine. My Mother was born in Washington and my Father was born in Washington, my Mother's parents came over from Greece on their honeymoon and stayed. And both of my Grandfather's had died before I was born.

KF Were you the first in the family?

EG The oldest.

KF Tell me again how many brothers and brothers?

EG I have two sisters and a brother.

KF Two sisters and a brother. You went to school in Washington, were you clever in school?

EG Catholic school.

KF Clever in school?

EG Catholic school, oh was I clever. I don't know I got good marks. You know carried [couldn't understand] I don't know how much I was challenged and how much I could have done, you don't know. Raising kids you get a little more idea of what you might have been able to do. Now I don't think I'm as clever as my husband, I'm more of follow the rules to the letter. You know I have children and it's exactly the opposite, they look at all the ways of doing things and find out completely different game of kinds of ways of doing things, it's marvelous. I don't have that structured mind, and it's neat. I'm trying not to have them get too structured.

KF Tell me about when you met Bill.

EG I met Bill I guess it was about '60, my Sisters and Brother absolutely adored him, did not like who I was dating at the time. And dating is a relative term, because I had very strict parents probably like I am. Like my girls haven't dated nearly as much as I probably would. He played golf, they loved golf. I had my Brother, my Brother was short at the time, the golf clubs were probably as tall as he was but he would play 27 holes of golf a day, he just loved golf. And Bill loved golf so they all got along very well. My Sister Vickie the one I was talking about was an excellent golfer.

KF But how did you and Bill meet?

EG We had known each other from there oh I guess since the time we joined the club, my family was in the club, and I was about 12. He was very much in love with one of my girlfriends who is just absolutely gorgeous, and we didn't like each other at first. We really didn't, we hated each other we'd fight alot. He was always wanting to know if Cookie could do this, or if Cookie could do that, you know something like that. Just one of those things that that evolved...

KF He called you Cookie?

EG No, this is my girlfriend.

KF Oh.

EG He'd come and see if Cookie had a date and if I thought maybe she'd like to go out. Just one of those things.

KF I see, he wasn't dating her. But he was using you as a go between.

EG Right. And I don't know it evolved, we just started dating. We just all of a sudden we started dating, all of a sudden madly in love. I don't think we dated anybody else after that. I was a senior in high school and he was a sophomore in college when we both started.

KF And when did you get married?

EG We got married, I did one year of college we got married in 1960, October.

KF In 1960. Tell me the children's birthdays.

EG Vickie is born August 31, 1963; Jacquelyn is February 15, the day of Valentine's Day, that's when I got my engagement ring, Valentine's Day, and he crossed the border Valentine's Day on her birthday.

KF That's right.

EG It's very very important to me, 1966; Janie's is May 2, 1969; and Christopher is September 10, 1972.

KF Okay. When did you first come into contact with EDS?

EG When they started talking to Bill that night I talked to Jack Vernon. Took us out to dinner one night, talked to us and he wanted to know about me. I guess they wanted to know a little bit about me. They were very interested in Bill. I really liked Jack, very nice man. Had a very good evening. I think they figured they'd have to talk me into it a little bit too. I mean you know Bill had a good job with IBM, I was pregnant with Jacquelyn, it was a point of, you know, you're taking a big step. We're at a very secure base and going into something you know nothing about. He was very excited about. I don't know, I guess even through the moves you know, it's never been, whatever he has really wanted and we've all decided we'd like to do, we've all gone. I don't there's been any time that we really have had a question, or I've had a question. I think I hold back a little bit more than I did through all this. But if they told me I could go overseas tomorrow, I'd be packed and ready to go.

KF You would?

EG I sure would. Can you believe that, I would, I'm crazy right. I loved it, we all did. And I think he would love to go, not that's he's said anything. Part of the problem with the Middle East is having girls. And I have three, and I don't think the reality of the real world, the western world, is not like we try and make it... And it would be very hard for me to get adjusted to that kind of world. The only advantage we have and I think it's been a big advantage, the Catholic school system is a big help for home training. They were disciplined, they were, so the things that happened in Iran were not anything. They had problems, the girls had problems, they never had any problems prior to that. Dressingly, you had to dress up, it was never a real big deal because they had to do that in school. So they really didn't have too much and I guess that's why we like it. I think Saudi would be someplace we could definitely go, but we knew we couldn't because we had our highschool learning to do. And I think we're not up to the point where I want to send my kids to a boarding school, they're gone to school. I've got one in college now, I'm very aware of how quickly they go.

KF You must have met Simons...

EG The Sunday they all came in.

KF Yea. Did he talk to you?

EG Yea, we went to dinner, he talked to me a little bit there at the table.

KF Who went to dinner, Simons and you and Bill...

EG Keane, Jay, Ron Davis, Bill and I picked the Colonel up.

KF You picked?

EG The Colonel up from Ross' house and brought him to eat. We took him over a little pig, we had found a leather pig and Bill had stenciled Dadgar's name on it and we took it over to him.

KF A pick?

EG A pig.

KF A pig oh, so that's where it came from.

EG And he just laughed. He just got the biggest kick out of it. It was the first I'd really seen him relaxed, because of course that scene at the airport was not a place to relax. Well everybody was tired anyway, you don't need to tell. The Colonel's eyes were just so sparkling, I kept thinking in a couple of the pictures, I don't know if you have any pictures or not, I can remember Chris just, you know the kids just watching the man. And just fascinated by him. But we had just a short conversation with him, and it was that night that he really had a xxxxxx. He talked about his wife, tried to.

KF He talked about?

EG His wife, told me all about his wife and told me a little bit about what he ate and he told me he ate out of the cans, and what he didn't eat. And a little bit about his barn, a little bit about these crazy guys he had been dealing with all this time. Very, very, not at all what you expected. Very genuine, honest, soft spoken man. [couldn't hear]... I know he had family but there was just something, you wanted to be family to him, in that short period of time, that's exactly what would happen. And I don't know why he would feel that way, it's exactly what you feel.

KF Strange, he was a very appealing man.

EG Oh yes, there was just something about him, I don't know, the presence of the man made you feel very, and the children when they would see him, he didn't have to say anything. They'd stand there just it was just something about him. And it's very hard to explain. I guess you'd really have to explain, it's very very difficult. I wish we could get some of that somehow, you know, get some of it across. They're somebody that people really could take xxxxx. [couldn't hear] He lived a very uncluttered, very unkind life... Obviously he loved his wife, very, very much. And that feeling that was the one thing we got across, I explained to him the feeling I had about everything revolving around Bill. And it was almost like I hit exactly how he had felt about his wife, it was strange. That one thing, he looked at me and it was almost exactly like he could know exactly what you're talking about. And it's hard to explain it simply. It's a strange feeling when that finally hits you and when it hits you boy, he really knows xxxxxxxx out, he really knew exactly what he was going to do.

KF Yes, you went through that period where you really began to think about life without Bill, what did you think about that, apart from just being depressed.

EG I wasn't going to like it, to be honest with you. It was not what I wanted and there wasn't, you know, I think there's always is that hope, you don't hold back on the hope even though you don't want to,

EG each time there would be a call that oh, we've got the money ready this looks good and that looks good. You got to a point where you held that hope down, you said no, don't get it up, but that hope is always creeping up. I was just plain determined it wasn't going to be that way, there was going to be some way, there had to be something that I could do that it wasn't going to be that way. Now, I just the whole time it was, what can I do, how can I do it. Ruth and I were even talking about, I even asked my Brother-in-law if I could get some kind of diplomatic passport to go back. Of course I guess Bill's told you that. When they told them they were going to have a visitor he thought it was us, he thought it was their crazy wives. So their brains are funning the same way our brains were. But I was really serious. I thought and I asked him, Ross wouldn't have any of it but I was still was thinking was there some way we could go over and talk with Dadgar first of all. We could see him. This invisible person who's doing all this and it seemed like he had all the power. And having lived over there I think what both Ruth and I couldn't understand is how he could have the power. How he had the ability to do the things, I realize it was chaos so alot of people had the power that normally wouldn't. But even before the chaos happened the contact that they had made and the people that had contacted Dadgar, for him to have the power of being able to do what he did never did make sense. So my reasoning and not all of it was logical, you've got to realize that, I'm illogical anyway so you put me in a situation like that I'm really illogical, was what would happen if he had to confront us. If he had to talk with us and if he had to do it. Iranian men are not easy, you know they don't deal with women easily, they don't know how to deal with women easily.

KF American women anyway.

EG Right. I really truthfully thought it might work.

KF But still there were times when you contemplated living the rest of your life without Bill.

EG I contemplated it but boy I was working every way I could not to have to face it. The reality wasn't necessarily there, if you understand what I mean. You know, you look at it and you say yes you have to worry about it and yes you have to contemplate that, but then you keep fighting it that's that. I didn't know how I was going to manage, I'll be honest with you I don't think I could love anybody like I do him.

KF You've just told me that you didn't think you could fall in love with anybody else.

EG No, I think I realized I did not know how, what it was, I was at the point of thinking of running the place, you know there, because I figured even if Bill got back I would let the children finish out the school that year and [couldn't hear]. My Father wasn't too keen on the idea, but you know, started looking, started looking for me to see if he could come up with anything. They really wanted me to stay there so he didn't push that much... But I had thought along those lines, I'm going to need to find some place when Bill comes home, we should have some privacy. But I didn't do it. He really didn't want me out with the children by myself. It worked out fine, they were very happy the way things were going, the kids were very happy. But I had started thinking about those lines.

KF Did you think about what you might like to do for a living?

EG Had not even thought about, you know I hadn't worked in 20 years. Worked the first year in a hospital but hadn't since '52. Thought about possibly getting something part time when he came back. But nothing, no ideas, talked to my aunt about working, you know she worked at Woody's up there.

KF At where?

EG Woody's, it's a department store, she worked part time. Talked to Dad about possibly [couldn't hear] secretary. I would have to work on a shift, typing reports for kids but I'm not going to work overtime. Played around a few ideas that way, but I never really did anything about it. My whole life still revolved around getting Bill out. It was very hard to get myself going in any other direction. Did alot of needlepoint, mad a beautiful nude for him.

KF Beautiful what?

EG Nude. Did... Alot of visiting with old aunts, alot of seeing people on [couldn't hear] but everything revolved around getting him out. I mean everything, and of course carpools everyday, nobody else would be that. My parents would help when I needed them to, but I just didn't feel that they would have to be driving. So going out to Impetomac everyday and the other three down there and pick them all up. It was just a way to move time. Other than that, the realization was I did not really know when the riot could be as successful in order to... And that was a harder time. Very hard mentally. I wasn't very pleasant, but it was what I was living with then. And the thoughts were on the line you know, it's you baby what do you do? I knew I'd definitely have to live in the Washington area, which is where I had the support, family kind of support the children needed. But, it's a strange feeling.

KF And after it was all over you must have felt that your relationship was in the end strengthened by that did you feel it?

EG Been strengthened by alot of things, we've been through alot. In alot of ways, we have, we lost one child. In fact, we lost one child with brain damage. It was a very bad time. I had three major surgeries. Maybe that is why the relationship worked. People look at me and say you have been married 21 years and you were married very young. He is very understanding and very easy to be married to. He's very calm, very logical. Looks at things you know, I'll get very nervous and jerky about things and he looks at things very calmly. So we've been

EG very very good for each other, and yes it definitely has. I think it proved to us how much we really cared for each other. It's something we didn't need to go through to do it, but I think it showed to us. I don't know, I know it showed me that to me that's all I needed. I don't care what we have, we don't have to have anything I just needed him. He's a good friend, except I'm a little bit jealous. And maybe that's why it's worked, you know, when you start out you don't have anything and as you get more and get more when you get to the point and you realize you don't need it. The only thing you really need is right there in front of you and you've had it all this time, and not everybody has that opportunity to see it through. It's really pretty good. And Ross I don't know what I'd do without him, if he hadn't been around to do what he did, nobody would have a second [couldn't hear]. All those men, those marvelous people any of us have known. And they don't want a thank-you. Their wives were just especially very, for me, that's why I [couldn't hear] Because it proves that people really do care about each other, nobody what everybody says. Down deep I think more people care about each other than people really know. The world is [couldn't hear]. Or we wouldn't have this word, I do realize that helped alot. Somebody up there really liked us, some of the things they pulled off unless somebody was helping us I know it couldn't have been pulled off. And the Colonel's instincts, and he the Colonel's and [REDACTED] ^{Rashid's} instincts. I think the two of them combined is what you know the Colonel knew what he had to do and when he had to do it. And that young Irani who also had that same instinct, and how they were combined that was fate and that was what, I think somebody else helped them. It's a neat story. Keane Taylor's, Jay Coburn's and all those people. I don't know how Keane and Bill Gayden and those people are doing the negotiating you know have to put up with it and Bob Young, I don't think that was simple, plus all that paperwork they had to go through and the front they had to keep. And knowing they were planning this, it had to be a very very, they ought to be very proud of themselves. Have you met Keane? You've met Keane last week.

KF Oh yes. Yes I enjoyed him.

EG Isn't he something else?

KF Yea.

EG Very friendly, very unassuming not at all what you'd expect. You should have heard him reading those letters, I hope they taped that. Because they did tape some of that stuff coming back from Tehran. If they taped him reading those letters some of the things he said you will get, the poor guy was just... I could just see him being embarrassed over the telephone, he's just something else. And (Kurnand?) he's I don't know, he doesn't, I don't know about that. I think at this point he wants it all put behind him, that's all. None of it was necessary, nobody got through. I don't know.

KF That's what makes him worth writing a book about.

EG It really does, because I guess what bothered me with the newspaper accounts were how so many people doubting it. I don't know how they thought those people got out of there. And of course having lived there like I did, I couldn't believe that anybody would doubt that those things happened, because I knew it had happened. I'm not sure they really realize what went into it and what people really did.

KF Well they will now.

EG I hope so.

KF I've run out of questions and I'm sure to think of something that I forgot to ask you in which case...

EG Let me know.

KF Okay thank you.

EG Anything that I think of that will help you, there may be something that... I'm trying to think if there's anything we really went on and I forgot. There's so many things packed in there but it's hard after awhile to decipher when one started and the other one began because it all runs in. It was such a routine kind of thing because I kept myself on a routine so I wouldn't get so bad, the dates don't stick out like they should.

KF Actually if you could check the date you went to North Carolina...

EG That I can find.

KF Just let Merv know because he'll know where I am.

EG That I can find out for you because I can look for tickets. I'll let you go.

KF Thank you very much.

EG You're quite welcome, I enjoyed it.

KF Are you going to see Merv before you go?

EG Probably.

KF Thanks see you again, bye, bye.

END OF TAPE