

**Interview of Matilda Papenhausen on her service
in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during WWI**

1
2
3
4
5 Dorothy W. Early: Um, let's see. This is August the 23, 1984 and I'm in Lakeside,
6 California visiting Matilda Papenhausen.
7
8 Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
9
10 Dorothy W. Early: I was in WWII and Matilda was in WWI. [00:19] Now, what were
11 you saying about your family?
12
13 Matilda Papenhausen: Um, I had, uh, two brothers in, uh, in – over there and I wanted to,
14 uh, go and I promised my mother that I would, uh, sign up for one
15 duty. Um, and then I got orders and where do you suppose my
16 orders were? Camp Pike, Arkansas.
17
18 Dorothy W. Early: Uh-oh. [laughter]
19
20 Matilda Papenhausen: And it, it was a lot of fun. Really, it was a great deal of fun.
21
22 Dorothy W. Early: Uh-huh.
23
24 Matilda Papenhausen: Because, um, – and, and it wasn't [inaudible 01:08] completed a
25 week, uh, – my room wasn't even finished where I slept and we
26 had to go downstairs [inaudible 01:17] toilet [inaudible 01:18].
27 [laughter] [Inaudible 01:23] that was all so new.
28
29 Dorothy W. Early: Oh yes.
30
31 Matilda Papenhausen: And then, uh, finally [inaudible 01:34] and I think they put me in
32 every difficult ward that was to be had.
33
34 Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.
35
36 Matilda Papenhausen: I was – I took care of, uh, of, uh, – I had a colored [ward 01:49]...
37
38 Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
39
40 Matilda Papenhausen: ...black [ward 01:50]. I had, uh, uh, scarlet fevers and smallpox
41 and, and what is – what kind of a – what is that...
42
43 Dorothy W. Early: [02:07] Isolations? Oh yeah.
44

1Matilda Papenhausen: ...isolation.
2

3Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
4

5Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, pneumonia and just, just every [inaudible 02:24]. They,
6 they moved me from the, the, uh, [inaudible 02:29], the, uh,
7 [inaudible 02:32] seemed to like my work.
8

9Dorothy W. Early: [laughter]
10

11Matilda Papenhausen: [Inaudible 02:37].
12

13Dorothy W. Early: [02:39] Were you with a Kansas City hospital or you were on your
14 own?
15

16Matilda Papenhausen: Just, uh, – yeah. We picked up, um, uh, ten, ten, uh, nurses from
17 our unit and they picked, uh, other units – nurses from other units
18 and, uh, by the time they got, um, – they picked a unit of 100.
19 Well, one day – and, and I was in the Pneumonia Ward and, and
20 that was a first [inaudible 3:14] the, uh, the, uh, Assistant Director
21 came out and said, uh, you are to give your orders to your, your
22 senior, your, uh, senior nurse, your, your...
23

24Dorothy W. Early: [03:36] Chief nurse?
25

26Matilda Papenhausen: Chief nurse...
27

28Dorothy W. Early: Uh-huh.
29

30Matilda Papenhausen: ...that was, uh, uh, going to take my place and, uh, get ready to go
31 to New York tonight...
32

33Dorothy W. Early: Oh great.
34

35Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, for service overseas.
36

37Dorothy W. Early: [Inaudible 03:53].
38

39Matilda Papenhausen: That's – and we were in New York Ci-, a month.
40

41Dorothy W. Early: [03:59] Oh you were?
42

1Matilda Papenhausen: Uh-huh. The, uh, [inaudible 04:01] waiting for, uh, and
2 transportation and everything. And I, I was assigned to a third
3 gen-, general hospital.
4

5Dorothy W. Early: Third general. Mm-hm.
6

7Matilda Papenhausen: I loved it. It was a – and, uh, they were all [inaudible 04:29].
8 They were all British.
9

10Dorothy W. Early: [04:33] They were?
11

12Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. And, uh, they were just fascinated with my conversation.
13

14Dorothy W. Early: Oh yes.
15

16Matilda Papenhausen: [laughter]
17

18Dorothy W. Early: And you were fascinated with them.
19

20Matilda Papenhausen: I – that's...
21

22Dorothy W. Early: [laughter]
23

24Matilda Papenhausen: [laughter]
25

26Dorothy W. Early: Oh now. [04:46] Now were they on board ship or you met them
27 overseas?
28

29Matilda Papenhausen: No. We met them in the hospital.
30

31Dorothy W. Early: [04:51] Overseas?
32

33Matilda Papenhausen: Yes.
34

35Dorothy W. Early: [04:52] In France?
36

37Matilda Papenhausen: In – no, no. In, in London.
38

39Dorothy W. Early: Oh you went to London.
40

41Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm. We were at Third London General Hospital.
42

43Dorothy W. Early: Oh, I see.
44

1Matilda Papenhausen: And then after a month, [inaudible 05:05], we were being
2 indoctrinated there to...
3
4Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.
5
6Matilda Papenhausen: Meth-, their methods and all.
7
8Dorothy W. Early: Sure.
9
10Matilda Papenhausen: And then we had to cross the English Channel finally.
11
12Dorothy W. Early: [05:17] What year would this have been likely?
13
14Matilda Papenhausen: As, uh, the first year, uh, I was...
15
16Dorothy W. Early: [05:24] Seventeen, you think?
17
18Matilda Papenhausen: I don't remember.
19
20Dorothy W. Early: [05:23] Nineteen seventeen maybe?
21
22Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
23
24Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
25
26Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, we were assigned to, uh, – we got there the Fourth of,
27 Fourth of July and we just laughed. We thought that was funny.
28
29Dorothy W. Early: [laughter] [05:41] The British didn't know what to celebrate, did
30 they? [laughter]
31
32Matilda Papenhausen: [laughter] Well, we said, my they're celebrating early.
33
34Dorothy W. Early: [laughter]
35
36Matilda Papenhausen: Well, anyway...
37
38Dorothy W. Early: That's funny 'cause when we got there the Thanksgiving day...
39
40Matilda Papenhausen: [laughter]
41
42Dorothy W. Early: And they didn't know about that either.
43

1Matilda Papenhausen: I think we were assigned to a English hospital Ger-, uh, American
2staffed, English hospital.
3
4Dorothy W. Early: Oh I see.
5
6Matilda Papenhausen: When we first came over there.
7
8Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm. [06:14] What, what part were you in then?
9
10Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, Rouen.
11
12Dorothy W. Early: [06:19] In France?
13
14Matilda Papenhausen: In Rouen. Mm-hm.
15
16Dorothy W. Early: Okay. [06:25] Did you work about 12 hours a day or what were
17the hours like?
18
19Matilda Papenhausen: Well, I don't know. I can't remember that.
20
21Dorothy W. Early: [06:37] Isn't that strange you can't remember, uh, the hours or the
22food or the problems any more. I can't.
23
24Matilda Papenhausen: Uh-huh.
25
26Dorothy W. Early: [06:46] Do you think you worked in buildings, not tents?
27
28Matilda Papenhausen: Well, some of them were buildings. I – all of ours were buildings.
29
30Dorothy W. Early: You were in the buildings.
31
32Matilda Papenhausen: And they were, um, sandbagged up halfway.
33
34Dorothy W. Early: Oh. Mm-hm. [07:05] For protection?
35
36Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
37
38Dorothy W. Early: I'm trying to think what part of France that is. Oh let's see. [07:11]
39Would that have been near Verdun and all that area or is it down
40south?
41
42Matilda Papenhausen: That's, uh, I [inaudible 07:21].
43
44Dorothy W. Early: Well you said Rouen.

1
2Matilda Papenhausen: Rouen.
3
4Dorothy W. Early: Uh-huh. I can't remember. I [inaudible 07:28]. [07:28] Well, um,
5 how long did you serve overseas?
6
7Matilda Papenhausen: Just two months – two years.
8
9Dorothy W. Early: Two years.
10
11Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
12
13Dorothy W. Early: [07:36] Did you go on leave during that time?
14
15Matilda Papenhausen: Oh yes. We went down to, uh, um, – we saw the, uh, where, where
16 the, uh, princess lived.
17
18Dorothy W. Early: Oh yes.
19
20Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, we went over to Switzerland...
21
22Dorothy W. Early: [07:56] Oh you did?
23
24Matilda Papenhausen: ...one day.
25
26Dorothy W. Early: It was off limits when we were there. [laughter]
27
28Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
29
30Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.
31
32Matilda Papenhausen: And Paris, of course, we were in Paris.
33
34Dorothy W. Early: Uh-huh. [08:08] Did you wear a special uniform?
35
36Matilda Papenhausen: Oh yes. Yes. We had...
37
38Dorothy W. Early: [08:12] Long skirts?
39
40Matilda Papenhausen: Oh sure.
41
42Dorothy W. Early: [08:15] High top shoes?
43
44Matilda Papenhausen: Yes.

1
2Dorothy W. Early: [08:19] And lots of petticoats I suppose?
3
4Matilda Papenhausen: Well, I, I can't remember. Uh, see they were all [inaudible 08:27]
5 and, uh, we had certain hats, caps, hats that we wore.
6
7Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm. Yeah. [08:39] Did you think you were treated pretty
8 well over there?
9
10Matilda Papenhausen: Oh yes.
11
12Dorothy W. Early: [08:42] They always thought the nurses were really – very nice,
13 didn't they?
14
15Matilda Papenhausen: And they – we always had nice quarters.
16
17Dorothy W. Early: [08:48] Did you?
18
19Matilda Papenhausen: And while we were in Rouen, uh, we lived in a mansion.
20
21Dorothy W. Early: [08:57] Oh, you did?
22
23Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
24
25Dorothy W. Early: Yeah.
26
27Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, I never seen so many mirrors. And all – with all that, there
28 wasn't – [laughter] we didn't have a bathroom.
29
30Dorothy W. Early: [laughter] [09:18] In the whole building, huh?
31
32Matilda Papenhausen: In the whole building. Isn't that funny?
33
34Dorothy W. Early: I'm trying to think of all the questions. Our Women's Overseas
35 has given us a list to prompt you and my questions are in Kansas
36 City, how many miles and miles away. [laughter]
37
38Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, I, I don't know whether there are any of the, uh, the, uh, WWI
39 living in Kansas City any longer.
40
41Dorothy W. Early: I know, I know two ladies.
42
43Matilda Papenhausen: Oh?
44

1Dorothy W. Early: There's a Mrs. Meyer that lives out at Olathe in a nursing home.
2 And we went out to interview her and she said, well, no. I was
3 really worn out. A lady came from the newspaper and I don't, I
4 don't want to talk about it anymore. And here we drove all the
5 way out with a gal and tried to record it and she would not discuss
6 WWI. [laughter] It got to be kind of funny.
7

8Matilda Papenhausen: Isn't that funny.
9

10Dorothy W. Early: But she was pleasant otherwise. She kept talking about modern –
11 current things.
12

13Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, we came over on a ship, of course.
14

15Dorothy W. Early: Yes.
16

17Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, and, uh, we were in, in the, uh, the big, uh, um...
18

19Dorothy W. Early: [10:40] Was it a troop ship?
20

21Matilda Papenhausen: Yes.
22

23Dorothy W. Early: [10:43] Was it in a convoy?
24

25Matilda Papenhausen: Convoy.
26

27Dorothy W. Early: Uh, we had a convoy.
28

29Matilda Papenhausen: We had a convoy and ours was the biggest one.
30

31Dorothy W. Early: Oh yes.
32

33Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, we didn't know that, uh, there was a [inaudible 10:55], in
34 uh, New York that it would never land because it was loaded with
35 grain.
36

37Dorothy W. Early: Oh, oh.
38

39Matilda Papenhausen: And 5,000 troops.
40

41Dorothy W. Early: Yes. They probably knew it some place along the line.
42

43Matilda Papenhausen: And then it was the funniest thing these boats would sit in the same
44 position [inaudible 11:15].

1
2Dorothy W. Early: Oh yes.
3
4Matilda Papenhausen: You'd think we were just sit, uh, sitting ducks.
5
6Dorothy W. Early: [11:22] Did it get rough at all when you were on them?
7
8Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, we had an alarm.
9
10Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
11
12Matilda Papenhausen: [Inaudible 11:26].
13
14Dorothy W. Early: Oh yes.
15
16Matilda Papenhausen: And then the – everybody left us.
17
18Dorothy W. Early: Oh.
19
20Matilda Papenhausen: But we weren't afraid. We had [inaudible 11:39] and...
21
22Dorothy W. Early: Boat drill.
23
24Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
25
26Dorothy W. Early: [11:42] Well, it's kind of different from being in Kansas to being
27 out on the ocean, wasn't it?
28
29Matilda Papenhausen: I really loved it.
30
31Dorothy W. Early: [11:49] Did you?
32
33Matilda Papenhausen: I loved it. I wasn't the least bit seasick but my, uh, roommate – we
34 had, uh, cabins.
35
36Dorothy W. Early: [12:01] Did you?
37
38Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, um, a girl from Arkansas was my best friend and we, um, we
39 had a cabin.
40
41Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm. [12:13] Were there a lot of troops and were there other
42 hospital groups there?
43
44Matilda Papenhausen: On...

1
2Dorothy W. Early: On broad ship?
3
4Matilda Papenhausen: On, on board the other ship?
5
6Dorothy W. Early: [12:22] On yours?
7
8Matilda Papenhausen: Oh yes. Yes. They, uh, there were quite a few.
9
10Dorothy W. Early: [12:30] What about doctors, did you go with a unit or just as an
11 individual?
12
13Matilda Papenhausen: We went as a unit. They were doctors on board.
14
15Dorothy W. Early: [12:43] Did you have more than two meals a day, do you
16 remember?
17
18Matilda Papenhausen: Can't remember.
19
20Dorothy W. Early: I remember we only had two meals but, uh, it didn't occur to me,
21 you know, until someone mentioned it and there were so many
22 things that happened that who would remember meals.
23
24Matilda Papenhausen: Well, I think you had more, much more activity...
25
26Dorothy W. Early: Yeah.
27
28Matilda Papenhausen: ...in WWII.
29
30Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
31
32Matilda Papenhausen: You got over there...
33
34Dorothy W. Early: Well...
35
36Matilda Papenhausen: One of my very closest friends, a young man, [inaudible 13:16],
37 Harvard graduate, a doctor's son, he – and I was working in
38 Leavenworth, the hospital then, he came and had lunch with me.
39
40Dorothy W. Early: Yeah.
41
42Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, and then soon after that he left and, uh, – on a – he was
43 killed on the first – his first, uh...
44

1Dorothy W. Early: [13:46] First battle?
2

3Matilda Papenhausen: Battle.
4

5Dorothy W. Early: That's too bad.
6

7Matilda Papenhausen: Oh he was a wonderful boy.
8

9Dorothy W. Early: [13:54] Was he from Leavenworth?
10

11Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. And his brother just visited me the other day.
12

13Dorothy W. Early: [13:59] He did?
14

15Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
16

17Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.
18

19Matilda Papenhausen: He was the youngest.
20

21Dorothy W. Early: Uh-huh. [14:03] What was his last name?
22

23Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, Williams.
24

25Dorothy W. Early: Oh.
26

27Matilda Papenhausen: Dr., uh, – and there was another one, Frank, and he was a very,
28 very, uh, uh, you know where [inaudible 14:22] is? You have...
29

30Dorothy W. Early: Yes. I've seen the sign.
31

32Matilda Papenhausen: Yeah. He had, uh, – when he first went up there in charge of the
33 group, they – he had three men.
34

35Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
36

37Matilda Papenhausen: And when he, uh, – they had a [inaudible 14:39] party for him at
38 his home and there were – he had 300.
39

40Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.
41

42Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, then after the party, they went to their home down in
43 Saint – Palm Springs and they got down there and he dropped
44 dead.

1
2Dorothy W. Early: Oh my. How dreadful.
3
4Matilda Papenhausen: And Frank used to come – [inaudible 15:10], he'd call and say, can
5 you have dinner with me?
6
7Dorothy W. Early: Oh.
8
9Matilda Papenhausen: [Inaudible 15:16].
10
11Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah. [15:18] I was wondering, um, when you were in the
12 service, did – you didn't get any, um, insurance or, or did you get
13 insurance...
14
15Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. I...
16
17Dorothy W. Early: With the service?
18
19Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
20
21Dorothy W. Early: [15:32] And did you get, um, very much money? Do you
22 remember what your pay was?
23
24Matilda Papenhausen: Yes.
25
26Dorothy W. Early: [15:38] A little extra for overseas?
27
28Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, I think, we got – I think we got \$50 first.
29
30Dorothy W. Early: Yes.
31
32Matilda Papenhausen: And then, uh, when we went to, um, uh, New York, I think we got
33 60 and [inaudible 15:57], we finally got up to 90...
34
35Dorothy W. Early: Oh.
36
37Matilda Papenhausen: When we were at, uh, um, uh, London General.
38
39Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
40
41Matilda Papenhausen: But I can't remember what...
42
43Dorothy W. Early: [16:11] Did you – do you remember if you got a Mustering-Out
44 pay, did you get any special money when you got out or...

1
2Matilda Papenhausen: No. We didn't.
3
4Dorothy W. Early: [16:18] Where did you, uh, – now you came back home, where do
5 you think you – what, um, army base did you locate through, um?
6
7Matilda Papenhausen: I came out – I was dismissed, uh, in New York.
8
9Dorothy W. Early: [16:34] New York City?
10
11Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm. And, uh, then I, uh, – I was home then. I was dismissed.
12
13Dorothy W. Early: Uh-huh.
14
15Matilda Papenhausen: And, um, – so I had to go to work. I didn't have any money.
16
17Dorothy W. Early: [16:52] That must've been about 1919 then?
18
19Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
20
21Dorothy W. Early: [16:55] Do you remember the Armistice or where you were?
22
23Matilda Papenhausen: Oh yes. It was the day before the – oh yes. We all got on, uh,
24 trucks and we, we saw the [inaudible 17:09] that day.
25
26Dorothy W. Early: [17:11] Whereabouts were you?
27
28Matilda Papenhausen: Must've been, uh, – we were on...
29
30Dorothy W. Early: [17:23] Were you in France?
31
32Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
33
34Dorothy W. Early: November the 11.
35
36Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. I can't, uh, remember just where we were.
37
38Dorothy W. Early: Uh-huh. But they were army vehicles and you went out
39 celebrating and...
40
41Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. Yes.
42
43Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm. Well, everybody was glad the war was over, I know that.
44

1Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
2

3Dorothy W. Early: Yeah. [17:47] And then you, you stayed over after the war and
4worked in France?
5

6Matilda Papenhausen: No. After, uh, after, uh, – I came on home.
7

8Dorothy W. Early: [17:58] After the Armistice, shortly after, you came?
9

10Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. I came home, went to work. I worked at St. Luke's for a
11while.
12

13Dorothy W. Early: [18:04] Oh did you?
14

15Matilda Papenhausen: I think I got \$80 a month there. And, uh, I had a [inaudible 18:13].
16Do you remember Dr. [Hertzler 18:14]?
17

18Dorothy W. Early: Oh yes. Halstead, Kansas.
19

20Matilda Papenhausen: What?
21

22Dorothy W. Early: Halstead, Kansas.
23

24Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. Dr. [Hertzler 18:23] asked me to come to see him and he
25said, would you be interested in going out to Halstead, Kansas as a
26assistant, uh, superintendent of nurses out there?
27

28Dorothy W. Early: Uh-huh.
29

30Matilda Papenhausen: And I said I hadn't thought of it. He said, uh, uh, you, uh, got your
31room and board, laundry. I don't know what else he'd [inaudible
3218:55] and \$200 a month.
33

34Dorothy W. Early: Oh my. [laughter] You could hardly resist that.
35

36Matilda Papenhausen: Well, I...
37

38Dorothy W. Early: [laughter]
39

40Matilda Papenhausen: I would love it.
41

42Dorothy W. Early: [laughter] Oh dear. I'm trying to think...
43

1Matilda Papenhausen: And the funny part of it is I met two of those women that I met out
2 at Halstead.
3

4Dorothy W. Early: [19:23] Is that right?
5

6Matilda Papenhausen: And one of them is still living here.
7

8Dorothy W. Early: [19:14] In, in California?
9

10Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
11

12Dorothy W. Early: Well, this must be a good place to retire.
13

14Matilda Papenhausen: [laughter]
15

16Dorothy W. Early: [laughter] Oh man. Well, I guess you enjoyed being a army nurse
17 and...
18

19Matilda Papenhausen: Oh yes.
20

21Dorothy W. Early: I had...
22

23Matilda Papenhausen: I wouldn't have missed it – you know, I think I had one of the, the
24 most fascinating – I think perhaps I had, uh, the most interesting
25 nursing career of anyone I've known.
26

27Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.
28

29Matilda Papenhausen: Because I was a superintendent – well, in the hospital, you know.
30

31Dorothy W. Early: Yes.
32

33Matilda Papenhausen: I, uh, I was superintendent there and then I was superintendent in,
34 in Leavenworth and then I went to, uh, Des Moines, Iowa.
35

36Dorothy W. Early: [20:24] Oh you did?
37

38Matilda Papenhausen: I was in their, um, clinic there for almost five years.
39

40Dorothy W. Early: Yeah.
41

42Matilda Papenhausen: And then, uh, they sent me out as sort of a, a inspector and, uh, a
43 social service...
44

1Dorothy W. Early: Oh.
2

3Matilda Papenhausen: ...person out from, from, uh, South Dakota – from Sou-, from the
4 start of the city, what was the little town?
5

6Dorothy W. Early: [20:55] Was this [inaudible 20:55]?
7

8Matilda Papenhausen: [St. Paul's 20:56] clear back to, uh, to Rapid City and I drove all
9 along – all through the, uh, the, uh...
10

11Dorothy W. Early: [21:06] The boondocks, huh?
12

13Matilda Papenhausen: Hm.
14

15Dorothy W. Early: [21:09] Was this county or state nursing?
16

17Matilda Papenhausen: It was government.
18

19Dorothy W. Early: Government. U.S. Government.
20

21Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
22

23Dorothy W. Early: Oh yes. [21:18] And you were an inspector?
24

25Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. They, uh, um, – some of them, uh, were, uh, older, you
26 know, uh, belonged to another war.
27

28Dorothy W. Early: Oh like the Spanish-American War maybe?
29

30Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
31

32Dorothy W. Early: Well, the Civil War could've been – soldiers would've been alive
33 then too.
34

35Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. Well, uh, really not many people had that and I saw them
36 build their – those places out there and...
37

38Dorothy W. Early: [21:56] Oh you did?
39

40Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
41

42Dorothy W. Early: [21:57] [Inaudible 21:57] on the mountain?
43

44Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.

1
2Dorothy W. Early: Yeah.
3
4Matilda Papenhausen: And I just loved Rapid City.
5
6Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah. I've never been there. I've been to Naples but I've never
7 been to Rapid City.
8
9Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
10
11Dorothy W. Early: [laughter] Well, you have had a long career. I'm trying to think of
12 some army activities. [22:24] Did you have, um, [inaudible 22:27]
13 or did you stand retreat or any sort of, um...
14
15Matilda Papenhausen: No.
16
17Dorothy W. Early: ...activity in your army...
18
19Matilda Papenhausen: No.
20
21Dorothy W. Early: ...days?
22
23Matilda Papenhausen: No.
24
25Dorothy W. Early: I think now they do more than they used to.
26
27Matilda Papenhausen: Oh yes. I think so too.
28
29Dorothy W. Early: [22:40] And you didn't have to salute?
30
31Matilda Papenhausen: Oh no.
32
33Dorothy W. Early: We had to salute. We learned how.
34
35Matilda Papenhausen: And then, the next thing that happened to me was, um, I had my
36 house built.
37
38Dorothy W. Early: Yes.
39
40Matilda Papenhausen: Well, first of all, - do you remember Florence [Tills 22:58]?
41
42Dorothy W. Early: Oh, she was my teacher in Leavenworth.
43

1Matilda Papenhausen: That's right. And she and I came out here and had a, uh, a sort of a
2 guest house for 12 women and, uh, – my brother fixed it up right
3 for us – brother Jim and I [inaudible 23:22].
4

5Dorothy W. Early: [23:23] It isn't this house?
6

7Matilda Papenhausen: No, no, no, no, no. And, uh, this, uh, you've been in this house,
8 haven't you?
9

10Dorothy W. Early: No. This is the first time I've been here.
11

12Matilda Papenhausen: I want you to see the [inaudible 23:38]...
13

14Dorothy W. Early: Okay.
15

16Matilda Papenhausen: ...there. I want to you to see the size of it. [laughter]
17

18Dorothy W. Early: I wanted you to tell me something about when you got your boy –
19 you lived in Leavenworth then.
20

21Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. I got him when he was just a, an infant.
22

23Dorothy W. Early: Yes.
24

25Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, I didn't even know whether I was going to keep him.
26

27Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.
28

29Matilda Papenhausen: Uh, but he was found.
30

31Dorothy W. Early: Uh-huh.
32

33Matilda Papenhausen: And I couldn't put him in the nursery so I put him in my quarters.
34 I lived in the hospital.
35

36Dorothy W. Early: I remembered dusting your quarters. [laughter]
37

38Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, he, he was a beautiful child.
39

40Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah. [24:8] Was he red-headed?
41

42Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm. And, uh, he was 3 years old when we came out here.
43

44Dorothy W. Early: [24:26] Is that right?

1
2Matilda Papenhausen: Mother and I.
3
4Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm. Yeah.
5
6Matilda Papenhausen: [Inaudible 24:32].
7
8Dorothy W. Early: [24:33] You brought your mother?
9
10Matilda Papenhausen: Yes.
11
12Dorothy W. Early: I didn't realize that.
13
14Matilda Papenhausen: Mother, mother [inaudible 24:39]...
15
16Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
17
18Matilda Papenhausen: ...and my brother built us a, a little house...
19
20Dorothy W. Early: I see.
21
22Matilda Papenhausen: On that - we had about three acres of land.
23
24Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
25
26Matilda Papenhausen: And – across from the, um, air, uh, airfield [inaudible 24:55].
27
28Dorothy W. Early: [24:56] At Lakeside?
29
30Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm.
31
32Dorothy W. Early: I see. [24:59] Did your brother live out here in this area first?
33
34Matilda Papenhausen: Yes.
35
36Dorothy W. Early: Oh.
37
38Matilda Papenhausen: He had a, um, a – they came out here and they had a, a motel.
39
40Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
41
42Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, – oh he, he made such a decent place of it.
43
44Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.

1
2Matilda Papenhausen: And then Mary wasn't too well so they got – they had an
3 opportunity and they sold that for 80 thous – 8,000 – no 800, uh,
4 acres of [inaudible 25:38].
5
6Dorothy W. Early: [25:39] Where?
7
8Matilda Papenhausen: In Fallbrook.
9
10Dorothy W. Early: Uh-huh.
11
12Matilda Papenhausen: And he, he really, he really did very well financially.
13
14Dorothy W. Early: Yeah. [25:50] Is he still living?
15
16Matilda Papenhausen: No.
17
18Dorothy W. Early: No.
19
20Matilda Papenhausen: He had a stroke.
21
22Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.
23
24Matilda Papenhausen: And he was sick quite a while.
25
26Dorothy W. Early: [25:56] Was his daughter – did he have a daughter named Virginia
27 or was that another brother?
28
29Matilda Papenhausen: She's a nurse.
30
31Dorothy W. Early: [256:01] That's his daughter?
32
33Matilda Papenhausen: That was his – and she, she married a doctor, uh, I don't know
34 what his name is [inaudible 6:11].
35
36Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.
37
38Matilda Papenhausen: And then he had another daughter, a teacher...
39
40Dorothy W. Early: Oh.
41
42Matilda Papenhausen: ...and she taught, uh, for 25 years out in, uh...
43
44Dorothy W. Early: [26:21] Where?

1
2Matilda Papenhausen: In Fallbrook. And she was supposed to be one of the best teachers
3 in that part of the country.
4
5Dorothy W. Early: I remember your sister was my superintend-, uh, - supervisor in
6 VNA.
7
8Matilda Papenhausen: Yes.
9
10Dorothy W. Early: Frieda.
11
12Matilda Papenhausen: Frieda.
13
14Dorothy W. Early: I thought she was the best supervisor I ever had.
15
16Matilda Papenhausen: Is that so?
17
18Dorothy W. Early: Yes. She was a dear.
19
20Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm. She was [inaudible 26:46].
21
22Dorothy W. Early: I didn't have her very often, only on vacation.
23
24Matilda Papenhausen: Uh-huh.
25
26Dorothy W. Early: But, um, she worked with records usually.
27
28Matilda Papenhausen: Uh-huh.
29
30Dorothy W. Early: But, uh, I enjoyed her a lot so.
31
32Matilda Papenhausen: She had a good sense [inaudible 27:00].
33
34Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah. Well, I think that's about all we're going to talk about
35 unless you can think of some other thing to end out your army
36 career.
37
38Matilda Papenhausen: Well, then after, after my house was built and I, I was all settled, I
39 thought, my heavens, what am I going to do with my time?
40
41Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
42
43Matilda Papenhausen: I didn't want to go back to nursing and, uh, after we had given up
44 the, um, the guest house...

1
2Dorothy W. Early: Yeah.
3
4Matilda Papenhausen: ...Florence came home and she got so - she went back to, uh, back
5 to, uh, uh, her place in, uh, Kansas City.
6
7Dorothy W. Early: [27:54] Oh did she?
8
9Matilda Papenhausen: And was, um...
10
11Dorothy W. Early: [27:57] For KU?
12
13Matilda Papenhausen: Hm?
14
15Dorothy W. Early: [27:58] Did she go back to KU?
16
17Matilda Papenhausen: No. No, she didn't go back to KU. She went back to, um, uh,
18 [inaudible 28:10].
19
20Dorothy W. Early: Oh.
21
22Matilda Papenhausen: Yeah. She was in the, uh, um, delivery – uh, not delivery room...
23
24Dorothy W. Early: Oh.
25
26Matilda Papenhausen: ...but the, uh, in the nurs-, in the, uh, yeah, delivery room.
27
28Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah. [28:29] She was in OB?
29
30Matilda Papenhausen: Yes. OB, she was there for 25 years.
31
32Dorothy W. Early: [28:34] Out here? Is that right?
33
34Matilda Papenhausen: Mm-hm. She just loved it.
35
36Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
37
38Matilda Papenhausen: And then she got sick and really went downhill.
39
40Dorothy W. Early: Oh yeah.
41
42Matilda Papenhausen: But I was, I was [inaudible 28:45] so one day I picked up the home
43 paper and it said, uh, wanted, a nurse for [inaudible 28:53], uh, to

1 relieve a sick nurse. So I went over and I thought well, I'll just –
2 might as well, uh, [inaudible 29:07].
3
4Dorothy W. Early: [29:08] You could handle almost anything in one day.
5
6Matilda Papenhausen: Yes.
7
8Dorothy W. Early: [laughter] Hold your breath.
9
10Matilda Papenhausen: And I went over there and I [inaudible 29:16].
11
12Dorothy W. Early: Oh my [inaudible 29:17]. That was a long day.
13
14Matilda Papenhausen: And then after that, my brothers got sick. I spent a lot of time...
15
16Dorothy W. Early: Yes.
17
18Matilda Papenhausen: ...with him.
19
20Dorothy W. Early: Mm-hm.
21
22Matilda Papenhausen: And then I began to get puny. [laughter]
23
24Dorothy W. Early: Well, you're looking well, looking well. I'd say.
25
26Matilda Papenhausen: You think I look well?
27
28Dorothy W. Early: Well, I certainly do. Your eyes are bright and shiny.
29
30Matilda Papenhausen: Well, I, I don't feel bright and shiny most of the time.
31
32Dorothy W. Early: Well, I'm sure you have a lot of aches and pains but...
33
34Matilda Papenhausen: Oh.
35
36Dorothy W. Early: ...it doesn't show tonight.
37
38Matilda Papenhausen: I think that – see I had, um, I had, uh, a, a, an artificial knee and I
39 had two gastric hemorrhages.
40
41Dorothy W. Early: Oh my. Well, I know you've had several things.
42
43Matilda Papenhausen: And I've had, uh, - I wasn't satisfied with that.
44

1Dorothy W. Early: [laughter]
2
3Matilda Papenhausen: I, uh, wanted something out of the closet, [laughter] in fact, I got
4 up on the ladder...
5
6Dorothy W. Early: Oh dear.
7
8Matilda Papenhausen: And I fell and broke my hip.
9
10Dorothy W. Early: Oh.
11
12Matilda Papenhausen: And my telephone was on the other side of the bed and I had to –
13 couldn't get to my telephone.
14
15Dorothy W. Early: Oh dear.
16
17Matilda Papenhausen: And I crawled around there [inaudible 30:43].
18
19Dorothy W. Early: [30:44] With a broken hip?
20
21Matilda Papenhausen: Hm.
22
23Dorothy W. Early: [30:45] With a broken hip? There you go.
24
25Matilda Papenhausen: I knew it was broken.
26
27Dorothy W. Early: [30:47] Did you?
28
29Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, the neighbor – I had fortunately [inaudible 30:53] locked
30 the door.
31
32Dorothy W. Early: Oh dear.
33
34Matilda Papenhausen: And, uh, – so I called the neighbor and I said, I wonder if you
35 could come up and help me a little? And she said, what's the
36 matter? And I said, uh, – and she said, yes, what's wrong? And I
37 said, well I think I have a broken hip. And, uh, about that time the
38 telephone rang. It was my sister from Fresno. She said, good
39 morning. How are you this morning?
40
41Dorothy W. Early: Oh dear.
42
43Matilda Papenhausen: I said, well, not so good. [laughter] I said, uh, I'm waiting for the
44 ambulance. [laughter]

1

2Dorothy W. Early: [laughter] Oh my.

3

4/lj