

Oral History Interview
Edith May Greene Elko
WH060

(written transcript and digital audio)

On August 7, 2009, Edith May Greene Elko was interviewed at her home on 380 Forsgate Drive, Monroe, New Jersey by Brenda Velasco at 10:00 A.M.

1. Identify individual-name, section, date of birth.

Edith Elko: My name is Edith May Greene Elko. I lived at 996 Main Street in Fords. I was born on February 16th, 1912.

Brenda Velasco: Wow! So you're over ninety then?

Edith Elko: I'll be ninety-eight in February.

Brenda Velasco: And you're healthy.

Edith Elko: From here up. (Seated in a wheelchair)

Brenda Velasco: Okay, from your waist up and your mind is sharp.

Edith Elko: From here down, forget it.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, we'll take what God gives us though.

Edith Elko: That's right.

2. How long did you live in Woodbridge or Fords?

Edith Elko: About ninety years.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, so then most of your life. Where were you born then?

Edith Elko: Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

3. Why did you or your family originally move to Woodbridge?

Edith Elko: My father was a metallurgist for Bethlehem Steel and he got offered a job in Perth Amboy at what was then Parvee Steel, now it's Raritan Steel. So we moved from Philadelphia to Perth Amboy and we lived there three years and then the Morgan explosion wrecked everything and he decided that we lived a little bit too close to ammunition plants so we moved to Fords.

Brenda Velasco: Was your house destroyed with the Morgan explosion?

Edith Elko: All the windows were broken but the house itself was alright.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, and this was in Perth Amboy and the Morgan explosion occurred.....

Edith Elko: 1917.

Brenda Velasco: I remember it was around the war, World War I.

Edith Elko: 1917.

Brenda Velasco: And you can remember that because you were just about five years old.

Edith Elko: Yes and every window in the house went out except one and that came in.

Brenda Velasco: Was anybody hurt in your family?

Edith Elko: No, there was only the three of us and he was at work. She had an electric coffee percolator and it was sitting on the dining room table plugged in and when the explosion went off the force lifted it off the table and set it on the floor, never spilled a drop of coffee.

Brenda Velasco: Amazing!

Edith Elko: Isn't it?

Brenda Velasco: Yes.

Edith Elko: There it sat still perking on the floor.

Brenda Velasco: And she might have needed a cup of coffee after that explosion too. Then when you moved to Fords you were about four years old?

Edith Elko: About that.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, and Fords, this was right during or after World War 1.

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: And you moved to Main Street.

Edith Elko: No, we lived at 29 Ford Avenue right next door to **Flynn's Funeral Home**. Only it wasn't a funeral home then, it was a private home.

Brenda Velasco: So you've seen a lot of changes then.

Edith Elko: Yes.

4. What physical changes have occurred over the years in the area you lived?-houses, streets, services, houses of worship, schools, etc.

Brenda Velasco: Were there a lot of houses in Fords?

Edith Elko: Not too many. Fords ended at Main Street. There were only a couple of farms between Main Street and what is now Route #1 and was Route #25 then. There were only a couple of farms down in there.

Brenda Velasco: Do you recall the names of some of those farms?

Edith Elko: Varady's Grove where they used to have picnics. People came from all over to have picnics there. And then there was Izso's, they raised peanuts.

Brenda Velasco: Wow!

Edith Elko: It was a peanut farm and other than that there was maybe a half a dozen houses, that's all. Fords actually ended at Main Street and you couldn't go to Woodbridge on Main Street either. Main Street stopped up where that Municipal recreation building is now.

Brenda Velasco: Yes, the Community Center.

Edith Elko: Well that was the Township dump and Main Street ended there. If you wanted to go to Woodbridge, you had to go King Georges Road. You couldn't go any further. Mary Avenue was the end. It wasn't until 1924 that they continued Main Street into Woodbridge.

Brenda Velasco: So it was Mary Street.....

Edith Elko: Mary Avenue.

Brenda Velasco: Mary Avenue where it ended.

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Were the streets paved?

Edith Elko: Not very well. Mostly it was cobblestones, you know, those big square bricks.

Brenda Velasco: And you lived on two main streets. You lived on Ford Avenue and Main Street.

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: So that would always be in a better condition.

Edith Elko: Well Ford Avenue wasn't paved when we lived there. It was quite a while until the fire truck fell into the hole where they were putting the sewers in and then they decided they better pave it.

Brenda Velasco: Good idea, a fire truck is a little big.

Edith Elko: Yes, they were just starting to put in sewers and then in the middle of the night they got a fire call and bingo in the hole. Did you know there was a trolley line from Perth Amboy to Fords?

Brenda Velasco: I had heard about that but you actually saw the trolley.

Edith Elko: Oh, yes.

Brenda Velasco: Is that how you got to Perth Amboy?

Edith Elko: Yes, to shop. It was a nickel.

Brenda Velasco: Wow!

Edith Elko: It came up through Keasbey.

Brenda Velasco: So you were linked to Perth Amboy living in Fords more so than Woodbridge Proper?

Edith Elko: Right, because you couldn't go.

Brenda Velasco: Right.

Edith Elko: You had to go out to King Georges Road to get to Woodbridge and at that time Woodbridge didn't have that many stores but Perth Amboy did. They used to have beautiful stores.

Brenda Velasco: And that's where you did your main shopping.

Edith Elko: Yes, so we used to take the trolley.

Brenda Velasco: For a nickel.

Edith Elko: For a nickel.

Brenda Velasco: There were no buses then.

Edith Elko: No, and hardly anybody had a car. They used to say the man that ran the trolleys, his name was Hoyer, and they used to say five cents for Public Service and five cents for Hoyer. I don't know if they ever really meant it but they used to say that.

Brenda Velasco: Were there any stores in Fords at that time?

Edith Elko: A lot of grocery stores, family owned grocery stores.

Brenda Velasco: What we would call Mom and Pop stores.

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Do you recall any of them?

Edith Elko: Oh, yes.

Brenda Velasco: Where were they located-first off, what street?

Edith Elko: On New Brunswick Avenue there was **Jensen's Market** and there was **Joe Gamback's Market** and there was **Wosh's Groceries**, they were on New Brunswick Avenue. Then on the side streets, about every third

or fourth block, there was another one. On Main Street there was **Sisolok's**.
On Ford Avenue there was **Toth's**.

Brenda Velasco: And what did you buy in these stores?

Edith Elko: Everything.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, bread.....

Edith Elko: Meat.

Brenda Velasco: Meat.

Edith Elko: Groceries.

Brenda Velasco: Anything you needed for the house.

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Small items, your fruits and your vegetables there too?

Edith Elko: Yes. There used to be a man who came around with a horse and wagon that sold vegetables and another one that brought ice and there was all ice boxes.

Brenda Velasco: Right, the ice boxes were in the, where did you keep your ice box?

Edith Elko: In the basement.

Brenda Velasco: In the basement where it was cooler.

Edith Elko: And the ice man used to come around and you would buy a chunk of ice.

Brenda Velasco: And times have changed.

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Do you recall any prices for anything?

Edith Elko: Seems to me, if I remember right, his name was Al Murdoch the ice man, and it was ten cents for a small piece about this big.

Brenda Velasco: So about a foot or two feet by two feet.

Edith Elko: Yes, depending on the size of your ice box. If you had a small one you couldn't buy a big chunk.

Brenda Velasco: And without the refrigeration that we have now, everybody was always going to the store to buy the meat or what you needed

Edith Elko: You went almost every day.

Brenda Velasco: Did you mom go to the store?

Edith Elko: No, I did.

Brenda Velasco: You did, okay, and she gave you the money and you did it because you were the oldest?

Edith Elko: I was it.

Brenda Velasco: You were it. You were the only child.

Edith Elko: She took one look and said that's it.

Brenda Velasco: You were that bad?

Edith Elko: No, she wanted a boy.

Brenda Velasco: Well, you can't pick and choose can we?

Edith Elko: Well, she was insulted because I was a girl. She never let me forget it. She wanted a boy and she didn't get one and never had another baby. I guess she figured she'd get stuck with another girl, I don't know.

Brenda Velasco: Now we know it's your father's fault. He determined the sex.

Edith Elko: But back then.....

Brenda Velasco: Back then it was always the woman's fault.

Edith Elko: She never had another one.

Brenda Velasco: How about houses of worship?

Edith Elko: There was only, what they called, there was no Catholic church. It was a long wooden building across New Brunswick Avenue from where the church is now and it was called **The Hut**.

Brenda Velasco: What types of services were performed?

Edith Elko: It was Catholic.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

Edith Elko: But it wasn't really like a regular church. You know it was just a long wooden building and the priest used to come from one of the Perth Amboy churches.

Brenda Velasco: So Our Lady of Peace was out of Perth Amboy then?

Edith Elko: Originally, yes.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

Edith Elko: And then they built, what is now, the school but that was the original church. And there were two brothers that lived in a house where the big church is now and they sold their house to the church and that's when they put the big one up.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

Edith Elko: And then there was Our Redeemer Lutheran Church but the Women's Club building was their church. They gave it to the Woman's Club when they built their new church.

Brenda Velasco: Were there any other churches that you can think of going back then?

Edith Elko: Well St. John's Episcopal on Hamilton but it was also a little tiny wooden church and then they built a bigger one next to it and tore down the old one. Then on Hoy Avenue there was a Hungarian/Slovak Presbyterian Church. That's still there. Most of the Hungarian and Slovak that weren't Catholic went there.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, because Fords had a large Hungarian population at one time.

Edith Elko: Oh, yes. Wildwood Avenue that runs off Ford Avenue was predominantly. If you weren't Hungarian or Slovak or Polish, you didn't live on Wildwood Avenue because that's where my husband's family lived. And all the Danish people that came from Perth Amboy lived on the other side of town.

Brenda Velasco: I believe I interviewed one of the women from the Women's Club. You're going to have to help me with her name.

Edith Elko: Edna Harkay.

Brenda Velasco: You got it, Edna Harkay. I have her transcript as well. So the Women's Club are in charge of the library and their memories are still going strong.

Edith Elko: Oh, yes.

Brenda Velasco: So that's great. Okay, we're going to go down to Question 5 unless you can think of anything else that you want to mention.

5. What public buildings/property were there?-post office, library, parks, firehouse, schools, etc.

Brenda Velasco: We mentioned the stores and the houses of worship, did you have mail service, you know postal service?

Edith Elko: Yes, it was in a store. The post office was in a store where the bank is where King Georges Road and New Brunswick Avenue come together. Where that bank is now, there was a store there, two stores, and the post office was in one. There was another kind of store on the other side. Then there was a big house on the corner with a family by the name of Liddle. Then eventually they sold out and built a big bank. That's where the post office was.

Brenda Velasco: So the post office has moved around then, but it's still on New Brunswick Avenue today.

Edith Elko: Yes, but it's between Hoy Avenue and Hornsby. But it was in that store for years.

Brenda Velasco: And you had a mailbox or something.

Edith Elko: Yes, you had to go there and get it.

Brenda Velasco: Alright mention the library because this was an integral part of.....

Edith Elko: It was the Women's Club that started the library.

Brenda Velasco: When did they start the library, do you recall?

Edith Elko: 1939, about.

Brenda Velasco: This was during the Depression then.

Edith Elko: Oh, yes. We begged, borrowed and stole books from anybody we could get them from and we opened up the library in a store that was empty. My mother was the first librarian.

Brenda Velasco: Wow! Did you mom work at all?

Edith Elko: No, heaven forbid.

Brenda Velasco: Where was that first location for the library because now it's on Corielle Street, am I correct.

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: So where was that first location, do you recall?

Edith Elko: Do you know where the movie is where the senior citizen building is?

Brenda Velasco: Yes, Olsen Towers, right.

Edith Elko: Yes. Well where that building is now, there was a three divided house with apartments upstairs and there were three stores downstairs and one of them was empty and that's where we started.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, because it was on New Brunswick it was a good location. It had access to everything and it was right next to the movie house.

Edith Elko: Yes, and you'd go to the movies for twenty-nine cents and you got a dish. I got my first set of dishes at the movies. So for twenty-nine cents you got to see the movie and you got a dish.

Brenda Velasco: How many movies did they play back then?

Edith Elko: Every night.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, it was every night.

Edith Elko: Every night.

Brenda Velasco: It was one movie or two movies?

Edith Elko: One.

Brenda Velasco: One movie, okay. Do you recall who owned the movie house?

Edith Elko: He was Jewish. I can't remember his name.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, you might think of that later. How many parks were there any parks?

Edith Elko: Only Fords Parks, that's all.

Brenda Velasco: And where was the firehouse?

Edith Elko: Right across from the Women's Club building on Corielle Street. It's still there. It's a dance studio now. Then they built that monstrosity on King Georges Road.

Brenda Velasco: Was your husband ever involved in the fire department?

Edith Elko: He was chief.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, Chief Elko.

Edith Elko: Yes, 1952. You're only chief for one year. It takes you six years to get to be chief. You start as second assistant foreman, then first assistant foreman, then foreman, then second assistant chief, then first assistant chief and finally in the sixth year you get to be chief.

Brenda Velasco: And that was only for one year.

Edith Elko: And then you're an ex-chief.

Brenda Velasco: He had a long time working up to it though.

Edith Elko: Yes, he was president of the first aid squad. He was a charter member of St. John's First Aid Squad. That's why it was called St. John's; St. Peter's Church in Perth Amboy owned an ambulance and they bought a new one so they gave the old one to St. John's Church.

Brenda Velasco: Ah, so this is why it's St. John's, got it. I could never figure that out because every other first aid squad.....

Edith Elko: Is named for the town.

Brenda Velasco: Right, I couldn't see the connection.

Edith Elko: Yes, it belonged to St. Peter's and they gave it to St. John's and the charter members were all members of St. John's Church. They built the first aid building themselves. Anybody that was an electrician, mason or carpenter, everybody pitched in and they built it. Now they want to tear it down.

Brenda Velasco: So this is the history and when was that first aid squad established? Do you recall what year?

Edith Elko: We got the building from Our Redeemer Church in 1939, I think it was, and the first aid went up the next year with all the husbands helping build the foundation under the church building so it could be put on our property and then the first aid building went up right next door.

Brenda Velasco: And this was just before the war so you had your husbands around.

Edith Elko: It was all volunteer, nobody got paid. There was one paid fireman, Myers Hansen.

Brenda Velasco: Was he related to Edna Hansen at all?

Edith Elko: I don't think so. There are a lot of Hansen families.

Brenda Velasco: Because this is a common Danish name.

Edith Elko: No, I don't think so.

Brenda Velasco: How about schools?

Edith Elko: The only one was No. 7 School on King Georges Road. It's an office building now. They didn't build No. 14 School until 1924.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, so you only went to School No. 7.

Edith Elko: Yes, School No. 7.

Brenda Velasco: And what grades were there, do you recall?

Edith Elko: One through eight, there was no kindergarten.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, grade one through eight, no kindergarten.

Edith Elko: Then you went to Woodbridge to high school by bus. By that time there were buses.

Brenda Velasco: What was your graduating class?

Edith Elko: 1929.

Brenda Velasco: Just at the time of the Depression, the stock market crash. Oh my gosh!

Edith Elko: Yes, my father lost all his money and so did everybody else.

Brenda Velasco: So you grew up during that.

Edith Elko: October, 1929, Black Friday.

Brenda Velasco: So you hit the job market at a very bad time. It would be comparable to somebody graduating last year or this year, 2008/2009.

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Was your dad able to get a job or keep his job during that period?

Edith Elko: He worked in New York for **Novacoal**. It was artificial coal, manmade coal. He got a job working in New York because I used to have to cart him back and forth to Metuchen to the train station every day.

Brenda Velasco: Oh my goodness, that was quite a trip.

Edith Elko: Because he went back and forth by train.

Brenda Velasco: And you had a car by that time?

Edith Elko: By that time we had a Ford Model T.

Brenda Velasco: What route did you take to get to Metuchen then?

Edith Elko: Amboy Avenue.

Brenda Velasco: How about you? Were you able to find a job when you graduated high school?

Edith Elko: I went to a girl's boarding school for two years. I had already graduated from Woodbridge but my mother didn't like the fact that I had a boyfriend and so she said I'll send you where there are no boys. So she sent me to a girl's boarding school.

Brenda Velasco: And where was that?

Edith Elko: Burlington. See the afghan on the chair.

Brenda Velasco: Yes I noticed it. St. Mary's.....

Edith Elko: St. Mary's Hall in Burlington. It's right on the river.

Brenda Velasco: Delaware River.

Edith Elko: Yes. She said, I'll send you so there will be no boys only it didn't work, I married him anyway. So I went there for two years. Now they have these county colleges. Then they called it junior college, two years and you got what constitutes an associate degree. And then they offered me a job in the office so I stayed there for another two years and worked in the office.

Brenda Velasco: At St. Mary's?

Edith Elko: Yes, and I got thirty dollars a month and room and board. It was run by the Episcopal Church.

Brenda Velasco: Well, being that you graduated in 1929 and the '30s were the Depression this wasn't a bad deal for you.

Edith Elko: No, I got room and board.....

Brenda Velasco: And thirty dollars.....

Edith Elko: And I didn't have to spend any money to amount to anything.

Brenda Velasco: No, so that was a good deal at that time. Okay, so what happens to you after that? You finish up there.....

Edith Elko: After the two years were up, I got engaged to him. He was our paperboy.

Brenda Velasco: And he was also the Fire Chief, later on, of Fords.

Edith Elko: Well he worked for **Tenneco** and then he was a volunteer fireman and first aid man. We were married in '34. She never got over it.

Brenda Velasco: Too bad. How long were you married then?

Edith Elko: Sixty-five years. We would have been married sixty-six years and he died in May. She didn't like him because he was Slavish and his mother couldn't speak English. He'll never amount to anything, her famous last words.

Brenda Velasco: I was thinking that.

Edith Elko: Came the crash in '29 and my father lost all his money and Nick still had a job. The day I brought the paper home from the bank when we paid off the mortgage he says to me, take it down and show it to your mother and see if she's happy now.

Brenda Velasco: Too bad we get hung up on such minor, minor things sometimes.

Edith Elko: And his mother raised ten kids all by herself. His father died when he was only fourteen. She used to have this huge garden. She hardly ever bought anything in the store. She raised everything they ate. She used to send tomatoes and all kinds of vegetables with him to give to my mother; and she took all the stuff he gave her but she never got over the fact that his mother couldn't speak English. I don't know what difference it made.

Brenda Velasco: No, and she was a very generous person, too. You have to look at the person inside.

Edith Elko: I mean we were only married a year when she died. She dropped dead out in the garden but I liked her. She had trouble with English but most of them did.

Brenda Velasco: Of course, this was their second country. I would have trouble learning another language too.

Edith Elko: That's right.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, I think we covered everything in Question 5.

6. What did you do for recreation?

Edith Elko: Ice skating. There used to be, off Main Street, a big pond called the Big Icy and all the kids from everywhere around used to come there and go ice skating in the winter. Then we used to go roller skating on Third Street because it was the only street in town that was a hill. Other than that we played baseball. If we were lucky to get a nickel, we went to the movies on the trolley. We went to the old **Roky** in Perth Amboy for ten cents. Then they put up a bowling alley.

Brenda Velasco: Where was the bowling alley?

Edith Elko: Right on New Brunswick Avenue where the senior citizen building is now. It was a big one and it burned.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, around Olsen Towers but it burned down.

Edith Elko: They were refinishing the lanes with that inflammable varnish that they used on the lanes and they closed up the building and went home and I guess it was the fumes and the whole place went up in smoke. The man's name was Bacskay that owned it. He owned the **Fords Lumber**, too. That was the biggest fire that we ever had.

Brenda Velasco: Was your husband on the Fire Department at that time?

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Because they had to be careful with all those fumes.

Edith Elko: Well, they didn't even think about that then.

Brenda Velasco: They just thought about putting out the fire.

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Anything else you want to mention for recreation? Did you have a bike?

Edith Elko: Yes, we went bike riding. There really wasn't much of anything to do. No entertainment or much.

Brenda Velasco: How about picnics, did you go on picnics? Were there picnics there?

Edith Elko: Backyard picnics.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, backyard picnics. Did you go to Varady's.....

Edith Elko: Varady's?

Brenda Velasco: Yes.

Edith Elko: Mostly it was the Hungarians and Polish people that went there.

7. What was the focal point of your community at that time?

Brenda Velasco: What was the main center of your community as you were growing up?

Edith Elko: There really wasn't any center only a few stores on New Brunswick Avenue and the movies and the bowling alley.

Brenda Velasco: And that was on New Brunswick Avenue too?

Edith Elko: Yes.

8. *What did you like about living in your section of Woodbridge?*

Edith Elko: It was peaceful and had a lot of nice people. You knew everybody in town. If anybody strange walked up Ford Avenue you had a fit until you found out who it was because there weren't that many people. Hopelawn was all cemeteries, it still is.

Brenda Velasco: You're right. Very quiet then right?

Edith Elko: Yes.

9. *Did you experience any significant happenings in Woodbridge-construction, accidents, sports events, riots, discrimination, etc.*

Edith Elko: The train wreck.

Brenda Velasco: Okay and that was in 1951?

Edith Elko: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Though you were in Fords did you go down to Woodbridge?

Edith Elko: I didn't but he did. He worked there all night long. All the fire companies were there. I had two small kids at home so I stayed home. But we had fire engines and first aid squads going by the house all hours of the day and night.

Brenda Velasco: What was his reaction to it because he must have been exhausted too?

Edith Elko: He was. He didn't get over that for a long time because he worked with Dr. Dunham from Woodbridge. In one of the cars that they were working taking care of people that were hurt, they came to this lady and she was impaled up against the wall of the train. She was dead and he didn't get over that for months. He said every time he went to bed at night he could still see her and there were so many instances like that, you know, people were dead that they couldn't help.

Brenda Velasco: That was one of the biggest train wrecks in American history. It was horrible.

Edith Elko: Oh, yes, and all because the engineer was going too fast for that little wooden trestle.

Brenda Velasco: How about construction because you didn't have the Parkway here in Fords.

Edith Elko: No, no Parkway and no Turnpike.

Brenda Velasco: And you didn't have a lot of the houses in Fords either. They were built after World War II mostly.

Edith Elko: Most of them, yes. It was a small community and everybody knew everybody else.

10. *What do you like about Woodbridge today?*

Brenda Velasco: You're here in Monroe at Wynwood.

Edith Elko: Not by choice.

Brenda Velasco: Not by choice, okay. So you would have liked to have remained.....

Edith Elko: He had dementia. For four years I took care of him. That was fun.

Brenda Velasco: That was tough. Now that was in Woodbridge when you lived in Fords.

Edith Elko: And after he died I kept the house for another year and a half but then the legs gave out and I couldn't do it anymore so I sold the house and went to live with Lynn (daughter) which was a big mistake.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, we're not going to go into that now but you're here and it's a beautiful, beautiful location.

Edith Elko: It is.

Brenda Velasco: With the sun streaming in as well.

11. Do you have family members still living in Woodbridge?

Edith Elko: No, he outlived the other nine.

Brenda Velasco: Wow!

Edith Elko: And he was only like number six but he was the last one.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, so there are just no more Elkos?

Edith Elko: There's one that lives in Edison.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

Edith Elko: A nephew. He lives on Hoover Avenue in Edison.

Brenda Velasco: Not too far then from Fords.

Edith Elko: But he's the only one.

Brenda Velasco: How about your children and you grandchildren and you just told me you had a great grandchild?

Edith Elko: Well I had two girls. Joan died two years ago. Lynn lives in Dayton. Joan had four children, three boys and a girl.

Brenda Velasco: And where do they all live?

Edith Elko: The two oldest boys live in Edison. Donny is the facilities engineer at Middlesex County College. Scott works for Verizon. Then they had a girl and she's a registered nurse like her mother and she lives in Sussex.

Brenda Velasco: Wow, that's quite a distance.

Edith Elko: Well, her husband is the manager of Ringwood State Park.

Brenda Velasco: Oh lucky her.

Edith Elko: And she's a school nurse up there. Then the youngest boy, Kenneth, lives in Kendall Park, that's part of South Brunswick. He's a cop.

Brenda Velasco: So that's not too far from you.

Edith Elko: No. Then Lynn has a son who lives in Hamilton. He works as a computer whiz. He's not married and she has a daughter who works for J&J and they live in Montgomery and she has two little girls. They're not little anymore, fourteen and sixteen.

Brenda Velasco: No, they're at that crucial critical stage of being teenagers, tough, tough, tough.

Edith Elko: Right.

Brenda Velasco: Well, are there any other stories or events that you'd like to mention about your time in Woodbridge that you can recall?

Edith Elko: Well outside of the train wreck that's about, they didn't have too many big things that happened.

Brenda Velasco: Okay then we're going to conclude the interview. I thank you for sitting here patiently answering my questions.

Edith Elko: You're welcome.

Brenda Velasco: And your recall is very, very good. So thank you Edith Elko and I came out here to Monroe Township to visit you and it was well worth the trip. Thank you.



After the formal interview concluded, Edith mentioned that her husband's parents came from Czechoslovakia and are buried in Hopelawn. Their Czech surname was Lyllko but anglicized. She also mentioned that she has a great great granddaughter, Kayleigh Alexa Roach, who was one month old today.